

### **Osun, Nigeria**

*President:* Mrs Beatrice Popoola

There are 350 members here. Diocesan conferences which focus on Christian growth are central to their program. Awareness of health issues, marriage preparation, counselling after marriage and meeting the needs of the elderly are all-important in this diocese.

### **Rayalaseema, South India**

*President of the Women's Fellowship:* not known

The fellowship is involved in running hospitals, orphanages, community care centres and educational institutions. Members are active in advocacy and campaign work providing a strong voice to stand up for women's rights and speaking out against gender-based violence.

### **Sydney, Australia**

*President:* Mrs Wendy Mayer

The breakdown of family life contributes to increasing feelings of isolation and loneliness. The ministry of MU Sydney seeks to honour the Lord Jesus in all its activities by sharing Christ's love, encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life.



## **WAVE OF PRAYER**

**27 – 29 July 2018**



*'May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face shine on us – so that  
your ways may be known on earth, and  
your salvation among all nations'*  
*(Psalm 67: 1-2)*

## **Welcome**

As we meet together today we are reminded that we belong to a Christian fellowship that is world-wide, Mothers' Union. We recognise our dependence on the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who graciously hears our prayers and answers them in accordance with his perfect will.

As we pray we need to confess our unworthiness before our holy God. On the basis of our Lord's death and resurrection we receive the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing of our consciences.

## **Confession of sin**

O Lord our God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As we come before you now, we all share a deep need, for we are all lost without your grace. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, test us and know our troubled thoughts. Give us true repentance. Forgive us all our wrongs. Transform us by your Spirit to live for you each day, to learn to serve one other and, through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord, to come at last to heaven. Amen.

*'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9)*

## **Our Diocesan Links**

### **Northern Zambia, Central Africa**

*President:* Mrs Judith Shilemuna

MU Zambia have embraced the CCMP aiming to bring each organisation of the church together as a team, to pray and establish an outreach that will benefit the wider community.

### **Mpwapwa, Tanzania**

*President:* Mrs Veronica Mbaile

Members are endeavouring to meet material and economic needs: Visiting the sick, caring for those with HIV/AIDS and supporting grandparents of orphaned children. The Diocesan motto is 'Looking unto Jesus'.

### **Gusau, Nigeria**

*President:* Mrs Helen Danbinta

Thousands of women and girls have been held against their will, forced into marriages and exposed to relentless indoctrination. Resisting leads to homelessness or loss of life. Within this context, Mothers' Union works to support family life. Income generating skills are being taught.

safety, for food and shelter, for freedom to worship you and share the good news of our Lord Jesus in our communities and churches. Father, please give us open hearts and minds to learn from your word so that we may show Christ's love to those around us. We bring to you many in great need, particularly those whose lives are broken, isolated and unsupported. May they experience the grace and mercy that you have showered upon us in your Son, the Lord Jesus, and know the joy of sins forgiven and a restored relationship with you. Amen.

*Hebrews 12:1-2, 'Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith'.*

Conclusion:

As we have listened and prayed, we are aware that many of our sisters in Christ suffer because of their faith in the Lord Jesus.

So let us sing this final hymn as a reminder that God has spoken to them and us.

Hymn: God has spoken (HFTC, 248)

**Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'.**

Hymn: Lord for the years (HFTC, 328)

Bible Readings:

Hebrews 12:1-3, 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart'.

**MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER (1994)**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

Who gave marriage to be a source of blessing,

We thank you for family life, with all its joys and sorrows.

May we know your presence and peace in our homes;

Fill them with your love and use them to your glory.

Bless all who are married and every parent and child.

Pour out upon us your Holy Spirit

that we may truly love and serve you.

Bless the members of the Mothers' Union throughout the world.

Unite us in prayer and worship, in love and service,  
that strengthened by your grace,  
we may seek to do your will  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **1. Northern Zambia, Central Africa**

*President:* Mrs Judith Shilemuna

### Information:

Zambia is a land-locked country in the central part of Africa. The Mothers' Union in Northern Zambia are enthusiastic about outreach – helping the elderly, sick, orphans and other vulnerable community members. Seminars and education programs on child protection, marriage, gender-based violence, malaria, cancer and other illnesses are at the centre of their desire to support and encourage marriage and Christian family life. They are also committed to income-generating projects.

MU Zambia have embraced the Church Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) and through this they are aiming to bring each organisation of the church together as a team to pray and build an outreach that will benefit the wider community. However, branches are challenged by declining attendance.

The MU shop which is situated in the Town Hall Arcade is a special opportunity for outreach and ongoing ministry, providing Christian books, cards, hand-made baby and children's wear and lovely gifts (including Fair Trade items). We praise God for the Prayer Diary encouraging us to intercede for one another and for others around the world. We are grateful for the Bible Studies on The Lord's Prayer which we have been able to share in our branches during 2018.

In association with MU Australia we are involved in supporting Overseas and Northern Outreach Projects in: Tanzania, Ethiopia, North-West Australia, Northern Territory and North Queensland.

We are grateful to God for the constant support and encouragement of our members who make these Christ-centred ministries possible.

### Prayer:

Loving Father,

As members of MU Sydney, we are conscious of the many  
benefits you give us each day. We thank you for peace and

## 6. Sydney, Australia

*Diocesan President: Mrs Wendy Mayer*

### Information:

In the Diocese of Sydney we are constantly being challenged to respond to the needs of our expanding cosmopolitan city (with its four million plus people) and beyond. The breakdown of family life with its increased violence, extreme financial and time pressures, significant cultural changes, and the widespread use of modern electronic technology – all contribute to increasing feelings of isolation and loneliness.

In attempting to meet these personal and spiritual needs MU Sydney conducts: Annual Seminars related to children and family needs ("I Fear, I Feel, I Hope - Living for God in a Stress Filled World", "Families Equip Courses – Parenting").

At parish level MU Sydney financially supports family workers at Canterbury, Kingsford and Park Rail parishes.

The provision of morning tea in Family Courts is much appreciated.

The maternity hospital visiting ministry, begun 77 years ago at Crown Street Women's Hospital, to parents of new babies, continues.

### Prayer:

Lord God Almighty,

We praise you for calling people from every tribe and nation to honour, love and serve you. We thank you that members of the MU Zambia, despite their declining numbers, are striving to reach out, taking the love of the Lord Jesus to their communities. We ask that through the many seminars and education programs, men, women and children will grow in understanding of how to assist each other and in their dependence on you. Amen.

*Matthew 6:25 'Therefore, I tell you, Do not worry about your life what you will eat or drink, or about your body what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes'.*

## 2. Mpwapwa, Tanzania

*President: Mrs Veronica Mbaile*

### Information:

The Diocese of Mpwapwa, East of Dodoma, the capital, was inaugurated in 1991, carved out of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Mpwapwa is a fairly mountainous area, and it takes many hours to travel by car from north to

south along dirt roads that serve the district.

MU members are endeavouring to meet material and economic needs within the diocese. Leadership seminars develop skills which mobilise members and non-members to form groups that will establish micro-credit and income generating projects is an important goal. Visiting the sick, caring for those with HIV/AIDS, and supporting grandparents of orphaned children are significant parts of the work being done. They are also building an MU hostel which will generate income and be a source of support for the local community. The diocesan motto is: 'Looking unto Jesus'.

Prayer:

Loving Father,

We bring to you Mothers' Union members in Mpwapwa Diocese asking that the good works they have begun in your name will flourish and that the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, will spread in their lives and beyond into the Diocese of Mpwapwa. We ask these things so that Jesus Christ, to whom they look, will be glorified.

Amen

of Management & Technology. Caring for the sick and housebound, evangelism, and HIV/AIDS awareness programs are also included in their diverse ministries.

Women's Resource Training Centre is a self governing and self supported recent initiative which aims to meet the many needs of younger women.

Members are very active in advocacy and campaign work, providing a strong, united voice to stand up for women's rights and speaking out against gender-based violence.

Prayer:

We call on you, O Lord, to hear our prayers for the Diocese of Rayalaseemsa, asking that the Women's Fellowship will bear fruit that endures in the many ministries they are carrying out in your name. Father, help them to seek the values that will bring lasting joy in this changing world, and grant that they will choose the things that are vital. Please give them the grace and power of your Holy Spirit to fulfil these responsibilities, and may your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified. Amen.

*John 15:16a, 'You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, the kind of fruit that endures'.*

bring honour to your name. We ask that they will grow in understanding of your word and continue to rejoice. In the midst of their great needs may they give thanks for the knowledge that you are sovereign over their lives and you care for each one of them. May they with one voice glorify you, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

*Romans 9:16, 'It is not of him who wills, nor him who runs, but of God who shows mercy'.*

### **5. Rayalaseema, South India**

*President of Women's Fellowship: name unknown*

#### Information:

The Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (which throughout the country has a total membership of almost two million) is affiliated to the global Mothers' Union. The diocese of Rayalaseema (part of the Church of South India), is located in Andhra Pradesh, and is an ecumenical church uniting the Anglican, Methodist, Congregationalist, Presbyterian and Reformed Churches.

This fellowship is involved in running hospitals, orphanages, community care centres and educational institutions, such as the CSI Rayalaseema

Diocesan Institute

*Galatians 5:22-23, 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law'.*

### **3. Gusau, Northern Nigeria**

*President: Mrs Helen Danbinta*

#### Information:

It was in this diocese within Zamfara State that Shariah legal system was first introduced in 1999. Many Christians left the state, thus affecting the diocese numerically and financially. In recent years this area of Nigeria has been targeted by Boko Haram (an Islamic terrorist group). Thousands of girls and women have been held against their will, subjected to forced marriages and relentless indoctrination. Those who resisted were often shot. Most of the surviving women no longer have homes.

Within this extremely difficult context Mothers' Union works to support family life. Members in Gusau work closely with the Girls' Guild. Gusau is a predominantly rural community with the main occupation being farming. Women are trained in developing skills that can be used to generate an income for their families so that they become financially independent.

Prayer:

Lord God Almighty, Ruler of the nations,  
May your mercy and justice bring peace to the nation of Nigeria. We especially pray for those grieving the loss of daughters through kidnap and rape, for those mourning family members who have been killed, and all who live in constant fear of persecution and death. We continue to praise you and give thanks for the faithfulness of Christian witness that MU members bring to the diocese. Thank you for their support of young women and clergy wives. Please unite them in the love of the Lord Jesus and inspire them to continue serving him. Amen.

*Matthew 20:16, 'So the last will be first, and the first will be last'.*

Hymn: May the mind of Christ (HFTC, 550)

Bible Readings:

Hebrews 12, 'Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many' (vv. 14-15).

'Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire' (vv. 28-29). 'Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters' (13:1).

**4. Osun, Nigeria**

*President:* Mrs Beatrice Popoola

Information:

The Diocese of Osun, is located in the Ibadan State of Nigeria. There are 350 members in the Diocese. The Wave of Prayer is central to their calendar. Other activities include several Mothers' Union conferences, Bible studies, Days of Prayer and Fasting, health awareness, particularly of hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. Marriage preparation and counselling after marriage, and meeting the needs of the elderly are all important to the MU members.

Prayer:

Gracious and loving Father, we thank you for your love so freely given to us in your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask that our sisters in Osun will share your love through encouraging, strengthening, supporting marriage and family life. May the activities and programs they conduct