



FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S DESK.

Calvary greetings to all my GB sisters around the world. These are strange times that we live in and not one of us saw this coming. !! But God knew this would happen.

By this time, I would have been writing this update after our annual IPC meeting for 2020. But as with everything else this year, we cancelled our planned face to face meeting which was to be hosted by GB Europe in May, 2020. What has been happening in GB around the world in this pandemic ?

All our member countries have been on lockdown since late March and GB face to face has been suspended. We praise God that our leaders around the world stepped up and created new ways of staying connected with the girls. This pandemic sent us all into creative mode !! Some countries produced resources for online activities for the different age groups every week. Thank you to all our leaders who were generous enough to share the resources they produced with the GB worldwide families. Granted, not all of us are talented and have access to facilities to enable us to be creative, so we really appreciate the family spirit. As GBI we also produced a 2 part GB Connected Resource to help parents and leaders across the world to support children and young people. We hope you have been able to tap into some of these resources that are readily available on our GB worldwide FB page.

We are happy to learn that some countries have lifted some restrictions and other groups have started face to face meetings, with restriction guidelines to keep us safe. I urge all those who are going into this phase, to please do so with extreme caution to keep us and our girls safe. It cannot be business as usual when we reopen, as this pandemic is not over yet. Let continue to follow guidelines given by our Governments and health authorities.

As IPC, we felt there was a need to go back to the drawing board in terms of our plans for 2020/21 and beyond. The resources that were launched at the beginning of the year, and all the activities planned for 2020 could not be implemented because most if not all were tailor made to face to face interaction. We have held weekly Zoom Meetings since April. Below are some of the outcomes of our Meetings:-

- **GB Delegation of Hope to the UN, New York:-** All wheels were in motion for the group to travel to New York to arrive on 5th March, 2020. GB was going to be represented by :
 - Cindy Chow Asia (GB Malaysia)
 - Ruth Utulu Africa(GB Nigeria)
 - Hannah Morpeth Europe (GB England and Wales)
 - Ronnele Roberts-Reid Caribbean and Americas (Trinidad and Tobago)
 - Caitlyn Robinson Pacific (GB Australia)
 - Jessie Emms Girls' Living Life to the Full Challenge Winner (GB EW)
 - Dr. Claire Rush IVP (Europe)
 - Aruk Omori (IVP Africa)
 - Quindell Ferguson IVP(CAF)
 - Priscilla P. Penny (IP)
 - GB was going to run a Parallel event during the Conference and the girls had each prepared a 5 minute presentation on different topics.
 - Due to the outbreak of COVID 19, IPC had an emergency Zoom meeting on 2nd March, 2020 and we agreed to cancel our travel plans to New York. It was very disappointing for the team, but we became sure we had made the right decision when New York became the epicenter of the virus a few days after we were due to travel. !! We thank God for the insight. Two of our team members were already in New York when we cancelled, Quindell and Cindy. We thank God that He protected them and they safely returned home in good health after a week in New York.
 - We are not sure of the situation in 2021 with regards to the Conference on the Status of Women(CSW).

- **GBI COVID 19 RESPONSE:**
 - Having realised that the world was in lockdown because of the pandemic we held a survey to find out the status of our GB groups around the world and assess the needs around the fellowships/countries. We also sort ideas for activities that could be done virtually and help leaders stay connected to the girls. This resulted in the production of the GB Stay Connected Resource.
 - We also acknowledge that many of our members are struggling as some have lost their jobs, reduced hours at work. IPC agreed to lessen the burden on our members and reduce the 2020 membership fees due by 50 percent. This is not much, but we pray that this will help our National Boards.

- IPC is also looking at doing Webinars to empower our leaders to be able to be effective in times like these. We carried out a survey of needs from you and from the feedback, we came up with topics for Training Webinars as outlined below :-
 1. Rhythms of grace as a leader – self-care & intimacy with God
5 Sept.2020 (Dr Claire Rush)
 2. Mental Health First Aid training **October 2020**
 3. Counselling and Pastoral Care: **November 2020**
 4. Sharing our GB story – how to effectively share GB well with other church leaders: **Before 15th December, 2020**
 5. How to use social media effectively:-
 6. Managing and resolving conflict
 7. Governance
 8. Growing GB – a practical mission and evangelism workshop on how to grow GB -
 9. Train the trainer – how to deliver effective training
 10. Working with children and young people with special needs.
 11. Passing on the baton – mentoring and releasing a new generation of leaders ;
 12. Resource Mobilisation:

Please watch out for more information on the Webinars on our Social Media Platforms.!!

- We acknowledged our frontline workers who are risking their lives to serve in various aspects. Thank you to those who sent in their pictures and stories. We appreciate and value their services, even those that are not GB. Members. Someone has to do it and they answered the call. Let us continue to pray for them and their families.
- We have received words of encouragement from our Elders, The Immediate Past President Vivian Aitchison, Past Treasurer- Joyce Evans, and Int. Vice Patron - Jill Clarke.
- Thank you to all who have made a difference to someone by giving a hand during this period **#Show Kindness!!** We have had reports from around the world of GB members donating groceries, toiletries, masks, running errands for the vulnerable etc. May God continue to bless you and protect you.

IPC embarked on a workshop on PLANNING IN THE MIDST OF A CRISIS to help us focus on planning for GB Worldwide. We have had six equipping sessions during our scheduled Zoom meetings for June/July. This is helping us look at the areas (Riverbanks) that feed into our Purpose and Vision as GB , such as our Ethos, Values and behaviors. In our need to find new ways of doing GB what are the things that we should hold on to or that we do not want to lose.

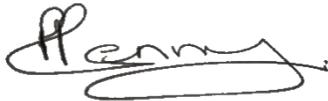
LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

- **THEME for 2021:**
 - **Fruitful and Overflowing: *BE FAITHFUL***
 - **Programme Focus :- REAP THE HARVEST AND SHARE THE FRUIT**
- **ICGB 2022** Because of the Pandemic there is a lot of uncertainty and plans are on hold as everything was affected by the lockdown around the world. IPC is Praying and monitoring the situation and will only be able to give out more details maybe by the end of the year or in the first quarter of 2021. Let us continue to pray for our friends in Jamaica and the CAF GB Family, who have the task to host the event.

I leave you with words from Psalms 62:2 Truly, He is my Rock and my Salvation, He is my Fortress, I will never be shaken.

What comes to mind when we think of a fortress..... Something solid. Sturdy, powerful, Unshakable. YES God is all of those things and more!! In the Middle of the Pandemic, He is there and let us continue to trust in Him.

Peace, Love and Joy and STAY SAFE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla P.', with a large, sweeping underline that loops back under the first part of the name.

Priscilla P.
International President.