

OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2019

Dear MU Friends,



I trust that you are refreshed and ready to serve the Lord through MU once again. After the busyness of December, January has been a quiet and restful time in my house, but I know that this has not been the case for everyone. Some of you have experienced the torrential rain and floods over the last week or so in North Queensland. Others have been



affected by record-breaking high temperatures and the fires which have set Tasmania ablaze. We continue to pray for all those affected by such extremes of weather. Through all of this we are reminded that we are not the boss. We are also reminded that as followers of Jesus we are called to weep with those who weep, to love one another with brotherly affection and to contribute to the needs of the saints. (See Romans 12:10,13 and 15) What a privilege it is to be able to do this at home and overseas as members of the Worldwide Mothers Union.

OVERSEAS PROJECT

As I indicated in my last Newsletter, AMUA has accepted the invitation from Mary Sumner House to support the gathering of South Sudanese Bishop's wives for a Peace and Reconciliation Forum to be held shortly in Uganda. This will involve a time of reflection and therapy, primarily through art, to be followed by teaching on how to use these techniques with others. When I have more details I will pass them on, but in the meantime, do encourage members to be generous with their financial support and diligent in their prayers for this venture. It is a costly exercise, but it is hoped that the women who participate will not only be helped to deal with their own traumatic experiences, but be equipped to share what they have learned with other women in their dioceses.

NEWS FROM THE MOTHERS UNION WEBSITE

I hope you are familiar with the Mothers Union website. I often look to see what news has been posted there for our interest and information. My most recent search yielded a Powerpoint presentation by Bev Jullien summarizing Mothers Union's work, which she gave at the 2018 General Meeting. Of course, some of it relates only to the U.K., but there is much to encourage members about the work of Mothers Union Worldwide. It's well worth a look at

<https://www.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/resources/public/GM%202018%20Bev%20Address%20PDF.pdf>

LET'S SHOW OFF A LITTLE

There are many ways to let others know what Mothers Union does around the world. One way is by having a bright and up-to-date notice-board in the church entrance. Few things look more discouraging to potential members than dusty, tattered or out-of-date notices, so why not encourage your members to refresh their church notice-boards as they begin the new year? As an incentive, why not hold a competition in your diocese for the most eye-catching display? You could invite groups to send you a photo, then ask one or more non-members to choose the best. (Maybe ask your Bishop- anonymously, of course!!) All the photos could then be included in your diocesan magazine or Mia Mia. While searching the Mothers Union website I found a map of MU's worldwide membership (which I have attached to this Newsletter) which would be a great addition when doing a reno job on the MU display.

### PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND MELANESIA DEVELOPMENT FUND

Many of our members have been asking for Projects closer to home, and I am happy to say that we have agreed to fund the training of Facilitators for the Parenting Program in PNG. We have also agreed to give a substantial amount to enable delegates from PNG and Melanesia to attend a Mini-MULOA in the region. In light of the difficulties which MU leaders from PNG and Melanesia experienced in their efforts to attend the MULOA meeting in Brisbane, this money will enable them to gather in Honiara, where their contributions to the discussions can be shared.

### NORTHERN OUTREACH

Letters have been sent to the Bishops (or their representatives) of North Queensland, the Northern Territory and North-West Australia, inviting them to submit their requests for grants from the Northern Outreach Fund and the Training Fund for Indigenous Women. When these have been received and grants approved by Australia Council (that is, Diocesan Presidents and the Australian Executive, which we do by email) I will let you know. As I have said in the past, these grants are very important to the dioceses concerned, and our generous support of the Funds means that more money is available, which is greatly appreciated by them.

### VISITING DIOCESES

Over the past five years it has been my privilege to visit a number of Dioceses to speak about our work and to encourage members in their service and ministries. If you would like me to come to visit you, please ask. I will be delighted to come if at all possible.

I pray that you will be blessed by our Lord as you seek to encourage interest in and support for our Overseas and Northern Outreach work. Our spiritual health depends, amongst other things, on maintaining a genuine and prayerful interest in what is going on in the lives of others. If we don't we become insular, self-focused and narrow. If we do, our world is enlarged and our heart is stirred to show compassion and love. For my money, the latter is much more attractive than the former, and reflects the character of our gracious God who showers us with blessings more than we can number every day.

With love and prayers,

*Christine*