



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 4 October 2015

Ethiopia

The two main challenges facing MU members in Ethiopia are an influx of South Sudanese refugees which has meant that the Church has needed to step in to offer food and shelter and integrate refugees into their churches and communities, and also increasing persecution in predominantly Muslim areas. Against this difficult background, MU continues to thrive and the Church is growing with members excited by all they are learning from the Literacy and Health Education Programmes.

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” (Hebrews 12.1-2)

We pray for wisdom for members in Ethiopia as they help care for the influx of refugees into their country, and give thanks for health education and nutrition programmes.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 11 October 2015

Europe

This diocese is very diverse and widely spread geographically. It covers many European countries. In Hamburg, Germany members work at befriending prostitutes, in France there is an Away From It All project where members help families by giving them the chance to spend time together, in Spain branches support local children's homes and in Denmark they prepare gifts for a women's refuge at Christmas.

“Take the yoke I give you. Put it on your shoulders and learn from me. I am gentle and humble, and you will find rest.” (Matthew 11.29)

We give thanks for the Parenting Programmes in various places in Europe and pray for those who have trained as facilitators, that they will feel confident and envisioned as they carry out their work.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 18 October 2015

Guinea and Brazil

MU activities in Guinea include marriage preparation courses, helping new mothers, hospital and home visits. Last year MU engaged in community health awareness to combat the spread of Ebola.

Women in Brazil face many challenges in their daily lives, with high rates of domestic violence and widespread poverty. The Union of Episcopal Anglican Women in Brazil is working to strengthen the relationship with MU to address these issues and improve family life.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15.5)

We pray for members in Guinea, that even though small in number they will be a powerful force for good amidst the challenges of their country. We pray, too, that relationships between MU and UMEAB in Brazil will continue to strengthen and grow.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 25 October 2015

South Korea

Archbishop Paul Kim has observed that MU in Korea is “the glue that holds everything together.” Their numbers are very small and the church operates as a minority, but in spite of making up a very small proportion of the population of South Korea, MU members are having an impact through a variety of activities in the community. They support chaplains and female priests, MU choirs visit prisons, hospitals and isolated areas, and they produce resources to teach teenagers about faith.

“Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3.13-14)

We pray for MU in South Korea in their transition to a new Provincial President. As they give thanks for what has been achieved thus far, may they be truly envisioned for what lies ahead.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 1 November 2015

Mozambique

MU members are involved in many diocesan development projects such as a lakeshore community health project, HIV/AIDS work, support of orphans and nutrition training for women. They visit hospitals, homes, prisons and a refugee camp, meet for Bible study and prayer and have raised funds, made bricks, carried water and supported labourers to construct more church buildings.

“God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9.8)

We pray for the work of MU in Mozambique as they engage with local communities. May initiatives which have been started flourish and be sustainable in the future.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 8 November 2015

Trinidad & Tobago

Socio-economic problems underpin many of the challenges encountered by families across the diocese and MU members are working hard to meet their needs. The Worldwide Parenting Programme was introduced in 2011 and members even go into prisons to facilitate parenting groups. They also host a homework and evening care programme which allows children to be safe and productive after school.

“Jesus said: The thief comes only in order to steal, kill and destroy. I have come in order that you might have life - life in all its fullness.” (John 10.10)

We give thanks for the Parenting Programme initiatives in Trinidad & Tobago and pray for God’s leading in the development of this work, and future plans for MU in this country.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 15 November 2015

Iraq

Ongoing conflict has created many immediate needs in Iraq, but MU members haven’t forgotten their long term goals. As well as food, clothing and medicine, there is the longer term need for housing, schooling and the hope of employment opportunities for displaced people - offering hope and encouragement for the future.

“He has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6.8)

We pray for God’s love and protection to surround the work of MU in Iraq. May they be effective in promoting peace and reconciliation and may their members be filled with hope.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 22 November 2015

Sri Lanka

Life is returning to normal after five years of civil war and broken relationships are being restored. MU’s main activities include outreach programmes for the education of members, provision of school books for under-privileged children, helping children’s homes with food and clothing, and teaching children how to safeguard their bodies.

“God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good.” (Genesis 1.27,31)

We pray for God’s blessing on the new Provincial President in Sri Lanka and for members as they reach out to the vulnerable and needy in the North.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 29 November 2015

Sierra Leone

MU works to create a strong presence, organising training workshops and conferences and raising awareness around teenage pregnancy, gender and health issues. They are encouraging self-sufficiency through pig farming, gardening, micro finance schemes and income generation activities, as well as Bible study and supporting families through prayer and counselling.

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.” (Isaiah 40.3,5)

We pray for members in Sierra Leone as they campaign and raise awareness of issues that affect the vulnerable. We ask for influence and favour for them in all they do.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 6 December 2015

Namibia

MU members support their local communities by providing home-based care, running a soup kitchen, giving clothes to the needy, and pottery and sewing projects. They also run confirmation classes, Sunday schools, Bible study and prayer groups. They offer assistance and counselling for people with HIV/AIDS, run sessions in adult literacy, and campaign to address gender-based violence.

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” (Isaiah 9.2)

We give thanks for MU in Namibia as they help local communities through their many projects and pray that they may be spiritually refreshed and inspired this Advent as they reflect on the coming of the Messiah.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 13 December 2015

India

India has high levels of inequality, social and economic poverty and huge challenges around gender-based violence and women's empowerment. MU members - known in India as Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) play a crucial role in outreach to communities, being active in advocacy and campaign work and supporting income generating activities such as soap making and growing vegetables.

“Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” (Matthew 1.23)

We pray that God will continue to bless the work of WFCS and give thanks for the continued growth of its relationship with MU. We pray for guidance as they build up relationships with members in the South. .



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 20 December 2015

Sudan

MU and the church in Sudan exists within a predominantly Muslim population. Their key focus is prayer and working for peace and unity. Members meet weekly and visit hospitals, prisons and homes where they pray and encourage one another. They reach out to women of all faiths and none, using the Literacy and Financial Education programme to show their love to all, empowering both women and men.

“A Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you; you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2.11-12)

We pray for God's blessing on all refugees, internally displaced families and those living in a climate of fear. We also pray for members in Sudan in their work to promote peace and reconciliation.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 27 December 2015

MU Australia and Anglicare working in the NT - Pandanus Project

Since its inception in 2000, this Childbirth Education and Perinatal Support Service has assisted over 1,000 young pregnant women and their partners through pregnancy, the birth of their child and the early stages of parenting. By supporting this project, MU assists Anglicare NT to encourage and strengthen the parenting skills of young people and those in the wider community who care for them.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1.14)

We pray for all involved with the responsibility of caring for and supporting family life, and for generous financial support for the Pandanus Project.