



## **MU Australia**

### **Education Department Newsletter No. 2**

*(picture -- the church at Port Arthur, Tasmania – a very open church)*

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**Greetings in the Lord's Name,**

**We have just celebrated Pentecost. What a busy weekend, with celebrations for Pentecost, the National Day of Thanksgiving and Mother's Day.**

**Here in Mackay, all the churches came together to celebrate the National Day of Thanksgiving, by providing a day of family activities for all ages at the Civic Centre (at no cost to those who attended). The local MU groups were able to be part of this day, giving us the opportunity to connect with people outside the four walls of our church family.**

**Pentecost -- all the believers were gathered in Jerusalem, meeting for prayer and waiting for the promised Holy Spirit to arrive. The Holy Spirit came and filled the gathered believers, giving them power to carry the message of the gospel to all the world. The Holy Spirit took a group of fishermen, former prostitutes, tax collectors and ex-religious leaders and formed them into a united group – a group that, today, we call the Church.**

**Before the coming of disciples were huddled together in fear. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, they were bold and confident. They were able to communicate the Good News of the Gospel to thousands of people who were gathered in Jerusalem on that day. On the day of Pentecost the communication barriers were broken down, the disciples were able to build relationships with those outside their group.**

**Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would fill them and give them power to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.**



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**How far are you willing to open yourself up, to share the Good News with others? Are you prepared to break down the walls of fear and build bridges of communication with those outside your church family? The more bridges we are able to put in place, the more opportunities we will have to build relationships with those who don't yet know the Lord Jesus. As leaders of MU Australia, may we encourage our members to be on the look out for ways to build those bridges of communication with the wider community?**

## **REPORTING**

Thank you to all Diocesan Education Department Coordinators who have sent me their Diocesan Reports, well done. Also thank you to those who have sent information on 'how to run a playgroup,' I really appreciate your help.

## **PARENTING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Please continue to encourage your members to recruit participants for this very important MU work. The facilitators do a great job in presenting this program and they need all the help that you can give them. The pastoral care of the participants is a key component of the course. You can help to establish relationships with the participants, by providing baby sitting, supper and a listening ear and provide the balloons etc for the final celebration session. This pastoral care is a vital and very important part of the overall program. Please don't neglect this key element of the course.

## **MU AUSTRALIA EXECUTIVE MEETING**

What a wonderful time of fellowship, learning and sharing, we all experienced with the people from Mary Sumner House, following the SWWRM meeting. In her presentation, Jane, from the Action and Outreach Department at Mary Sumner House, confirmed for me, that we are on the right track with the work that is being prepared for the Marriage material. I hope to have this finalized in time for Australian Council next year.

## **QUEENSLAND STATE CONFERENCE**

Along with Bronwyn Fryar, I have been asked to present 2 workshops at the Queensland State Conference to be held in Mackay at the end of May. The theme of the conference is "Setting hearts on fire – hand in hand." I look forward to catching up with some of you at that conference, and would appreciate your prayers for this event and for myself as I prepare.

## **PRAYERS**

Please continue to pray for:-

- ✚ our sisters and brothers in Burma, Myanmar and China – (I have a nephew who lives just 50 kilometers from the earthquake region in China – not very far away at all). The devastation in these areas is huge and the loss of life tragic.
- ✚ the people of Tibet and Zimbabwe and the governments of those countries.
- ✚ for Lambeth Conference and the Spouses Conference and for safe travel for all

With love and prayers

Carolynn  
Australian Education Department