



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 3 July 2016

Celebration

As we gather round the table to partake together in communion, we celebrate the precious gift of Christ. As we take the bread and wine, we anticipate the day when in endless celebration we will feast with the risen Christ.

"They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness." (Psalm 145.7)

We celebrate the work of MU in the Windward Islands. Members there are involved in a variety of projects including parenting programmes, educational projects that assist needy students, caring for children in children's homes, feeding the poor and needy and providing medical assistance. We pray for them as they face the challenges of the present. May they know your blessing and be filled with faith for the future.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 10 July 2016

Faithfulness

Eternal God, we thank and praise you for your faithfulness to us. Strengthen and equip us in your service and help us to reflect your love to all with whom we interact.

"I will sing of the Lord's great love for ever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations." (Psalm 89.1)

We thank you for your faithfulness to members in the USA. This is a very wealthy nation but there is still a huge problem with homelessness, poverty, discrimination, unemployment and inequality. One of the main focuses for MU is caring for the homeless in their communities and helping countries that have experienced natural disasters. We pray for continued growth and inspiration as they consider effective ways for community engagement.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 17 July 2016

Ethical issues

God, you are the Lord of life and the ultimate answer to the perplexities and sufferings with which we struggle. We pray that all human efforts to solve these would adhere to strong moral and ethical boundaries.

"Our purpose is to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of others. (2 Corinthians 8.21)

We pray for members in Tonga as they meet for prayer and fellowship and visit the elderly and those in hospital. Though small in number, may they be encouraged and effective in their outreach, and know your blessing on their fellowship together.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 24 July 2016

Protecting childhood

"It takes a village to raise a child." African proverb

Heavenly Father, help us to take seriously our responsibility to protect childhood and promote values which will benefit the wellbeing of our young.

"Jesus said, 'What I'm about to tell you is true. You need to change and become like little children. If you don't, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matthew 18.3)

We give thanks for members in the Provinces of Canterbury and York in England. They help children celebrate Advent through travelling nativities, take 'joy bags' to the sick, lonely and bereaved, and help parents of children taken to hospital at short notice. We pray for all their initiatives and campaigning to protect and enrich childhood. May they have favour with all the communities in which they work.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 31 July 2016

Rest and refreshment

Father God, you gave us the Sabbath as a day devoted to you and an opportunity to find rest from the busyness of our week. Help us to take the time to dwell in you so that we may be refreshed and nourished by your love.

"The Lord is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need. He lets me lie down in fields of green grass. He leads me beside quiet waters. He gives me new strength." (Psalm 23.1-3)

We thank you for Mothers Union in Zimbabwe. They reach out and help the needy in their communities, instilling a sense of belonging and equality and seeking to engage with those less privileged and most vulnerable. They work in hospitals, prisons, maternity clinics and the streets. We pray that our members there would also enjoy times of rest and spiritual refreshment.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 7 August 2016

Mothers Union worldwide

“All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.” (Mary Sumner’s Prayer). We give thanks for the faith and witness of our Mothers Union family worldwide. *“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.” (Romans 1.8)*

The ethos of members in Mozambique is faith and trust in God to create change and show love. Through campaigning and prayer they have raised awareness on the issue of taking good care of the elderly, witnessing a change of attitude and greater value being given to them. They are also seeing better gender equality, with families changing their attitudes towards the place of young girls. We pray for their work to promote health and nutrition in the areas where they have influence.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 14 August 2016

Youth

Thank you, Lord, for the exuberance of young people, who think they know so much, even though they have so little experience of real life. Help us to guide and encourage them, allowing them the freedom to explore and learn life’s lessons, but providing enough care to keep them safe.

“Don’t let the excitement of youth cause you to forget your Creator. Honour him in your youth before you grow old and say, ‘Life is not pleasant anymore.’” (Ecclesiastes 12.1)

We thank you for parenting programmes taking place in Myanmar. Myanmar is a country with deep socio-economic challenges and the church is a small minority. MU is a strong, dynamic group reaching out to their communities. We pray that through their work parents may be helped to lay good foundations in family life so that as children reach adolescence their families will be a source of wisdom and stability.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 21 August 2016

Asylum

God knows each refugee and asylum seeker as an individual, loved by him and precious in his sight. We pray that we too would value each individual as a child of God and that our compassion may find its outlet in practical deeds of mercy.

“Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Remember to welcome strangers, because some who have done this have welcomed angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13.1-2)

We pray for the work of Mothers Union in New Zealand. Although groups in NZ have reduced in size, members remain passionate about inspiring others to join their positive cause. May they continue to support families and young people in various contexts. We thank you that their practical help goes hand in hand with their prayer support.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 28 August 2016

The joy of worship

How precious it is to enter God’s presence to worship with others. We thank God for the joy of sharing together in praise, thanksgiving and worship; united as one in our communion with Christ.

“Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.” (Psalm 100.1-2)

We thank God for our members in the Province of All Ireland. They are committed and enthusiastic about promoting the three strands of praying, enabling and campaigning. Vigils have been held against gender-based violence, funds raised to support literacy and community projects and their positive message is being spread through books, magazines and brochures. We pray that they will enjoy special times of worship together, and that their fellowship will provide a strong foundation for the practical initiatives they support.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 4 September 2016

Education

We pray today for all children and young people who are starting school or moving on in education. In the midst of new beginnings may your presence with them bring security and peace.

"The mind of a person who has understanding acquires knowledge. The ears of wise people seek knowledge." (Proverbs 18.15)

We pray for the Mothers' Union Literacy Programme in Sudan. Members in Sudan and South Sudan have met with their bishops to look at how to contribute effectively to peace in both nations, for all people to speak with one voice about peace and to stop the hate that has developed. We thank God for their commitment to prayer and their positive inter-faith relationships.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 11 September 2016

Celebrate the harvest

Lord of the harvest, we praise you for the rich variety of creation. Help us to steward your creation well and be generous with the produce we harvest, that no one may be in want.

"Let the people thank you, God! Let all the people thank you! The earth has yielded its harvest. God blesses us - our God blesses us!" (Psalm 67.5-6)

We pray for members in Barbados and their work with children and families. Mothers' Union in Barbados helps parents in getting their children back to school, 'shut-in' members, geriatric hospitals and children's homes by visiting them and delivering items such as food and toiletries. They also give individual families food and clothing for children. We ask that their efforts will produce a rich harvest of blessing in the lives of all who they seek to help.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 18 September 2016

140 years of Mothers' Union

We celebrate today the faithfulness of God to Mothers' Union through 140 years, and the faithful witness of our members, past and present. We determine to continue to trust in God for all that lies ahead for us in the future.

"The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." (Psalm 33.11)

We pray for our members in North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba and in Belize. Mothers' Union exercise their role as God's hands in this part of His vineyard through visiting the sick and prisoners, running soup kitchens and giving care bags to patients in hospitals and the elderly. They provide educational tools to those in need and, where necessary, food and uniforms. We ask that they would be united in fellowship despite the challenges of being dispersed across wide areas.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 25 September 2016

Church and community

Lord, we pray that our churches would fling wide their doors and reach out in love to the communities around them. May every person feel welcomed and accepted by the family of the Church; whatever their issues, background or life choices.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10.27)

We pray for members in India. India has a very large urban population along with high levels of inequality and poverty. There are also huge challenges around gender-based violence and women's empowerment. MU activities include income generation to support vulnerable community members, leadership training and being active in advocacy and campaigning. We pray for their initiatives to challenge gender-based violence and for the vocational training they give to women, particularly from the most vulnerable castes.