

# Visit of MU President of the Thai / Burma Border.

Her visit has been a great success – over 130 people heard her speak at four MU venues.

Her warm personality and articulate presentation of her work on the Thai/Burma Border gave us a real insight into the difficulties experienced by MU members and their families.

As she answered questions, a great sense of understanding gained by everyone present. Her visual presentations gave graphic illustrations of the situation in the Refugee Camps, and it was delightful to see, the joyful faces of the children at the two MU Nursery Schools which you helped to fund.



**Melbourne Diocesan members whom have previously met  
with the MU President at the Border.**

## **AND NOW - JUNE 2009 .....5 months after the Bushfires**

The paddocks are green and many fences have been replaced.

Burnt trees are sprouting new shoots and the tree ferns are a picture of life being renewed, with fresh green bracken beneath.

It gives us all hope and we are thankful.

Many bushfire survivors are only just realising their situation and are still in shock.

Quite a lot of properties are not yet cleared so their owners are in limbo.

For those now cleaned up, some have caravans on their sites and need blankets, warm clothes, food and equipment.

Some are renting in another area.

Most seem to want to "go home" to live again, but a few have decided already to move elsewhere.

We are all proud and independent - and folk say "I'm OK, others need it more than me" - and they have lost everything, too!

A hug helps them express how they feel and help is being accepted more often.

Do pray for all these people, the grief is only starting and healing will take years.

Thank you

*Lilydale MU member who has been volunteering at the Yarra Glen Relief Centre.*