

OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY
2018



A young Mothers Union member from Myanmar.

Dear Mothers' Union friends,

Already we are in the middle of February and most of you have begun working on ways to encourage members in your Dioceses in their prayerful support of Mothers Union work at home and overseas. The visit from Lynne Tembey, our Worldwide President, last year, was a great reminder of the value placed on the prayer network which we enjoy as members of Mothers Union, and also of the importance of our financial contributions to the support of Mothers Union work in the developing world.

As I have said in the past, in many places where we work Mothers Union is the main vehicle for the teaching and training of women and in encouraging whole societies to implement policies which benefit the vulnerable. Time spent looking at the Mothers Union website (www.mothersunion.org.) will give an insight into the many ways in which Mothers Union is making a difference in the lives of families in general and women and children in particular.

"NORTHERN OUTREACH" and "TRAINING FUND FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN" GRANTS

Thank you all so much for encouraging generosity on the part of our members. I am delighted to say that this year we had \$56,000 available in our NO Fund- a significant increase on last year-**woo hoo and hurrah!** and \$13,000 in the TFIW. Following submissions from the Bishops of North West Australia, the Northern Territory and North Queensland, we have agreed to allocate these funds as follows:

DIocese OF NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA: Support for 2018 School of Theology and Diocesan Synod (which enables clergy families to come together for fellowship and encouragement) and support for the Bishop's wife, Christine, to travel to visit clergy wives and families. \$ 20,000

DIocese OF NORTH QUEENSLAND: Travel and accommodation for Torres and Cape Vice-Presidents, Diocesan President, Wet Tropics Vice-President and Northern Outreach Coordinator, including travel for visits to remote areas and outer islands for conferences, events and training days. \$12,000

THE DIocese OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY: Safe Ministry new systems rollout to Arnhem Land parishes \$10,000
Bursaries for clergy and church workers conference and remote pastoral visits. \$15,000

TRAINING FUND FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN

THE DIocese OF NORTH QUEENSLAND: Supply of work books, Bibles and reference books for graduating students of Wontulp-Bi-Buya College. \$2,000

THE DIocese OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY: Continuation of support for the six Indigenous women who graduated from the Certificate IV in Theology at Nungalinga College in 2016. Examples include enrolling in online theological study, attending a relevant conference, or completing a Bible translation workshop. \$2,400

You will notice that there is still money available in the TFIW. This will be kept in hand in case any requests are made during the year which fit the criteria for grants from this Fund.

VISITS TO DIOCESES

As I have mentioned before, I love visiting dioceses to share with you about our Overseas and Northern Outreach work. So far this year I have been invited to visit Brisbane Diocese for two events in June. If you would like me to visit you, please don't hesitate to ask. There is money available from Australia Council to assist financially if necessary. Sometimes dioceses have joined together, or planned consecutive events, so costs can be shared. Remember also that I love hearing from you with news of anything you might be doing to promote and celebrate our connection with others through Mothers Union. Thank you to those who sent Christmas greetings and reports of your activities which promote the work of Mothers Union, and in particular, that of Overseas and Northern Outreach. I do enjoy hearing from you. May God bless you richly as you serve Him through AMUA in 2018.

With love in Christ, *Christine*