

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS OF THE WORLD WIDE MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union has some 3.5 million members in 76 countries around the world. Members of the MU seek to show God's love for the world by encouraging, supporting and strengthening marriage and family life.

Over 10 days, the Presidents of the MU, representing some 30 different provinces of the Anglican Communion, have met together at Wydale in Yorkshire, in worship, discussion and fellowship. Our attention has been on the themes of empowerment, peace and reconciliation, which cannot be separated from our desire to Make Poverty History. The importance of these issues to every family around the world has encouraged us to affirm the world wide nature of our shared vision to win the homes of these nations for Jesus Christ.

In our journeying together, we have recognised that there are many differences in our cultures, the ways in which we express our faith, our approaches to membership of the organisation: we have recognised these differences can cause us pain. We have, however, celebrated our unity, our shared vision and mission. This has empowered us and brought us great joy.

Today we affirm our belief that the things that hold us together are greater than the things that divide us. As we return to our own provinces we pledge that the work of the MU will be a beacon of hope for those concerned with winning families everywhere for Christ.

This means we continue in our shared vision:

- To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding
- To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church
- To maintain a world-wide fellowship of Christians, united in prayer, worship and service
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity

Wydale July 2005

This document has been signed by all participants at the Mothers' Union Provincial Presidents' Conference held at Wydale Hall, Yorkshire

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