



**MU Australia**  
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union

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25<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

### **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER**

Recently our children gave their father one of those navigational devices for the car, to help us find our way when we were travelling on unfamiliar roads. The reason for this purchase was because Don is never keen to stop and ask for directions, if we are travelling in an area that we have never visited before. We always seemed to eventually find our way, although I am sure we travelled many more kilometres than we really needed to.

You and I are on a spiritual journey – we journey with our Lord Jesus and with each other and the roadmap, or navigational device, that we have available to assist us with our journey is God's Word. Scripture will supply a firm foundation for our spiritual journey. **The season of Lent is a good time for MU groups to facilitate a Bible Study group – to soak our lives in the Word of God.**

For several years our family lived in Mount Isa. Many times, as we were travelling the very hot roads of the dry western areas, a mirage could be seen up ahead – an illusion of water across the road created by the intense heat of the day. This mirage was not real, it kept moving and changing and had no firm foundation. God invites each of us to base our spiritual journey on a firm foundation, **a foundation which is anchored firmly on the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.**

Not only do we need the right foundation for our journey, we also need travelling companions. We need other people to share our lives, our hearts, our laughter and our tears with. Again, as we study and read God's Word, we learn what real fellowship looks like. It is impossible to be in fellowship with another person, if the relationship is one-way. Genuine fellowship is a mutual giving and receiving from both parties within the relationship. The best place for this mutual sharing can be found in small groups – **our MU groups are a great place to build relationships, to share our lives and experience genuine fellowship.**

When we begin a journey, we cannot see just where that journey will take us; we cannot know or understand every detail of the journey. **To be able to journey together, we must first be willing to trust .... trust our Lord Jesus Christ and each other.**

This Lent, I pray that you will meet some new companions to journey with, as you walk the way of the cross with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Thank you** to those Dioceses who responded to the request for Diocesan Reports for 2009 – thank you for all that you are doing to advance the Kingdom of God in your particular area.

**Mia Mia article** Thank you to those who responded with encouraging words for the proposed Mia Mia articles on the theme 'Journeying together'. Please let me know if you have any particular theme or topic that you would like to have included in the Mia Mia articles or Newsletters.

**PEP** As I read reports from the Dioceses and also reports from branches in my own Diocese, I am conscious of the fact that very little mention is made of the Parenting Programme. Quite a deal of money, time, effort and people power has been expended on the setting up, training and facilitating of this programme, so I do encourage you to promote the Parenting Programme in your particular area. There does seem to be some difficulty, at the grass roots level, in members being able to connect with parents to participate in this programme. Any feed back that you can give to either myself or Kaye Healey would be greatly appreciated.

**Programme Resources** The Mothers' Union web site [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org) has a great range of programme resources for you to access – please encourage your members to use them. Programme planning is so important and I was reminded of just how important when I received Christine Hurford's report from Bathurst Diocese. Christine is encouraging her members to "*see their programming as an avenue for outreach.*" What a privilege to be able to share the Good News of the Gospel with those who don't yet know Jesus – or to put it another way – "*to be part of the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.*"

**Elections at AC in 2010** The next Australian Council meeting in October, will be election year and the position of Education Department Co-ordinator will be vacant. Please pray about who you might nominate for this position.

All God's blessings as we journey together through the days of Lent, the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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