



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 4 January 2015**

*Lesotho and Swaziland*

At the beginning of a new year we place our trust in our faithful God.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3.5-6)

*We give thanks for members in Lesotho and Swaziland as they care for those with HIV/AIDS. May they reach out to all with the love of Christ. We pray for success as they raise awareness and tackle stigma associated with this issue.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 11 January 2015**

*Mauritius and Seychelles*

As we look to God to lead Mothers' Union forward in his plans for our future, so we pray also for increased membership growth in all parts of the world. Loving Lord, we place our trust in you.

“Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him, and he will help you.” (Psalm 37.5)

*We give thanks for the prison work undertaken by members in Mauritius and for their care for the elderly. We praise God for the faithfulness of our members in Seychelles.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 18 January 2015**

*Gambia and Egypt*

As Christians throughout the world pray this week for unity within the church, so we also pray that Mothers' Union members would be united in love and purpose. Where differences arise may the Holy Spirit bring about acceptance and understanding. “You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you.” (Isaiah 26.3)

*We pray for the Mothers' Union leadership in Gambia and for God's direction for their future. May they be encouraged and envisioned as they seek the way ahead. We ask, too, for God to bless our faithful members in Egypt. We pray for women's ministries across the diocese.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 25 January 2015**

*Wales*

We pray for all initiatives by Mothers' Union members to combat the misery of homelessness and poverty. May our actions be effective in improving the lives of those in need; may our voice be clear in speaking out against injustice, which leads to suffering. “Those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40.31)

*We pray for the work of Mothers' Union in Wales as members prepare to celebrate the wonderful achievements of the past. We ask your leading as they seek to gain new members and consider how to move forward. We give thanks that all God's plans are good.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 1 February 2015**

*Botswana*

Botswana suffers from high unemployment and a large proportion of the population is suffering with HIV/AIDS. Taking care of the country's high number of orphans is a top priority for Mothers' Union members. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4.6-7)

*We pray for God's continued blessing on members in Botswana. We thank you for their outreach to those in need and pray that their leadership will be encouraged and inspired as they look to the future with faith.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 8 February 2015**

*Burundi*

Gender-based violence is a problem in Burundi, but slowly things are starting to change, thanks to the work of Mothers' Union. We pray for all Mothers' Union initiatives to support loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4.16)

*We pray for the future of the literacy and financial education work in Burundi and give thanks for all that has been achieved so far. May God lead members in effective ways of reaching out to communities and enabling self-sufficiency.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 15 February 2015**

*Uganda*

Most of the people in Uganda are semi-illiterate, and the country faces problems such as poverty, disease and domestic violence. Many Mothers' Union members are considered community role models for their work in education and counselling. On Ash Wednesday may we focus on God's desire for us to put aside our selfish ways and play our part in living out the values of God's kingdom on earth.

"Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." (Ephesians 6.18)

*We pray for our members in Uganda, that their vision to affect society for good would be fulfilled. May they be enabled to reach their full potential in all that God has given them.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 22 February 2015**

*Sudan and South Sudan*

Many of the projects and programmes of Mothers' Union have been disrupted by political and humanitarian crisis which has displaced 1.3 million people. Mothers' Union has been at the forefront of the response to support these people and to bring peace, reconciliation and development to their country.

"When a believing person prays, great things happen." (James 5.16)

*We pray for the peace-building and trauma counselling carried out by members in South Sudan as they help communities adjust to post-conflict situations. May their partnership with the Church continue to be a source of blessing.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 1 March 2015**

*Cameroon*

Mothers' Union in Cameroon has been focusing on reaching out to young women. Issues surrounding health, gender rights, protection and child protection are just some of the challenges they face.

"In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." (Philippians 2.3-4)

*We pray for the growth of Mothers' Union and the Church in Cameroon and thank God for our members there. May we be salt and light in the world and may many who come into contact with our members be touched by the love of God as we reflect Christ in all we do.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 8 March 2015**

*The Philippines and Uruguay*

The people of the Philippines are still recovering from Typhoon Haiyan with relief and rehabilitation. Although the Mothers' Union presence is very small in these countries, their work is supported with funds donated by Mothers' Union members through a partner charity.

"Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus who, being in very nature God ... made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant." (Philippians 2.5-7)

*We thank God for the relationship between Mothers' Union and the Episcopal Church Women in the Philippines and pray for increasingly close fellowship and for their work amongst their communities in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 15 March 2015**

*Madagascar*

The political crisis in Madagascar has taken a heavy toll, with 92% of the people living on less than \$2 a day. Mothers' Union is helping women work their way out of poverty by setting up embroidery and sewing training. On Mothering Sunday we pray for Mothers' Union goal to promote the importance of parenting and its impact on family life.

"God says: 'I will comfort you as a mother comforts her child'." (Isaiah 66.13)

*We pray for the work of Mothers' Union in Madagascar as they encourage and enable birth registration and raise funds for couples to afford a civil marriage, which qualifies them for a church wedding.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 22 March 2015**

*Peru and Bermuda*

On Lady Day we remember with gratitude Mary's wonderful obedience to God's will and pray that as Mothers' Union members we too would be open to serve God in whatever way he asks of us and whatever the cost to ourselves. "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 your neighbour as yourself." (Luke 10.27)

*We pray for members in Peru that, though small in number, they would be encouraged and strengthened. We give thanks for the resumption of Mothers' Union in Bermuda and pray that they would be inspired by our values and vision for the future.*



### **Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 29 March 2015**

*Ghana*

In this Holy Week we pray for all acts of worship being held by Mothers' Union. May those who lead do so in the love and power of Christ; may all who gather be blessed with a deeper awareness of the sacrifice of Christ. "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (Matthew 21.9)

*As we give thanks for the sacrifice of Christ, we pray for our members in Ghana. May they be filled afresh with resurrection joy and may they reflect this in their lives as they reach out to others with the love of God.*