



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 3 April 2016

Discipleship

How great in our God! He has created us for a purpose and has given us every good thing we need to fulfil our work for him today. We set ourselves to follow, in total trust and faith, wherever he may lead. *"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me."* (John 12.26)

We give thanks today for the work of our members in Tanzania. Many people live in poverty and HIV/AIDS is a major concern. MU members support orphaned children and run credit schemes to help families through financial difficulties. We pray that they will continue to be a visible force of God's love, as they follow their path of discipleship.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 10 April 2016

Healing

There is no problem too big, too difficult or too complicated that God cannot overcome. So trust in the Lord and stay close to him, for he will lift us up in times of trouble and remain the one true constant in our ever-changing lives.

"Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sin and heals all your diseases." (Psalm 103.2-3)

We give thanks for the work of MU members in Papua New Guinea. They focus on health issues, raising awareness and holding seminars on cancer and HIV/AIDS. They visit those who are sick and care for widows and orphans. We pray for their involvement with the Government in TB programmes.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 17 April 2016

Finance

Father, we long for justice and fair shares for all in a world where the few have so much, and the many have so little. Show us how we can speak out and act to help those who are struggling, and whose prospects are bleak.

"Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow." (Proverbs 31.11)

We give thanks for our members in Kenya and all they do to serve the church and to strengthen family life. They help their communities in a number of ways, including empowering women, educating children at home on matters relating to sexuality, visiting schools, mentoring young people and teaching Sunday School. We pray that they would know the freedom of Christ to be all that God wants them to be.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 24 April 2016

Diversity

Lord of all, we thank you for the diversity of nature that blends together in the beauty of creation. May the diversity of your people combine in equal beauty as we each reflect the image of God.

"There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb." (Revelation 7.9)

The spiritual aspect of MU is one of its strengths for members in DR Congo. There is much political and financial instability with unemployment, corruption and lack of justice. MU is fighting cultural norms in which women are illiterate and disadvantaged. Income-generating businesses help women support their families. We pray for MU members as they continue to cope with the challenges of conflict. Give them strength in their weariness, and courage in the face of ongoing adversity.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 1 May 2016

Government

On Ascension Day we praise God anew that, however the political landscape appears in the short term, he is Lord over all, and his government will never end.

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2.1-2)

Today we give thanks for members in Guyana and Suriname. We pray that God will give them strength and guidance as they address issues of justice within their country and local communities. May they model your righteousness and reflect your love.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 8 May 2016

Prayer

Almighty God, we come to you relying not in the strength of our prayers but in the depth of your grace. We bring our petitions, trusting in your readiness to hear and your power to answer.

"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)

Today we bring before God the work of members in Australia in their outreach to communities, especially in tackling social issues. We pray for the initiatives in Perth against the sexualisation and commercialisation of childhood.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 15 May 2016

Holy Spirit

On this day of Pentecost, may we not just commemorate a historical event, but experience ourselves a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit, that our lives may be characterised by his power and his fruit.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Galatians 5.22-23)

We give thanks for MU members in Argentina. Through 'Love in action' they help to equip parents and families to deal with the challenges of a fast-changing world. We pray for AMARE to grow as they seek to share the love of God in their country, and ask for God's blessing on their parenting work, which is bringing support to many families.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 22 May 2016

Community

Take time today to reflect on the communities of which you are a part: family, church and neighbourhood. Thank God for the good within them, and pray for solutions where problems exist.

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another." (Romans 12.15-16)

We give thanks today for MU members in South Africa as they enable families to help their children avoid drugs, support child-headed families and raise awareness of common health problems. We pray for them as they seek to make a difference to community life in their awareness-raising of gender-based violence alongside other government and church bodies.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 29 May 2016

Reconciliation

We thank God for those involved in the work of national reconciliation. May they have wisdom and discernment as they seek to resolve deep-rooted hurts and injustices.

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1.19-20)

We give thanks for MU members in Angola as they raise awareness of gender-based violence and help single parent families. We pray for them as they work faithfully in your service and ask that you would grant them times of spiritual rest.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 5 June 2016

Environment

Lord, you have created a beautiful and diverse world. We give thanks for the earth's resources, which sustain us. May we always be mindful that we are but stewards, with a duty to conserve and nurture your creation.

"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good... the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work." (Genesis 1.31-2.2)

We give thanks for MU members in Madagascar as they play a significant role in recovery after the coup. This includes literacy programmes, helping children in extreme poverty and running nurseries and primary schools. We pray for them as they seek to create a safe and nurturing environment for children.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 12 June 2016

Active faith

Holy Spirit, give us faith; Holy Spirit, give us hope; Holy Spirit, give us love. Revive your work in this, our land - beginning with me.

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds." (James 2.14, 18)

We thank God today for MU members in Thailand. Their nursery schools look after vulnerable children in remote areas and assist parents who need to work. They have also initiated income-generating projects for underprivileged women. We pray for them as they live out their faith in action.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 19 June 2016

Fatherhood

Lord, we thank you that your love is constant from generation to generation. We pray for all fathers and grandfathers. Give them the energy to enjoy their children and grandchildren, the wisdom to understand them, and the opportunity to share your love with them.

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3.1)

We give thanks for MU members in Jamaica & The Cayman Islands as they help support people suffering hardship and poverty in austere economic conditions resulting from the devaluation of the dollar, unemployment, frozen salaries and involuntary early retirement. Lord, we pray for their work to safeguard and protect children and for your Spirit to equip and strengthen them in all they do in your name.



Thought for the Week from MU - Sunday 26 June 2016

Justice

We pray today for all who promote the cause of justice in government, in the church and in their communities. We ask that their voices will be clearly heard and noted above the clamour of other agendas.

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And 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 give thanks for the achievements of members in Zambia as they engage with the Church & Community Mobilisation (CCM) process. They are encouraging people to become more self-sufficient and self-determining through prayer, planning and action. We pray for wisdom as they address the issues of declining membership.