

**Diocese of The Murray,
South Australia.**

THE MURRAY CON-TRIBUTARY NEWSLETTER



September 2018

“In Mary Sumner’s Footsteps”

Dear Friends,

It’s Spring, and what do our thoughts turn to at this time? We look forward to the coming warmth and to the sight of beauty in our gardens. All around us we hear news of disasters, both man made and natural, but the air is warming, and the new growth in the garden reminds us that God’s mercies are new every morning. He never gives up on his creation, no matter what we do to it. We are also reminded that sowing and reaping are part of the Christian life and Jesus spoke about it in John 4.

Are you sowing or reaping in the Mothers’ Union at present? It is hard if you are in a sowing cycle, always planting seeds, making comments about your faith and the way God has helped you, praying for changes in hearts and lives, but not seeing any response.

It’s much more exciting to be a reaper – someone who sees God’s Holy Spirit transforming the lives of others. We do like to see results. When we do have the privilege of leading someone to faith in Christ or to be a member of the Mothers’ Union we need to be very aware of the ‘sowing’ that has taken place beforehand. We are only one of a very large team.

It is always good to meet up with the rest of the larger ‘team’ at Mothers’ Union functions. Due to my health problems unfortunately I was unable to attend the 5 day MULO – Mothers’ Union Listening, Observing, Acting – Zonal conference in Auckland, New Zealand recently. I am very pleased to say Jocelyn Williamson, our Publications Co-ordinator, went in my place to represent The Murray Diocese. There she met with 70 MU members not only from almost every diocese in Australia and New Zealand but from New Guinea, Fiji, PNG, Melanesia, Soloman Islands and Tonga. Jocelyn is very keen to share with you the events of this conference and will be contacting your branch to arrange a visit to you, so please do invite her before the end of this year. A Provincial meeting has also been arranged at the MU office/bookshop in Leigh Street, Adelaide on Wednesday 14th November when all three local Dioceses will meet together to discuss the content of the conference and the way forward for the Mothers’ Union in the State of South Australia.



More information about MULOA is available on the website www.themothersunion.org/MULOA including links to updates from MULOA Workshops in Africa and Britain & Ireland.

Here is the inspirational prayer used for MULOA:

*May God enable us to become the people God calls us to be, and,
in everything we do, may our lives honour the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
May God inspire and move us to action
so that we fulfil God's will in response to God's amazing grace,
so freely given to the world. Amen.*

I hope you found a way of incorporating this years theme into your meetings during the year. Following on from the conference in Auckland the **Mothers' Union Theme for 2019 is Listen, observe, act – in step with God.** Do try to include this when you are compiling your meetings for 2019. If you would like help or suggestions on this please contact Raelene Ackland our Promotions and Development Officer for this Diocese.

Last year some branches in this Diocese joined in the 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign – 25th November to 10th December - by holding prayer services or meetings to help advocate an end to gender-based violence, both in this country and abroad. I would like to see branches take part in this again this year. The facts and figures on this are horrific and the World Health Organisation says violence against women is one of the biggest issues of our time.

If you are holding a special service or event, speak to your local media about doing a story about it, so the word is spread to other people in your district.

Did you know for instance that 43% of women in the European Union have experienced some form of psychological violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime and also it is estimated that 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation across Africa and the Middle East? There is a lot of information and creative prayer ideas on the Mary Sumner House website: www.themothersunion.org but if you are unable to access this please contact me or Trish Frith our Social Issues & Action Co-ordinator for this Diocese.

Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House has been working hard to update the Constitution of Mothers' Union and last year at the Mothers' Union conference in Tasmania you may recall MU Australia officially changed their name to Anglican Mothers' Union Australia – AMUA - with the new Logo seen on the front of this Newsletter. Some members have been worried about the validity of their badges, but they will of course remain 'MU' or be the Cross.

Do remember to have a register of the date of membership in your branches so you can show when you are eligible for 25, 50 or 60 year badges.

With my love



Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 14th November - 10.30am Provincial meeting at Leigh Street, Adelaide.

Friday 16th November - 10.30 for 11am Thanksgiving service at Mount Barker.

Monday 17th until Wednesday 19th December - Wave of Prayer.

