

1. GLOBALISATION

Globalisation has been, and still is, the topic of great concern for many people around the world. What effect then has this had, and what effect is this now having on the lives of people, their cultures and customs, and their economies?

Globalisation has caused the world to become a smaller place, as countries and their economics become more and more interconnected. It has also led to increase in media communication to and from all countries of the world, most especially when deadly natural disasters happen or man made tragedies are inflicted upon others. When events such as these happen, the media brings the news to us into our homes via either by television, radio, internet or newspaper.

As our world become smaller through better access of information, there is also a very tragic component in this development. In many third world countries, our Western Materialism has infiltrated into many of their economies often with tragic results. For example, in some poorer African and South American countries, many people like to be seen with the latest technology, such as mobile phones which they cannot afford.

Other concerns are about the reports that governments of other countries that have allowed western based consortiums to grow grain crops to be for the production of ethanol on precious crop land. Because of an impoverished living standard, these people owe their very existence to these crops .When the land is used for the cultivation of crops for the production of ethanol, it is done at the expense of food for the indigenous people, their housing, and their health and well being.

It is little wonder that these third world countries are bearing a striking resemblance to western culture practices, when local Governments have not been given the opportunity to negotiate with western government representatives to enable them to produce favorable outcomes for the customs and cultures of that country.

2.

There is much need in the world as a result of the collapse of world economies and this fact issues a challenge for all of us as well as for our world-wide Mothers Union Organisation . It has caused us to re-think our value system which always results in the outcome that people are more important than material things. This is why the MU organization is working in many countries all over the world to lift people out of dire poverty to give them hope for a better quality of life.

SOUTH KOREA (pop.48.2 million)

Religions: Buddhist 25% .Protestant 32%..Roman Catholic 8%.. Confucian 1%

There are 500 Mothers Union members spread over three Dioceses:

PUSAN SEOUL TAEJON. Members are involved in prayer and Bible study meetings, Educational programmes for voluntary Hospice workers, parish-based evangelism, support for orphanages, and helping prisoners without support. Members are also involved in the Anglican Food Bank program, reaching out to the homeless, and the poor in their communities.

The focus here is on the growing number of young people who have no support whatsoever. Members supply much of the food for the programme.

They go out into the streets to distribute the food to the homeless.

UGANDA (Pop. 30.9 million)

According to the census 2002, approximately 84% of the population is Christian.

Other denominations: Islam 12%..

Mothers Union Members..117,500.

Mothers Union Family Life Programme Climbs To Dizzy Heights.

No one could have imagined the impact this has on people's lives.

In 8 of the 31 dioceses in Uganda, 10,200 beneficiaries are currently working through 341 facilitators.

The programme is initiated, facilitated, and locally owned within each community. This allows prioritization and relevant development in areas identified by the people themselves.

3.

Janet Kitany Women's Group

Sebei writes; "Before F.L.P we had no toilet, vegetable garden or rubbish tip, and our stove was not efficient. We would throw rubbish everywhere in our compound; didn't boil water and didn't manage our banana plants well.

The F.L.P. gave us knowledge and skills to improve our sanitation.

We now have good latrines; we boil our water; we grow our vegetables and bananas. We have 50 chickens and 10 cocks. We plant coffee we now and have a merry-go-round with savings of 150,000 Ugandan shillings. I have learnt a lot about Love and unity."

MU is working at the grass roots level in countries where people are poorer than poor, often living a life surrounded by violence due to civil wars.

PSALM 83

Here Israel is encircled by a very unholy alliance by those who want to attack her. In this Psalm, the Psalmist sees not just the physical danger, but the challenge they present to the very authority of God.

In verses 4, 16, and 18, he prays for victory so that God's name and fame may be known throughout the world. Then in verses 5 to 9, there is reference to threats to Israel from foe and the larger empires, as well as hostility from neighbors who also sought her destruction.

The reality of the tremendous amount of violence in today's world is hardly less evident in the palmist's era. In verses 13 to 18, the Psalmist's main concern is that God's judgment is Sovereign over all. We can pray this psalm not only for ourselves, but for Christians in Korea, Uganda and elsewhere who are under physical attack, in the knowledge that God is Sovereign in all the world.

God is at work in the world and we pray also in the knowledge that His purposes are worked out, and that His saving power is to be made known through the name of his Son, Lord Jesus Christ.