



*AMUA*

*THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK*

*January 2024*

*AMUA Prayer and Spirituality Coordinator*

*Christine Jensen OAM*

*[prayer@muaustralia.org.au](mailto:prayer@muaustralia.org.au)*



## **Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

### **Faith for the Future**

‘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 your life more than food, and your body more than clothes?’ *Matthew 6:25*

Those who have faith in Jesus also have hope for the future. As Jesus tells us in this passage, we have a Father who is in charge of all things and feeds the birds and clothes the flowers. Therefore, he says, we are not to allow our lives to be dominated by concerns of this world, but to ‘Seek first God’s kingdom and his righteousness’ and all these things will be ours as well. As we look to the year ahead, although there may be things which worry us, let us have faith for the future. The words of Jesus, when we trust them, give us a quiet confidence, and fill our lives with the meaning and purpose we need. Whatever happens, put your future into the hands of God. He cares for you.

### **Question for thought:**

What is the aim of my life?

Gracious God, we pray for the nation of Zimbabwe and particularly the Diocese of Masvingo as they cope with unemployment and poverty and political tensions continue to impact daily life. We pray that as members purposefully seek out to engage with those less privileged and most vulnerable they will be able to encourage their faith and trust in you. Amen.

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024

### The Church United

‘There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus  
*Galatians 3:28*

As the Apostle Paul shows us in this verse, the prayer of Jesus, ‘that all of them may be one’ has been fulfilled in the way in which Christians are fundamentally united in the Lord Jesus Christ. We have the same heavenly Father and are indwelt by the same Spirit. Now, however, we need to act on that oneness. And this is a summons to us all, for our local congregations must show forth the unity which God has given us. According to *Ephesians 4:2-3*, we must all ‘be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace’. How very sad it is to see a church divided and quarrelling. Isn’t it better to recognise that we are all sinners and so to forgive one another, as God has forgiven us?

### Question:

What do I do for the sake on the unity of the church?

Heavenly Father, we pray for members in the Diocese of Butare in Rwanda as they are actively engaging in initiatives to transform the lives of individuals, families and whole communities with the gospel of Jesus. We also pray for members in Bathurst Diocese in NSW that they will continue to encourage Christian family life in their churches. Amen.

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

### Flourishing MU

‘If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples’ *John 15:7-8*.

Jesus likens himself to a vine planted by his Father and with his disciples as the branches from which fruit emerges. Every real Christian is committed to the life-time work of trusting Jesus, following Jesus, obeying the words of Jesus. In this way our lives will be filled with good fruit. Sometimes we concentrate on paid employment so much that we sacrifice even our relationships to pursue it. Daily work is important, but it is only part of our chief work in this life. This is following our Lord every day, finding and doing the good works he calls us to. From this work we never retire, and it is work which is deeply satisfying. Furthermore, we do it together with our fellow believers. That is one of the joys of belonging to the Mothers Union. Together we are committed to give Christian care to families and communities. It is a great and fruitful work.

### Question for thought?

Can I see the fruit of following Jesus in my own life?

Almighty God as we come to a new year we give thanks for our Worldwide President Sheran Harper and her leadership of Mothers Union. Grant her wisdom in the many decisions she makes and sustain her in her travels. We pray too, for the Worldwide Trustees, particularly Pamela Abana Trustee of Zone C which includes Australia. Uphold Pamela as she supports and encourages the provinces in the Zone. Amen.

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Trust and hope in God

‘Blessed are those whose help is in the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God’ *Psalms 146:5*

Trust and hope belong together. Hope is faith looking forward. It is our faith in the Lord which gives us hope even in the midst of the most difficult trials. The Apostle Peter speaks of God’s ‘very great and precious promises’, and as we trust his promises, so we see that our future is secure, even if the present is chaotic (2 *Peter 1:4*). Of course, some people are born optimists and always believe in the best. But true Christian hope is for all, the pessimists and even the depressed. It is not merely a feeling. It is a reality, the reality that our future belongs to Jesus. Jesus is real – so then is our hope. Trust God and you will have real hope.

### Question for thought:

Do I know what the ‘precious and very great promises’ of God are? Where can they be found?

Gracious Lord we bring before you the Diocese of Ruaha in Tanzania as they face many challenges to family life including unemployment and poverty. We pray that the Credit and Savings group in partnership with Tearfund will continue to fulfil its aim of spiritual and socio-economic transformation across the country. Amen.

## Thought for the Week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### MU Global Mission

Jesus said, ‘All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. *Matthew 28:18-19*.

Christians are meant to be global people. Of course we belong to families, tribes and nations, but we also believe that all people, wherever they are from, are born in the image and likeness of God and are equally precious in his sight. Racial discrimination is abhorrent. We are also all sinners and need equally to hear the gospel message that Jesus came to reconcile us to his Father and so save us. In fulfilling this great summons of Jesus, Mothers Union sees the fruit of the gospel in transformed lives as the disciples of Jesus do all he has commanded us. His special command is to show love to all and care for others in need, whether material or spiritual.

### Question for thought:

Has following Jesus helped me to be a loving person?

In 2024 Mothers’ Union Mauritius will celebrate its centenary. Although its membership is small, at just over 250, members are very engaged in their communities reaching out to the vulnerable and those in need. We pray as members support prison ministry, counselling centre, parenting skills programs, marriage preparation and care for the elderly that they will share God’s love with those they contact. Amen.