

Theme for 2012: Faithful Relationship

Dates for Your diary – 2012

Monday 26th March – Lady Day

Wednesday 13th June – June Join In

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen

Mary Sumner's prayer, written in 1876.



MU Australia
Part of the World Wide Mothers' Union



Gippsland MU and Caritas - Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life

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GIPPY NEWS - SPRING 2011



Theme for 2011 –

“Relationships not Rules”



FROM KARIN'S DESK:

Dear Friends,

I am writing this after attending church at Tarwin Lower, part of the Parish of Leongatha. It's a small out-centre, but is Christ's witness in that place. The readings centred on change and justice – especially Matthew 15: 10-28, just right for our "Relationship not Rules" theme.

The first part of the reading focussed on the rules and regulations of the Pharisees and the response of Jesus to their concerns. The Pharisees had set up many rules imposing traditions and rituals on the way of life of the Israelites. One of these was the washing of hands. But Jesus said that we are defiled by what comes out of the mouth, not what goes in. One is purely physical; the other reveals the state of the person's heart in relation to god and others.

Then, the Canaanite woman didn't fit the "norm", either. Jesus had been sent to the lost sheep of Israel and she was a Gentile. The disciples wanted her sent away; they were impervious to her cry for help. The rules were... but Jesus began a conversation with her, a relationship. It could be said that they had a mini-theological debate. The woman showed insight and faith; Jesus changed, granted her request, and so relationship triumphed over "rules".

What does this mean for us? There are many issues demanding our attention: asylum seekers, same-sex marriage, challenges to school chaplaincy and Christian RE in state schools, the economic situation and more. Let's be prepared to have a conversation: let's listen, rather than jump up and down because we think it's "against the rules". Is this compromise? I don't think so; Jesus was big on conversing.

Our society has changed and we need to come with new ways of doing things, too. We can be fearful of change, or we can go forward in hope (and we have the "hope-maker" with us!) Bishop John is encouraging the church in Gippsland to be welcoming and inclusive. MU is part of that. What is your response?

Many Blessings,

Karin



MU Gippsland Quiet Day

Saturday October 15th

St Peter's, Leongatha

10.30am – 2.30pm

Leader: Rev Janet Wallis

Everyone welcome

*Some details to think, discuss and pray about –
taken from Asylum Seeker Resource Centre,
www.asrc.org.au*

- * **Myth:** Asylum seekers are illegal immigrants. **FACT:** Asylum seekers are neither 'illegal' nor are they immigrants. Immigrants leave by choice and can return at any time. Asylum seekers are forced to leave and cannot return for fear of persecution— such as torture, imprisonment and execution.
- * **Myth :** More people are seeking asylum by boat because the Labor Party is soft on asylum seekers . **FACT :** As a percentage of our overall immigration intake, Australia accepts fewer refugees and humanitarian entrants under the Gillard Government than we did under Howard. Refugees made up 7.6% of the total immigration program under Howard, compared with 6.6% under Gillard—this is the lowest percentage since 1975. **FACT:** The number of boat arrivals can be mostly attributed to 'push factors' in home countries. Civil war, political unrest and international conflict, among other factors, drive asylum seekers from their homes. This is evidenced by the correlation between the number of boat arrivals in Australia and global trends. ¹



- * **Myth:** Children are no longer in immigration detention. **FACT:** Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Immigration Chris Bowen announced, in October 2010, that they would begin moving children and families out of detention, with the aim of placing most of them in the community by June 2011. **FACT:** As of 14 January 2011, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship reports that there are 1065 children in immigration detention including at least 465 who are unaccompanied children. ² Despite the policy shift, we are still waiting for children and families to be released from detention.

“It is heartbreaking for children who are seeking protection to feel that ‘in Afghanistan, I am free but not safe. In Australia, I am safe but not free’. We should ensure that those seeking protection in Australia are free and safe.”

¹ Crikey 'Push vs Pull – Asylum Seeker Numbers and Statistics,'

² Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 'Immigration Detention Statistics Summary,' <http://www.immi.gov.au/managing-australias-borders/detention/facilities/statistics/>, 14 January 2011.p://blogs.crikey.com.au/pollytics/2009/10/19/push-vs-pull-asylum-seeker-numbers-and-statistics/, 19 October 2009.

Linked Dioceses

MU Salisbury is our link in the U.K.



This beautiful banner of Mother's Union in the Diocese of Salisbury is quilted in hues of cream, gold and blue. See it in colour on their website:
www.salisburymu.org.

Below are some photos of Salisbury Cathedral taken off a post card sent to Karin by her neighbour, Jeanne during her trip to England in June. Marion is our Links Secretary and corresponds with Salisbury MU regularly.



Salisbury Cathedral



Did you know.....

- ♥ *That in July, 2 families (3 adults and 6 children), along with our MU Host family (Thelma, Lauren and Kaycie) spent time at Raymond Island, courtesy of your donations to the St Barnabas Family Retreat Fund. This was a special time for them all, despite it being the wettest week and power failures that called for some ingenuity! This is truly MU in action. Please continue to support this fund.*
- ♥ *Bishop Len Eacott, Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force approached the Australian Prayer & Spirituality Co-ordinator, Bronwyn Fryar, requesting if MU would take on a prayer ministry with the Service Chaplains & Defence personnel. Your Branch President should have a copy of the ADF Prayer diary, ask Rev Thelma Langshaw for a copy or please visit http://www.mu.org.au/prayer_ADFdiary_2011.pdf. Praying for the Anglican Defence Force Chaplains is a great acknowledgement of MU's prayer life.*
- ♥ *For those of us with limited vision Mia Mia is available on a CD. If you know someone who would like to receive Mia Mia in this form, please let Jan know.*
- ♥ *MU Sydney have addressed the problem of introducing prayer when visiting someone in hospital by producing a series of cards with a Bible verse, short reflection and a prayer on the inside, and a colour picture on the front. The back of the card contains information about MU along with contact details. (Sorry you cannot see the beautiful colours. They are on The MU Sydney website)*



Right: Juliet proudly displays Wonthaggi – Inverloch MU’s beautiful new banner, dedicated in time for Lady Day, 2011.

Below: Is a group of banners known as a bevy of banners? Some on display at Lady Day, 2011.



Morwell MU and Caritas celebrated 60 and 50 year birthdays earlier this year - What marvellous achievements! Pictured above is a group photo while at left are Marj, Mollie and Gill -3 Foundation members – cutting the celebration cake! What faithful members they have been.

MU Australia has a “Disaster Fund” which assists in disaster relief and from which Gippsland has received donations in the past, following floods and fires. Donations have been made this year to Dioceses who have experienced huge damage from cyclones and floods, and where the toll on family life has been enormous.

As you are all aware, Bendigo, one of our own link Dioceses, has been affected very badly with flooding this year, with damage to church buildings, homes and property that insurances either don't pay or cover fully. MU members in Bendigo have done a great deal of work in reaching out to those affected and have received some funds from the Disaster Fund to help them progress with their initiatives.



Below is an excerpt from our Australian President, Libby Crossman's (pictured left) September “President's Prattle”, which tells you just how much this work of MU is appreciated, and why we need to continue supporting it.

Today I received an email from Ronda Gault, President, Bendigo Diocese, telling of the joy of members when they have reached out, with help from the Disaster Relief fund, in part she says, *“just to let you know that we have had two of our Pleasure & Leisure trips to Bendigo so far from Charlton and Carisbrook/Dunolly, with one from Kerang to come on Sept 13. So far we have been able, with the help of AC to bring 69 people to Bendigo to see the 'White Wedding Dress' Exhibition at Bendigo Gallery... And then we have taken them to lunch at the Golden Square Hotel ...a lovely meal...We have given each guest a 'goody bag' with mainly MU mags and information, sweets etc and also Myer Bendigo have supported us as well with items to go in the bags plus several larger utility bags for each group for which we have a 'lucky draw'. We are well over budget but the response has been quite moving and after the first two we MU people were 'on a high' so I am sure the next one will be just as good.”*

Another example of MU in Action!

The Ministry of the Intercessory Prayer Circle (Taken from MU website)



In England, about 1920, Mrs Edith Mosse began what we now know as the Intercessory Prayer Circle (IPC). She was an invalid who found strength in praying for others, and so encouraged others who were frail and sick to join her. These members pray regularly for each other, for the needs of the world and for the work of MU Australia. They are now joined in the IPC by the Friends of IPC or Prayer Partners, and increasingly by a faithful number of ordinary MU and Caritas members. MU visitors in hospitals and nursing homes often leave an IPC leaflet when they visit.

IPC leaflets

To help in this, the IPC leaflets are prepared three times a year (Easter, Christmas & Mid Year) to provide a daily prayer focus for personal devotion.

All dioceses order leaflets from the Australian Coordinator for distribution. These are kept at a minimal cost and are usually paid for from diocesan funds. They are printed in two sizes — the larger one being helpful to those with failing eyesight. We are updating our list- please let Ann know if you wish to order leaflets.

IPC in action

The IPC ministry provides us with a wonderful opportunity for outreach — to share the love of Christ.

Through visiting— IPC members who are elderly and often frail love to be visited by branch members in their homes, retirement villages or nursing homes, providing a time to chat, to listen and perhaps, to pray.

Through prayer— Praying for the IPC members at branch meetings or at times of private prayer.

Through correspondence— IPC members, especially those who may be housebound, love to hear news of friends, MU and special events in a regular letter. Birthday, Christmas & Easter cards can also bring great joy.

Through practical help— Sometimes IPC members are able to continue to live in their own homes if a little practical help is offered.

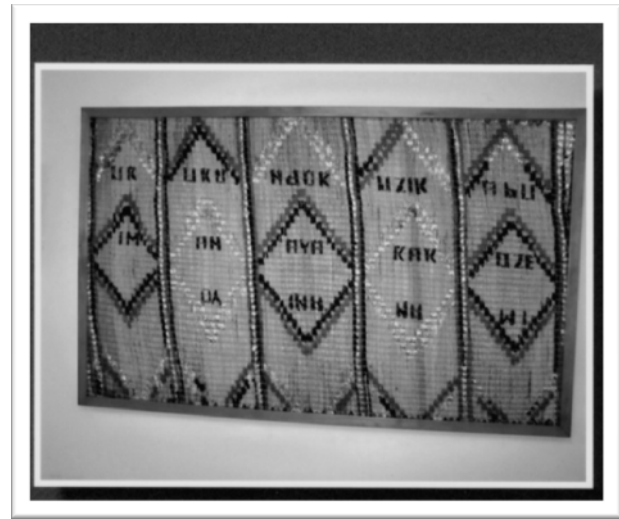
Through appreciation— Let them know how much we appreciate their prayers for MU Australia and the community in general. Encourage them in their praying—it may be all they can now do.

On St Luke's Day (18 October) IPC members often make a special effort to receive Holy Communion either at church or in their homes.

BRANCH NEWS – COWES MU



Cowes Branch members enjoy fellowship at their May meeting.



At the Cowes branch meeting in May, Gwen spoke about her visit to Mhingo in the Diocese of Gahini, Rwanda. Mhingo is Cowes MU link parish.

Gwen told about the wonderful work MU does there, especially regarding programs to increase AIDS awareness, micro-finance projects and parenting assistance.

Cowes Parish has an embroidered wall hanging (top right) from Mhingo, which says:

“GOD IS THE ONE WHO DID ALL THIS

GOD IS LOVE, THE WAY OF LIFE”



Gwen Peterson