

MU Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn - Visitors

The World Wide aspect of MU is unique and quite wonderful! We have been very happy to have had visits from four people from overseas.

The first visitor was Barbara Bayliss from Diocese of Gloucester, Trustee and Policy Contact for that Diocese and for 5 years Diocesan Secretary. Barbara had lived and worked in Canberra many years ago (she hadn't heard of MU then! – only joined after she went back to UK). She was visiting, and travelling around Australia with, a friend from those days. We met up and 'clicked', as you always do with other MU members, and she was able to join us at our Fellowship Day function. After their travelling we met up again to celebrate our birthday - we discovered that we are twins – same day same year – it is a small world is it not!

The second visitor was the President of our Link Diocese of Kindu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Naomi Katanda, who is also the Provincial President. She, with her husband Bishop Masimungu, were in Australia with CMS for study - Naomi was learning English - and a promotion tour. I first met Naomi at WWC in 1998. We have since been able to have close contact with her through Malcolm and Elizabeth Richards, CMS Missionaries from this diocese and serving in Kindu. Naomi and Bishop spoke to us about the situation in their country which has been living with war for many years. The country has been living in relative peace, but day to day living is still very hard for everyone. That is until recently when trouble broke in the east of the country again, but we had heard from the Richards that their diocese is OK but they have asked for our prayers and hope the problems will not escalate.





It was wonderful to meet Naomi again and to introduce her to some of our members at an informal lunch at home. And we sent her home with a 'sample bag' of MU Australia Publications – she was particularly thrilled with the eco-friendly bags and we made sure she had enough to share with all her DP's. It is wonderful to think that MU Australia eco- bags will be 'walking' around in the Congo in Africa! They were excited with Marion McCall's '*Hello God*' book too. They have had another child since 1998, their seventh, a girl called Sarah and Bishop flicked the book open at the 'My Parents' page with MUM, DAD and SARAH illustrated and said it was meant to be. . Naomi made a lovely thank-you speech, begun in halting English but finished in Swahili and translated by Bishop. It was a lovely afternoon.

The third visitor was Irene Mhogolo President of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. Irene is an Australian and wife of the Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo. She went to Tanzania as a CMS Missionary 26 years ago.....well you know how the story goes! They were in Canberra doing some courses as well as speaking and preaching. Their children are studying in Australia so this was family time as well. It was great to hear how MU was going in Tanzania as I had a personal interest. Bevan's first posting overseas with Foreign Affairs was to Tanzania (1969-71), and we still have close CMS friends from those days.

And at Lady Day this year we welcomed our fourth visitor, Dorcas Janaombu, President of the Diocese of Popondetta, PNG, who had been in my 'family group' at the World Wide Regional Meeting (WWRM). She was staying with her cousin, Jean, who lives in Canberra (whose husband has a posting to Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) at the moment). Dorcas has 2000 members in her diocese they lost everything in a cyclone and floods in 2006 and are still trying to recover, and has asked if MU in Australia has any old Service and Prayer books and badges we could send them. I haven't gather many yet so if anyone can help please make contact.

Farewell to Bishop

Our Bishop (George Browning), who was also our Chaplain, retired this year. There was Liturgical Farewell for Bishop and Margaret at our St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn and all parishes and ministry units were asked to bring their banners to parade, and a rock. A rock!! - you ask? A cairn was built with them as part of the service and the have gone to their home to build a rockery or line garden beds. Lovely idea! The MU rock - well, it was more a river stone really - was interesting (photo below). I found it while I was out walking and when I scrubbed all the dirt away, there was, almost, the map of Australia in a lighter colour! I traced around it with pencil, had to fudge the Cape York, added a MU logo sticker and painted it with estapol (so it will withstand the outdoors.) You can even make out Tasmania!!

There will be no doubts whose rock it is!

