



# Stories of Transformation

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*Celebrating 125 years of  
Girls' Brigade Internationally  
in 2018.*

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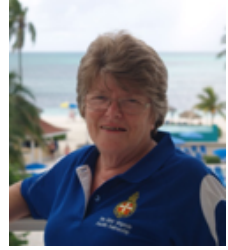
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## Stories, Stories, Stories and more Stories



*We all have a story to tell, where it be of our family, our life or our experience in Girls' Brigade.*

*Telling our story is important, God has put us on this earth for a purpose, to learn about Him, spread His word and do His work.*

*I have felt so touched by the many stories that I have heard about the journeys of these people in their lives. What wonderful Leaders/Officers we have in Brigade who have brought so many young lives to Christ. Sharing these experiences has helped to make this book come to life.*

*My story started when I was 8 and my Mum and Dad wanted me to over come my shyness, I found it not easy to make friends. With the help of Girls' Brigade (Girls' Life Brigade in those days) I grew to know Christ, lead others to know Christ as well as Leadership, to who I am today, International Vice President of the Pacific Fellowship. What a wonderful journey it has been, along the way, meeting people, stepping out of my comfort zone, as I learnt more and more of how to work with others, who shared my passion of Christ and Brigade.*

*My parents are no longer with us, but I know that they are still encouraging me in my walk with Christ, just as my husband, John and my children, Lisa, Michelle, Andrew and Elizabeth, and their families do, encouraging me as I continue to do the Lord's will, transforming girls' lives, to enrich God's world.*

***Renelle Neale – IVP Pacific Fellowship***





## G.B. – A Leader’s Story

*‘In February 2007 G.B. (yes, they are her initials) started attending Girls’ Brigade as a second-year cadet. She was very energetic and all I seemed to hear myself say was G.B. sit, G.B. stop talking, G.B. don’t do this, don’t do that. She had so much energy. Over the years there were little improvements. She sat a little longer, listened and took instructions.*

*Then in 2014 it hit me she was going to be a Pioneer. This young lady had grown up. She has a wonderful personal faith in Christ that she shared with family and friends by going through believer’s baptism. As part of her Pioneer training I have watched her lead games, instruct younger girls in craft and games. She stood up in front of a group of people at our most recent Presentation Night and spoke clearly and eloquently and encouraged us leaders.*

*The best thing is that G.B. can still be a little mischievous and make us laugh, at times I can still see that little energetic cadet. It has been a privilege to watch G.B. grow into a beautiful woman with the love of Christ in her heart.’*

***From Tasmania, Australia***

# 2

## From a Leader : Australia

*I love being a leader at Girls Brigade because I enjoy being part of something that is much bigger than myself. I work in an industry where I help people, but often am faced with the realities of how imperfect humans can be and how strained the system is. It is so encouraging and uplifting to come to Girls' Brigade on Thursday nights and be part of something that is so positive and about instilling eternal hope into young people's lives.*



# 3

## Hannah – A Young Leader’s Story

*A giraffe on the Wall!*

*My first memory of Girls’ Brigade was when I was not even yet in school and my local company had a ‘bring-a-friend’ night. A friend who was already in Girls’ Brigade bought me along (I must have nearly been school age to be allowed to go along). My only memory from that night is something to do with a giraffe on a wall. The theme for the night was Africa I think, but it must have been fun because by the time I was old enough, I was going to Girls’ Brigade.*

*I then proceeded to go through Cadets, Juniors, Seniors and Pioneers. I had different friends come and go over the years, but I am thankful that there were always other Christian girls with whom I could make friends there. I attended Church, but there were not many other girls my age there, and at my school I had friends who were girls but were not Christian, so Girls’ Brigade filled that void of friends who were both Christian and girls.*

*I think more importantly, though, Girls’ Brigade helped fill my spiritual need – well not Girls’ Brigade itself, but it pointed me toward God, who ultimately does. There in that Church, every Thursday evening, I would faithfully be taught Bible stories and truths from the Bible. I can*

*picture myself sitting on the mat as a little cadet, probably not grasping the full implications of the devotion we were doing but storing it up in my heart and mind. Week after week, and year after year, Girls' Brigade built a strong foundation for me, one built on Christ and in the Bible.*

*As I continued to grow up and grow in my relationship with Christ I began to realise how much of a privilege it is that I was able to learn about God and the Bible. Not just in my childhood, but in general – the privilege that I live in a country where Christianity is allowed; where organisations like Girls' Brigade can run; where I have the Bible in my mother tongue; where I can attend Church and have fellowship with other believers. These things which were true for me, are not true for the majority of the world.*

*And that has begun to shape and transform how I am using this life God has given me. I have just returned from England where I spent two years studying the Bible and training for cross cultural missions, becoming equipped so that I can go to parts of the world and share the Good News that Christ has died and paid for our sins, and also risen, so that we may have eternal life.*

*I would say undoubtedly my time in Girls' Brigade has helped as I travel this road that God is putting before me. As I already mentioned – the Biblical foundation it gave me – but taught me responsibility, how to run games, prepare crafts, and give devotions. Pretty much everything that is needed to serve in ministry at any local Church, I was able to learn at Girls' Brigade.*

*Can I encourage you, that while this journey God takes us on as we submit to His Lordship can be scary; it can be uncertain; sometime is very hard, but it is also exciting? It is fun. Grant it, God isn't only concerned about our*

*life being fun, His chief aim is to glorify His name, but as Psalm 107:1 says He is God and He is Loving, and often that manifests in a fun way.*

*Serving God isn't boring- Girls' Brigade leaders know that. From the games of the Cadets, to the crafts of the Juniors, to the giggling of the Seniors and to seeing the growth of the Pioneers, it is exciting and fun. In the process of transforming girls lives for His glory, God loves to make it enjoyable.*

*God transforms lives for His glory. He can use people and missions like Girls Brigade to do that, and as He does that, it is a fun filled journey, often using crazy things like giraffes on walls to teach and bring people to Himself.*

***Hannah - Australia***



# 4



## LEADERSHIP 2016

### (Girls' Brigade Queensland, Australia)

*'Leadership' is an experience where girls are given the opportunity to discover their strengths, challenge their perceived weaknesses, build supportive relationships, grow in confidence and encounter our great God in a way that will help set the direction for the next season of their lives.*

*Leadership 2016 was no exception, as we shared an amazing journey with 95 young women from around Australia and the Solomon Islands!*

*There was such a sense of expectation amongst the participants, as they were encouraged to explore what 'Real Love Is...' throughout the week. It was humbling and exciting to see the Holy Spirit working in so many lives to bring about change and transformation! We had the privilege of leading nine young women into a relationship with God and praying with many others as they made significant re-commitments – praise His name!*

*In Christ I am secure, worthy and unconditionally loved. I am forgiven. I am set free and redeemed. I am blameless and pure in his sight. I am valued and capable, beautiful beyond measure. I am a daughter of the King, adored and cherished. I am His. I choose to be a light in this world. I want to impact other's lives through sharing God's love. I want my life to be proof of His love. In Him, I have meaning and purpose.*

# 5

## Katie – 5<sup>th</sup> Company Clontarf Presbyterian



*Girls' Brigade has always been a part of my life, from the time I was old enough to go with my Mum, who was an officer, I had my little tunic and red jumper on. I progressed through each section and now I am an officer myself in the 5th Company Clontarf Presbyterian. I have passed down the same love for GB that my Mum passed down to me - my 4-year-old daughter has been in the Explorer section since she was 2 and my now almost 2-year-old made her first appearance on our annual display at just 4 weeks old. She is looking forward to enrolling in September 2018 and is already practicing her toe points and bob jumps with her big sister.*

*Some of my fondest memories are of my time in the Junior and Senior Section. Each Monday night started with Scripture. We worked through our workbook and had great fun learning our memory verse Mr. Lynn, our teacher at the time, always rewarded our hard work with a fruit pastille. I loved the chance to discuss and learn alongside my friends.*



*When I was an Associate I was attending the Church of Ireland College of Education training to be a primary school teacher. I made the decision to go on a short-term mission trip and chose to travel with the organisation, Samaritan's Purse. We went to Russia and hosted a holiday camp for two weeks for street children. I was able to use many of the skills I had learned through GB during the time I spent there – arts and crafts, bible stories, crafts and games. It was a life changing 2 weeks for me.*

*From then on, I became heavily involved in the work of Samaritan's Purse in Ireland, now known as Team Hope. I currently volunteer as area co-ordinator in North Dublin for the annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal. We collect, sort and prepare over 12,000 gift filled shoeboxes for distribution to some of the neediest children in Eastern Europe and Africa. I also sit as a Director on the Board of the charity.*

*Each year, the 5th company get involved in the project by donating shoeboxes and also the Brigaders and Associates help check and prepare the shoeboxes in the sorting centre. I have also been invited to speak to girls at other companies about the work of Team Hope.*

*Through my work in Girls' Brigade, I aim to be an example to the girls I work with. I hope to encourage them to grow into strong women who are prepared to face the challenges of life, to help them build life-long friendships and to inspire them to always be the best that they can be!*

*It is a privilege to be able to touch into so many young lives, both through the giving of shoeboxes internationally and through my work in Girls' Brigade, in my local community and it is a privilege I hope, to continue for years to come.*



## Sue Dutton – Australia

*Hi, my name is Sue Dutton and I am a Western Australian Area Chaplain at Youth CARE. My role includes managing Chaplains in approximately 40 Western Australia State schools and working alongside Churches and community groups who support our Chaplains. I am also a Critical Incident Chaplain and can be deployed by the government to critical incidences throughout the State. I received my Queen's Award from Girls' Brigade (North Beach company) and was the first to receive the award in the State (Sue Breen was my maiden name). I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Brigade, and also did a few years as an Officer. Some of my highlights were camps, craft activities and just hanging with friends, some of which are still my friends today and one was my bridesmaid! Some of the skills learnt I still carry with me today. Discipline and stick ability are two things that come to mind. And of course, the daily commitment to Jesus as Lord of my life is the glue that holds me together every day.*

*I am committed to growth as a Christian and involved in daily Church activities including being a part of the worship team, leading worship, home fellowship groups and I am also a Deacon. Girls Brigade gave me foundational truths about Jesus to which I am eternally grateful for!*



## Emily Borland – 19th Company Ireland

*My introduction to Girls' Brigade was in October 1977 as a 16-year-old when our minister and his wife decided to set up Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade companies in our local Church, and for the next 37 years Girls' Brigade played a major part in shaping my life as I learned to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ*

*I had trusted Jesus as my Saviour as a 13 year-old and found the teaching I received in Girls' Brigade through scripture class, mentoring of the Leaders and in later years as a Leader, helped me grow closer to Jesus and guide me in living and witnessing for Him. I became a sub officer in 1981 and Lieutenant in 1982 and when our Captain, immigrated to Australia in 1988, I felt God's will for me was to take on the Captain's role and for the next 26 years through many ups and some downs, the experiences of life through Girls' Brigade shaped me for life. I have met a lot of wonderful girls and ladies and made many friends and lasting friendships.*

*I have so many great memories it is difficult to know where to start from Company nights to outings, camps, the fun and fellowship of being part of a worldwide organisation. My first experience of this was as we attended a District*



*Parade and then in later years, as we were part of the centenary celebrations in Dublin in 1993, at which I had the privilege of attending ICGB and again in Northern Ireland enjoying the fellowship with fellow Girls' Brigade members from all around globe reminded me again of the marvellous origination we are part of and the Great God we seek to serve and follow as we explored His word together and sang His praises.*

*During my time there has been many changes in society and Girls' Brigade is constantly challenged to be relevant in changing times while always keeping our aim and principles true to the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever.*

*I have very special memories of the times we shared in our own Company, building long and lasting friendship, numerous display items mishaps always teaching me the lesson of my own weakness and failures and the might of the God we serve, teaching me to trust Him and marvel at His care and protection when dealing with a flat tyre on a country road in the middle of winter going home on a Friday evening.*

*Knowing His guidance and protection, when at camp and on outings with the girls, learning to trust in God, in all situations that He works for the good of those He loves.*

*There is no doubt in my mind Girls' Brigade was instrumental in shaping my life as a girl and as an adult and I am grateful to God for the influence the organisation and the many friends I have met has had on me, and my prayer is that God will Bless every girl and Leader during 2018 and for the next 125 years.*

***Emily Borland – 19th Company Ireland***

# 8

## TESTIMONY OF A GIRL

*I started Girls' Brigade at the age of five.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade I received the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.*

*I have grown to love and obey the God as the years went by. I have acquired leadership skills, I am now a Company Leader. I am creative through the Girls Brigade. I am bold and confident.*

*I have made many friends. I thank God for what Girls' Brigade has impacted in my life.*



## Girls' Brigade – Nigeria

*The Girls' Brigade Nigeria has reached out to young women with the message of salvation. It has empowered them through Leadership Training, skills acquisition programs; like bead making, soap, pomade, perfumes, sewing and baking etc., we also reached out to the communities with evangelism, helping and meeting needs such as distributing of food, clothing, toiletries etc.*

*Girls' Brigade Nigeria also takes care of the widows and orphans both within and outside the Girls' Brigade.*

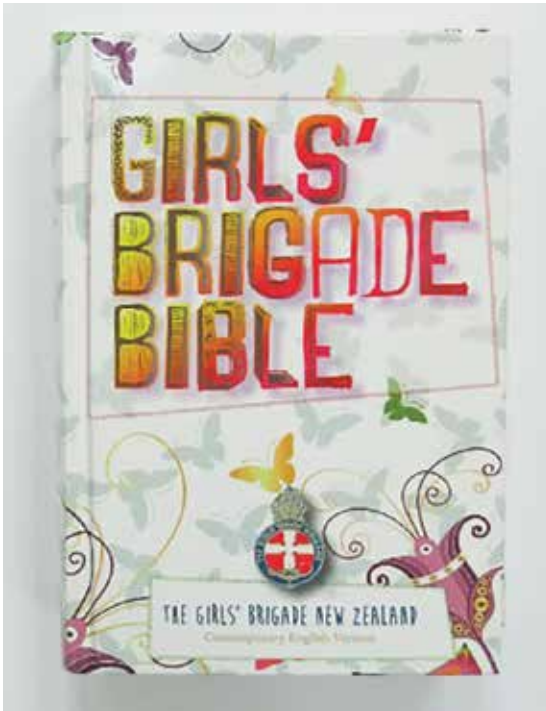
*We train girls to be courageous, self-reliant, and confident and have self-esteem and self-worth.*

*We also have fun through outdoor games, picnics, sight-seeing and the rest.*

*This year Girls' Brigade Nigeria has sponsored 26 girls through Primary and High School education. We also sponsor girls to many programs both local and International, in order to expose them and have them interact with others.*

# 10

## 13<sup>th</sup> Waitakere Girls' Brigade – New Zealand



*In 2015 Girls' Brigade New Zealand partnered with the New Zealand Bible Society to provide Bibles for all girls in Girls' Brigade and Icon For Girls'.*

*The makeup of the Bible was a combined effort as the girls were involved with designing the cover of the bible and providing content.*

*With sponsorship and donations, the Bible was underway and in 2016 we received our shipment from the printers. Then began the task of distribution to the girls. For some of the girls this was exciting as they now had their own Bible.*

*The providing of the Bible has been fruitful for one company*

*who in 2017 based the Spiritual part of their programme on using the Bible. Initially the girls were asked look at their Bible and tell the Leaders how many books in the Bible were in the names of women, once that was decided the girls were asked which of the books did they want to read. The decision was Esther and from there it was a fruitful and overflowing year of using the Bible.*

*Every week we continued with the story of Esther with each girl taking part in the reading and then we would discuss the passage. The enthusiasm of the girls was evident in the way they brought their Bibles each week and were anxious to continue the story.*

*At the end of the six week there was disappointment, when the decision was made to keep the book of Ruth, until 2018 when we will continue to read Ruth's Story.*





## Clara Hewston – 40<sup>th</sup> Manorhamilton – Ireland

*My name is Clara Hewston and I am a member of 40th Manorhamilton Girls' Brigade, Ireland. I started Girls' Brigade at 6 months of age attending a camp with my mother who is the Captain and who opened the Company in our rural town in 1997. Our Company began with 17 girls and now is flourishing with 100 girls of all ages.*

*I officially!!! became a member of Girls' Brigade as a Tiny Tot at the age of 3 years and I always remember how proud I was in my uniform. I have come up through Explorers, Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders and have only missed one night because of pneumonia over the 15 years. I did try and get into the car that night when I was 11!!!! Last year I was delighted to be awarded my Brigaders brooch by Vice Patron of Girls' Brigade*

*While attending Girls' Brigade 2 years ago, I had to participate in a business competition in school. I had no idea what to do and scared it was beyond me, but I decided to bring how I had learnt the skills and talents I had which, was shown to me in Girls' Brigade, to bring this idea and the way of learning in a visual way in Girls' Brigade into my school project. I produced a children's*

*baking book using pictures and no words to help children, especially those with difficulties, like myself, in reading a recipe to learn to bake. This idea brought me to New York to represent Ireland.*

*Learning different ways has also come into our Bible teaching. All our members learn the Bible stories through crafts, baking, drama and flag ministry. It has shown me there are so many ways to teach and this has enabled me to grow in my own faith as God has shown me different ways to help others and be who I am through the encouragement of our Girls' Brigade Leaders.*

*I have been leading the Tiny Tots and Junior Explorers over the years in all areas of the Girls' Brigade programme, and so this year I am stepping out in faith as I start the International Award. I have decided to get involved in Messy Church where I will be encouraging and teaching children of all ages many Bible lessons in a visual and practical way.*

*Just like Girls' Brigade but now sharing what I have learnt in Girls' Brigade to others in our community.*

*So, looking back, what does Girls' Brigade mean to me. Having a learning difficulty, I find it very challenging in school as I have a huge difficulty in reading and understanding words. I always find Girls' Brigade is a place to relax, be cared for and especially a place where I learn new talents and skills in a very practical, and a very visual way. I have taken part in dance, baking, crafts, games, sewing activities, Bible teaching, camps and so much more.*

*Through the involvement in Messy Church recently, I have*

*now applied and been accepted to be part of an Exodus Mission team, where I will be travelling to Romania to teach children's Clubs and camps for a week. This is such a wonderful opportunity and one that I would never have had if it wasn't from being a member of Girls' Brigade.*

*One of my personal favourite things in Girls' Brigade is seeing girls younger than me who have difficulties, and how Girls' Brigade has changed and impacted their lives for the better. Over the years in Girls' Brigade I have been encouraged by my Leaders to help other girls who are in our Company, who have a disability or a learning difficulty to help and care for them and show them their potential.*

*Overall being a member of Girls' Brigade has taught me that having a learning difficulty in Girls' Brigade doesn't make a difference as we are encouraged to remember that God makes us all unique, and loves each one of us, and our Leaders tell us all the time to have faith in ourselves and put our trust in God as it says in Matthew 19 v 26 "all things are possible with God".*

***Ireland, Joan Darling and National Director of Girls' Brigade Ireland Joan Nicoll.***



# 15

## Leesa Flynn – Manorhamilton Girls' Brigade - Ireland



*My name is Leesa Flynn and I was a member of 40th Company Manorhamilton Girls' Brigade for fourteen years. I still remember my first few nights at Girls' Brigade. At the young age of four, I was busily doing arts and crafts and learning my Do This, Do That with all of my newly made friends. My first Display was a very exciting night. I remember playing the role of Little Red Riding Hood, for which my late aunty Geraldine made me my very own red costume. I was so excited to be part of a performance which was displayed to all of our equally proud parents on the night. I remember sitting eagerly waiting for my prize at the end of the Display and*

*feeling so proud of myself when our Captain, Shirley Hewston, called out my name for my Tiny Tots prize.*

*However, my experience of the Girls' Brigade may be seen as being somewhat different to that of my peers. I was born with Spina Bifida, meaning I have been between a wheelchair and eventually a walking frame for my entire life. Being a member of Manorhamilton Girls' Brigade has definitely helped to shape me as a person, irrespective of my disability and even at a very young age I learned through being a member that having Spina Bifida will not disable me from achieving, just as my peers have done.*

*In 2008, I got the very exciting news from my Captain, Shirley Hewston, that I had been nominated for the Girls' Brigade International Endurance Award. I was only eleven at this time, even being nominated for this prestigious award was more than I could have possibly imagined.*

*In the November of 2008, myself and my parents received the phone-call from Shirley. that we had all been dreaming of, I had actually won the Girls' Brigade International Endurance Award.*

*To say I was ecstatic is a complete understatement. I still remember clearly, arriving at our weekly Girls' Brigade night, the following Thursday, unaware that my fellow members knew anything about the award, and being greeted with claps and cheers from everyone when I came through the door. It was such a proud moment for me.*

*The night of December the 8th 2008 is a night that is forever etched in my mind. This was the night that I was officially presented with the Girls' Brigade International Endurance Award. I can remember all my family and a few of my friends arriving at my house and getting ready to go to my local Community Centre where the presentation would take place. The event itself was far beyond my expectations. On arriving, there was a photographer recording the whole event, there was music playing, each table*

*had a little cardboard angel with my face on it, which the girls had all been working hard, unbeknownst to me. They had also all worked hard on making me a congratulations banner which was so beautiful. Having all my loved ones, friends, Leaders, as well as my fellow members there to celebrate my special night with me was so wonderful. Then the time came for me to be presented with the award by the then President Joan Darling. Our Captain, Shirley gave a wonderful speech about my time in Girls' Brigade which was so emotional. I was then presented with my award in the form of a beautiful brooch, which I wore proudly on my uniform for the entirety of my time in Girls' Brigade. It was so overwhelming and to this day, I still cannot fully believe that I was the recipient of an International Endurance Award.*

*In 2016, the year that I did my Leaving Certificate, I had to say a very emotional goodbye to the Company that had given me an abundance of happy memories over the past 14 years of my life. I have to say the girls all gave me the best send-off I could have possibly imagined. From heartfelt speeches to beautiful farewell gifts, I truly felt like a much-loved member of the Girls' Brigade family.*

*I honestly cannot stress enough how much the Girls' Brigade organisation has helped to shape me into the young person I am today. I have learned how to express myself, how to make friends and how to go for things even if they may be a challenge. This has truly been a huge help to me moving on to university. I cannot recommend Girls' Brigade enough to any young girl across the world.*

*I am living proof that the Girls' Brigade will not only introduce you to friends that you will keep for life, but it will also provide you with experiences and skills, that are hard to find anywhere else. My memories from Manorhamilton Girls' Brigade are some of the best memories I have made in my lifetime.*

# 13

## Jessie Emms – Girls' Brigade England & Wales



*Jessie Emms, 21, an Advanced Young Leader at 1st Northallerton in Girls' Brigade England & Wales*

*Girls' Brigade has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember, around 15 years now I think. Some would say I just forgot to leave. So where did it all begin?*

*My parents heard of Girls' Brigade through a friend so took me along to my home Company 1st Northallerton to see what it was all about. I was very shy as a child, so I found it hard to settle in, but all the friendly leaders and friends I started to make, soon made me feel comfortable. As the years went by I worked my way through the Junior,*

*Senior and Brigader sections. I learnt an incredible amount of skills and started to learn more about my own faith. I then went on to complete my Brigader brooch, Young Leaders' Training, and Queen's Award. Most recently I had the opportunity to go to Ghana as a GB England & Wales delegate at The Gathering 2017.*

*While working on my Queen's Award, I learnt new skills and set personal targets, that tested me and took me out of my comfort zone. One element of the award was a residential, called the Esther Generation Weekend. In October 2015 I went on the weekend at Cliff College in Derbyshire. I met my Girls' Brigade family from all over England, and it was amazing to meet people like myself completing their Queen's Award, and who shared the same passion. It was at the Esther Generation Weekend my faith journey really started to develop.*

*In between the chaos of everyday life and growing up, I became unwell and was diagnosed with an eating disorder. Little did I know of the misery that was to come.*

*During the darkest days of my illness, I spent most of my time feeling like I was standing on the edge of a cliff and with one tiny step I would fall to never return. Girls' Brigade was the only thing that gave me hope and through Girls' Brigade I found the courage and bravery to accept help. Recovery was not all sunshine and rainbows but worth it. Worth the pain and worth the tears to know that now, and hopefully in years to come, I can stand proud knowing that I'm living, not just surviving.*

*Girls' Brigade helped me find my feet again, gave me a purpose, and a hope for the future. It's a constant motivation through my mental illness and, for that, I'll be forever grateful.*

**Jessie Emms**



# 14

## Fruitful & Overflowing Ministry

*In 2017 we had every child from Whareorino School attending Tainui Girls' Brigade and Tainui Boys' Brigade. The school principal and her husband organised transport of the children to the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade halls every Tuesday afternoon during the school terms. The trip takes 35-40 minutes each way. There was wonderful support from the school and all the parents. All the children living in Mokau and Awakino also attended and new children came from Ahititi. In addition, we had four home-schooled families attending Brigade, some of whom had to travel over an hour to get to the meetings.*

*Our Girls' Brigade company has a ministry of outreach into our community. During 2017 over 30 families were blessed with baking made by the Girls' Brigade girls. These families included mothers with new babies, newcomers to the district, bereaved families, the elderly, people who had been in hospital, those who were leaving the district, people who had lost their belongings in a house-fire, and those who we wanted to show appreciation for their support. This was certainly fruitful and overflowing ministry*

***Dorothy Lowry – Captain***

***1st Tainui Girls Brigade Company Girls' Brigade New Zealand***

# 15

## Anne Browse



*Anne Browse, 61, President of Methodist Women in Britain 2015-2017, has shared how being a member of Girls' Brigade impacted her.*

*She was a member of 1st Thatcham Girls' Brigade in Berkshire as a child and later a Leader who helped run the Region 6, South West England, Summer Camp.*

*Anne says 'I knew from about age 14 that I wanted to teach, encouraged by opportunities to be trained to lead a Sunday School class and to help with the younger children in my Girls' Brigade group. Both the Methodist Church and Girls' Brigade have been crucial in recognising, acknowledging and developing leadership potential in young people over many years, for which I personally owe a debt of gratitude.'*

*Girls' Life Brigade started when Anne was 5 at Thatcham Methodist Church and she remembers her first evening vividly.*

*She says 'We had Plasticine to play with and I thought the aim was to make something and if the Leaders couldn't guess what it was then you won. I made tadpoles, but the Leaders thought they*



*were coat hooks, so I was pretty pleased.'*

*Anne stayed with the group until she was 18 and left to attend university but she attended the Region 6 Summer Camp until the age of 23 when she started her first teaching post. She then went on to lead the camp for around 30 years.*

*She says 'It was great to be part of such a committed team of adults prepared to give up their holiday and spend it in a field, when it wouldn't be their preference, because they knew the experience for young people is so valuable. I used to love the sense of wonder as to what God was going to do with the week in a field.'*

*Anne has 3 children and her youngest daughter Katie, 24, is now the current co-leader of the camp.*

*Anne, of Devon, is the out-going President of Methodist Women in Britain 2015-2017, an independent charity within the worldwide Methodist Church, and in a recent blog ([LINK](#)) shared the impact her first GB captain had on her.*

*She says 'Joyce Abbott is 91 and still in Thatcham, she started the group with Marjorie Royle, who has since died. Their commitment to us and willingness to turn up every Friday night to work with us was incredible.*

*'When I meet up with people across the country and tell a story about Girls' Brigade many of them share their own... so many people, even if not now involved, found Girls' Brigade really formative when they were young.'*

# 16

## Amanda Allchorn



*Amanda Allchorn, 60, is Chair of the Girls' Brigade Ministries' Trustee Board. She's married, has two children and recently became a granny for the first time.*

*I started at 1st Eastbourne Girls' Brigade when I was about 13 because my best friend Sarah went along and invited me to go with her. I liked it because of the games and fun so I got more involved and got a uniform.*

*During my secondary school years, I went to boarding school, but the Girls' Brigade Leaders kept in touch and I went back to Girls' Brigade during the holidays.*

*My family had been through a divorce and, coming from that situation, Girls' Brigade gave me a sense of glue and belonging, which was very special. I remember being made welcome and encouraged, to get involved and take up the opportunities they were offering.*

*I came from a Catholic and Anglican tradition, but Girls' Brigade was based at Victoria Baptist Church. After I stopped going to GB I went to a youth group at the Church and I remember*

*getting involved with the Christian Union at school, becoming a Christian in my teens.*

*In 1975 I went into banking in Eastbourne and started work for a Barclays HR team, a few years after moving to London.*

*In 1996 I started working for the Barclays Community Affairs Programme - which included education initiatives, then in 2005 I was called to work at the Baptist Union of Great Britain (BUGB) as Head of Communications. After BUGB I took on the role of National Director for The Rooftop at Viz-A-Viz Ministries, following that I began to mix portfolio work with developing a Waterways Chaplaincy based at the Diocese of St Albans. I'll be commissioned as a Waterways Chaplain in the summer this year.*

*I'm almost at the end of a three-year training programme at the London Centre of Spiritual Direction to become a spiritual director - with a special focus on women in leadership and women over 50. I am also leading women's retreats.*

*In 2015 I was delighted to become a Girls' Brigade Ministries' trustee and, for nearly two years, have been chair. It's a privilege and very humbling to be chair in our 125th year. I'm really excited to be going to ICGB this summer and joining in with a global gathering of Girls' Brigade Leaders celebrating who God is and what He's done through Girls' Brigade – thanking Him for His faithfulness in the past 125 years and for His fruitfulness to come in the future.*



# 17

## Girls' Brigade Transformation Story – Caribbean-Americas

*Girls' Brigade has transformed my life because, I have confidence in myself that I can succeed in anything that I set my mind to. I am able to network with other women and girls in various professions and all around the world. Most important, I feel the need to help others through service. My service in Girls' Brigade began at age 5 and took me into my adult years where I rose to Lieutenant and National Secretary. Currently, I am Leader to a class of Senior girls. I also have two girls of my own and could not imagine if they grew up without Girls' Brigade. I enjoy teaching them spiritually, educationally, showing them how to help others in our community and how to take care of their bodies. Girls' Brigade gives me the opportunity to use my life to help others.*

**Nikki Rubaine-Connell**  
**1st British Virgin Islands Company.**

# 18

## Girls' Brigade Transformation Story – Asia



*Girls' Brigade has transformed my life because it had instilled in me accountability, responsibility, leadership and discipline from a young Junior, growing up through the ranks in Girls' Brigade. The overarching focus over these 4 traits is the strive to model after Jesus as much as possible. These 4 traits have served me well and developed me into who I am today, with the heart to develop and serve all youths.*

***Tracy Ang from Girls' Brigade  
Singapore***

# 19

## Girls' Brigade Transformation Story – Africa



*Because of Girls' Brigade...*

*I came to Jesus Christ.*

*I feel loved and valued.*

*I can confidently pursue my dream and I now have a voice among my peers and I am heard in my society.*

*Girls' Brigade has taught me how to love people from different background.*

*I am industrious, creatively intelligent and I am a good entrepreneur.*

*Esther Dauda from 13<sup>th</sup> company  
Nasarawa State, Nigeria*



# 20

## Girls' Brigade Transformation Story – Pacific



*Girls' Brigade has transformed my life because as a child I was quiet and shy, and over the years Girls' Brigade presented me with many opportunities to develop confidence and life skills. It was on a Girls' Brigade New Zealand trip to United Kingdom and Singapore, when I was 15, that I gave my life to God and cemented my commitment to Girls' Brigade. I am privileged to have been taught by and to lead alongside some awesome women of God, all of whom have shaped me into the person I am today. Taking on the role of National Commissioner is my way of giving back to this organisation which has given me so much.*

***Charlotte Saunders, National  
Commissioner of New Zealand.***

# 21

## Girls' Brigade Transformation Story – Europe



*My Girls' Brigade journey now spans over six decades, and many changes have taken place during that time. One really transformative event stands out in my mind – my first visit to an ICGB conference. On arrival my initial reaction was to be overwhelmed by the wide diversity of people and cultures represented. Very quickly God challenged me to see within that diversity the amazing strength of our unity in Christ and the potential for serving Him. God opened my eyes to His greater vision for the ministry of Girls' Brigade worldwide, and, as our Explorers love to sing, through serving Him in Girls' Brigade, "We are all part of the Big Family of God."*

***Morva Brown, former President of Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland and Secretary of Girls' Brigade Europe***

# 22

## Story from Girls' Brigade Company in Australia



*Girls' Brigade in the Pacific helps to equip its members to grow into young women, who contribute positively to the communities, in which they live. In Girls' Brigade Australia many Companies partner with the Clean Up Australia Day Council each year on the first Sunday of March, by cleaning up local creeks, park lands, beaches and streets. It is amazing how girls and Leaders make a difference to their communities and environments. The Clean Up Australia Day Council had a saying this year - "When the rubbish gone, nature can carry on".*

***Two Leaders from the Blacktown Girls' Brigade Company, helping to clean up the creek at the local park.***

# 23

## Jayne Copeland, 1<sup>st</sup> Wishaw + 1<sup>st</sup> Allanton – Girls’ Brigade Scotland

*My Girls’ Brigade journey started at the age of 4 when I became an Explorer, and from there I worked my way up through the sections, gaining all my badges. There were a few ups and downs and I would tell Mum I wasn’t going back, but I’m so glad she took me back. In the Brigader section I worked hard gaining my Brigader Brooch and then moving on to my Officers training. At this point everyone who had come through Girls’ Brigade with me had left so there was only me, but I didn’t let that stop me. Girls’ Brigade is my life and always will be!*

*During my 6th year at school, because of all the work and opportunities that Girls’ Brigade gave me, I was awarded the John Mair award for personal achievement from Motherwell and Wishaw Rotary Club. Not long after that, I was nominated by my school for the Youthlink Scotland “Volunteer Youth Worker of the Year” and to my surprise I was the winner in this category. Even more of a surprise was that I also won the overall “Youth Worker of the Year Award” from Youthlink, that evening. In the*

*same year I received the Diana Award. All of these awards recognised my volunteering roles in many areas but for me it was Girls' Brigade that had built my confidence and developed the skills I had.*

*When I was commissioned as an Officer, things went a bit downhill and, for me, Company became an uncomfortable place for me and many tears were shed. I don't want to say too much about that, but I felt I wasn't accepted for who I am and that led to me feeling oppressed at times. For me, there was an imbalance about how things were done but I stood up for what I thought was right. I had also started doing other things for Girls' Brigade at National level and that helped build confidence. No matter what, I wouldn't let anyone pull me or my love for Girls' Brigade down. I have come back stronger than ever from those difficult days, determined I would do everything in my power to help Girls' Brigade in any way I could.*

*I now help at two Girls' Brigade Companies. Through one of them I started working with an anti-bullying organisation called the Anti-Bullying Community. I work closely with their school's co-ordinator, and I am 'squad leader' of a new initiative called Youth Squad because of my knowledge of youth work through Girls' Brigade. I oversee everything that youth squad do to support young people who are being bullied and am now a committee member.*

*My Girls' Brigade journey continues to develop. I completed my Queen's Award - one of the proudest moments of my life. I've started my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and continue to work with Girls' Brigade Scotland.*

*In short, Girls' Brigade has completely turned my world upside down! If it wasn't for Girls' Brigade I wouldn't be me. I am a Leader, I am unique, I have faith, and I have a huge Girls' Brigade family in Scotland. Girls' Brigade really is the place to be!*



# 24

## Lynn Hegarty – Officer of the 39<sup>th</sup> Company Bray

*Deciding on the community service element of my International Award was by far the trickiest part for many reasons.*

*I wanted to commit myself to something that not only the community would gain from but I myself would get something personal from the challenge.*

*My Parish St Matthias in Killiney were looking to trial something new by reaching out to families, friends and to the wider community of the parish.*

*Messy church is an informal way of being in Church with the aim to bring people together of all ages and faiths, at a time that Church Services would not usually be held. With more and more young people taking part in sport and other activities at the weekends it meant that families could not attend the regular service.*

*Messy church is run once a month on a Sunday from 4-6pm and involves lots fun activities and fellowship for all ages based on the theme for that month. The four aspects of Messy Church are;*

1. Welcome – everyone is greeted and given a name badge
2. Craft – a number of different stations are set up with crafts, based on the theme
3. Worship – sing songs with musical instruments and given a talk relating to the theme
4. Food – everyone sits down together for dinner before going home

*When I received a call from Alistair who was organising the setup of Messy Church looking for help, my first initial reaction was “I am in”.*





*Alistair's sheer passion and determination to get this off the ground was both endearing and energising and I was sold. This was new, and I wanted to be part of something that was never done before, so I was excited.*

*Alistair needed a lot more volunteers to help make this happen so the first thing I did was called Saran and Alicia both from the 39th Company Bray, also completing their International Award. Given all our different skillsets and talents, not forgetting our very different personalities, I knew the three of us could make a difference.*

*Every couple of months we added in an activity that wasn't craft based. One month we did a skipathon to bring a bit of Girls' Brigade to Messy Church and it was a great success, even the Rector joined in!*

*To see each member of the parish volunteering to give up their free time to help play their part, and not looking for anything in return for their efforts is a real credit to each individual and truly inspiring.*

*I enjoyed every minute of being a part of the first Messy Church in Ireland.*

*The real value was to see the expressions of both young and old interacting and engaging with each other, all participating in fun and fellowship.*

*To be part of something and make a difference has a real meaning.*

# 25

## Mollie Dickie, 1<sup>st</sup> Newtonhill Company – Girls' Brigade Scotland



*Being a part of Girls' Brigade has definitely changed my life, it has turned me into the confident women that I am today.*

*When I first started Girls' Brigade at 5 years old I was quite a quiet girl and struggled to make friends. Fast forward another 5 years and they could not get me to be quiet and I had begun to make friends with the girls, I now refer to as family.*

*My Officers in my Company have always been there to guide and support us through all the tough times that have cropped up over the years. I will forever be grateful to them for all the support they have given both me and my sister over the years.*

## Girls' Brigade Story Book

*Without Girls' Brigade I don't know where I would be, it has given me so much. Some of my favourite memories are based with Girls' Brigade and the various trips I have been on.*

*My favourite trip had to be the one where our whole Company went to Camperdown Park. It was such a good day out, we even got some sun. This trip will always stick in my memory because we manage to get our Captain to do the zip line, in the play park, at the end of the trip. It was definitely a highlight not just for me but most of the girls there.*

*Becoming an Officer with my Company, 1st Newtonhill, just seemed like a natural progression for me. I was keen to give back to my girls what I was given when I was their age.*

*I am currently working towards my Queen's Award. This is a very exciting process and I am loving the challenges that it brings*

*Being able to work alongside the women that changed my life is such a humbling experience for me. Now I have so much respect for them and all that they do within the Company and in the wider aspects*

*My stand out Girls' Brigade moment, by far has to be being selected to go to The Gathering in Ghana last August. This event has transformed my life and allowed me to question my faith, which without Girls' Brigade, I would have never thought about doing. I am extremely grateful for the girls I went away with and the girls I met when over there. It's amazing to think that I am part of such a big loving family of girls all over the world.*

*x*

# 26

## Oju Oeaace Bassey Story – Africa

*My name is Oju Oeaace Bassey, I am 22 years old, a member of Girls' Brigade, Cross Riva State Council. I joined when I was 11 years old as a Junior girl. I grew up in environment were a lot of youth were pressurered and exposed to behaviours like steaking, prostituting, cultism, homosexuality etc., and it took only the strong willed person, that had self-discipline and knowledge of the word of God to overcome.*

*Girls' Brigade became a pillar to me, through great officers, I learnt about Jesus and I gave Him my all. I saw Girls' Brigade been punished for doing wrong things, even those with bad characters were taught how ro live well, the Officers loved the girls and cared for them. So Girls' Brigade became everything to most of us that didn't find this kind of Love anywhere.*

*So today I can bodily say because of Girls' Brigade I am influencer and I can stand through thorns without compromising my values.*

*I also learnt skills like baking, sewing, making of hats, making liquid soap and hair cream, which I have now*

*developed and am very good. It has saved me from begging or becoming a burden to my average parent or even depending on male folk be telling lies for money. So because of Girls' Brigade I am Empowered.*

*Girls' Brigade has also helped me to build my self-confidence, I can stand in presence of so many people, both old and young, to talk to them without feeling shy or worthless, I remember when we were growing up, the then Captain, Mrs Aruk Omori, will always punish us for not contributing in the meeting, in fact she had to give us responsibilities, like teaching in Bible studies, song and even teaching the younger ones, it helped me because I had to plan and think of ideas before the meeting day, though I was so scared but today am grateful.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade I have gained respect from so many people. Because of the leadership responsibilities, travelling to learn from different people in other states and countries. Because I am a soul winner, I am Enriched, a Grace carrier for Generations, a Leader that is compared to none, Am just unique. I thank God for Girls' Brigade.*

# 27

## Dubbo Girls' Brigade Australia



*Dubbo Girls' Brigade is situated in Regional NSW Australia. We have a wonderful group of girls that come along each week. This year we have been blessed to see new girls starting Girls' Brigade for the first time, and a couple of girls returning after some time away from us. Every one of our girls are unique and precious to God and we know that He wants them to know Him, to love Him, to follow Him and serve Him.*

*We have lots of fun on our company nights – there is certainly an abundance of energy*

*and chatter amongst the girls. Sometimes I come home from Brigade thinking that we had three or four times more girls in attendance than were there! I come home exhausted but thankful for the wonderful opportunity that we have as leaders to work with these girls and for the freedom to share God's love with them.*

*This year our Company is celebrating with Girls' Brigade worldwide 125 years! Yes, a time to celebrate this wonderful milestone and yes, we will do this with a fun party later in the year. But, our main way to celebrate this year is that we as a Company plan on performing 125 Random Acts of Kindness. We want to show the community at large that we are celebrating 125 years of Girls' Brigade*

***Julie Nott, Company Captain***

# 28

## Robyn Pryde, 4<sup>th</sup> Coatbridge Company – Girls' Brigade Scotland



*Girls' Brigade has transformed my life!*

*There is no doubt about it. I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for my 15 years of service in the organisation. My confidence has excelled, and my personality flourished. I have gained leadership skills that I wouldn't have been able to gain anywhere else.*

*Joining at the tender age of 5, I was unaware that I was joining something so very special that would shape the person I have become. The Leaders, I have crossed paths with over my time as a girl, have had such a positive impact on me, and as I complete my leadership training, I have high hopes that I too will have an equal impact on the girls, I come across in the future.*



*It is an extraordinary organisation that provided a safe place for me to voice my opinion, and a place where my opinion is valued, just as much as the next person. I am a young leader, but I feel lucky that I have a place in Girls' Brigade and that my voice is heard, valued and appreciated. It is a place where I can be respected. The organisation has taught me a variety of skills, like how to be creative and how to play a game of badminton, skills I know will come in handy in the future. It is a place where I can extend my faith but also have lots of fun.*

*I am lucky that the Company I am a part of, 4th Coatbridge, is extensively supportive of me and my Girls' Brigade journey and have helped me in such astonishing ways to accept every opportunity that Girls' Brigade has thrown my way, whether that be my Queen's Award or attending The Gathering 2017 in Ghana. I am proud of the family I am a part of, for without it, I would be lost.*

*The people I have come across are just amazing, and I now have made Girls' Brigade friends across the globe from Africa to the Pacific. Girls' Brigade has extended my awareness of many global issues, and it is refreshing to be a part of an organisation which does its best to tackle such issues as a group.*

*Girls' Brigade raises hope and gives us hope for a better future. Being a young leader in itself is such a privilege, as we have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the young people of our generation. I am proud to be part of an organisation which has had such a positive influence on women and girls for 125 years to date, and I cannot wait to see what the next 125 years holds in this ever-changing, crazy world.*

# 29

## **Diana Seeney, 76, is a Leader at 1<sup>st</sup> Peters Hill in Girls' Brigade England & Wales.**

*I joined 52nd Birmingham Girls' Life Brigade, at Small Heath Baptist Church, in 1949 as a Cadet and was commissioned as an Officer there in 1961 - the same time as my mum Doris Wagstaff.*

*After moving to Stourbridge in 1967, I started 1st Stourbridge in 1969 at Hanbury Hill Baptist Church. Then in 2000, I started 1st Peters Hill group, still affiliated to Hanbury Hill Baptist Church but meeting at a local school.*

*From 2008, I trained Leaders in Kosova and helped to form 3 Girls' Brigade groups there, as well as leading FIZZ mission teams, with my late husband Mike, to the area between 2009 and 2013.*

*I'm currently a Leader at 1st Peters Hill and train girls in the district for the Queen's Award heritage paper. I was so thrilled to have been awarded a MBE in the New Year's Honours 2018 for services to Girls' Brigade and look forward to receiving my award on 4 May at Buckingham Palace.*



*During my Girls' Brigade service, I've held a number of roles including Commissioner for Hereford and Worcester Division, Commissioner for Stour Valley District, Chairman of Region 3, serving on the national executive/trustee board twice and serving as chair of Queen's Award, and chair of the Guild of Friendship.*

*My Girls' Brigade privileges include taking part in performances at the Royal Albert Hall, representing Girls' Brigade at two Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, being part of the centenary celebrations at St. Paul's Cathedral and The Guildhall, and attending Duke of Edinburgh Gold presentations at Buckingham Palace.*

*Girls' Brigade stands for all sorts of things, but I think it's God's Brigade. God uses women in an amazing way when He calls them to serve and serving in Girls' Brigade has been an incredible life-long experience.*

# 30

## Suzanne Girls' Brigade Story



*I joined St Jude's 4th Company of the Girls' Brigade when I was 3 years old. My two older sisters were already Explorers and I wanted to go with them to Girls' Brigade. At one stage four of the five girls in my family were in Girls' Brigade at the same time. Every Saturday afternoon we ran up to St Jude's Church Hall for Girls' Brigade where our Captain - Miss Millie Pemberton, would be waiting for us in her black gym trousers, black long sleeved top and funny black gym shoes. She was such a lovely lady – kind, compassionate and generous and someone I greatly admired.*

*We would begin with roll call followed by marching, PE*

*exercises, do this / do that, verse speaking and singing for the Feis, scripture and arts and crafts. Girls' Brigade was the social highlight of our week doing the different activities and meeting our friends. At the end of the session, we lined up to get a jelly sweet out of a brown paper bag. Miss Pemberton would say "taking a pace forward - dismissed" and we would take a step forward and salute her.*

*When we joined the Junior / Senior section our Girls' Brigade sessions started in the church with 30 minutes of scripture. We learned different stories from the Bible each year – parables of Jesus, miracles of Jesus, Old Testament characters and had an annual scripture exam. We also learned passages of scripture for our memory verses that I have never forgotten and always associate with Girls' Brigade. Passages like Romans 8 verses 35 – 39 - "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ" and Isaiah 53 verses 4 - 9 - "All we like sheep have gone astray" and Psalm 23 - "The Lord is my Shepherd" and Exodus 20 verses 1 – 17 - "The 10 Commandments". We had lovely scripture teachers who taught us really well.*

*The Girls' Brigade scripture exam was the only exam in my life that I ever achieved 100%. But much more than that, I believe learning those stories and particularly the memory verses influenced me greatly.*

*Many times in life when I have faced difficulties, I have recalled the love of Christ and my great Shepherd who looks after me and every Easter I recall the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the Cross. Many of the little gems of scripture in Girls' Brigade have been invaluable to me in so many ways.*

*After scripture we went to the hall for our activities - PE, modern dance, verse speaking, Feis singing, drill down, arts and crafts, educational projects and planning acts of service.*

*At the end of the year we had our Annual Display where we would perform a fancy item like Snow White and the 7 dwarfs, Nursery Rhyme characters or musicals like Oklahoma and Mary Poppins. We loved learning the words, dances and then getting dressed up. In those days Miss Pemberton sent home patterns / instructions to your Mum and she made the outfit - Imagine!!!! I can still recall my lovely white dress for Snow White, my sister's Humpty Dumpty outfit and my yellow gingham dress for Oklahoma. We had great fun at the display and of course we all got prizes. Girls' Brigade Memories of a lifetime.*

***Suzanne Harris, National Chaplain of Girls' Brigade Ireland.***

# 31

## Westside IFG: (Icon for Girls, New Zealand)

*Praise God! Westside IFG has been going for four years but this term has been amazing! On Thursday 26 October 2017, 10 girls became Christians and 1 made a recommitment! And the majority of these girls were from families that are not Church going families.*

*We had been working through a series of devotions on the big story of Christianity. At the end of term 3 family night, the gospel had been presented in pictures using the snakes and ladders version. (The Fall meant humans slid down the snake to the Kingdom of Evil and the Cross is a ladder to climb back up to the Kingdom of God.)*

*During term four the girls were working their way through each section of the story. After the Fall devotion that included “Do we have to believe in Jesus to be able to spend eternity with God?” the leader asked, “Are you friends with God? If you aren’t and you want to become friends with Him tonight, say this prayer after me. I’m going to pray...” and she read out the prayer, so they could decide if they wanted to pray it. She got everyone to close their eyes so there would be no peer pressure and said for the girls to pray the prayer in their head to God if they wanted to.*

*She then read it out line by line, so they could repeat it. After the prayer she asked all the girls to keep their eyes shut and to put their hand up if they had chosen to pray the prayer to God. 11 hands went up! Wow!!! Many of these girls have been coming for years and have previously said “I’m not ready yet” when asked “Who has already made the decision before? Who would like to make the decision now? Who would like to come to IFG to learn more?”. But that night was the night! We also had one girl make a decision at camp in March so that makes 11 first time commitments!*

*One, possibly unique feature which we encourage other groups to copy, is that we have one leader whose role is to hang out with the families while IFG is on and journey with them. Two parents have come to faith through this and two more are well on the way. The Long Story Short and the Christianity Explored DVD Series have been used along the way amongst the many hours of hanging*

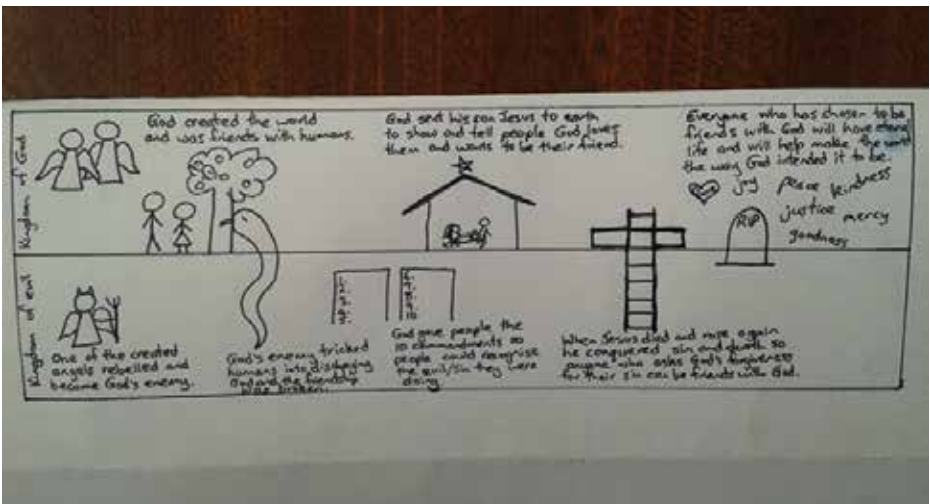




out talking life together.

We also took these mums on our church Women's Retreat Weekend which is specifically designed for people to be able to explore the faith; carefully chosen conversation starters at meal times. Saturday night camp fire facilitated conversation to answer the questions about Christianity that people put in the question box over the weekend, and lots of relaxation and time for conversations and friendships.

One of the main contributing factors to these 13 people making decisions was prayer. Once the IFG leaders starting to pray together each night before the programme started, stuff started to happen. Once an older lady in the Church asked for a family to pray for, stuff started to happen for the family; not only did the mum become a Christian but her daughter, two granddaughters and two great nieces were five of the girls who gave their life to



*Christ. There has also been a lot of prayer going on in Christchurch for the city for God to move in a greater way. We are seeing it!*

*We hope that our story is an encouragement to all kids' leaders; the hard work pays off. Remember to regularly ask your kids if they want to become a friend of God, giving them the 'keep coming to IFG to learn more' option too.*

***Julie Young, Westside IFG Christchurch***

Prayer used:

Thank you, God for your Son Jesus, dying on the cross and rising again

Sorry for the things that I have done wrong.

Please forgive me and from now on I want you to be in charge of my life so please help me to get to know and love you and live how you want me to live. Amen.

*Note: feel free to use the Snakes and Ladders Gospel. Julie has written it for everyone can use it.*

## 32

## A Story from Northern Ireland

*My first encounter of Jesus was when I attended Girls' Brigade at the age of three. I grew up in a home full of love and warmth, but my parents were not Christians. Attending Girls' Brigade meant that I had to attend Church and Sunday School to obtain my award at our display. Our family joined the Church our Company was attached to and I became a regular attender. The company I attend is called 92nd Hillsborough Presbyterian, based in a village called Hillsborough in County Down in Northern Ireland. Girls' Brigade gave me the opportunity to make friends for life. The strongest memories I have of Girls' Brigade when I was younger was our annual Teddy Bears Picnic, skipping and of course the displays each year. But most importantly what I will always remember and continue to be thankful for is the time and love invested by my Officers and Captains. Girls' Brigade has and always will be the place where you are welcomed with open arms and you feel safe.*

*In my late teens I left my Company for one year, I believed that I didn't have enough time for Girls' Brigade but how wrong I was. I was back as soon as the new session had started, and I can honestly say that was the best feeling in the world being a part of our Companies "wee family".*

*It wasn't until I was back at Girls' Brigade and becoming a regular attender of Church again that I decided I really wanted to hand my life over to Jesus. My family were no longer part of the church, something I found incredibly difficult. However, I was lucky my best friends from my Company attended, and so I attended with them. I made the decision to become baptised to profess my faith. I was baptised on a Monday night in my Church surrounded by my Girls' Brigade family and closest friends. Had I not attended Girls' Brigade I would not have found Jesus and became a Follower and also made friends for life.*

*The Lord has truly blessed me with having a Girls' Brigade family, my life could have been so different had I not been shown the love I was shown in Girls' Brigade. Girls' Brigade is one of the biggest parts of my life, I have been lucky enough to be able to attend The Gathering in 2017, be part of my executive representing the youth and also been given the opportunity to attend ICGB.*

*Girls' Brigade changes lives, it has changed mine, so much, giving me friends, I will have for life from all over Northern Ireland, and over the world. I am so thankful to be able to influence young girl's lives and show them the love I was and continue to be shown.*

# 33

## Karleigh's Story – Australia

*Karleigh's story is a 2-part story, part 1 is written by her Company Captain when she was a girl and part 2 is her current Company Coordinator.*



### ***Part 1***

*Karleigh joined our Girls' Brigade company at East Maitland NSW a little later than normal, she started in Seniors (Year 7). An extremely shy and quiet young girl, she hardly spoke to us for many months, quietly working with the other girls in her group. Karleigh was very*

*brave to come and join our Girls' Brigade group without anyone that she knew.*

*Karleigha enjoyed the activities we did each week, she was very committed to what was happening and attended our weekly Company nights very regularly and always came to our extra events. A State Camp for Seniors was held in her first year with us and she attended this, joining in all the activities but still staying very quiet.*

*Over the years we have watched her grow and mature, her willingness to get involved has resulted in her expanding her horizons and has given her many great experiences. Karleigha has now attended 2 National Girls' Brigade camps (Fono), represented Australia at the International Gathering in Zimbabwe.*

*I think the most exciting event in her Girls' Brigade life for Karleigha so far, was the opportunity to attend a reception at Government House in Sydney where she was able to personally meet Prince Charles and speak with him. Who knows what other adventures await this lovely young woman.*

## **Part 2**

*When I took on the role of Coordinator, Karleigha was working in the Pioneer group. I had known Karleigha for a while she was enjoying her time however she needed a challenge. We moved her into a leadership role and started the Young Leader program. We teamed her with a mentor from our Church, they have formed a loving supportive friendship where Karleigha goes for guidance and support.*

*She has taken on every challenge and opportunity presented to her and always has a smile on her face. Last year our whole leadership team were privileged to attend her 21st Birthday Party. What an incredible night we had, during the speeches I was surprised to hear so much credit for Karleigha's perspective on life being given to Girls' Brigade. What an honour to have such an impact on a young woman's life.*

*Karleigha is such a unique creation in our world for so many reasons, one of the biggest is that we have seen her move from a very shy and quiet girl to a confident Leader. But to also see the impact we have had in her life. Karleigha is truly a girls' life transformed.*

***Jenny Fayth and Liz McDonald***



# 34

## My Brigade Journey – Avril Geswint – South Africa

*At a young age of 12 year, I started my Brigade journey. I started as a Senior, under the guidance of the late Captain Sarah King. Four years later due, to her health the Company was put in recess. I was trained as a young leader by the late Mrs. Violet Japtha and the late Annie Jansen.*





*With this void in my life and no other Girls' Brigade in the Area, I joined the Boys' Brigade, which was very active at the time. Under the stern leadership of Captain Jan Minnies, I trained as an Officer. I had two Companies under my wing. The day of my initial induction as a Boys' Brigade Officer, I was part of the colour party and standing at the Church door with so many mixed emotions I could not go through with the induction and left.*

*In the year 1986 the Resident Minister's wife, Mrs. Joan Meyer, and I started to form a Company at our Church. Struggling to keep the girls interested was a trying task and the Company went into recess. In 1990 I decided to resuscitate the Company, 60 aspirant girls joined and in 1991 on the 15 October we were commissioned as the 1st Springdale Company and still active today, under very challenging circumstances, due to the crime rate and many obstacles in our community.*

*In 1992 we were chosen by the late Ms. Edith Phillips, the National Training Officer at the time, to have a display evening for the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa Synod Conference of Women.*

*I felt so proud and honoured, that our Company was chosen and seeing my former Captain also in attendance.*

*Becoming one of the Margaret O'Rourke recipients was another honour bestowed on me, and this entitled me to equip myself further, for the benefit of the Girls' Brigade. I could do a computer course. Unfortunately, I could not continue in the advance I.T. courses due to lack of funds but gained experience in the years ahead.*

*Exactly 21 years ago today the 16 March 1997 as I am*

*writing this, our fatal accident happened in which Ms. Edith Phillips, our National Training Officer died. I was told that I will never walk again. **THROUGH GOD'S UNFAILING GRACE HERE I AM.** Sharing my experience with you all. **ALL PRAISE TO GOD.***

*In 1998 at the Magalies Berg Conference I was elected as the National Secretary of South Africa in very trying circumstances. Never will I forget the love and patience and assistance of Mrs. Ruth Chikasa the Africa President at the time, who gave me her National Secretary lanyard. We shared our joy and sorrow at that Conference. At the same Conference many relationships were formed, and today I am part of a great team of women worldwide who so lovingly serve God.*

*The very same year I attended the I.C.G.B. in Brisbane Australia. Six of us remained behind after the Conference and what an experience living in a back-packers complex and exploring Brisbane.*

*We were invited by the Mayor of Brisbane to a fingertip lunch and late that week we had dinner on one the riverboats on the Brisbane River.*

*In 1999 we had our National Conference at the Willows Holiday Resort. After sitting at the station for some time, Mrs. Ruth Chikasa managed to attend the Conference as a special Guest being the Africa Chairperson. Once again Mrs. Ruth Chikasa came to my aid, something which I will never forget, and I am very grateful for knowing such a noble person.*

*The year 2000 Scotland hosted a Gathering to celebrate 100 years of the Girls Guildry. Upon our arrival at*

*Heathrow airport, we had to improvise and realised we had to spend wisely. We did something out of character. We paid for one to use the bathroom facilities and one stayed at the door to give each one a chance to refresh, by keeping the door open. **TRUST THAT GOD HAS FORGIVEN US.***

*Arriving at the Scotland my suitcase was ripped upon, but the authorities replaced it. I was hosted by a lovely couple, the father of the house, was preparing to go to the survival camp shown on T. V. The highlight of the Conference was when we visited the Scottish Bagpipe Tattoo display.*

*2003 Botswana our All Africa Conference held at the beautiful stone Church. Travelling by bus to Botswana, stopping at the border for inspection, here I am with all the Conference fees of the members pinned to my underwear, having members with chronic ailments, arriving a day to early due to incorrect information received. Trying to keep the delegates calm, finding a shop to buy food for the evening, trying to get hold of the Brigade officials to arrange accommodation, was very challenging, but once again we serve a living God who solves problems when we can't. The Government invited us to a lovely lunch while we were there. One day the members enjoyed riding on the back of a truck to take us to a special hiking trail, where we climbed a steep hill that overlooked part of Botswana.*

*2005 Another challenging time with Me forgetting my vanity case with all my chronic medication at home. I could manage to bring greetings from South Africa and hand over a shield as token of Fellowship from our*

*Country. After that I had to endure endless pain and swelling by trying alternative medication. I had to ask one of our delegates to do the presentation at the museum due to this. At least I could see the Victoria-falls and have some fellowship with other others. One of the memories of Zambia is Sheila forcing delegates to eat their food, because back home people were starving.*

*2008 Nigeria, another memorable experience. The youth was my inspiration and our special escort Ike was amazing. The beautiful Church with its revolving alter and meeting a representative of their Government, a Women of integrity and grace. We also had a tour of their Parliament and of the city.*

*My special memory is when they made me a going home outfit within two hours. This was hilarious. It was raining and when I arrived at Abuja airport I was blue to the waist. The dye came out, luckily, I had my tracksuit in my overnight luggage bag. **WAS MY FACE RED?** What an experience. I still correspond with some of the Youth.*

*Kenya Walk by faith not by sight: After the Executive meeting at the Bible School, those members who had later flights were hosted by some members. The youth decided to host me. The morning after the meeting after most of the members left, I woke up to complete silence. What next. I went to Breakfast and here the Youth was waiting for me. Walking from the Bible School I had no clue where I was going to. The girls took turns carrying to the 1st taxi after that another 2 taxis then a bus. Eventually we arrived at our destination in the war zone. After 2 hours we had security clearance as the soldiers were staying at the same hostel.*

*The Sunday morning, we went to the Church called Revival*

*Ministries held at a very huge athletic field, my ministry started with the age group 4-6 then 7-9 and so on. Each had their own leader. Which was amazing thereafter the youth and young adults lastly the congregation of close to 2000. This I did not expect. Walking up to the podium and looking back my heart skipped a beat, I have to address this huge crowd of followers with so many Clergy and Pastors present I ministered a few words and started singing to them the Lutkin Benediction, because I was to leave within the next hour. I was so humbled by the humility of the church members and when the Bishop's wife ran to get me a bottle of water I could not stop my tears. The Church members were so surprised when their Bishop gave me a 1 Dollar bill for coffee. They could not believe their eyes.*

***Tanzania:*** *Another Conference to remember, Visit to Serengeti Wild life Park a worthwhile 6-hour journey. Once again under God's protection, when the one bus had a burst tyre and later again went into a ditch, with the Delegates crawling out of the bus. Delegates could not understand why I was so emotional, I relived the accident we had, and I suppose it was, because Maria was one of the members in the other bus. There were so many flight delays that we literally slept at the airport. When we arrived in Dara Salaam we were put in an unknown place, which felt very unsafe, our breakfast was one hardboiled egg and a mug of black coffee and a slice of hard bread in a burnt plate. Once again being grateful for what we have. I had to tell my fellow Officers that we must go out to see where we were.*

*The International Youth Camp in Stellenbosch also had*

*its challenges, even though I had to spend some hours in the Medical Centre. This made me more determined than ever to persevere and serve God more faithfully and sincerely.*

*After serving as National Secretary since 1998, I was elected as President in 2011. And served in that position for two terms.*

*My last I.C.G.B. in Perth where old friendships were rekindled. This great warrior of Christ who crossed my path through Girls' Brigade will never be forgotten. Women of strength, Integrity, women who serves God unconditionally. Another special person who has taught me to never give up is our Immediate past Africa Fellowship President Ms. Priscilla Penny*

*I vow to serve God as long as I am able and feel proud to be part of this group of women. May you find much joy as I have in serving our Lord.*

***Avril Geswint Immediate Past President Girls' Brigade  
South Africa***

# 35

## Girls' Brigade Niue



**GIRLS' LIVES TRANSFORMED... GOD'S WORLD ENRICHED**

**NATIONAL CAMP**

**DATE - 21 JULY - 22 JULY 2017**

**THEME – BE EMPOWERED IN JESUS CHRIST**

*Girls and Leaders were all excited when its Friday the 21st July -*

- *Time to meet up with friends, time to share with others, time to learn from one another, time to participate and time to fellowship.*



• *The camp opened at 1:30pm – Friday 21st July at the National Youth Council Centre with everyone, girls, leaders, their Village Brigade Coloured Shirts and Blue Skirts.*

• *Opening blessing of the Camp was done by Reverend H.Tafea. Message is based on Luke 6:38 “A Giver Life” Give and it will be given to you, A good measure pressed down, shaken together and running over will be poured into your lap, for the measure you use... it will be measured to you.*

• *Teachings and learning session were based on Luke 2:52, Brigade Knowledge in*







*different ways, Special words for each section; Beginners and Juniors – SEEK, Seniors – SERVE, Pioneers – FOLLOW, Leaders – Programme Planning for Term 3 and Crafts Station.*

- *Special time and extra time given to the Group who travelled to the Girls Brigade New Zealand Fonomarae in January 2017. To share stories, their experiences, games, crafts and their future focuses.*
- *Exercise is a must in National Camps and early morning before daylight was the best time for exercise. Everyone walked from the Camp Centre to the Government Building and back.*



*Meals and meal times were organised, prepared and served by Leaders. Shared meals were a much friendlier and easier way to communicate and fellowship, with much enjoyment.*

### **CLOSING**

*Saturday 22 July, 4pm was the closing time, but not everyone is keen to go home as yet. New friends engaged, and communications developed for future gatherings as this.*

### **GENERAL OUTCOME**

*Everyone enjoyed the time, although its short, everyone learned something, picked up something and took something from the gathering.*

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND GRATITUDE**

*To the Executive Members of the National Youth Council and the Council Members for accepting GB Niue to use the centre and the facilities without costs. To the Ridge to Reef Project Coordinators and the Niue Meteorological Department for the assistance given.*

*Lastly, to all Brigades, WE ARE A TEAM and TEAM WORK is very IMPORTANT.*

*Thank you and God Bless.*

*Yours in Christ's Service*

***Beckys Christmas Tauasi***  
***NATIONAL COMMISSIONER***  
***Girls' Bigade NIUE***

# 36

## Andrena's Story – England and Wales



Andrena Palmer, 41, is a Leader at 1st Forest Hill in GB England & Wales. She is a Youth Minister at Christ Church in Orpington.

*I've been a member of Girls' Brigade since 1987 and a commissioned leader since 1997.*

*In my many years' volunteering with the Girls' Brigade, I've worked with several groups in different districts around the UK and I've worked with every age section - Explorers, Juniors, Seniors and Brigaders.*

*I've previously been Deputy Commissioner for the Meridian District (the area covering*

*Lewisham, Bromley, Greenwich and Bexley) with responsibility for training and young leaders. I've written articles for several GB publications, have mentored newly commissioned leaders in newly formed groups and attended network events alongside Girls' Brigade Trustee Liz Sarkodie. I've even represented Girls' Brigade at a garden party at Buckingham Palace in May 2015!*

*For my 40th birthday it was a pleasure to have an afternoon tea at Girls' Brigade with the Leaders, girls and their families at our annual awards evening!*

*It's been wonderful to celebrate with our young ladies as they receive awards, including Jack Petchey awards, but it's also so important to celebrate as they are baptised, graduating or getting married. Girls' Brigade is a family and it's wonderful to welcome girls back long after they've left, because they know that this is a safe space where they can be.*

*I've been a Leader for 20 years now, and this is an awesome role that I love and we can celebrate because Jesus is head of our group and HE is the reason why we do what we do.*

# 37

## Elizabeth's Transformation Story – Australia

*I started Brigade when I was five and I saw Brigade as FUN, as I continue through Brigade, I grew to know more about God and that He is always there. During High School, I was being bullied by students and teachers, but God, my family and Girls' Brigade help me through.*

*While in Brigade, I completed Pioneer Leadership Training, Pioneer Pin and Queen's Award, which as a shy person, was a great achievement, I then went onto become a Leader.*

*I am part of the training committee in Girls' Brigade New South Wales and enjoying it greatly. When I was a girl, I thought I would never be part of this committee, but I feel this is where God has called me.*

*Now I work as Company Liaison for Girls' Brigade New South Wales, Australia. In this role I support and encourage Leaders and Girls' Brigade Churches in transforming lives.*

*Brigade has given me confidences in what I can do, by being myself and having a sense of belonging.*

*I would like to thank the Leaders, who encouraged and inspired me as I grew in Brigade and my faith and now I can do the same with the girls in GB.*

**Elizabeth Neale**

# 38

## Darice's Transformation Story



*My name is Darice Jacob, I am 19 years old. I attend Girls' Brigade with 85th Company Gboko, Benue State Nigeria.*

*I started Girls' Brigade at 4 years. Our meeting days are Wednesdays and Fridays. During our meeting we are taught the word of God and other programmes like bead making, baking, community service and environmental subjects. We also engage in several physical activities like football, basketball and other exercise.*

*Girls' Brigade has helped me to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. It has inculcated good morals in me, it has also help me to bold and exposed. It has taught me to be self-reliant, for example I make beads and bake cakes for sale for my up keep. I am grateful to God for belonging to Girls' Brigade.*

***Darice Jacob,  
85th Company Kontien,  
Gboko Benue State,  
Nigeria.***

# 39

## Ruth Chikasa



*The Zambia Woman Days Board have awarded their Distinguished Service Award, for 2018 to our very own Past International President, Mrs Ruth Chikasa.*

*Congratulations to you Ruth!*

*The award is in recognition of her services in improving living standards in rural Zambia and for her role in advocacy work in Girls' Brigade worldwide.*

*Ruth says, "This award is for every Leader and young girls in Brigade who dares to dream. I thank Girls' Brigade International for giving me a platform from which I could dance and be noticed! But no one dances without a drummer and singers, so this is to all of us who produce the music,*





*the rhythm and the stage for transformation to take place in the lives of all those we are so privileged to serve! To you my co-workers in Christ, this award is for you too! You are the Women of the Year each and every year!"*

*A big thank you to each one of you who shared with me in this joy! May God increase your territories and give double what you have given me! Let's remember that all things are possible with God who sees the inner man! A big thank you to Girls' Brigade and FBH/DHF for the platform to shone and Abe for the wings to fly! This award is for every young girl who dreams for a better, successful life and a leader who enables that young girls.*



***Ruth Chikasa - Zambia***



# 40

## Avinasha Salmon's Story

*Hello, my name is Avinasha Salmon and I am currently attending College 3 Quartier 'D'Orleans. My mom and I attend the Bible Baptist Church on Sundays. I've been involved in the Girls' Brigade since I was six (6) years of age, and I have been taught many things since then.*

*Over the years, I have matured into a strong confident young lady because of the Girls' Brigade. Girls' Brigade has also allowed me to make lifelong friendships. It allowed me to explore the word of God and what it has in store for His young ladies like me and many more.*

*Therefore, because of Girls' Brigade I am confident. I say this because in this Church organisation it allows girls to be themselves, around others and speak their mind. Girls bond to the extent of building long life friendships. We're even more motivated about God, because of where society is pulling us young people. The reason for saying this, is because I see young people with various ages dying. Some are either committing suicide, that is bad, because some haven't lived the life God wants for them. If young people aren't rooted and grounded in God, the devil will use technology, their friends, even their own family, to attract them into the world and away from God. But with the guidance of my fellow Brigaders, my mom and Captains I won't stray away from God.*

# 41

## Jusette Terisca Sharry Story – St Maarten

*My name is Jusette Terisca Sharry. I was born and raised in St Maarten. I attend the Milton Peters College school in South Reward, St Maarten.*

*I've been in the Girls' Brigade ever since I began going to the Bible Baptist Church at the age of five (5) years.*

*Because of the Girls' Brigade, I am Fearless! Being fearless doesn't mean you are not afraid of anything, it means you are ready to face the things you are afraid of. Overcoming your fears is part of being fearless.*

*I've learned to cooperate with my fellow Brigaders and my Captains. I am not afraid of taking risks to improve my life with God or going an extra mile for a good cause and being an example for the younger girls coming up.*

*Being in the Girls' Brigade has really opened me up to new experiences. For example: I was shy when I was a young girl but growing up in the Girls' Brigade has changed that for me.*

*Girls' Brigade is a great way for young girls to learn about God, make new "sisters" and it brings out the best in you. God wants us to be brave, trustworthy, confident and fearless! I am fearless, because with God by my side, whom shall I fear?*

# 42

## Because of Girls' Brigade – I AM A FOLLOWER OF GOD

*I have been a member of the Girls' Brigade for the past five years. At first, I went to meetings because my parents sent me. Today I have no regrets because Girls' Brigade has made a huge impact on my life. I have learnt not to be selfish but to always lend a helping hand to the needy. The Girls' Brigade has made me into a new person and taught me more about God. I will be baptized in my church later this month and I feel very close to God. I am confident to tell people about God and what He through the Girls' Brigade has done for me. I live the aim of the Girls' Brigade which is "To help girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ..." I am now doing things that are of God and not of the world that will impact my peers. For those who have supported me such as my Company Captain, my Church family and my family, I am able to proudly say that I have confirmed that Jesus has taken over my life and I am a follower of God.*

***Samantha's Story***

# 43

## Because of Girls' Brigade – I AM COURAGEOUS AND STRONG

*From as early as I can remember my mother has been teaching me the importance of being a strong, courageous, capable, moral, and a wise woman in this world. I have never really understood the power of her words and teachings, and deep down I have always felt shy and afraid. Then I became a member of the Girls' Brigade and realise what she expects of me and what I need to expect of myself in order to become a young woman with hope and purpose in life.*

*Girls' Brigade is not just an association of girls who engage in activities and games. It is a family of responsible young women with special gifts who are discovering and learning Christian principles that encourage us to be strong, courageous, have confidence and faith in ourselves. We are also learning how to use our unique qualities to help and love others. The Girls' Brigade has empowered me to step out of my shy world and be more assertive in my life and in the service, we give to others. I am learning life skills that are preparing me to be a leader who leads with confidence, strength and courage.*

***Paige's Story***

# 44

## Because of Girls' Brigade – I AM MORE MATURE.

*The Girls' Brigade Organisation has done a lot for me during my five – eight years of being a Brigader. Not only has it open my eyes to understand the Bible better but has also taught me to be confident and to express myself boldly.*

*I have been exposed to many activities/events which has help to boost my self-esteem and to be able to interact with people more.*

***Mikila Gittens's Story – 1st Montserrat Girls' Brigade Company***

# 45

**I am a Brigader because of  
Girls' Brigade –  
I AM MORE OUTGOING.**

*Because of Girls' Brigade, it has helped me to improve my social skills and speaking and I am more outgoing. So far, we have done activities which have helped me to interact with other girls and to learn new things.*

***Tereese Weekes's Story – 1st Montserrat Gils' Brigade  
Company***

# 46

## Rev Amica Liburd's Story

*Methodist minister Rev Amica Liburd, is a young ordained minister stationed with the Guyana District of the Methodist Church. She is a Nevisian by birth, who was a life-long member of the Girls' Brigade Company attached to Gingerland Methodist Church in Nevis. She shared during an encounter with her in summer 2017, that whilst she was a youth various ordained ministers of the church saw and approached her on her potential in formal ministry.*

*She shared that she repeatedly declined their offers to assist her in taking that path, because (a) she was focused on pursuing a career in disaster management and aviation; and (b) she had personal spiritual issues that she struggled with. However, she surprisingly shared that the transformative moment in her life came when she attended the 2002 ICGB in Thailand as a youth delegate, because the sessions there were so spiritually charged that it caused her to confront the spiritual issues, that were hindering her and brought her into a closer connection with God.*

*She described a paradigm shift that effectively 'stopped her in her tracks' so much so that when she returned*

*home from ICGB and she tried to continue her track in preparation for attending university that year, she simply could not continue. Instead, later that year she ended up switching majors and enrolling as a Theological student instead as of her selected major.*

*It was those seeds which were planted in her from her infancy as an explorer in Girls' Brigade which were honed at an ICGB encounter, which gave her a for love Girls' Brigade which has followed her into her professional life as an ordained minister. It is now her modern mission, to work with Churches in Guyana for the establishment of Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade throughout the various congregations in the circuits of the entire District of the Guyana Methodist Church. A true testament of I Corinthians 3:6, when we are asked to plant the seeds and the Lord will provide the increase.*



# 47

## Ethelwynne's Story – My Life – Enriched through Girls' Brigade

*In 1955 as one of the Sunday School teachers of the bean Street Methodist Church in Kimberley, I was introduced to The Girls' Life Brigade (GLB) by Officers of the Boys' Brigade (BB) company which has just started in our Church. I was immediately fascinated by all that I learnt and became the proposed Captain of the GLB company we started.*

*Then, to my amazement and, I believe, was part of God's plan for my life, my future husband whom I met in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in June 1957, and who came from the village of Pniel in the Western Cape, happened to be an Officer in the Boys' Brigade there, and when we married in December 1959, I became the Captain of the GLB company in Pniel as there were no leaders. In 1960 I completed an officer's correspondence course with Brigade International and was officially inducted as Captain of the 1st Pniel Company in August 1960.*

*I found the Aim, Motto and Principles and programme of the organization to be just what was needed to uplift*

*and prepare our girls to become steadfast, upright Christian women.*

*In 1965 I attended the gathering in Port Elizabeth presided over by the International Secretary, Miss Rae, to form a National Council of GLB in South Africa and I later served as National President for GBSA. Subsequently Districts and Regions were formed. My husband understood that GLB had become my passion in life.*

*In 1972 I was one of a delegation of six officers from South Africa who attended the International Conference and Council Meetings held in Auckland, New Zealand.*

*The Lord blessed the work of Girls' Brigade in South Africa and companies were formed in all provinces of the country. Serving as a training officer was most rewarding at a time when GBSA was threatened due to strife and the resignation of high-ranking Officers, I vowed, being then a member of the Executive, that while there were companies around the country and girls to be served and led, Girls' Brigade South Africa would survive and I found myself serving as both National Secretary and National President for a short period of time and through the grace of God and supportive clergy we survived. I later became the National Secretary which office I held for 15 years.*

*I was blessed to present Girls' Brigade South Africa at International Conferences respectively in Singapore in 1983 and in the Cayman Islands in 1988. God graced me with a loving supportive husband and three wonderful children, who despite my involvement in Girls' Brigade, locally, regionally and nationally thrived and assisted me in every way.*

*In 1993 at an International Conference in Dublin, Ireland I was humbled and honoured to be elected as an International Vice President. My responsibility was to strengthen Girls' Brigade in African countries and to train Officers. Through the grace of God, I was able to attend International Management Committee Meetings for the purpose of drawing up a new structure for the newly-formed International Girls' Brigade Organisation – a result of the amalgamation of three organisations i.e. The GLB of England, the Girls' Brigade of Ireland and The Girls' Guildry of Scotland which all had similar goals.*

*I have been further enriched and blessed by being able to attend conferences and meetings in Australia, Hong Kong, England, Scotland and the Bahamas and gained invaluable knowledge of the values and instruction available for girls in all walks of life.*

*I am so grateful and thankful that during the course of my service in Africa I was able to visit and/or run training courses in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda, Namibia, Swaziland and Botswana. Through the grace of God and Girls' Brigade I have been able to store up immeasurable memories and reached great heights which otherwise would have been unattainable.*

*Thank you, Lord, for friends in Girls' Brigade near and far.*

***Ethelwynne C. A. Petersen (now 84 years old)***

# 48

## Influence - Mary Mokoroa from Cook Islands

*We all have our stories to tell and growing up in one of the most beautiful, relaxing, peaceful, friendly small islands in the Pacific; known to us as paradise; we are truly blessed. Kia orana my name is Mary Mokoroa.*

*My parents were among the many that chose to migrate to the main island of Rarotonga in the late 1960's. Three of my siblings were born in Rarotonga, which the two eldest are now deceased. The third child; a boy; now resides in*



*Australia, the youngest born on the island of Penrhyn is now residing back at home; previously being an Auckland resident. Each of them has their own respected families. As for the prodigal child, the black sheep of the family, she was born on the island of Atiu where Girls' Brigade started in the Cook Islands; also, the home island of my father; whom now works and resides in the metropolis; the beautiful "Rarotonga". Like most Cook Islands families; we had a house with revolving doors, with relatives coming & going. We went to Church, but for me, I did not understand what the pastor was saying; although I was top of my class for Sunday school; became Dux at some point.*

*My father; the late "Teati Mokoroa" worked as the Deputy Registrar for the High Courts –Justice Departments; which my mother the late "Matai Mokoroa nee Toma" worked as Marine Librarian for the Marine Resources Department in our township. To make ends meet, my parents would grow taro, arrowroot crops to sell at the market on some odd Saturdays; my mother would cook and sew our island clothes; so, she doesn't have to go and buy us clothes. That kind of life seemed the norm with little knowledge of the world existing outside our little nation.*

*I came to realise the kind of hardship my parents went through. I don't remember my parents ever moaning about how tough life was. As a young adult, I have learnt to listen and learn about their life. My mother and I use to have this "coffee session" every night where she spoke fondly of those days; "I use to feed you all on a can of*

*corn beef with rukau and taro”; she would say proudly. Coz now days it’s one can corn beef per person. She’d share her past; stories I love to hear, and I would share my young adolescent problems and we would solve them together; it’s one part I really love about these coffee sessions, which I still do now, just reminiscing about the good old days.*

*We weren’t always allowed to do what we wanted to do as children, but we weren’t slaves to our television sets either. In the 1980’s & 1990’s before Xbox, Wii and internet, there was always something to do in our backyard or our neighbours place. Working in the plantation; growing vegetation; crops; playing hide and seek; swinging on vines over streams; swimming in the streams; feed the pigs, the dogs, the cats, play re-enactments of army wars in tall grass, climbing trees; gardening; cutting the grass; raking the rubbish; making kikau brooms; weaving etc*

*As I got older, I joined Girls’ Brigade; recruited into the Avarua Company by the former captain Mrs Helen Williams; I was six years old. Worked my way up the ranks, from being a Junior unto becoming a Young Leader. Completed primary and high school education; started working and saw a bit more of the “world.” At the same time completing and receiving my Girls’ Brigade Queens Award at 19yrs (2004); became an officer at 20yrs (2005). Attended my first Pacific Fonomarae based here in Rarotonga; completed and received my Duke of Edinburgh - Bronzes at 20yrs (2006). In 2007 I completed my silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award*



*and received it at 23yrs (2009). I'm grateful for the decision I made and support shown and given to me, my late parents; Girls' Brigade Avarua-Officers; members; because today, I am currently the Captain for the Girls' Brigade Avarua Company; since 2012 and now Girls' Brigade Cook Islands, National Secretary since 2017. I attended my first ICGB in Perth 2014; as a youth delegate; chosen to be the Pacific speaker for the Q&A; in relation to the Pacific praise & worship; which I enjoyed very much; realising I was in the same boat as many that was sitting in the hall. The eminence experience from the Girls' Brigade International leaders and the tutors/trainers shown to us was beyond gratifying. Made many more friends that I didn't want to leave.*

*I love Girls' Brigade because this organisation brought me to God; showed me the world; gave me sisters; groomed me to be a strong confidence young woman with His love; His mercy and guidance. As a young leader; I want to inspire younger woman to be part of Girls' Brigade; as our motto says; Seek Serve & Follow Christ.*

***Kia Orana and Kia Manuia.***

# 49

## **\*How Girls' Brigade has transformed my life\***

*I joined Girls' Brigade when I was 7 years old as an Explorer I am now a young leader.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade;*

- *I am bold and courageous.*
- *I came to Jesus Christ and I am learning more of God's word.*
- *I learnt how to relate with people of different age groups.*
- *I am no longer shy and antisocial.*
- *My self-esteem has been boosted.*

*Girls' Brigade has taught me to be confident, to have respect for everyone.*

*It has helped me acquire knowledge through the four-square programme (Spiritual, Education, Service and Physical). I am able to apply it in all the areas of my life.*

*It is an honour to be part of this great family.*

***Thandiwe Mhango. 2nd Company, K. Division Zambia***



# 50

**Without Girls' Brigade I would not be alive today.**

***Without Girls' Brigade I would have committed suicide.***

*I come from a non-Christian home and only through Girls' Brigade have I really been able to meet and have a relationship with God.*

*I was going through a tough time at school and some heavy stuff was going on at home. And I felt as though I couldn't take it anymore. I had been contemplating suicide for a while and had a really bad day at school and when I got home more bad news, so I decided that I would commit suicide that night. I wasn't going to go to Girls' Brigade that night, but something made me go. I am thankful that I went now. I had a great night and the Bible study that occurred that night, really hit home and made me think. I can't remember exactly what it was about, but I am very thankful that Girls' Brigade was there for me and through it God was able to reach me.*

*There have also been other times where Girls' Brigade has helped me through rough spots by reminding me that I'm not alone. Also, God has placed people in my life*

*through Girls' Brigade at just the right time to help me through some tough times.*

*If it wasn't for Girls' Brigade I would not have had the opportunity to help a couple of people through their tough times.*

*Girls' Brigade has also assisted me in remaining apart of the world even when my anxiety is extremely high, even if it's just something popping up on my Facebook or a random message from someone. These remind me that there are others around and that I don't have to always do things on my own.*

***Monique.***

***Girls' Brigade New South Wales, Australia***

# 51

## I am a Girls' Brigader

*It was 1970, I decided to join Girls' Brigade, at the age of thirteen in the 1st Sibu Company*

*Girls' Brigade company was formed by the Wesley Methodist Church through the motion put forward by the 1st Sibu Boys' Brigade for the first time. And who would have thought it could imprison me in all the Girls' Brigade Saturday meetings for the next 48 years and still counting. I thank God for letting me join this worldwide family of sisterhood, growing up in it and growing old in it.*

*Friends are amazed at my zeal for the Brigade movement even after retirement from working. And I just have to say, "Why not? Girls' Brigade is my life!"*

*At the age of fourteen, I came to know the Lord through the evangelization of Lt. Mavis Lim of 2nd Kuching Company during one of the girls' camps. She gave me a thick Bible and told me to seek the Lord and follow Him by reading the Bible. I accepted the Lord as my personal Saviour and was born-again with the blessing of an Eternal life.*

*As a teenager, in the Brigade, I learnt self-control and disciplined myself never to indulge in harmful activities. I learnt reverence for the Almighty God, respect for fellow man and love for all creations. I learnt to be responsible in*

*all endeavours so as not to wrong others and self. I grew up strong and wise from the Brigade SPES programs.*

*I, being taught all skills, learning and working on achievements, earning badges and awards, had become an all-rounder, an envy of many schoolmates, was enjoying my life to the fullest. This is perhaps the most ordinary forty-eight years of bitter sweet experiences for me, but, were and still are my true enrichment of life, and I wish it to all the Brigade members likewise.*

*As I took up the role of a Warrant Officer and later a Lieutenant, I learnt to serve the Lord through leading the younger girls to know the Lord Jesus in Bible studies and Gospel Rallies, and by becoming a trainer in various skills training for Young Leaders.*

*The impact of Brigading in my life is not just a once and for all explosion. It was and still is a consistent impact which last through my daily life for 48 years now and many more years to come by God's Grace. I believed the Lord is the Potter and I am the clay, He had moulded me and made me after his will. And He still is.*

*A friend said, "Alice, you just have to continue with this great mission of the Girls' Brigade as it is a favour in God's sight." I answered, "Yes, thy will be done, Lord."*

*Alice Ong, 1st Sibü Girls' Brigade Company, Sibü, Sarawak, Malaysia*

***Alice Ong – Malaysia***

# 52

## **My name is Bulus Synderila from Nigeria.**

*I am one girl that is so passionate about Girls' Brigade my friends know this for a fact and keep wondering why. Why is because I have learnt a lot from this organisation. The Brigade has been part of my life since I was eight, all thanks to some then committed members living in my neighbourhood, it will interest you to know not even a single of them is still a member of this interesting organization. I am still a member because of the value I feel Girls' Brigade has added to my life.*

*Worthy of note is the fact that I received the Lord to be my Lord and personal Saviour in the Brigade during a State Camp in Karu Nasarawa State Nigeria in 2004.*

*Growing as a very young girl, I was exposed to different friends with both good and bad ways of life, that I missed out once and was living a very terrible life then in university. Back home again I got my life back on track through the constant encouragement I got from Girls' Brigade, a worthy of mention amongst my Officers, that kept showing me love, was Mrs. Ruth Utulu, she was direct in handling me as a young girl and this went a long way in moulding me into the type of lady I have now become.*

*As a girl I learned a great deal of discipline and self-control all in the Brigades.*

*I know my Church Pastors have tired feeding me with God's word, but Girls' Brigade gave me double, with practical show of love, and now the Brigade is my "world" my pride.*

*I love Girls' Brigade.*

# 53

## Simple beginnings, huge dividends in Christian faith through Girls' Brigade – Rev Margaret Stella Constable – South Africa

*(A personal testimony of the Rev Margaret Constable on her growth through Girls' Brigade)*

*Girls' Life Brigade became one of the social organisational activities in which parents were encouraging Christian young ladies to become involved during the 1930's. The Second World War had just broken out in 1939 when I became a Cadet in the local company started at Philip Memorial Congregational Church in Sidwell, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The company was also attached to a Church School at which I received my primary school education viz Korsten Union Congregational Church school.*

*Our first Officers were Captain Fredricka Blignaut, Mrs Bruwer and Mrs Lasker, they introduced us to this life of discipline, Christian leadership and instruction in practical skills in handwork. They excelled in training us in music, singing stage*

*productions, sketches and operettas. Working with them (They were also our day school teachers) brought a feast of most enjoyable cultural activities into my life. It awakened within me a love for handwork, sewing, crochet work and knitting.*

*As mentioned, the Second World War (1939-1945) had just broken out. There were at that stage not enough factories to provide for the physical needs of the military. Our Brigade Company became one of the first to become a “knitting circle”. We learnt to convert the uninteresting khaki stands of wool into jerseys, scarves, balaclava, caps, gloves and stockings. We also became the Junior Red Cross and were trained in First Aid and Home Nursing. We could not have imagined that in years to come, during adulthood our training in knitting and sewing-embroidery, stitching and mending would stand us in good stead. Yes, for training in these skills truly prepared us for adulthood, the accent being on practical activities. Even today as I am advancing in years I am truly indebted to my trainers, these first Brigade Officers for the thorough grounding in these skills. They have now become the hobbies that occupy my time as the aging process can also become very lonely and lead to boredom.*

*I was always just a member of the Company, never having the privilege of becoming an Officer. During the years after age 16 that I could have been promoted I had to attend advance studies at the University of Fort Hare. This happened during the mid-fifties in Alice away from Port Elizabeth.*

*The foundation received via Girls’ Brigade was for me, a call to a deepening of Spiritual values that have persisted until now. The principles, motto and deep spiritual lessons from the Bible gleaned during the Brigade gatherings formed the groundwork for my response to the Call of God to the Christian Ministry. After University I began teaching in 1955 re-joined Girls’ Brigade and*



*qualified for the Christian Ministry in 1960 – received a call to Bethesda Congregational Church in 1964 when I was ordained into the Christian Ministry. It was then that I became a Chaplain in Girls' Brigade.*

*Throughout the succeeding years I retained the interest in Girls' Brigade and was instrumental in starting Companies in Hankey, Roodepoort, and Cape Town.*

*It was while ministering at Bethesda, Port Elizabeth, Hankey in the Eastern Cape and especially while ministering in Johannesburg and Roodepoort in Gauteng that I became thoroughly immersed in Brigade activities. It was a privilege to be present during the years when Mrs Ethelwynne Petersen as honorary secretary with her contemporaries in leadership were able to navigate Girls' Brigade through a rough period of challenge and setbacks. One can call it a period of resuscitation for when she became Secretary the Organisation was launched into a new era of positive development.*

*The World had survived the Second World War. We in South Africa now entered a challenging “bloody period of “Separate Development” also called “Apartheid”. Imprisonment for being outspoken against the government of the day prevailed, forced removals and resettlement of entire communities took place. Many fled the country and lived in exile. In the meantime, forces were at work leading the population into a new period of Democracy. Of course, this called for tremendous readjustment until the new Democratic Regime came into being in 1994.*

*Yes, during this period Girls' Brigade was quietly busy filling a need in the lives of young girls. This was during the 1980s leading into the 1990s and into the new 21st Century. We are still on the go, and relevant in our own way.*

*It is during this period that at one stage I was elected to the position of President of Girls' Brigade, South Africa. I was also privileged to attend an International Girls' Brigade Conference in Brisbane, Australia, in 1998. I do hold thrilling memories of experiences but most of all of local efforts by Girls' Brigade to keep the work alive. Girls' Brigade seemed to thrive in the poorer communities. Yet, to my knowledge not a single conference had to be cancelled. Girls' Brigade met every single year. Officers gave their all to keep alive the flame of Christ's involvement in the organisation. I attended many meetings/conferences over the years and even after retiring to the Western Province in 2004 have been drawn into becoming involved in Girls' Brigade work in one way or another. I have also written a few pageants depicting the work and history of Girls' Brigade e.g. Road Signs.*

*While in Johannesburg during the 1990s Girls' Brigade South Africa, hosted the Africa Fellowship Girls' Brigade. Conference at the Youth for Christ Centre in Magaliesburg. It was eventful for me because there I met fellow Brigaders from other African States. You have no idea how invigorating and satisfying it is to just converse and worship with fellow sisters on a common mission: That of bringing young girls to faith in Jesus Christ.*

*At present, in 2018 the outcry from the people in RSA is genuine and urgent. Teenage pregnancies, abuse, HIV and Aids and poverty is the order of the day. The teaching of practical subjects such as needlework, knitting, crocheting and other forms of handcrafts have been taken out of the school curriculum. (These days young girls cannot even stitch a hem or sew on a button, let alone provide assistance in an accident. Is this not a chance for Girls' Brigade to come forward to fill the need?*

*At another level the Training In Leadership skills has become indispensable. Ironically this aspect of education (Girls' Brigade*

*curriculum) has been adopted into the curriculum of State School as Training in Life Skills. It is also an aspect of Girls' Brigade Training which I feel may be extended into work in Christian Women's Groups. Leadership Training for women is imperative in the Corporate World and Social Structures need it. What with 60% of households in South Africa headed by women.*

*But there I go again. I shall always remain a Brigader. The Four-square programme of Girls' Brigade is at the centre of my life. It is essential in the development of the girl-child.*

*At present I am in a supernumerary by the Grace of God as nominated by the Girls' Brigade in the Western Cape. Their fortunes are the subject for my daily prayers. Their activities in which I can still participate as an octogenarian are close to my heart. The Christian principles and faith inculcated through my grounding received as a little girl in Girls' Brigade will live in me for as long as God wills.*

*May God reveal more truths and ways in which Girls' Brigade World-Wide may serve and nurture young girls for the Kingdom of God.*

***Rev Margaret Stella Constable (B.A, UED, Dip Theol)  
Emeritus Minister United Congregational Church of S.A***

# 54

## Keryn's Story



*Many of our Girls' Brigade companies have "special need" members, we have one such young lady, in our Company.*

*Keryn came to our company at the age of 19, her mother (adopted) was looking for an organisation, who would be able to give Keryn an interest and involve her in activities, as well as build up her self-esteem. As it turns out Girls' Brigade was the perfect place for Keryn.*

*We started her in Pioneers and in 2015 at the age of 24 she had completed her four triangles and applied for her Pioneer Pin (highest National Award in Australia). During this time, Keryn also attended Pioneer*



*Leadership Training for Preliminary and Recreation.*

*Keryn suffers from Down syndrome, has had a number on operations of her legs, open heart surgery, and has limited vision and is now suffering from a hearing problem. With all this issues Keryn is always the first to sign up for camps, outside activities and also willing to help at others in our Company.*

*At Church Parades she is always one of the first to ask if she can read the Bible passage or be part in the Colour Party. Nothing is too hard for her and she will give anything a go.*

*Keryn is now an Assistant Leader helping out in Company where needed. If we have a new girl she is there to make sure the new girl knows where to go and what to do. On hot nights she hands out glasses of cool water.*

*We are all blown away with the ideas she has and the ways that she wants to help others.*



*When Keryn was presented with her Pioneer Pin, at Government House in Sydney Australia, there wasn't a dry eye in the main hall. All the people who know her and had supported her through her journey were encouraged by way she carried herself through the morning. Talking with the New South Wales Governor and his wife, Mrs Lynda Hurley, the Girls' Brigade New South Wales State Patron, Keryn was so polite and excited to be invited to Government House to show what she had achieved in a short time in Brigade.*

*Keryn has also grown in her faith and she prays to God for the people around her. She is always sharing.*

*Girls' Brigade has made a big difference in Keryn's life and her family, and both Leaders and girls are so blessed to have her working in our Company.*

***Leaders of the Blacktown New South Wales Company - Australia***

# 55

## Kim's Queen's Award Story.



*Kim came to Blacktown Company as a shy Junior and seeing her grow to achieve the Queen's Award has been amazing. For Kim this journey to complete her Award was a very big task. Kim has Asperger's, ADD, Anxiety and Panic Attacks, but with support from her Company, she has been able to complete her Queen's Award journey.*

*She has work on one aspect at a time. With every achievement, she worked on she knew that it was a step closer to her major goal in Girls' Brigade.*

*Kim loves animals especially horses, so her project was titled, Horses. Kim attended the Riding for the Disabled organisation and her goal was*

*to ride in the Sydney Royal Easter Show, with her families support she not only achieved this, but also won some ribbons in some of her events.*

*Kim learnt computer skills when she did one of her tasks, making name tags for a Regional Camp as well as organising the orderly groups. For her other task in the community she collected tin food for a Food Drive at Christmas time for a needy family. She also designed flyers and posters asking families at Church to bring in non-perishable food, then she filled a basket and a large box with food and presented it to the Church for distribution to families.*

*Kim's Christian life grew while doing her Church Service. She volunteered as a Steward and continues to do so after her award has been completed.*

*Kim was presented with this award by Mrs Linda Hurley at Government House – Sydney on 26th November 2016, with family and friends in attendance. She was so excited and proud on that day, as she celebrated her Award.*

*The Company is very proud of Kim achievements and she is a credit to her family and the Leaders, who have worked with her, developing her skills and passions in life. She completed her Leader Training and was commissioned as a Leader in our Company last year. Well done Kim. She likes to work with younger girls and encourages them while at Company.*

***On behalf of Kim by the Leaders of the Blacktown Company.***



# 56

## Vanuatu Bibles



*In 2015, Vanuatu suffered a Cyclone that destroyed a lot of the main island of this group of islands called Vanuatu.*

*The devastation on the island was so great that Girls' Brigade was put on hold. Homes, buildings and crops (the main source of income) were destroyed.*

*The Leaders lost not just their homes but all supplies that were needed to run Girls' Brigade.*

*Girls' Brigade New South Wales wanted to help so the campaign to give every member of the Girls' Brigade in Vanuatu a Bible, was set in place. After research the Bibles were sourced through the Bible Society and purchased, both in English and French. And 18 months later the Bible arrived in Port Villa, to some very excited Leaders and girls.*

*The job to distributing them was given to Jill Qualao, the National Secretary. To get these Bibles around was not easy, as there are lots of Companies in isolated area. Well done Jill for accomplishing this job.*

## 57

## Nwani Cordelia Chimyenum's Story – Nigeria

*While still so young, longed and craved to be in the Girls' Brigade. this was in the early 80's at St Paul's Anglican Church 2nd East Circular Road Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria though was not allowed by my parents up to the day of first enrolment. But still found myself being in Church on Saturdays while they hold their meetings. As time went by, I had the privilege to lead the Girls' Brigade members, the Company Captain/District Commandant Mrs Florence Oronsaye, appealed to me to teach and lead the girls, for a competition at the Edo State Youth Council, where we had an overwhelming victory. Interestingly I was not officially a member but still cherish the little I could do due to the effect of my parent's instructions, who then did not fully understand what Girls' Brigade entails.*

*But in April 2005, while a priest wife, we were mandated by the Bishop's wife, Mrs Gladys Imaseun, to train as Girls' Brigade Officers in order to take care of girls under our parishes. The training was held at St Pauls Anglican Church 2nd East Circular Road Benin City Edo State. At the end of the training there was an Officers meeting where I was appointed the secretary, a position which I*

*occupied for ten years. I was later elected the district secretary. I served under Mrs Oronsaye, Mrs G.N. Adams, Mrs Susan Urhuogo and Mrs C.I. Olotu. As a Captain at different parishes, I have helped to establish the 13th Oredo Company (Emmanuel Anglican Church Siluko Road), 17th Oredo Company (St Lukes Ogbeson) and 3rd Orhionmwon Company St Pauls Church Onuiyi-Ogbahu, where I currently oversee.*

*I am presently working with my Company to open a new Company at a village close to us. This we will do by the grace of God. I am privileged to serve as State Treasurer of Edo State Council of Girls, Brigade Nigeria. It has been God's help and grace helping to make girls followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I am glad to be a Girls' Brigader.*

***Nwani Cordelia Chimyenum***

# 58

## Tobi Olayemi's – Transformation Story



*My name is Tobi Olayemi of 16th Abuja Company Nigeria. Through the Girls' Brigade I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and I am walking with God. I have learnt to be disciplined, honest, tolerance, diligent and have respect for people.*

*Through the Girls' Brigade I have met many people and have made many friends of different cultures and ethnic groups.*

*I have discovered my gifts of leadership and teaching in the Girls' Brigade.*

*I have learnt how to make soap, Beads, snacks and beverages, which I am selling and helping to support my family and other girls in my Company.*

*I have served the less privileged like orphans through the Girls' Brigade. Girls' Brigade is spiritual and also fun to me.*

***Tobi Olayemi, 16th Abuja Company, Nigeria.***

# 59

## Ibinibo Patrick's – Transformation Story



*My name is Ibinibo Patrick from 1st Abuloma Company Rivers, Nigeria.*

*My Impact from Girls' Brigade.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade I am a child of God.*

*I am unique among my peers.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade, I know how important it is to love and be loved.*

*I feel accepted and special because of Girls' Brigade.*

*I have learnt how to endure and overcome challenges.*

*Girls' Brigade Nigeria has supported my academic pursuit, I am now a graduate. I have exposure due to interaction with other people locally and internationally.*

*In summary, I am strong, God fearing, persistent, courageous and unique.*

# 60

## Longdi Micah's – Transformation Story



*I am Longdi Micah from 292 Plateau Company, Nigeria.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade I know God.*

*I have confidence, I am positive about life.*

*I choose the right friends.*

*I learnt to be loyal and trustworthy.*

*Girls' Brigade has helped me to be a soul winner and a counsellor to many girls.*

*It has helped me to be compassionate.*

# 61

## Waapera Doofan's – Transformation Story



*Waapera Doofan Miriam from 85th Benue Company, Nigeria.*

*I have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade I have overcome shyness and timidity. I am now bold.*

*I have learnt to be a woman of Integrity.*

*I am a leader because of Girls' Brigade.*

*I am creative, I make headbands, bow tie, hair ruffles and braided hair wigs and sell them. I use the income raised, to contribute to my needs and the needs of others.*

*Girls' Brigade has given me a job of Administrative Secretary.*

# 62

## Mei Wong's Story – Malaysia

*I chose to join Girls' Brigade 1st Malacca in 1973 when we had to choose a uniform group as part of our extra-curriculum activities. To me then, it was choice made to merely fulfil our school requirements but surely God was already placing His plans for my life in place. I received salvation through Girls' Brigade as a teenager. The activities there definitely impacted and shaped my character as a Christian and I am indeed grateful for this opportunity.*

*Badge work was fun and useful. I especially enjoy pitching up our canvas tents and camping every year, though at times we had school desks as our beds! As a Leader in Girls' Brigade 1st Malacca, I remember our days of planning and meeting – we often get angry at one another but once the meetings were over, all were friends again. We had that kind of simplicity of minds which made working together really fun. I also enjoyed our marching drills. They instilled great discipline and endurance in me as a person.*

*After achieving the Pioneer Pin, I went on to work towards the International Award. It was a real challenge, as there was no computer or internet then. I still remember making*



*day trips from Malacca to the National Library in Kuala Lumpur for the sole purpose of research. All my effort paid off when I met all the requirements and was awarded the Girls' Brigade International Award before turning 21.*

*In time, I became an Officer in Girls' Brigade 1st Malacca. I was also part of the team that went with our Organiser then (Ms Irene Wong) to train the leaders in Sabah and Sarawak. It was great exposure and a time of learning to work together.*

*Due to my work schedules, I was limited to serving within the company level. I did help out in 1st and 3rd Kuala Lumpur for a brief period. However, the groundwork gained as a member and Officer in Girls' Brigade was instrumental in my faith journey. Since being a member in 1974, I have had the privilege of serving the girls in Malacca till 1978.*

*Then, it was serving God in local Churches, especially in the state of Perak. Today, I am part of the Pastoral Team in FGA Kuala Lumpur because of the input of Girls' Brigade 1st Malacca.*

*I thank God for His faithfulness in moulding and changing me through the Girls' Brigade and guiding me towards true enrichment in life!*

***Mei Wong (Low Mei San)***

# 63

## Zoe Wong Kee Hui's Story – Malaysia

*When I was thirteen, I joined the Girls' Brigade 1st Siburo company. Before joining Girls' Brigade, I cared about nothing but only my academic results. My life was dull and boring. Although I come from a Christian family, my faith in the Lord Jesus was not strong enough to follow His plan and overcome difficulties in life. Girls' Brigade has changed my personality and life miraculously.*

*Through leading in Praise and Worship, Bible Studies and drill, I learnt to have more initiative, independent and confident. I also learnt how to work in a team and to be a team player. I joined Young Leaders' Preliminary Training and was promoted to be a Young Leader at the age of sixteen. Girls' Brigade has helped me to grow my leadership skills.*

*Although it was already eight years ago, I could still remember the date, 18th September 2010. The Chaplain of my Company in one of our Company's evangelistic rally asked the question, "How sure are you that you are going to heaven after you die?" That question made me to think of my life seriously. Can I enter heaven after I die? I asked myself. Realising that even though I come*

*from a Christian home, I need to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour, and so I did. Before this I was afraid to face difficulties and hardships in life. Now I know God has a wonderful plan for my life and I no longer need to fear difficulties and hardships. I know God is faithful, through hardships and difficulties God is strengthening me and toughening me. I know God is Before Me, He will lead and guide me.*

***Zoe Wong Kee Hui (1st Sib)***

# 64

## Wong Saw Chan's Story – Malaysia

*The Lord has chosen me.*

*Being in Girls' Brigade for so long, brings sweet memories to my life... I want to thank God for what I am today, knowing that He had chosen me and given me opportunity to serve Him in the Brigade ministry.*

*As I recall, my teenage years being a quiet and shy girl, Girls' Brigade gave me a channel to overcome my fear and an opportunity to lead. Girls' Brigade has inspired me to be confident and equipped me to be a Leader. Indeed, many thanks to the Boon brothers for their faithfulness in sharing the gospel, encouraging and building me up to be a Leader.*

*I joined the 3rd Kuala Lumpur Girls' Brigade as a Senior in 1968. I grew up from rank and file. The warmth and kindness of the Brigade members touched me and made me feel welcomed into God's big family. Gradually, I grew in my commitment to serve and support in the Girls' Brigade ministry.*

*As I served as an Officer, I found that I also grew in Bible knowledge and was able to impart the love of God and good values to the girls. Since I grew up in Girls' Brigade, I felt a strong attachment to 'The Girls' Brigade ministry.'*

*It's a heartfelt joy to see transformation of girls' lives. It is even a greater joy when having ex-Girls' Brigade members bring their children to join the Girls' Brigade activities.*

*It's so encouraging to see girls grow in discipline, leadership skills and even much joy to be able to spend time together in planning our activities.*

*With God given strength and blessings, showered upon me, and giving me the zeal to continue carrying out His work, I pray that the flame of commitment to serve, will still..... burn.*

*Colossians 3:16 - 17 .....giving thanks to God.*

***Sharing by Advisor Wong Saw Chan - 3rd Kuala Lumpur Girls' Brigade***



# 65

## My Journey in the Girls' Brigade

*In 1970, I joined the 3rd Kuala Lumpur Girls' Brigade at the invitation of my classmate Pang Oi Yoke. I enjoyed all the activities in Girls' Brigade, like learning how to play the flute, play the side drum, the base drum and finally I had the opportunity to become the Band Major. This is a great opportunity for me to be introduced to music. I came from a home where learning music is a luxury. I also learnt how to cook, bake and many other skills. I remembered in one of the Company camps in Pangkor Island, I was put in-charge to cook the fried rice. The rice was too soggy, and it tasted horrible. My Officers were very gracious, they encouraged me. Now my Girls' Brigade girls missed my fried rice. (Hahaha!)*

*Spiritual program in the Brigade then, was the last thing in my mind. I did not take much attention to spiritual matters. I was not indifferent neither was I too interested in it. It was just part of the Girls' Brigade programme and I went along with it.*

*Like in Romans 10:14 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" I thank God for the two faithful Officers from the 2nd Kuala Lumpur Boys' Brigade who taught*

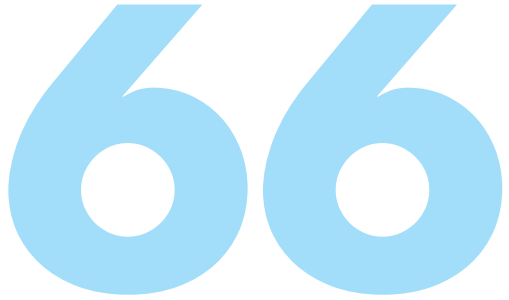
*the word of God faithfully weeks after weeks. I became a child of God and later attended Bible colleges and on the completion of my Master of Divinity I became a Pastor of a Church and now reading for my Doctor of Ministry.*

*The two Boys' Brigade Officers not only taught the word of God, but they helped run the Company and grew Leaders for 3rd Kuala Lumpur. In the late 70s, 3rd Kuala Lumpur was one of the biggest company in Malaysia. 3rd Kuala Lumpur Girls' Brigade had no lady Officers then. These two Boys' Brigade Officers trained us girls until we could take over the Company. I became the Company's Captain after my baptism in 1976.*

*So as a Captain I was in the National Council and I was elected National Secretary in the early 80's. I was given opportunity to represent Girls' Brigade in the youth exchange program to the Asian countries and Japan. In the 90's when I was National Secretary again I represented Girls' Brigade Malaysia in ICGB Australia. This opened my eyes to Girls' Brigade Ministries internationally. I thank God because of Girls' Brigade, I was awarded the Pingat Bakti Belia (Service to Youths medal) by the Malaysia Youth Council in 2004. I also had the opportunities to be trained as facilitators for No Apologies, Million Leaders' Mandate and Lead Like Jesus.*

*From the year 2000 to 2014 I was given the privilege to serve as the Training Co-ordinator in Girls' Brigade Malaysia. I witnessed how God helped Girls' Brigade Malaysia in her ups and downs. God truly is faithful, and He is still on the throne and His name is to be praised.*

**Choy Ying - Malaysia**



## Joyful service in 6<sup>th</sup> Kuala Lumpur Girls' Brigade – Captain Marianne

*My service with GBM started about a decade ago when I was called upon by my St Mary's Anglican Cathedral pastor to assist in the 6th Kuala Lumpur, which was (and still is) a school-based company. To be honest, when I was first asked to help out in this ministry, I had previously never heard of GB, nor was I aware of its existence. At the start, I felt extremely clueless as to how I would be able to be of service to Christ and the girls of 6th KL. However, what I found really appealing was the motto of GB, which defined what this organization stands for, which was to lead its members to "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ." One could not ask for a better ministry goal!*

*When I undertook the role of being 6th KL's captain in 2009, we had a good number of girls (around 37-40 girls). Even as I was holding this role, I would sincerely say that serving in this capacity was in fact a good learning curve for me. I'm thankful for the guidance and assistance from senior officers such as Madam Lum Choy Ying who came to carry out various activities with the girls in accordance*



*with the GB syllabus on a regular basis. I also thank God for teacher advisors Madam Joyce Lee and Madam Dayma Nyuawe who served alongside me as officers of 6th KL.*

*Over the years, we grew in number, by God's grace. Majority of the girls were from non-Christian homes. As the company grew in number, it became more challenging to know every GB member, personally. However, God was graciously at work in the hearts of these girls as they came regularly for meetings and heard the Gospel. I recall one young girl who was a faithful member and later began serving in the committee. I always assumed she was a Christian, until she finally told me that she first joined GB because she was attracted to the uniform! She wasn't a Christian then, and she had never heard of Jesus. As she began coming to the regular meetings, it was then that she first heard the Gospel, and understood the marvellous news that Christ had come to die on the cross for undeserving sinners (that's us!) and that Christ rose again defeating sin and death and is now King over all. She began joining the school's Christian Fellowship as well! When her younger sister entered school, she also encouraged her to join GB. Her younger sister wasn't a Christian but I'm most thankful to say that she too, has come to trust in Christ and is now serving as a committee member! All praise and glory be to God!*

*As of 2017, 6th KL's membership stands at 310 – 289 girls from SMK St Mary, and 21 girls from SK St Mary. Yes! It was by God's good hand that the ministry of GB extended to the primary school in 2016. One of the greatest challenge that we face as a company is the lack of manpower. God*

*has been gracious, volunteers from Scripture Union and St Mary's Cathedral came to the rescue. I also count it as an immense privilege to be involved in the various GB camps. In the process of serving in this capacity, I've come to admire the dedication and tireless labour of officers from other GB companies. I marvel at how many of them are committed to serving in their own companies and in the wider GB circle. I recognize that they do so out of their love and commitment to Christ and to the ministry He has entrusted them with. It has been a joy for me to see many girls grow in confidence and in their leadership abilities and in their knowledge of Christ as they attend the various GB camps through the years. It has been ten joyful years of service with the Girls' Brigade! My prayer is that God will raise up more and more leaders who are willing to be used in this ministry for the work of His Kingdom! And that through GB more and more girls will become faithful followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## 67

## A dream come through



*Receiving the Girls' Brigade International Award has been a dream come through. Five years ago, this award seemed an impossible feat. The journey was complicated by hurdles after hurdles. Indeed, there were times I felt like giving up, but this experience has taught me desire and determination are the keys to overcoming the challenges that are part and parcel of this program.*

*Completing the International Award program required huge effort and deep commitment. This was challenging for me because my job as a tax assistant required lots of over-time to meet unrelenting deadlines. I remember praying for discipline and perseverance. God is amazing! He gave me understanding colleagues, loving parents, supportive officers and an excellent captain who always encouraged me to look to God - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and He will make your paths straight" – Proverbs 3: 5-6.*

*To me, the International Award symbolizes blessings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Girls' Brigade Malaysia (GBM) for starting me on this exceptional journey. I had the opportunity to give back to the community and GBM, build up my leadership skills, spiritual growth and patriotism. Special thanks to Mdm Lum Choy Ying, Ms Tay Choon Neo and Ms Katryn Tan who encouraged and advised. Thank you Kota Kinabalu Group Council for your unwavering faith and Captain Doria for mentoring me. That said, I could not have done it without God. I have learnt that I am weak but God is more than able. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." - Philippians 4:13*

*Through GB ministry, I found my identity in Christ as a daughter of the Almighty God. Through the GB programs, my life has been transformed and renewed. To all girls and officers aiming for the Pioneer Pin and the International Award: do not give up because wonderful things awaits you. I did it and you can do it too! Just as Bethany Hamilton said "Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means don't let fear stops you". I hope to see more International Award holders.*

*I accept this GB International Award with gratitude as a reminder to always Seek, Serve and Follow Christ.*

*Blessing,*

***Lt Jovie Voo***

***2nd Kota Kinabalu Company***

# 68

## My story



*I am Karen Lee Ka Ling, the Lieutenant of 33rd company of Girls' Brigade Hong Kong. Time flies, it has been 15 years for my services in GB.*

*I have never been to uniform group when I was young. Thanks God for His wonderful plan, I got to know GB as my girl enrolled to the company, it was then my pastor recruited officers for GB, and I took this request in my prayer, and enrolled the officers' training, and that was the beginning of my services in GB till now.*

*In the service of Company, there are tides and hills, we had times with lots of girls, and there were times of few. Thanks God for giving me faithful officers, we*



*prayed together, and we insisted to keep the company that even if there were only one girl staying, we would try our best to teach her. Thanks God, there are more than 30 girls in our company.*

*God changes me a lot when I serve in GB, He enlarge my border and witness God's amazing work; He encourages me to accept challenges with faith; He teaches me to be a servant leader, to influence lives with my life, that more girls could be raised as servant leaders.*

*Thanks God for calling me as the GB officer, and I am now an Exco member, I will try my very best to accomplish the mission He calls upon me.*

***Karen, Lee Ka Ling, Girls' Brigade Hong Kong***

# 69

## Kitty's Story

*I am Kitty Lee, I was commissioned as the Lieutenant of the 7th Company at 1980 when it was just started, and it was the beginning of my services in GB. I have taken up different posts throughout 30 years, and I love training Drill most, as GB girls learn what discipline and team work through drilling. Thanks God that He gives He builds me in GB, so that I can have an abundant life. Thought I do not have children, I take all the girls in GB as my daughters, to nurture them in God's love and with positive value and confidence, to prevent them from going astray, that they could grow up and become good citizens and contribute themselves to the society.*

*I serve in GB as God's missionary, that He loves our young people so much. May God help them to be His faithful followers that we could Seek, Serve and Follow Him in our lives. Amen.*

***Kitty Lee Lai Kuen, The Girls' Brigade Hong Kong***

# 70

## Voices of our Seniors and Brigaders at Savannah GB Company

*The Seniors and Brigaders were asked how GB has impacted their lives since becoming a member of the organization.*

*These are their responses:*

*Made new friends and given the opportunity to speak up about issues in the Community and Church. Their communication skills have improved and they have grown in their walk with Christ. They were able to serve people in the community especially by participating in the Cancer Society and Meals on Wheels fundraiser. They have learnt a lot by attending camps and attending weekly meetings where they get an opportunity to do their Physical, Spiritual, Education and Service sections of the GB programme. The highlight of how GB has impacted their lives is it has helped them grow spiritually.*

*As Captain of the No. 6 GB Company in the Cayman Islands, I have been with this great Organization for over 55 years, having first joined Girls Guildry,*



*now Girls Brigade when I was 7 years old. Through leadership training as a young Brigader I was able to be commissioned as an Officer at the age of 18. Being in Girls' Brigade has helped me grow spiritually and I can now share my Faith confidently and witness to persons who are seeking to know Christ. I give God thanks every day for His faithfulness, and for giving me health, strength and the ability to share His love with the girls who I meet with week after week. I look forward to helping to raise the image of GB, especially in the Cayman Islands.*

*Through being involved in Girls' Brigade I earned the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.*

***Marisa Crawford***

***Captain, Savannah Girls' Brigade – Cayman Islands***



## Good news from George Town Girls' Brigade – Cayman Islands

*Fruitful and Overflowing is what I have become, thanks to Girls' Brigade. Girls' Brigade has inspired my journey with God and has expanded my mental and spiritual growth. It has inspired me to become a better person.*

*Girls' Brigade has taught me to love others and appreciate small things. Girls' Brigade carries a message of international love that spreads to every dark corner and fills them with light. It brings me joy when I see Girls' Brigade helping girls to grow in love and unity. It reminds me that I am blessed.*

*Peace has filled me since we did a Girls' Brigade spiritual lesson on peace based on Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God". Also during a recent Girls' Brigade overnight camp, we played a game which taught us to be patient with one another. During the camp souls were touched from what was being said, including mine. These are just a few examples of how Girls' Brigade has helped me to be fruitful and overflowing.*

***Nicola McLaughlin***

# 72

## Good news from George Town Girls' Brigade – Cayman Islands

*Girls' Brigade has helped me become fruitful and overflowing by showing me the right way of life. I was at a point in my life where I was depressed and moody all the time; I started to push people away and out of my life. God started calling on me but I had selective hearing. My motivation for Girls' Brigade started to decrease and I felt like I was at my breaking point.*

*Then we started to focus on the topic of God's love and his calling. With such great leaders, taking up their responsibility, encouraging me to stay on a good path, I've made the decision to accept God into my life. I am better because of Girls' Brigade and I can strive to be my best and do everything with God by my side, knowing he loves me no matter how hard times get. As the Bible says in Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through him who gives me strength".*

***Alyssa McField***

# 73

## North Side Girls' Brigade Company Fruitful and Overflowing Submission

*Over the years we have had the privilege of bonding and watching our girls grow with one another, learn and experience new things and develop in their faith. In speaking with our girls they reflected on this year's theme of Fruitful and Overflowing and how this translates to their involvement and overall experience with Girls' Brigade. Below are some of the thoughts and feeling shared by our girls':*

*"Through Girls' Brigade we have blossomed and feel fulfilled because we are able to help others and our community, by visiting the elderly, community cleanups and beautification, the fruitful giving makes me overflow with joy because we are able to do good deeds."*

*"As we learn more about God we feel more connected with our family, our Lord and our church. Learning about the sacrifices of our Saviour and his love for us gives us a more fruitful life." As faithful leaders we have been involved in Girls' Brigade for many years using our gifts and talents, experiencing the joy of life on a regular basis, knowing we can be a blessing to the young girls that surround us each week. Over time it has helped us mature and become more caring, understanding and patient. Our development continues to be fruitful.*

# 74

## My story in Girls' Brigade – Choi Tin Wai Esther

*Hi, my name is Esther, and I have served Girls' Brigade Hong Kong for 14 years.*

*I joined Girls' Brigade in the first year of my secondary school (Girls' Brigade Hong Kong 10th Company). I have never expected this decision would be life changing.*

*I learned to be responsible, devoted, and diligent. The Officers and seniors nurtured us with discipline, joy, and love. Some of them still serve us after graduation, or even when they have a full-time job. They became my role model, and I continue to serve and sacrifice the 10th Company just like what they did.*

*Last year, I finished my International Award. It urged me to explore my possibilities and break the stereotypes. It pushed me out of my daily routine into a fruitful journey. The things I experienced by then still affects my life today.*

*I recently joined the Training and Award Committee. I have always wanted to teach the next generation, and voice my opinion on a broader, deeper platform. Being a trainer enables me to connect the frontline work to the big picture I see in Training and Award Committee. It feels so wonderful to see the planning becomes reality and be the part of it.*

**Choi Tin Wai Esther**

# 75

## My Memories of Girls' Brigade – Elizabeth Forbes' Story

*Girls' Brigade - well, where do I begin - I never was in Girls' Brigade or Girls' Life Brigade as a child, I was a Brownie, Guide and a Guider - the latter when I lived in England after I had married.*

*On returning home to Portadown I was a Junior Boys' Brigade Officer for 5 years, then I was asked by the minister to take the 1st Company of Girls' Brigade - I said no, I said I'll pray about, but to myself I thought "I will not do it!"*

*However, God had other plans and I did it for 26 glorious years and I can honestly say I think Girls' Brigade is the most marvellous organisation for young girls. I had to learn very quickly, and after training I was enrolled as Captain of Thomas Street Methodist Girls' Brigade - 1st Northern Ireland Company.*

*Girls' Brigade is team work - through the years we had a marvellous group of Officers and girls all getting involved in the Girls' Brigade programme. We camped every year all over the British Isles as far away as the*

*Channel Island. You really do get to know people when you live together and what better than camp - with fellowship, friends and lots of fun.*

*After quite a struggle to get started we got very involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - with many girls achieving their Gold awards and those marvellous trips to London's Palaces. Parents' Nights were always so well received with packed halls, badges, cups and parents. Competitions were always enjoyed with many successes in Choral Speaking.*

*Girls' Brigade was hard work, but I just thank God for 26 years of His help, guidance, souls saved and blessings - always.*

*Thank you, Girls' Brigade, Officers and Girls.*

***Mrs Elizabeth Forbes,  
Thomas Street Methodist, Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland***

# 76

## Elizabeth McDonald's Story

*I remember being so excited when a Girls' Brigade Company started in Banbridge Road Presbyterian Church, Dromore in 1949. When the first Captain of the Company retired, our minister asked me to take over the captaincy. As a young teacher, I felt very inadequate, but after much thought and prayer, encouragement and support from family, friends and officers, I accepted. So, began a wonderful, memorable time in my life which continued for the next forty years.*

*Within the first ten years, I married and had two sons. At this time, the support and encouragement of my patient husband and willing mother, sisters and friends, as well as two special passages from the Bible (Proverbs 3:5-6 and Philippians 4:13) were a great help to me, as I sought to lead the girls to become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*Trust God from the bottom of your heart, don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume you know it all. Proverbs 3:5-6 (Message)*



*I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.  
Philippians 4:13 (NLT)*

*I have special memories of Centenary Year when I attended various functions. I was Chairman of the Centenary Choir, took charge of the Northern Ireland Queen's Award and Brigadier Brooch winners at their Presentation Ceremony. Conducted the Officers' Choir at the Dedication Service in Portadown, and attended the Centenary Rally in the Royal Albert Hall, London. I had the honour of attending Buckingham Palace with our Officers who received their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards. On my second visit, I had charge of the Northern Ireland party and was introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh. I am so grateful for all the blessings I received during my years in The Girls' Brigade. I always tried my best and gave of my best to further the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among girls, in keeping with our motto "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ".*

***Elizabeth McDonald,  
Banbridge Road Presbyterian, Dromore  
Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland***



## Fiona MacFarlane, 10<sup>th</sup> Dundee Company – Girls' Brigade Scotland



*Girls' Brigade has transformed my life in so many ways through fellowship, fun and faith.*

*My journey with Girls' Brigade began when I was 4 years old, in the 1st Shotts Company, where I made some great friends and enjoyed all the fun crafts, games, songs and activities we got to learn. The skills I gained through leadership training and undertaking the Queen's Award have allowed me to become confident in my own abilities and helped me get to where I am today.*

*One of the main things I love about Girls' Brigade is that it is an international organisation and we have a great community in sharing with others all over the world. I have had countless opportunities to connect with others in Girls' Brigade all over the world. Attending events such as the International Council of Girls' Brigade in Perth, Australia, and European Fellowship AGM weekends gave me an insight into how*



*Girls' Brigade works in other countries and also led to some great friendships developing.*

*One of the key highlights in my Girls' Brigade life was visiting Boys' and Girls' Brigade in Kenya. The young leaders that we met were so passionate about their faith and the work they do through the church, and were a real encouragement to me. The children that were part of the Brigade were so enthusiastic and loved being part of the organisation.*

*As part of a Girls' Brigade Europe project I was also able to attend History Makers, a Christian Leadership Course. The course allowed me to become more confident in talking about my faith with others and the attributes a Christian leader should try to have.*

*The friendships I have made through Girls' Brigade have always been a great blessing in my life, and through the organisation I get to meet new people all the time. My Girls' Brigade journey continues to this day, where I am now a Commissioned Officer in the 10th Dundee Company, Deputy Commissioner and Queen's Award Coordinator in Tayside Division and a National Executive member. The experiences I have been given through Girls' Brigade have been a great asset in my life and I hope that the same opportunities can be available for girls and young women across Scotland today and in the future.*

***Fiona MacFarlane***

# 78

## Gretta Campbell Story

*Asked to do a short article of my time in Girls' Brigade!  
Where do I start?*

*I was introduced to the Girls' Life Brigade when I was eleven which amalgamated with Girls' Brigade, so I can now look back on almost a lifetime of Girls' Brigade. So many happy memories as a girl in the Company, then as a Sub Officer, an Officer and finally a Captain for thirty-five years. I only wish I had taken the time to keep a diary of all the events, company nights, District and Divisional meetings, Executive meetings, Northern Ireland gatherings, ICGBs, not least thirty Company camps etc. So many happy memories, some sad ones too. So many stories, they would fill a book. I'll share one that I can remember so well.*

*It is of an event during Centenary Year – 1993 with many Northern Ireland Companies taking part in what I think must be one of the biggest parades in Belfast city centre. A dull Sunday afternoon, three venues, the Cathedral, the Ulster Hall and May Street Presbyterian Church, parading down Royal Avenue and joining up with the other venues at Donegal Street South, then parading to take a salute at the front of the City Hall, all went well*

*until the Band heading the parade proceeded around the City Hall again, and again, I lost count of the times we walked around the City Hall.*

*The dull day had turned into wet, very wet afternoon, uniform then included a hat and white gloves, soon the rain was simply dripping off hats that would never be the same again, those who unfortunately wore glasses would have needed wipers! Sounds awful, not really, it was a happy joyful day, and once home and dried out, another happy memory of life in Girls' Brigade, a wonderful organisation. Now celebrating 125 years, with a very healthy membership of girls, Officers, still making wonderful friends and memories, and in these days doing a great work of introducing girls to a better and fulfilling way of life in living out their motto "to seek, serve and follow Christ".*

***Gretta Campbell, Cregagh Congregational, Girls' Brigade  
North Ireland***

# 79

## Hayley Crawford, 1<sup>st</sup> Old Kilpatrick Ccompany – Girls' Brigade Scotland



*Girls' Brigade has always been such an important part of my life. I love being able to teach young girls about feminism, leading volunteering activities and playing lots of games. I was commissioned last year and I'm really proud that I'm now an Officer. I've learned lots of key skills, such as working in a team, time management and leadership.*

*Through Girls' Brigade, I've been able to complete my Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, as well as my Queen's Award. I loved doing my Duke of Edinburgh and it was so nice to spend time*

*with other Girls' Brigade girls while doing it!!*

*Working towards my Queen's Award has also been amazing. It's given me a reason to learn new skills, and I'm so happy that I've been able to fundraise and support more charities through my Queen's Award. It's been hard, but it's definitely been worth it!*

*Girls' Brigade has given me so much confidence and has been amazing in how it's helped me when applying for jobs and other opportunities. I've spoken about Girls' Brigade for part time jobs, university application and graduate schemes too, and everyone has been impressed. I applied for a place on the Young Scotland Programme 2018 through Girls' Brigade and representing Girls' Brigade there was really special. The 4-day programme was so interesting and gave me more ideas and skills for Girls' Brigade and for life!*

*I'm so grateful that I've had such amazing opportunities to represent young people in Girls' Brigade at our National Executive. It's not always easy but it's definitely worthwhile! I represented Scotland at the Gathering in Ghana last summer, which was crazy, but in a good way! I really enjoyed meeting women from around the world who shared the same values of youth work and female spaces which are positively changing the lives of girls and women across the world.*

*Girls' Brigade Scotland has done so many good things, and I'm really proud to be part of a progressive, female led organisation that changes lives of girls around the world. I'm so excited for our special birthday year and all the fun we've got to look forward to!!*

**Hayley Crawfordd**

# 80

## **Karen Carson - Proud to wear the Girls' Brigade uniform.**

*My first experience of a Girls' Brigade uniform was in 1970 as a new Junior in the newly formed company of Second Dromara Presbyterian. This was quite a novelty as I had never worn a uniform before. The navy blazer, navy tunic and of course the hat with red and white braid, I felt so special!*

*Over the following years the braid changed, and the tunic was replaced with a navy skirt. Another big event for my uniform was in 1977. By that time, I was a Sub-Officer and had just completed my Brigadier Brooch. I had also completed my Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award and was invited to Buckingham Palace to receive my certificate. My uniform naturally enough had to be pressed and perfect for such a special day.*

*Over the years the uniform has changed but my love for it has not, I still take great pride in wearing my uniform correctly. The symbolisation of what it stands for is so important, showing the world that first and foremost I am a member of a Christian organisation and support all its values and teachings.*



*In 1997 I was privileged to receive an invitation to a lunch in Whitehall to celebrate the Golden Wedding of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh. I was there on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and Girls' Brigade. I spoke to many people and they were all interested in the work of Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland. I relished the opportunity to tell them about the organisation in Northern Ireland.*

*When we wear the uniform, it is as though we are wearing the armour of God. We are soldiers of His army and should stand out in the crowd as members of this worldwide organisation.*

*Put on all of God's armour so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.  
Ephesians 6v11*

*It is not the uniform itself but what it stands for. I shall always endeavour to Seek, Serve and Follow Christ, not least when wearing the Girls' Brigade uniform.*

***Karen Carson  
Second Dromara Presbyterian  
Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland.***

## 81

**Nicola Watson's Story.**

*My first encounter of Jesus was when I attended Girls' Brigade at the age of three. I grew up in a home full of love and warmth, but my parents were not Christians. Attending Girls' Brigade meant that I had to attend Church and Sunday School to obtain my award at our display. Our family joined the Church our Company was attached to and I became a regular attender. The company I attend is called 92nd Hillsborough Presbyterian, based in a village called Hillsborough in County Down in Northern Ireland. Girls' Brigade gave me the opportunity to make friends for life. The strongest memories I have of Girls' Brigade when I was younger was our annual teddy bears picnic, skipping and of course the displays each year. But most importantly what I will always remember and continue to be thankful for, is the time and love invested by my Officers and Captains. Girls' Brigade has and always will be the place where you are welcomed with open arms and you feel safe.*

*In my late teens I left my Company for one year, I believed that I didn't have enough time for Girls' Brigade but how wrong I was. I was back as soon as the new session had started, and I can honestly say that was the best feeling in the world being a part of our Companies "wee family". It*

*wasn't until I was back at Girls' Brigade and becoming a regular attender of Church again, that I decided I really wanted to hand my life over to Jesus. My family were no longer part of the Church, something I found incredibly difficult. However, I was lucky my best friends from my Company attended, and so I attended with them. I made the decision to become baptised to profess my faith. I was baptised on a Monday night in my Church surrounded by my Girls' Brigade family and closest friends. Had I not attended Girls' Brigade, I would not have found Jesus and became a Follower and also made friends for life.*

*The Lord has truly blessed me with having a Girls' Brigade family, my life could have been so different had I not been shown the love I was shown in Girls' Brigade. Girls' Brigade is one of the biggest parts of my life, I have been lucky enough to be able to attend The Gathering in 2017, be part of my executive representing the youth and also been given the opportunity to attend ICGB.*

*Girls' Brigade changes lives, it has changed mine so much giving me friends I will have for life from all over Northern Ireland and over the world. I am so thankful to be able to influence young girl's lives and show them the love I was and continue to be shown.*

**Nicola Watson**

# 82

## Sandy Smith (taken from FIZZ 2016)

*It inspires me when I meet a lady called Barbara who played the guitar and we called her African Barbara, as we had a Barbara of our own. She was the teacher for the children that could not go to school as they did not have a Birth Certificate and she tried to get them up to the same level as school would.*

*She was full of God's spirit and loved music and singing both in English and Africanise. She was so full of caring, God's spirit and enthusiasm that the children loved her, and she loved to be there. Amazing lady. Also, we meet a young girl that we learnt had TB and was on medication. Her mother had died, and there was little food, so Kidstop gave her food to take home with her so she could have food and take her medication.*

*This FIZZ trip reminds me of the amazing work that Kidstop do and the children that really need this organisation and the caring people that work there.*

**Sandy Smith, Girls, Brigade England and Wales**

# 83

## Hazel Hepworth (taken from FIZZ 2016)

*My favourite of this FIZZ was the start of our journey as a team. We made up boxes and on them we made small cards, in which we wrote Bible verses, which we felt would offer encouragement. It was our first task as a team and during the process of making up the boxes and finding the right Bible verses we began to get to know each other. We shared with each other the verses we were finding, and although the verses were for others they greatly blessed us too and offered us encouragement. It was amazing how God gave us the verses he wanted us to use.*

*The purpose of making the boxes was to put homemade biscuits in them, we then gave them as gifts to the workers and volunteers at the YFC Kidstop project, the YFC Options project and to the ladies at Blanco. It was a small thing to do but they were really appreciated. It really reminded me that giving doesn't have to be a grand gesture, that a simple box of homemade biscuits and a word of encouragement from scripture is much more valuable. It was a real blessing to us to be able offer that encouragement to the people we met.*

***Hazel Hepworth, Girls' Brigade England and Wales***

# 84

## Tracey Davies (taken from FIZZ 2016)

*I found the FIZZ trip really difficult - the whole experience has produced a real mixed bag of thoughts, feelings and emotions and no one picture can really tell the story of our time in George.*

*The wonderful woman we met and prayed with in one of the Townships. This small group of women on the surface appear to have little in material wealth. They shared some of their personal struggles with us, talked of some of the ways they have tried over the years to help in their communities and also their journeys of faith. Carla, the youngest of the group we met, spoke wonderful English and she helped share the stories of some of the others. All were thankful for what they have (without being blinkered to the problems) and passionate and vocal about Christ in a way that puts many of us to shame.*

*We did not have a specific “project” and left George without any physical evidence of our time there - something as a “doer” I found hard - but I hope and pray that the people we interacted with for such a short time did, in some small way, find encouragement for the work they do daily.*

*Personally, my experience will remain with me for a long time, the women I shared this with - Barbara, Sandy and Hazel - have each a place in my heart that will stay forever. The fellowship, the fun and the laughter were an oasis in the midst of our normally hectic lives and I have returned to Northern Ireland refreshed and enthusiastic for God's future plan for my life.*

*I would recommend anyone considering a mission trip to "be courageous" regardless of age or experience. This might not be to the other side of the world - many of the problems and issues experienced by the people in George can also be found in any of the large towns and cities in the UK, but the fellowship enjoyed during the 2 weeks with a group of strong Christian women is priceless.*

***Tracey Davies, Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland***

# 85

## Barbara Rainbow (taken from FIZZ 2016)

*The ladies in the township of Blanco, were such an inspiration, helping others and showing the love of Jesus in very difficult circumstances. It was a privilege to spend time with them and to pray with people who live in the township, and their faith was remarkable. It is a memory that will stay with me forever. They certainly taught me about faith and trusting God for everything, and miracles will happen.*

***Barbara Rainbow, Girls' Brigade England and Wales***



# 86

## Ms Sally Wong's Story

The late captain of 45<sup>th</sup> Singapore Company, Ms Sally Wong, was a wonderful model of service and love. She has impacted many lives in her time as an Officer and Captain. Sally was one Girls' Brigade Officer who truly fulfilled the Girls' Brigade aim of inculcating "reverence, self-control and a sense of responsibility and helping girls find true enrichment of life" - one she discovered for herself as well.

She taught and lived like there was no tomorrow. Each day was really precious to her, even more so when she was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Her indomitable spirit would not allow her to lie in bed or wallow in self-pity.

She continued to teach with passion, when many would have taken leave from school to rest at home. She even found a new way to engage her students when she lost her voice - through her doodling's and showing these in class via the visualiser. It was only when it was quite impossible to teach that she left the teaching service.

For Sally, she did not shun but danced in the rain! That was why she chose to draw rain in colourful stripes, as she saw rainbows in the rain - a sign of God's promises. She chose to see her struggles in the light of God's grace,

and her gifts as God's blessings that she must faithfully share. May we, like Sally, also see rainbows in the storms of life, and add colour to the lives of others. 'Rainbows in the Rain', a Girls' Brigade Singapore, 90th Anniversary Publication, is the story of her legacy. Girls, whose lives Sally had impacted, worked tirelessly together with their Chaplain, Dr Sandra Tan and Sally's family, to put together a book, a tribute to their beloved mentor and friend. Dr Low Guat Tin wrote and connected the stories to bring forth a publication that is a compelling read.

### ***Testimonies of lives impacted by Sally:***

*"As I look back on my journey through the years, I always thank God for putting me in Girls' Brigade in sec 1... helped to shape my character... so thank you. As I look at the teens I now lead, it isn't always easy, but I remember that someone believed in me and invested in me, helped me to discover the potential God placed in me for greatness. I was and still am truly blessed."*

*"Over the 90 years of the work in Singapore, many Girls' Brigade girls – like uncountable grains of sand – have grown and been on journeys with the many "Sally Wongs" who have mentored them*

# 87

## Mandy Lam's Story

*Hello everyone, my name is Mandy Lam. I am now an Officer in 33rd Hong Kong Girls' Brigade Company. I was introduced to Girls' Brigade when I was 11 years old and participated till I was 17 years old before I went to study aboard. Counting the years as Cadet and years as Officer, I had been in Girls' Brigade for about 11 years now. Today, I would like to share with you all what I have gained by participating in Girls' Brigade as a Cadet and why I chose to come back and become an Officer in Girls' Brigade.*

### **As a cadet, Girls' Brigade helped to build my self-confidence:**

*When I was young, my grade in school was around fair to poor. Also, I did not have any special talent. I always felt inferior when comparing to classmates and other children. As a result, I lacked confidence in myself and my ability. Fortunately, Girls' Brigade provided me with many opportunities to practice and prove myself. In weekly Girls' Brigade meeting, we took turn being duty girl, marker and commander. After becoming a Young Leader, I had the chance to lead games, organise activities and be part of the flag team in company enrolment. All these duties were challenges for me. But with encouragement and trust from officers, I was able to fulfil those duties. My confidence gradually increased as I overcame challenges.*

### **Girls' Brigade gave me friendship:**

*Since 33rd company is a church-based Company, I was able to*

*make friends from different schools. Because of Girls' Brigade, we are always in touch with each other no matter what school path and career path we chose. My Girls' Brigade friends and I grew up together. We joined Young Leader training and exchange trips together. Now that we are all became Officers, we can continue to support each other and continue to grow as a Leader.*

### **Girls' Brigade helped with my spiritual growth:**

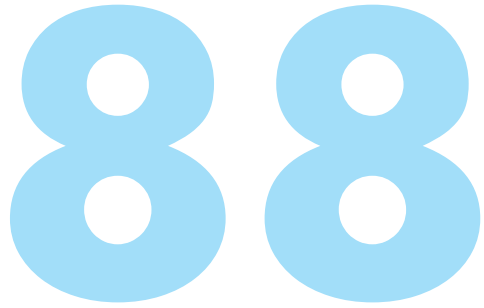
*The primary school I attended was a Christian based school, however the secondary school I attended was not. But thankfully, because of Girls' Brigade, I was able to continue to learn about the Bible. My Officers were concerned about our spiritual lives and wanted us to know Jesus. They encouraged us to attend church and fellowship. Besides, they were also good Christ witnesses to us. We were able to feel the love of Jesus through them.*

*Since Girls' Brigade had been a huge and positive influence in my life, I decided to become a Girls' Brigade Officer. I hope to give back to Girls' Brigade and bring up the next generation. I hope to help Cadets to build self-confidence and obtain the right values.*

*In fact, I was a bit worry at first when I re-joined 33rd company as an Officer. I was afraid that I am not adequate to be an Officer since I had left this Company for almost 8 years. Many new Cadets have joined, and the culture of the Company might have changed in these years. But after two years of serving in this Company, I realised that as an Officer, it is important to have good leading skills, but most importantly, it is to spend time with Cadets. If we are willing to spend time with Cadets, then they are willing to trust you. Relations are built, and Cadets will learn from you, influence by you.*

**By Lam Yin Man**

**Girls' Brigade Hong Kong Officer**



## Karina Sanchez Lertsin's Story

*Greetings from Thailand! I am Karina Sanchez Lertsin from the 1st Company, Girls' Brigade Thailand. As Girls' Brigade has been moulding my life for almost a decade until I'm become a Warrant Officer, I have seen that usually our Girls' Brigade Companies are established in Churches, Christian schools and Christian foundations. But currently, Girls' Brigade Thailand has made it to the next step, we have carried it into a Muslim community in the rural part of Bangkok, which all the girls and boys there are from Muslim based family. For me, it is a miracle that they show up to be part of us.*

*This mission is supported by Sapanluang Klongton Church, the Church that I'm a member of. Together with the Young Men's Brigade Thailand, we introduced the courses of Girls' Brigade into a community called Minburi. The Church rent a small room in a shopping centre at the community, for us to perform our duty there weekly on Saturdays. Each Saturday, there were about 10 children involved with us. I take charge as a Captain's assistant, getting support from the Headquarters, in planning and organising the course. At first, we faced some difficulties that distracted us to continue our work, so we have to find resolutions for it. A problem we faced*

*was that, one Saturday all the children did not show up. We received information that their parents did not approve for their child to join us. We decided to visit their neighbourhood the next Saturday to try work through the issue. Then, we recognised that it was just a misunderstanding, so we negotiate an understanding with the children and their parents. Saturday after that, the children showed up regularly.*

*For the past year of the accomplishment of Girls' Brigade and the Young Men's Brigade, our ministry is effective in some extent. The children are happy and excited to do new stuff with us and get knowledge, apart from what they learn in school. They are having a great time and get to know Jesus through the activities. One of them have already decided to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour by themselves. We are looking forward for further success and what the children will get from Girls' Brigade and Young Men's Brigade. However, I am sure that all the children who are trained and moulded through Girls' Brigade and the Young Men's Brigade will definitely be a great example, efficiently and maturely in their family, school and community. Therefore, I would like to ask for your prayer supports so that our ministry can proceed smoothly, without any distraction, and also that it will affect Girls' Brigade and the Young Men's Brigade children's life fruitfully in any ways.*

# 89

## Rattawan Phuyu's Story

*My name is Rattawan Phuyu, nickname Bean.*

*I am 21 years old and am studying in the third year of Ramkhamhaeng Open University, Faculty of Education and specialising in Pre-schoolers. At the same time, I am also working with the Santisuk Foundation in Chalongkrung.*

*I joined Girls' Brigade in the Chalongkrung Community since I was in primary school and continued on till I finished secondary school. At the moment I help teach Girls' Brigade to pre-schoolers in Baan Santisuk Daycare, in Chalongkrung.*

*At first, I just joined Girls' Brigade for fun but gradually I became a Young Leader, who helped to lead games, worship and drill, till I reached the rank of a Warrant Officer for the younger children in the different age groups.*

*I received many skills in Girls' Brigade, whether it be in Drill or training for leadership, or even just being a follower. I have learnt what it means to have self-disciplined, for example, I had to prepare lessons beforehand, especially when teaching the toddlers, so I had to think through and plan out a programme that*

*will be appropriate and fun for the little ones in the Girls' Brigade.*

*Many of the children that are in the Day-care come from broken families, which are filled with problems, that impact their studies negatively. Parents are unable to give adequate attention to the needs of their young children, to train them, or help with the school work. Some children are smart, but because no one mentors them in the right path, they succumb to the evils of the neighbourhood.*

*The minds of the little ones are like white canvases, and whatever I draw on it stays for a long time, be it goodness, honesty, discipline, etc. Therefore, I firmly believe that as I teach them God's Word every day in the day-care, it will bear fruits one fine day in their lives when they grow up. Even if I do not see any tangible results today, I find it meaningful that little baby steps of improvements take place.*

*I am convinced that when these little ones leave the Day-care, they will not depart from the truth of God in their lives, just as Proverbs 22 verse 6 teaches, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*





## HOW GIRLS' BRIGADE HAS MADE ME A BETTER PERSON.

*I had always longed to be in the Girls' Brigade since I was a little girl. But I never had the courage to visit any of their meetings. I was shy, reserved and thought no one really like me.*

*From Primary School through Secondary School I always longed to be in charge but never mustered the courage to do so. Well I did join the drama club, not as an artiste, but a writer, and be behind the scenes working. I was eager to shun away from any responsibility that would put me in the limelight.*

*In 2001 after Secondary School I was asked by a cousin to join the Girls' Brigade at Church since there was going to be an inauguration and first enrolment soon. She taught me to recite the Principles, the Aim and all I needed to know before the enrolment service. And yes, I passed the exam to become a Brigader of the 62nd Accra Company, though I was long pass that age.*

*With this intro I grew to love the Girls' Brigade. I saw the need to help girls find the kind of joy and pleasure I found in the Girls' Brigade, the sister-ness shared by the other girls and oh my it was such joy.*

*I began attending regional programs where the Commissioner could call anybody at any time to do a what needed to be done*

## Girls' Brigade Story Book

*by way of introducing chairpersons, giving vote of thanks, commanding parades or taking charge of any section of the girls at the program.*

*Gradually I began to come out of my shell and enjoy doing spur of the moment Girls' Brigade tasks, giving me more and more chances to build my confidence and self-esteem.*

*Becoming a Brigader, made me become a person of integrity. I have learned to keep my word and learn to do the right thing even if no one was watching. I have learned that to help build a better future by training the girls in Girls' Brigade, that look up to me and I, as such, needed to be a person of integrity. And I say to the glory of God that I am proud to be a person with integrity. I have also learned to be an honest person, most especially with my girls. This, I have, realised is another way to build trust and be a trustworthy person as well. Girls' Brigade has really built my characteristics today making me a better person and helped me get my current job (all I had on my CV, after completing my National Service, was my gradual rise in the ranks of Girls' Brigade).*

*I am currently an Adjutant in one Girls' Brigade Ghana's Regional Councils and have learnt a lot through the various training I have received through Girls' Brigade, and I am proud, when my colleagues in the office, are cautious of what they say or do in my presence because the Girls' Brigade Officer is around, tells me that I have come a long way in my association with Girls' Brigade. Girls' Brigade has indeed made me a better person for my family, company girls, District Officers, Church, work colleagues and my community at large.*

*God Bless Girls' Brigade as the lives of girls are transformed to enrich God's world.*

**#GBFORLIFE**

# 92

## Selina's Story on How Girls' Brigade Has Impacted My Life

*I was 9 years old when I joined Girls' Brigade, it was all for fun at first and I didn't know what Girls' Brigade was all about, as a grown up, I realised that 'Girls' Brigade is a home away from home'.*

*I lost my father when I was 8 and 2 years later my mother died. It was during this time that I felt and thought I was all alone, and by God's grace my aunt came to my aid and started living with them. I must say that being kept by people who are not your biological parents is not easy, but I endured through Girls' Brigade the woman, (Officer) I met when I first joined Girls' Brigade at my Company. She was the Mordecai I needed at that particular time. Every holiday's, when schools where closed, I would look forward to a Sunday just, so I should run away from home be at Girls' Brigade with my friends because I felt at peace and I felt at home. I hated being at home because as a child I felt I was not loved, and I was bitter as a child. When I joined Girls' Brigade, I discovered that there is Love, Joy, Peace, Care, Friendship, Family, Sisterhood and we were all treated equal.*

*Years went by and Girls' brigade introduced 'Junior Council' though mostly know it as the 'Youth Council'. This happened*

*during one of my first Girls' Brigade camp meetings, and when I went back, I organised my fellow girls in my region and shared my ideas with them. From there I was appointed the 'Junior Council' (Youth) Leader at my company. After six months our region Youth Leaders was elected, National Vice Youth Leaders and I became the Regional Youth Leader. A year later I became the 'Junior Council National Vice Chairperson' (National Vice Youth Leaders), where I served for six years.*

*During this time, I learnt a lot of things as a Leader and as a young child being led to join the Christian Organisation full of Christian values and norms. It was one Sunday afternoon when we learnt about being creative and using our hands for a good purpose, discovering what that purpose would be, in order to be independent and be financially sound. So, I sat own I started thinking what is it that I can do with my hands that will be able to help me be financially independent and take myself to college. After High School I stayed at home and I was known as the house maid, no one was willing to help or to take me to college. From there I found a job where I was getting paid \$30 per month, and it was okay because it was one of the things that would destruct me from thinking too much and maybe indulge in bad behaviour because of peer pressure. Which was rough to make saving because even at home they wanted something out of it and I ended up quitting.*

*In 2010 I started teaching myself on how to be creative, and I discovered that I could make invitation cards for Weddings, Bridal Showers, Birthday Parties, etc. It was not easy, but I still went ahead because I know I could, even if I didn't have the things to use, I just had to do this, and I told myself that failure is not my portion. I still struggled to get myself into college because the little I have, I realised it was hand to mouth because of the so many needs a girl child would want when they reach a certain age, and so I gave up.*

*5 years later in 2015, Girls' Brigade opened a website and I decided to have my own person to monitor and manage the website. After a meeting and looking at the interest I have in IT Girls' Brigade Zambia decided to take me on for a "Web Building and Development Program", and I can safely say Girls' Brigade raised my Hope and took away my shame. I am what I am today because of Girls' Brigade. I am able to design Billboards, Banners, Flyers, Bookmarks, Invitations, Cards etc. and I am now a Web Developer. My life has been impacted through Girls' Brigade and the skills they taught me.*

### **Through Girls' Brigade I am:**

- A Web Developer
- Girls' Brigade has turned my shame into glory
- I have learnt to accept and treat people with love, care and respect
- I am a leader with so many stories to tell and I stand for the truth and an advocate for a girl child's well being
- I have learnt to smile, laugh and Love everyone despite their background and where they come from, they matter to me
- I am and will be the true Definition of Queen Esther so that one day I can be the Mordecai to those that need encouragement, Love and Compassion
- I am Confident, Courageous, full of energy and I smile.....
- Above all through Girls' Brigade I know God lives
- I am an Overcomer and it has made me realise that no situation is permanent



# 93

## Nya Esien

*Together with a common goal to achieve GOOD LEADERSHIP SKILLS, UNITY, BOLDNESS AND LOVE, this and many more has made me outstand in today's world. People vary in shapes and colours but with Jesus at the centre we bond easily. Oh yeah! this is what my long walk from and EXPLORER-JUNIOR-SENIOR-BRIGADER and OFFICER in GIRLS' BRIGADE has induced in me. I stand tall with my head up high, and I can't be intimidated for I have been transformed and educated to create a POSITIVE IMPACT PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY, and through HUMANITARIAN SERVICE in my generation.*

*I am NYA ESIEN*

*I am BRAVE*

*I am COURAGEOUS*

*I am CONFIDENT*

*I am a GIRL CHILD*

*I am a GIRLS' BRIGADE.*

*GIRLS' BRIGADE ROCKS!*

# 94

## Serving in Africa

*It might sound cheesy, but I really feel like I am where I am meant to be. And in some strange way, my life up until this point has been preparation for this moment...and many more moments to come, I'm sure. Life here can be challenging, due in part to a lack of availability of resources, or at the very least resources I'm familiar with. I've had to be creative to find solutions to things I did without thinking, and I'm actually loving the challenge. Bluetac and pegs have been my friends since arriving, rigging up all sorts of things from mosquito nets to clothes lines.*

*I've also realised that God has been preparing me for this for many years. I've been reflecting on my life, and the random skills I've picked up along the way, and it's crazy how many of them are perfect for now. I'm so grateful for the people along the way who have taught me and mentored me. Your investment in me is paying off. Thank-you to all my Girls' Brigade Leaders and mentors.*

*Girls' Brigade has been such a huge part of my life and has been incredible training for now. I learned so many skills (cooking, cleaning, sport, camping,*

*sewing, craft, gardening, and more), and the leadership training I did as a teenager is super useful here. Who knew that the 'Plan of Actions' some clever Leader decided to implement years ago in Bendigo (Australia) company would be used on a regular basis here? That the same leadership skills we learned in Pioneer Leadership Training are taught and used in leadership training and teacher training here in Africa? More importantly, learning about God. I learned that I was valuable because I am a child of God. I learned that God is part of everything in life. He's there in the cooking and cleaning as much as in the Bible study and worship. As I write Christ-centred curriculum for local teachers here, I realise that's what Girls' Brigade has doing for years.*

*Because of Girls' Brigade, I am equipped to serve God anywhere. Even in the middle of Africa.*

***Stephanie McWilliam***



# 95

## More Fruit to Bear – Obeying the Call

*I planted the seed and Apollos watered it. But God is the one who made the seed grow. So the one who plants is not important, and the one who waters is not important. Only God is important, because he is the one who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have the same purpose. And each one will be rewarded for his own work.*

**1 Corinthians 3:6-8**

*I proudly serve as an Officer in the North Side Company of the Girls' Brigade Cayman Islands, and also serve in the capacity as the PR coordinator for the National Council. I served in the Girls' Brigade Cayman Islands since the age of age of 5, living life in paradise, making friends, learning about my heritage, culture and our Lord were paramount in shaping me over the years, which led me to become a young officer while in High School. I learned so much during that time, planting seeds of love, listening, nurturing and helping girls along their journeys was a blessing. In 2006 I attended my first ICGB as a Youth Delegate and was inspired by the leadership qualities I saw in the young ladies I met. Upon my return from college I served as acting Captain and quickly learned it was not for me and happily returned to my Officer post to teach and guide. With personal trials and tribulations, I made a decision to leave my Girls' Brigade family in 2011 and distanced*

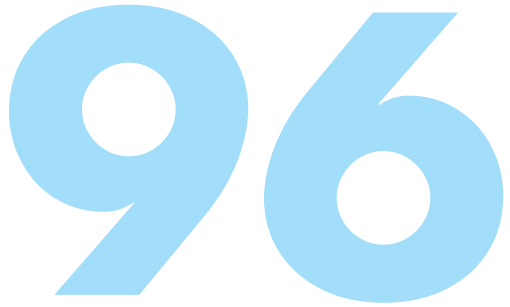
## Girls' Brigade Story Book

*myself from my church as well, but a longing remained. With the Lord at work, He caused fruitful encounters such as smiling faces, random hugs in the grocery store, brief mentions of fond memories. I saw the seeds grown to fruit. It was my call home; the Lord was not finished with me, so I returned to my Girls' Brigade family in 2016 was recommissioned in 2017 and pray for God's continued guidance in His garden. I give special thanks to those who tended the garden when I was unable to.*

*To God be the Glory.*

### ***Shari Welcome***





## Virginia Hlophe

*I am Virginia Hlophe a Captain in my Company 1st Hlatikulu in Swaziland with 30 girls and 2 officers. Global Fellowship of Youth, which my country is a member of, sent an email requesting volunteers to go help start Boys' and Girls' Brigade in Maputo, Mozambique and I offered to be one of those volunteers. They chose Zambian Training Officer Mr Msausa Mwanza to head the training.*

*In March 2016 we trained 11 youth for 4 days to be Officers in the Methodist Church. Rev. Arlindo Muduma is the one who heard about Boys' and Girls' Brigade and initiated the training. Global Fellowship then sponsored it.*

*As Mozambicans speak only their local language and Portuguese, Rev. Arlindo is the one who interpreted because we taught in English.*

*In June 2016 we went back again, now I was with an Officer from my country. We were happy to find that they were now meeting twice a month. They had not enrolled, as yet.*

*In August 2016 I was unfortunately diagnosed with breast cancer. I was done a mastectomy in January 2017. The good news is that it is now in remission.*

*My wish is to continue helping my neighbour country with more knowledge and exposure to other Girls' Brigade meetings. It only takes 5 hours to get to Maputo from my country. I am hoping that they can also come visit Swaziland in the future.*

*With God's help we hope the Girls' Brigade grows in Mozambique and in Swaziland as well.*

# 97

## Ibemesa Toochi



*I am Ibemesi Toochi from Nigeria.*

*Girls' Brigade has impacted in my life in so many ways.*

- 1. Because of Girls' Brigade I am able to identify my hidden talent such as writing of poem and prose.*
- 2. Because of Girls' Brigade I am super exposed and social.*
- 3. Because of Girls' Brigade I am equipped with various skills that made me strong and also made me an advocate of girl's rights.*
- 4. Girls' Brigade made me connected and also give me a voice in the society.*
- 5. Girls' Brigade made me to understand that I am limitless.*
- 6. Girls' Brigade moulded me to be a mentor to other young girls.*
- 7. Girls' Brigade made me to understand issues of mental health.*
- 8. Girls' Brigade made me feel loved and thus boasted my self-esteem.*

*I love Girls' Brigade*

*Long live the Girls' Brigade*

# 98

## Veronica Chita

*Girls' Brigade has really opened up a platform for to stand and inspire others especially girls.....it drives me to how I represent myself wherever I might be no matter the environment, if I didn't learn about respecting my body, descent dressing and taming my tongue I guess I would be a mess or another story. I always insure I carry myself well.*

*I am not perfect, but I will say I am morally upright despite falling several times. I have been a Leader and that allowed me to give directions to others, so meaning that I am being up there, I had to set an example which, actually helped me and prevented me from doing immoral things. With that I stand firm up until now.*

*Am really a product of Girls' Brigade.*

**Veronica Chita,  
Zambia.**



## Ruth Utulu

*The Girls' Brigade came to Ghana in the year 1955 through the efforts of the National President of Ghana Girls' Brigade. The international headquarters sent a training officer to Ghana in the extension work. By 1957, the Girls' Life Brigade, as it was known had been recognised as a youth movement of considerable standing. The four-square programme that is Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Social. This syllabus is used to groom the girls for the future.*

*For example, I heard of the Girls' Brigade and I came to understand that this organisation is to help girls become women of integrity in the future. Although I come from a Christian home and a house of integrity, I wish to pass on or share what I have learnt from parents and personal life to upcoming girls in the society, church and family. So, I joined the Brigade and to my amazement, on the scale of 1-10, I was 4 on the part of integrity growth.*

*Girls' Brigade has turn me into a woman of integrity. Let's see some of the characters of a 'woman of integrity'.*

*First and foremost, a woman of integrity seeks out the truth and do not engage in idle or vain conversation.*

*In my life speaking the truth is been one of the things my parents taught me. In relating to the life in Brigade, I have been honest, truthful to my Captain and fellow Officers. As the saying goes "speak the truth and it shall set you free".*

*Secondly, a woman of integrity understands her calling and rises to the occasions. Absenting myself from Girls' Brigade meeting on Saturdays and Sundays has been the thing of the past. I have come to understand the meaning for the Aim and Purpose of the Girls' Brigade and help to help groom the girls to be better mother and women in the future. I can't afford to miss a meeting because I might end up losing a life changing teaching from a resources person or my Captain.*

*Like a seminar I attended, it was fun, and it made me realise who I was inside out.*

*Thirdly, a woman of integrity works willingly with her hands, faithfully and gently serving others as the best she can, that is been reliable. Being a philanthropist is my greatest desire and dream, to others who are less privilege in society, church and family. The Girls' Brigade made me more dedicated to my dreams, to pursue them each every day, by making me help with picking letters and helping with program that are held in my local area. It has helped me to improve in my dedication to social activities and other family get together. And has make me realise that services to God is the most important thing to do as Christian woman. As the saying goes "for God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints as you still do"*

## Girls' Brigade Story Book

*Lastly, it has made more than a ruby. Rubies are so brilliant that only kings could wear them. The darker the shade of red, the more the worth. Christ's spilling of blood on the cross gives the Christian woman new life. The passion for sharing the saving news with others. As the woman grows in faith, I desire for God and my ability to shine deeper and the glow gives off more light. God choose us before conception. God knows all the inner working within and wants me for His purpose because more virtuous as I experience the good and bad of life and ultimately all of my life showcases His Glory.*

*In conclusion, the Girls' Brigade has transformed and upgraded by life and status from a normal girl or woman to a woman full of virtue, principles, God fearing, faithful, gentle, a tool to change others and give hope to the hopeless by God. As the saying goes "small deed done are better than the deed planned"*

***God bless GIRLS' BRIGADE.***

***LONG LIVE GIRLS' BRIGADE***

***GIRLS' BRIGADE MOTTO: SEEK, SERVE AND FOLLOW CHRIST.***



# 100

## Joycelyn

*The Girls' Brigade has made me a reliable and honest woman in many ways and some of the ways are:*

*Leadership position in the Girls' Brigade has taught me to be honest since the girls are watching and above all God rewards an honest person.*

*Leaders in the Girls' Brigade has given me work to do which implies they see me as a reliable person and an example is the recent Enrolment Service of the 140th Company in the Greater Accra Region. I was assigned to make a Prospective Company to an enrolled Company thanks be God.*

***Joycelyn Arthur***  
***42nd Accra, Ghana***

# 101

## Lorna Child

*My journey in Girls' Brigade began as a six-year-old in the company where my mother was a helper with the Cadets. As the middle daughter of three it was automatic that I followed my older sister and joined the 6th Whangarei Company, Girls' Life Brigade, as it was then, when I turned six.*

*Over the years I have had many amazing opportunities because of my involvement in Girls' Brigade. I recall going to my first Area camp in 1962 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Girls' Life Brigade International. Back then the uniform that I wore was made from black flannel. It was very scratchy and in summer, rather warm to wear in the New Zealand climate.*

*Since those days I went on to earn my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, which was presented at Government House in Auckland. I was National Commissioner from 2004 to 2007 and I have had the privilege of attending or running six National Fonomarae camps in New Zealand and going to ICGB in Thailand, Northern Ireland, Australia and Zambia.*

*My story is similar to many others in Girls' Brigade. Because of Girls' Brigade my spiritual journey has progressed alongside the wonderful opportunities which have come my way.*

**Lorna Child, New Zealand**

# 102

## Kathleen Cawdell

*By 1956, at the age of eight I had moved home 4 times and changed school 3 times. That year I gained a Step-Mum and Brother, another address and another school, where I met girls who attended the local Baptist Church, and were members of the local Girls' Life Brigade Company, parading with a band once a month round the local streets. I was asked if I would like to join and was taken along one Tuesday evening to see if I would like it. The Captain welcomed me, I was placed in a squad with an NCO, and suddenly I 'belonged'. Although very shy and introvert, I was no longer allowed to 'sit things out' or hide away in a corner. Everyone had to join in the drill practice for the Sunday Parade. I soon learnt what it meant to be part of the team, relied on, needed, with my own part to play. 'There are many parts but only one body' (1 Corinthians 13 v.20). In spite of further moves, both of home and school, Girls' Life Brigade became the constant in my life, growing my confidence, nurturing my faith, and creating the foundation of who I am today in both personal and public life, within my family, within the Church family and within the Brigade.*

*Thank you Girls' Brigade.*

***Kathleen Cawdell (nee Carpenter)***

# 103

## Chantal Ruthford

*How Girls' Brigade changed and improved my life.*

*I, Chantal Ruthford is a member of the Girls' Brigade 1st Pniël.*

*My grandfather took me to my first Girls' Brigade meeting. I started off as an explorer and remained a member ever since.*

*In the Girls' Brigade as a young girl, I've learnt so much, from God's word to good manners and ethics.*

*When I stepped into the teenage phase, I had to deal with things such as: my self-confidence and self-esteem. How to accept myself and that its okay to be different. But attending the Girls' Brigade meetings was such a joy. Gave me a chance to escape reality. Stepping into a place that gives meaning to my life. A sense of belonging.*

*Girls' Brigade gave me the confidence to stand in front of people, in class presenting a speech. When working in groups, it gave me the confidence and courage to lead.*

*Being a young Officer in the Girls' Brigade is an amazing God given opportunity to lead young girls, to be there for them. It's an opportunity to learn more and to create an environment of security, acceptance and love to those who feel how I once felt.*

*Thank you. ❤️*

**Chantal Ruthford.**

# 104

## MY GIRLS' BRIGADE STORY

*As a child growing in a Christian family, one would expect that every good up bringing be given to you. Mine wasn't an exception.*

*We were involved in the Goodnews club and Sunday School in our church but usually trekked a distance to attend Girls' Brigade at the parent church until 1986 when our church N.K.S.T Bristow was given a company.*

*We collected our friends as we trekked our way to Girls' Brigade meetings, therefore going in groups. This helped developed love for one another and also being our sister's keepers.*

*Girls' Brigade indeed was the turning point in my life. The 6 laws of Girls' Brigade were so engraved in my heart that it put me on the part of consciousness – putting me in check to always do what was good in the sight of God even when I came short on the right path.*

*My love for Girls' Brigade was exceptional due to the activities conducted on meeting days like; the spiritual-where Bible study and verses were taught, and we were selected to dramatized during church programmes. The physical Service and Educational where programmes in*

## Girls' Brigade Story Book

*no small way, taught me love for one another, service to humanity and the fear of God. It was so interesting that on Girls' Brigade meeting days, we could take turns in helping ourselves on house chores to finish up early not to miss Girls' Brigade. I can't forget Mrs. Esther Danyi and Mrs. Nguyilan Adekaa amongst other Officers that mentored us tirelessly and are still very active in Girls' Brigade even after over 30years is awesome.*

*My journey of Girls' Brigade was stalled when I went to Boarding School, then tertiary and marriage. But thank God I found myself back when Girls' Brigade was introduced in my current church N.K.S.T Abuja 15th Abuja company. I got involved and trained as an Officer with a lot of encouragement from Mrs. Magdalene Apeh, the current GB Nigeria's President.*

*I must say that Girls' Brigade provided my first international trip, giving me the opportunity to make friends that cut across tribe, colour, race and tongue without barrier. Providing a platform to share and receive teachings from the word of God and other areas that has enhanced my spiritual life and developmental ability.*

*To say the least, Girls' Brigade has groomed me into home maker, manager, counsellor and other qualities acquired has given me the enablement to deal with children and mentor young people around me.*

*Today the word of God has been fulfilled in my life. Proverbs 22:6 "Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives" (Goodnews Bible)*

**Martha S. Ityoachimin**  
**Adjutant 1st District Abuja**  
**Girls' Brigade Nigeria**

# 105

## My 125 Story

*How has Girls' Brigade impacted my life? Each week I would sit at the gate or watch out the window as other girls were walking up our road with my neighbour – they were off to Girls' Life Brigade. When would I be able to go? Finally, I was old enough and our next-door neighbour knocked on the door to take me to Girls' Life Brigade. I was beyond excited.*

*Each week I would happily skip down the road with my friends. What a wonderful time we had learning more about Jesus, playing games, singing and dancing. When I was enrolled in my uniform with my family watching I could have burst.*

*My journey through Girls' Brigade has taught me so much. I have always had supportive friends and leaders. People who have been willing to spend time with me, helping me, advising me, guiding me and inspiring me. Where would I be if they hadn't been there to listen?*

*Weekly activities, annual summer camp, young leader training and the amazing days at the annual Girls' Brigade Rally at the Royal Albert Hall. So many memories to treasure, so many friends all through the love of my leaders and the knowledge that God loves me so much.*

## Girls' Brigade Story Book



*On my wedding day the girls from my Company were all there to surprise me and formed a guard of honour. It was great that they wanted to share in my special day.*

*God blessed us with two beautiful girls – Zoe & Donna and it has been a privilege to see them grow in Girls' Brigade and become Leaders. They have blessed my life and inspired me on my Girls' Brigade journey. It is their encouragement and love along with God's calling that I have joined the Network Executive and recently been accepted as International Treasurer.*

*Girls' Brigade has given me so much and for as long as God enables me I will share my knowledge of Girls' Brigade and God's love to the girls God entrusts to our care. Thank you everyone.*

**Betty McComb**



# 106

## My Girls' Brigade Story



*The best reward that I have gained Girls' Brigade has to be getting to know Christ.*

*Coming from a non-Christian family, I didn't know anything about Jesus. But it was all in His divine plan to put me in Girls'*

*Brigade so that I could know Him. It was through a devotion shared at our Girls' Brigade camp which got me interested to know who is this God that created us. I started asking my fellow Christian Girls' Brigade friends questions and they encouraged me to approach our Girls' Brigade captain who patiently answered every question I had. She took time to meet me before our Saturday parade for 1-to-1 bible study. During every meet up, she would pray with me for my salvation. Eventually, I prayed to accept Christ during one of our bible study sessions. The officers also encouraged me to attend church thereafter but it was tough as my parents would not allow it. However, over the years, as I grow spiritually in my walk with God, my family has seen me matured and becoming a more obedient daughter. God softened their hearts and now my parents are no longer mad at my decision to accept Christ, even allowing me to attend church.*

*Lee Hui Ting*

# 107

## Girls' Brigade Testimony

*I joined the Girls' Brigade Singapore when I was 13. I decided to join the Girls' Brigade Singapore because I wanted to pick up new skills: practical skills, life skills and social skills. I made many friends through the camps we had, and the annual competitions drew us closer as fellow Girls' Brigade Singapore members as we had to learn to work together. Little did I know, the best thing that happened to me was that I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I remember how my Chaplain would share Bible stories with us, and she always reminded us that Jesus loved us so much that He gave His only son to die for us. She also taught us to emulate Jesus and to love like He did. I saw how my officers loved us and now as an officer myself, I want to share the love of Christ with the girls under my charge.*

*Girls' Brigade is a wonderful platform for officers to share the love of Christ with the girls as they model after Jesus' life, and many girls have come to know and accept the Lord through this ministry. I believe God will continue to use us mightily for His kingdom work!*



# 108

## Selina's story on how GB has impacted my life.

*I was 9 years old when I joined girls Brigade, it was all for fun at first and I didn't know what GB was all about, as a grew up, I realised that "GIRLS BRIGADE IS A HOME AWAY FROM HOME".*

*I lost my father when I was 8 and 2 years later my mother died. It was during this time that I felt and though i was all alone, and by God's grace my aunt came to my aid and started living with them. I must say that being kept by people who are not your biological parents is not easy, but I endured through Girls Brigade the woman (Officer) I met when I first joined Girls Brigade at my company. She was the Modeccai i needed at that particular time. Every holiday when schools where closed I would look forward to a Sunday just so I should run away from home be at GB with my friends because I felt at peace and I felt at home. I hated being home because as a child I felt I was not loved and I was bitter as a child. When i joined GB I discovered that there is Love, Joy, Peace, Care, Friendship, Family, Sisterhood and we were all treated equal.*

*Years went by and girls brigade introduced "Junior Council" though mostly know it as the "Youth Council".*

*This happened during one of my first GB camp meetings and when I went back organised my fellow girls in my region and shared my ideas with them, from there I was appointed the “Junior Council” (Youth) Leader at my company, after 6 months our region youth Leader was elected national Vice Youth Leader and I became the regional youth Leader, a year later I became the “Junior Council National Vice Chairperson” (National Vice Youth Leader) where I served for 6 years.*

*During this time I learnt a lot of things as a leader and as a young child being led and joining the Christian Organisation full of Christian values and norms. It was one Sunday afternoon when we learnt on being creative and using our hands for a good purpose and discovering what that purpose would be in order to be independent and be financially sound. So I sat own I started thinking what is it that I can do with my hands that will be able to help me be financially independent and take myself to college. Because after high school I stayed at home and I was known as the house maid and no one was willing to help or to take me to college. from there I found a job where I was getting paid \$30 per month, and it was okay because it was one of the things that would destruct me from thinking too much and maybe indulge in bad behaviour because of peer pressure. Which was rough to make savings because even at home they wanted something out of it and I ended up quitting.*

*In 2010 I started teaching myself on how to be creative, and I discovered the that I could make invitation cards for weddings, Bridal Shower, Birthdays Parties etc. it was not easy, but I still went ahead because I knew I could*

## Girls' Brigade Story Book

*even if I didn't have the things to use, I just had to and I told myself failure is not my portion. I still struggled to get myself into college because the little I would realise was hand to mouth because of the so many needs a girl child would want when they reach a certain age. And I gave up.*

*5 years later in 2015 girl's brigade opened a website and decided to have her own person to monitor and manage the website. After a meeting and looking at the interest I have in IT Girls Brigade Zambia decided to take me for "Web Building & Development Program", and I can safely say GB Raised my Hope and took away my shame. I am what I am today because of Girls Brigade. I am able to design Billboards, Banners, Flyers, Bookmarks,*



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*Invitations Cards, etc and I am a WEB Developer. My life has been impacted through girls brigade and the skills they taught me.*

*Through Girls Brigade I am:*

- *A Web Developer*
- *Girls Brigade has turned my shame into glory*
- *I have learnt to accept and treat people with love, care and respect*
- *I am a leader with so many stories to tell and I stand for the truth and an advocate for a girl child's well being*
- *I have learnt to smile, laugh and Love everyone despite their backgrounds and where there come from, they all matter to me.*
- *I am and will be the true Definition of Queen Esther so that one day I can be the Modeccai to those that need encouragement, Love and Compassion.*
- *I am Confident, Courageous, full of energy and I smile....*
- *Above all through Girls Brigade I know God lives*
- *I am an Overcomer and it has made me realise that no situation is permanent.*



## Acknowledgments

*I would like to say a BIG Thank You to all who have contributed to the Stories of Transformation, Celebrating our 125 years. We have received stories from around the world, from past and present members and it is wonderful to have a record of how God has enriched many lives through Girls' Brigade.*

*One big Awesome Thank You goes to Roz Sherratt, my IT lady. You are so amazing, thanks for the work you have done, helping to put the e-Book together.*

*Blessings,*

*Renelle*



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