

# i-girlz leaderz e-newz



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Oxford IFG

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Welcome to e-newz for September.

**Having recently attended the GB International President's Committee meeting** in the Caribbean, it is exciting to hear of the new initiatives happening around the world as countries seek out ways to ensure GB's mission is around and is relevant for future generations.

## **Next year we celebrate**



*120 years of GB in the world,  
85 years of GB in NZ,  
and 5 years of IFG.*



What a long way we have come from our beginnings at Sandymount Presbyterian Church in Ireland in 1893, where a group of girls met to do marching and drill, to where we are at today. Our Aims and Principles are still the same, but countries are looking at other ways of developing the GB mission.



I was proud to be able to share with the IPC Team the development of the IFG programme here in NZ. From its beginning in May 2008 to September 2012, 19 IFG Units have been launched and there are more in the pipeline. Like new ministries in other countries, IFG would not be where it is today if it wasn't for those who initially grasped the opportunity, could see the possibilities and then worked hard to bring it to fruition. I would like to thank all those who have been involved in bringing this mission outreach programme to where it is today. It has been a lot of hard work, but it is achieving the goal of bringing more girls to Christ.

Thank you for the work you are doing and continue to do within your IFG Units.

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Tortolla in the British Virgin Islands was the meeting place for our GB International meeting this year. It is a beautiful mountainous Caribbean Island, 20 km long by 5 km wide with a population of 22,000 people. Leaving Dunedin at a temperature of minus 3 degrees, the journey was to take 50 hours via Auckland, Los Angeles, Miami and Puerto Rico where I met up with the IVP's from Asia and Africa, then on to Tortolla a total of 15,314 km.



Blue seas, sail boats, catamarans, palm trees these were the views at lunch time when we took a break from our weeklong meeting. Internationally GB is divided into five Fellowships – Africa, Asia, Caribbean and America, Europe and the Pacific. Each has an IVP so it is the IVP's plus the International President and Treasurer that each year meet somewhere in the world to discuss the work of GB.

In the evenings we were hosted on three nights by GB Companies in different villages on Tortolla as they demonstrated their marching and drill skills, drama, dance, singing and bell ringing. Yes, there are a few of us now who can play “He’s got the whole world in His hands” on bells!! Music for the marching demonstration was played on the stereo of a vehicle parked in the Church grounds – I had never thought of doing this before. The IPC were asked to give a drill demonstration – I think we need more practice before we do this again!



Following our meeting, we moved to another venue to attend the Caribbean and America Fellowship gathering. GB Leaders had travelled from many of the Caribbean Islands and from Boston for this event which included worship, business meetings, workshops as well as some sightseeing. A welcoming cocktail evening at the home of the

Leader of the Opposition was held on the first night with the official opening at the Sea Crow Bay Church on the Sunday morning. Following this service which was attended by all GB Companies on Tortolla and some members of Boys’ Brigade, guests were hosted by one of the church families for lunch. Our International Treasurer Joyce Evans and I

were taken to a beautiful home situated on the top of one of the hills overlooking the airport where we shared a meal with the host family.



It was interesting through the week to be involved with a group of girls doing their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Living on a small island makes it difficult for the expedition section so Joyce and I who have both worked with Duke for many years spent some time investigating different tracks and roads that could be used for their adventure. A route was set and final preparations completed. The temperatures were mid 30's and the route was steep but with their packs on their backs, water bottles on hand they set off and reached their camp site well before dark. They set up their tents, prepared and cooked their evening meal then bunked down for the night. Unfortunately it rained and the tents didn't have extra flies like ours, so beds and girls were very wet and soggy by morning. After wringing out beds, clothes etc, a hearty breakfast was prepared before they packed up and started heading back to the Conference venue. A group of very tired but happy girls arrived back having successfully completed their qualifying tramp for their Bronze Award.

A sightseeing day to the Island of St Thomas which is one of the US Virgin Islands was most enjoyable and all too soon after a very full on week, we were attending the closing Church service and the banquet dinner. Saturday arrived and it was time to depart and say farewell to those GB Leaders we already knew, the many new leaders we had met, and to thank the British Virgin Island GB Companies and the Fellowship for their amazing hospitality.

We are blessed to belong to such an amazing international organisation, where all around the world programmes are being offered to girls and young women on a weekly basis. We have GB and IFG in New Zealand, there is GB and Arise Ministries in England, we have Life Plus programmes running in Cambodia, the names may be different but the ministry is the same.



For those of you wanting an idea for a holiday destination I can certainly recommend the British Virgin Islands that is if you don't mind the time it takes to get there!!

Jennifer Box.



**Thank you to all IFG Units** who provided feedback on the proposed increase in national membership fees and the proposed new structure for GBNZ. Your comments have all been collated and sent to National Executive for consideration at their next meeting. Once the IFG Ministry Team has a response from Executive we will send it out to all Unit Team Leaders.

**IFG Publicity Postcards:**

Postcards are available for you to use when promoting your Unit. If you would like some of these please email Jennifer – [boxes@es.co.nz](mailto:boxes@es.co.nz) and ask for a supply to be posted to you. There is no charge.

**IFG Ministry Team Meeting:**

The Team will have its next meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November. If there is anything you wish to bring to the attention of the Ministry Team please make contact with the Convenor prior to these dates.

**Programmes:**

We would love to receive an outline of any programmes that your Unit has created so that these can be shared as optional programmes with other Units. All we need is the basic outline and we will do the rest. If you have any please email them to Jennifer – thanks.

**Reminder:**

If you have not confirmed your programme requirements for 2013, can you please email Jennifer with these so that the programmes can be dispatched to you in October.

*Kind Regards*  
*The IFG Team*