

THE LINK



MU Australia

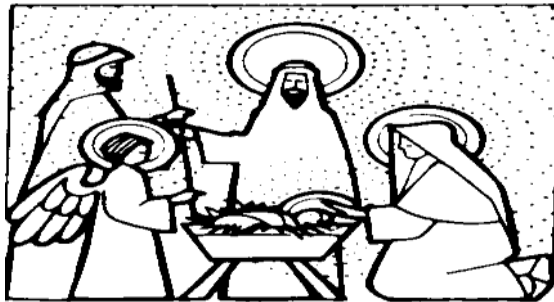
*Part of the
Worldwide Mothers' Union*

MU Australia—Diocese of Adelaide

— Reach Out With Love —

December 2011, January, February 2012

No. 4



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL FROM
DIOCESAN PRESIDENT BETH
AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE,
WE WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A SAFE,
HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS**



From Diocesan President Beth

Greetings to all MU Members

May you use the time of Advent to prepare for a happy and holy Christmas with your family and friends.

Our Theme for the next two years is REACH OUT WITH LOVE, and one of the ways we can reach out is to support our Project which this time is an overseas concern, "Literacy in Burundi". This issue of The Link gives an overview of this Project, and how we can all support it.

I also draw your attention to the Provincial "Joining Together Day" to be held on August 11th 2012, and ask you to mark that date in your diaries. We are very fortunate to have been able to arrange for Wendy Mayer, MU Australia Education Officer to be the Presenter at that Day. Wendy has already produced some excellent material for us which some of us are already using, so we are looking forward to what she has in store for us at the Joining Together Day.

Love from your President,

Beth

Vale- Vera Clarke

Vera Clarke passed away on 1st July 2011, aged 88 years. She had been a much-loved parishioner at St Michael and All Angels, Henley Beach since she was about eight years old.

Vera was a strongly committed member of Mothers' Union and received her 50-year badge in 2003. She was the first leader when Fellowship of Marriage was formed at Henley Beach in 1952. Over the years she served for some time on the MU committee and was secretary from 1971 to 1977.

She had been our Link member since 2001 corresponding regularly with branches in Western Australia, Wakefield and Canada.

Vera was a wonderful lady who will be sadly missed by us all.

ADELAIDE DIOCESAN AND LONE MEMBERS

Meeting Dates for 2012

February 24th, March 30th April 27th, May 25th, June 29th, July 27th, August 31st, September 28th, October 26th, November 30th.

12 noon to 1-30 p.m. at M.U. Centre. Bring your own Lunch. Tea and coffee provided

All welcome to attend our friendly fellowship gathering. New members and visitors welcome.

Queries contact Faith Drodge

MARY SUMNER ROSE

In the March edition of the Link there was an article entitled ' Mary Sumner Rose'. The enclosed photograph was taken earlier this year by Meg Nicholls. My rose bush was given to me by my mother, an M.U. member of the Semaphore Branch for many years, Barbara Sylow. I hope this late response to the article is of interest to everyone.

Cicely Bungey A.M
M.U. Mitcham



PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

The Bookshop will close on Thursday December 8th and re-open on January 30th 2012.If any one can spare a couple of hours the week before (23rd) to clean shelves etc. it would be much appreciated. Please phone me if needed.

A thank you morning tea will be held on Monday February 27th for our "STAR" Bookshop volunteers and Publication Representatives.

May the love of the Holy Family surround us.

May the joy that was Mary's refresh us.

May the faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage us.

May the peace of the Christ-Child fill our lives.

Yours in MU Fellowship and on behalf of the Publication Committee,
Carlien Walter

MU Literacy and Financial Education Programme, (MULFEP) in Burundi

Why Burundi?

Burundi is currently one of poorest countries in the world, ranked 172 out of 179 countries on the UN's Human Development Index - with 93.4% of the population living on less than \$2 a day, and only 52.2% of females able to read and write.

Why Literacy and Financial Education?

Being illiterate has been a major factor in limiting women and girls' capacity to improve conditions in their homes, families and communities. It has also prevented their full participation in community affairs and administration. The most common numeracy priorities for learners joining the Programme are to: Not be cheated at the market, Keeping basic accounts, Understanding what medicine to give to children and how often, and Read instructions on goods.

The MULFEP is open to everyone, crossing the boundaries of religion, age, gender or tribe, enabling community cohesion, unity and empowerment. It has been especially effective in reaching those who are the most marginalised in society, including groups previously discriminated against such as the Twa pygmy tribe in Burundi.

As a result of the Programme women are now gaining financial independence, have more autonomy to manage their lives and are participating in household decision-making as well as community politics and leadership.

The programme is one of the most cost-effective adult programmes in the world. The Mothers' Union trains local facilitators who work as volunteers within the groups, thereby keeping the costs of the programme to a minimum.

The Mothers Union has been successful in obtaining Partners to help with this Programme in Burundi: The Swedish Donor Lakarmissionen, the Whitcroft Foundation, AngliCORD, and Trinity Church, Wall Street have and/or are helping with the funding, and The Charity, Five Talents, brings financial education and micro finance to Mothers' Union's accredited learners.

Accredited learners now learn business skills and money management. Groups form community based organisations to give strength to their savings credibility, and to promote security for group members. Each week group members come and contribute to the overall savings and group members are able to receive small loans to meet the start up costs of a small business initiatives.

On August 15th 2011, the Mothers' Union Burundi website contained these snapshots (and others) of the Programme's outcomes.

"I have a business selling tomatoes and palm oil at the market. I can now take care of my 11 children, 6 of my own and 5 orphans.

"Before I joined the savings group we used to keep money at home but it was eaten by mice which caused conflict in the family. Now there is peace at home and we have a business selling tomatoes. With the extra money we can buy clothes for our children".

MU Literacy and Financial Education Programme, (MULFEP) in Burundi (contd.)

"With the profit from my business selling tomatoes I can now afford to save as well as provide for the needs of my children at school, such as buying exercise books".

"I can now buy soap to wash my clothes and am proud of looking smart. Now I look nice!"

"I can pay for school fees so my child can go to school. When I was a child I was kept at home and was never sent to school. Now all my children will go to school, I won't keep any at home because I was kept at home and I don't want that."

"I didn't think women could do anything on their own. Now I have the confidence to contribute to my family's income. Look at me, I am well dressed!"

Take Gabriel for example, he thought joining the programme would be a waste of time for his wife. When he saw the skills she had gained, and when the whole group turned up to help cultivate their plot of land, he was amazed. His wife can now afford soap and clothes, which he sees as a sign that they have increased their income. The couple can feed their children who had been suffering from a form of protein malnutrition called kwashiorkor. The financial education they have received has taught them how to manage money properly.

Aileen describes how she used to be lonely at home, and unable to cultivate her plot alone. Now the group comes to help her cultivate the land and she is able to get a bigger harvest of beans. Aileen explains that she previously knew nothing about business and just lived on what she could grow. After learning that she can buy and sell produce to make a profit, she now has a business selling bananas, potatoes and other vegetables in the market. Her specialty is making banana juice and selling it. Aileen takes care of 8 children, some of whom are not hers but are children of relatives who have died. She enjoys working in the group, as it means each member can multiply what they have.

How Much Does The Programme Cost?

It costs around \$400 - \$500 to train and support a volunteer MULFEP facilitator to work within their community.

What Can We Do?

- * Support the Project financially
- * Pray for all involved in this Project.

Acknowledgements:

<http://www.fivetalents.org.uk/burundi.html>

MULFP Update July 2011

<http://www.themothersunion.org/literacy.aspx>

http://www.anglicanburundi.org/news/article_37.shtml

http://dfms.org/81799_120901_ENG_HTM.htm

Encouraged at progress so far!

October 12, 2011 by Rosemary Kempzell, Worldwide President of Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union is pleased and encouraged by the progress so far in securing greater protection for children from the pressures of a consumer and sexualised society.

Yesterday Reg Bailey Chief executive of the Mothers' Union met with the Prime Minister, Sarah Teather, Minister for Children and other stakeholders to review the progress made on his June recommendations, and to evaluate what still needs to be implemented to achieve the goals of the report 'Let Children be Children.'

He says "In June I set out what I believed were the best measures to protect children from commercialisation and premature sexualisation. Giving parents' confidence to be parents, to set boundaries, and find support from industry and regulators would, I hoped, create more space for children to be themselves – without the constant bombardment of sexualised images and pressure to own the most desirable products and clothes. It seemed to me, however, that all responsible adults have a role to play in creating a more family friendly society."

The launch of 'www.ParentPort.org.uk a website for parents set up by the UK's media regulators will help to enforce standards across the media to protect children from inappropriate material. The news that major internet providers will now require customers to 'opt – in' to receive adult content, rather than the less effective 'opt-out' control that currently exists has to be a step forward. However, we would like to see more providers follow suit.

There remain a number of recommendations that are more of a challenge to implement for example music video ratings and the sexualised 'wallpaper (mentioned in the Bailey Report) that affects children outside the home.

Mothers' Union members will continue to campaign for and promote a culture and culture-based values that do not define a person by what they wear or what they own, but one that respects everyone equally and without discrimination.

Reg: "Well, for me, success would be a change in parents' confidence, that would show that the reforms have really started to work. And I'll encourage businesses to be decisive. The outcome we are seeking is far too important to slip off the agenda."

From Rosemary Kempzell's Blog on WordPress.com News

MONEY MATTERS by Dan Fardon, Diocesan Treasurer

PROJECTS

So far we have sent \$4686 to St John's Youth Services for the *NEXT STEP* Program, and at time of writing, we have a further \$3843 to send. This means that so far, over the two years, we will have raised over \$8500 for the *NEXT STEP* Program, and there is still some bank interest and possibly other donations yet to be received.

This year, this Diocese's Members through Branches, Areas, and as individuals have donated the following amounts to MU Australia Charities, in addition to the money given via the MU Australia part of the annual subscription:

It is good that although our numbers have declined and Branches less active than in the past, that some are thinking to use small fund-raising ventures and are giving to the Northern Outreach, Overseas, and Disaster Relief projects — one Branch sent to the MU Australia Disaster Fund, the donation they received for catering for a funeral. In addition to these Projects, we donated \$150 from the Diocesan Project Holding Fund to the Inverbrackie Good Neighbour Council as part of a \$400 Provincial Donation to help refugees in the Detention Centre.

We are also donating our surplus gift cards to other charitable organisations.

| Aid Projects | Amount Donated |
|---|----------------|
| Northern Outreach | 490.00 |
| Overseas | 476.00 |
| MU Australia Disaster Fund | 891.00 |
| MU Australia Target Fund: Nursery School on the Thailand/Myanmar Border | 526.00 |

2012 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Australian Treasurer has advised that the AC part of our subscription will be the same as this year's. This means that with careful management, our subscription too, can remain unchanged. We are indeed fortunate that the MU Centre Rent is being met in full by the Publication Fund surplus, sale of craft items and rent donations — sincere thanks to all who make this possible.

Please Note:

- 1. The Annual Return Forms will be sent out with the March 2012 edition of the Mia Mia and**
- 2. The Annual Returns need to reach the MU Centre by 1st May 2012, so that I have them in time to meet the Australian Treasurer's deadline.**

THANK YOU

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to those who compile the Annual Return Forms, and work in the MU Centre — your ongoing efforts certainly make my work much easier than it would be otherwise.

Dan Fardon

CALENDAR FOR 2012

| | | |
|-----------|------------------|-------------------------|
| February | 15 th | Executive |
| | 24 th | State Council Committee |
| March | 7 th | Diocesan Council |
| | 21 st | Executive |
| | 26 th | Lady Day |
| April | | |
| May | 16 th | Executive |
| | 17 th | SW Film Morning |
| | 24-26 | Australian Council |
| June | 20 th | Executive |
| July | 18 th | Diocesan Council |
| August | 11 th | Joining Together Day |
| | 15 th | Executive |
| | 31 st | Film Morning |
| September | 19 th | Executive |
| October | | |
| November | 14 th | Executive |
| | 21 st | Annual General Meeting |
| December | 5 th | Executive |

The next edition of the Link covers the months of **March, April and May 2012** the deadline for that edition will be **Friday February 18th 2012.**

If any branch is doing anything special during the next 3 months I would be interested in hearing about it as this is also interesting to everyone in the Diocese. Also any anniversaries or special birthdays. telephone or e-mail me with your news. *Editor.*