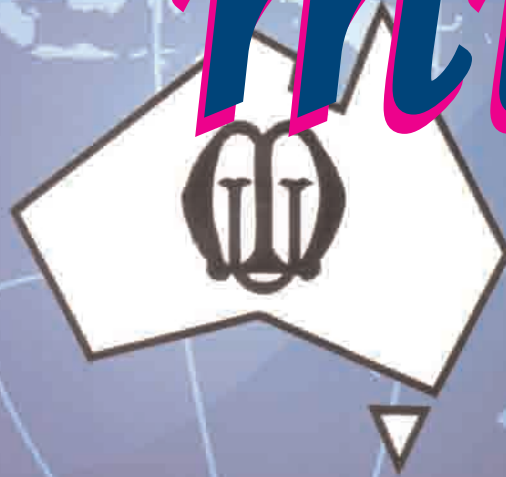




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The Magazine of MU Australia
Sharing Christ's love by
encouraging, strengthening
and supporting
marriage and family life

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Winter
2011

Wave of Prayer

THESE NOTES ENABLE US ALL TO PRAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IN THE MOTHERS' UNION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE DIOCESES ARE FOLLOWED BY THE NAME OF THE PROVINCE OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION TO WHICH THEY BELONG.

JULY

1- 5

Canberra and Goulburn – *Australia*
On the Coast – *Nigeria*
Kindu – *The Democratic Republic of the Congo*
Lake Malawi and Southern Malawi – *Central Africa*
Ezo, Torit – *Sudan*
Rochester – *Canterbury*

6-10

Armidale, Grafton – *Australia*
Lusaka – *Central Zambia*
Christ the King – *Southern Africa*
Akoko – *Nigeria*
St Albans – *Canterbury*

11-15

Newcastle, Riverina – *Australia*
Mbale, Bukedi, North Mbale – *Uganda*
St Asaph – *Wales*

16-20

Melbourne, Wangaratta – *Australia*
Grahamstown – *South Africa*
Egbu – *Nigeria*
Kinkizi – *Uganda*
Bondo – *Kenya*
Cueibet – *Sudan*
St David's – *Wales*

21-25

Ballarat – *Australia*
Kirinyaga, Mt Kenya Central, Mt Kenya South, Mt Kenya West, Thika – *Kenya*
Windward Islands – *West Indies*
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich – *Canterbury*

26-31

Bendigo, Gippsland – *Australia*
Nakuru – *Kenya*
Rumbek, Khartoum, Bor, Wau, Mundri, Kadugli, Nuba Mountains – *Sudan*
Salisbury – *Canterbury*

AUGUST

1- 5

Brisbane – *Australia*
West Buganda – *Uganda*
Maseno North, Nambale – *Kenya*
Nnewi – *Nigeria*
Sheffield – *York*

6-10

Rockhampton – *Australia*
Lweru, – *Tanzania*
Trinidad & Tobago – *West Indies*
Ekiti West, Akure – *Nigeria*
Sodor and Man – *York*

11-15

Niger Delta North, Aba, Calabar, Uyo – *Nigeria*
Butere – *Kenya*
Northern Territory – *Australia*
Southwark – *Canterbury*

16-20

Dogura – *Papua New Guinea*
North Queensland – *Australia*
Victoria Nyanza, Kagera, Shinyanga – *Tanzania*
Gusau – *Nigeria*
Southwell & Nottingham – *York*

21-25

Perth, Bunbury – *Australia*
Mombasa, Nairobi, Machakos, Kitui – *Kenya*
Swansea and Brecon – *Wales*

26-31

Nelson – *New Zealand & Polynesia*
Barbados – *West Indies*
Katanga, Kinshasa – *The Democratic Republic of the Congo*
Ijebu North, Nigeria
Truro – *Canterbury*

SEPTEMBER

1- 5

Adelaide, The Murray, Willochra – *Australia*
Soroti, Karamoja, Kumi – *Uganda*
Tamale – *West Africa*
Wakefield – *York*

6-10

North West Australia – *Australia*
Ankole, North Ankole, Kigezi, North Kigezi – *Uganda*
Minna, Ideato – *Nigeria*
Central Solomons – *Melanesia*
Peru – *Southern Cone*
The Arctic – *Canada*
Worcester – *Canterbury*

11-15

Central Zimbabwe – *Central Africa*
Tasmania – *Australia*
Ottawa, Brandon, Caledonia – *Canada*
Ibadan South – *Nigeria*
Armagh – *Ireland*

16-20

Christchurch – *New Zealand*
Kurmasi, Accra – *West Africa*
Western Tanganyika, Tabora – *Tanzania*
Dublin and Glendalough – *Ireland*

21-25

Auckland, Waikato – *New Zealand*
Central Tanganyika, Morogoro, Ruaha – *Tanzania*
Meath and Kildare – *Ireland*

26-30

Wellington – *New Zealand*
Ilesa – *Nigeria*
Cape Coast – *West Africa*
Masvingo – *Zimbabwe*
Clogher – *Ireland*

Thank you Lord, for the vision and calling shared by Mothers' Union members which unite us in fellowship across many varied cultures and traditions.

mia mia

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MIA MIA is an aboriginal word for 'home',
and also stands for Mothers in Australia.

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Regulars

2 Wave of Prayer

5 President's letter

9 Bronwyn Fryar

13 Wendy Mayer

15 Doreen Hall

18 Buspa's column

19 Reviews and resources

21 Jan Misiurka

23 Beverley Ovens

25 Recipes for success

26 Around the Dioceses

31 The Last Word



5



9



13



23

Alpine Laser is made from elemental chlorine free pulp derived from sustainable plantation forests. It is manufactured by an ISO 14001 certified mill

Contents

Features

Recent items of interest from ANCS

Page 4

Vale, Audrey Rayner
Dr Chris Rayner

Page 6



7

The summer of national disasters

Water, water, everywhere

Page 7

Isabel Farlow

A journey of pastoral care

Page 8



8

GFS & MU together in Papua New Guinea

Val Gribble

Page 10

Challenge, change - relationships

Jenny Rainsford

Page 11



10

A tribute to Noel Higgins

Noela Oswin OAM

Page 12

Children and advertising

Sharon Kirk

Page 14



16

Journeying among others

Dr Robin Ray

Page 16

The worldwide President learns about Australia

Gillian Whittle

Page 20



20

Leading groups in the 21st century

Glenda McSorley

Page 22



24

Lady Day around the dioceses

Page 24

Cover photo
Our new promotional poster

Items of interest from the Anglican Community News Service

A new initiative from Canterbury...Faith leaders, international aid agencies stand with the church against sexual violence.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has welcomed senior church leaders and international development agencies at Lambeth Palace to pledge that the church will play a part in ending sexual violence and to launch a Tearfund report 'Silent No More'.

In speaking about how the church can help end sexual violence and stigma, Dr Rowan Williams said: 'It is of the first importance that churches and all communities of faith continue to hold before the world's eyes the absolute priority for justice and dignity for all. We need to equip people to become agents of change and agents of hope. I hope this is the beginning of the church being what it ought to be and should be.'

He was joined on the panel by the Executive Director of UNAIDS who commented, 'People forced into sex are automatically denied the means to protect themselves against HIV. Women and girls are most affected and are most vulnerable to HIV. UNAIDS will work closely with faith based organisations to ensure the dignity and protection of women and girls.'

Speaking alongside Dr Williams was the Archbishop of the Democratic Republic of Congo the Most Rev'd Henri Isingoma and his wife Mme Mugisa, and the Archbishop of Burundi the Most Rev'd Bernard Ntahoturi.

Lyn Lusi, co-founder of HEAL Africa, a Tearfund partner, works with the local church to enable them to better support those affected by sexual violence. Lyn commented: 'Attitudes to women need to change if a woman's lot is to get better. The challenge for us and the church is to follow the example of William Wilberforce in making the change for justice for men and women. It's about partnership as God intended, and understanding one another's roles. The church needs to be a model for this partnership.'

The report, 'Silent No More', launched by Tearfund highlights the largely untapped potential of the church in preventing and reducing the impact of sexual violence. The report documents that whilst many churches have deepened the impact of sexual violence through silence, worldwide churches have the potential to respond as they are a key part of community life.

To sign the commitment or download the report 'Silent No More' please visit:

www.wewillspeakout.org

People are our priority commented the Archbishop of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai (NSKK - The Anglican Communion in Japan), The Most Rev'd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu.

The earthquake on the 11th March and the tsunami, which hit Japan immediately after the earthquake, reached a huge area from Hokkaido to Kanto.

'We Japanese are accustomed to earthquakes and tsunamis, however no one could have imagined that such a major earthquake or tsunami could have happened', the Archbishop said. 'Because the destruction was so significant, there are many areas where the basic infrastructure such as electricity and water supply has not yet been restored. Food, water, petrol and medical supplies have not reached the affected people.' The Archbishop commented that in Tohoku Diocese, all the church can do at this time is work out the extent of the damage to church buildings and other facilities such as kindergartens, nurseries, etc., and confirm the safety of its parishioners. 'In the future, once the extent of the damage to churches and other facilities becomes clear' he said, 'I anticipate that volunteers from other Anglican dioceses across Japan will travel to Tohoku to help with relief and rehabilitation activities.'

Churches in Tohoku Diocese and also some churches in Kita Kanto Diocese have sustained damage to their buildings and facilities and many of the houses belonging to parishioners were damaged. Staff of the Tohoku Earthquake Relief & Rehabilitation Task Force HQ at the Provincial office and of the relief centre in Tohoku Diocese consider the people affected by the disaster to be the church's priority. The relief and rescue phase will soon end, but the restoration phase will go on for a long time. As the NSKK (Anglican Communion) and particularly as the Tohoku Diocese, we believe that it is during this second phase when God will most use us to do his work. NSKK is a small Church. Tohoku Diocese is a small diocese within that small Church. So we know that what we can do is limited. We recognise it will be necessary to work with others outside of the Anglican Church and outside of religious organisations. We will need to partner with ecumenical partners, the government, private organisations, and non-profit organisations and non-governmental organisations in order to do this relief and restoration work.

Finally, I would like to express my utmost gratitude for the prayers and warm words which were sent to me from everybody. I would like you to continue to pray for the ongoing relief and restoration work.'

From our President, Libbie

What can we do?

This question was posed to the rector of a very busy, active parish, when a MU member was probably feeling that with advancing years, there was not much she could do. His response went to the heart of MU. He told her it was not what she and members did, but who they were, that was important in the life of the parish. A reading of annual reports of branches, deaneries and dioceses makes an incredible record of the work of Mothers' Union around the world. Our work covers large literacy and health programs in developing countries which would not be able to be provided except for the contribution MU members in Australia and other developed countries make. In branches and as individuals we do very small things, making palm crosses being just one example that springs to mind, that contributes to the life and health of our churches and communities. In between these activities are a myriad other things that often go unnoticed and unrecognised.

Archdeacon Matthew Jones, rector of Ipswich in Queensland was the priest I referred to above, and he likened MU branches to the base of a bed. At the diocesan AGM he likened MU members to bed bases that are often hidden under fancy, pretty or even functional covers and we don't often take note that they are there, but life is certainly uncomfortable without them. MU members with an active prayer and worship life uphold and sustain the life of a community. I wonder how often we as members reflect on our third object, 'To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.' It is placed at the centre of our objects and the others surround and build out from it. We need also to note that service is placed at the end. It is only when we have prayed and worshipped God that we then reach out in service. And for some of our members their service is prayer. To be able to spend the time in intercessory prayer is a gift that busy people are not given, and to know that we are constantly prayed for is the bed base that keeps us going.

A life which includes a structured time of prayer and worship will make us the people God would have us BE. It is our being that will bring us closer to God and it will be our BEing that will bring those with whom we come in contact closer to God. When we are in communion with God our lives will reflect it. It will be as if people see through the fancy coverings with which we clothe ourselves and will in some way be able to discern the God within who dwells.

When the new Australian Executive met recently we began with prayer, worship and bible study. Prayer, worship and reflection time flowed through our meeting together. It is

my prayer and hope that as we move into this new triennium with MU Australia and seek to discern where God is leading us as an organisation that we will also move surrounded and imbedded in a life of prayer so that all will be known by who we are rather than what we do.

May God bless who you are in his name,



The AC Executive at Santa Teresa

MU Lenten Reflection

Lord God,
come with your living presence.
Help us own exactly who we are
and celebrate and weep with us.
We thank you for all your blessings,
for memories of home and family,
and of coming together
to pray for peace now and always.
We thank you too,
for love and continuing guidance
as you help us be considerate of others.
We thank you as well,
for strength through prayer
in the good times and the bad,
and for always looking over us.
Dear God, we trust you enough
to be honest with you,
give us the strength and insight
to know our weaknesses.
and to repent of our sins.
When we are tempted,
we pray for your forgiveness,
for without sin,
there would be no cross.
Come to us in the wilderness of our lives.
Give us love and encouragement,
humility and guidance,
that we might grown to be better servants in your
world.
Through the name of Jesus we pray.
Amen

*Written by participants at the Wakefield Area Quiet Day
at Holy Trinity, Riverton SA. 7th March 2011*

Vale Audrey Rayner 21/9/28 - 21/2/11

Excerpts from her eulogy read by Dr Chris Rayner

Audrey was born in September 1928, as the second youngest of six children to Edward and Evelyn Fletcher. She grew up on a dairy farm at Rosehill near Warwick in Queensland where the family attended St Mark's Church of England. The family moved to Eight Mile Plains in Brisbane, where she attended the State Commercial High School and worked for a small wholesale firm. She gained her accountancy qualifications at night school and was appointed to the role of Accountant in the diocesan office in Brisbane in 1951.

It was there that she came to know a young clergyman called Keith Rayner. Their contact increased when Keith became priest at Sunnybank, then a new suburb in the outskirts of Brisbane, that included the little church at Eight Mile Plains.

Impressed by Audrey's skills at running the Sunday school and Girls' Friendly Society, Keith invited her to lead the thriving Young Anglican Fellowship in the parish.

Audrey and Keith conducted their courtship with great discretion but matters were brought to a head in 1963, when the Archbishop offered Keith the seaside parish of Wynnum. They were married in November 1963 at St Barnabas' Church, Sunnybank, and settled into family life in Wynnum.

The family moved to Wangaratta in north-eastern Victoria in 1969, when Keith was elected bishop. Audrey was responsible for running the home, which was now a beautiful two storey Bishop's Lodge of the federation era. The family moved to Adelaide in 1975, when Keith became Archbishop, taking up residence in Bishop's Court, North Adelaide. Audrey was now called on to cater for many social occasions, ensuring that all the clergy of the diocese and their partners were invited to Bishop's Court in a regular cycle of buffet dinners, and welcoming many notable house guests over the years, including several Archbishops of Canterbury, and Desmond Tutu. In 1990, Audrey and Keith moved to Melbourne, when Keith was elected Archbishop.

With retirement at the end of 1999, Audrey and Keith returned to Adelaide, establishing their home in St Georges. She and Keith joined the local parish of St Saviour's, Glen Osmond, and although now free to be 'just a parishioner', she continued until her final illness to serve as President of her local MU branch.

The Mothers' Union was a cause that was particularly close to Audrey's heart and one whose values she personified – to uphold and promote Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage, and to encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church, within a stable family home. Audrey joined the Mothers' Union in the first years of the life of her young family in Wynnum, and went on to serve as Diocesan President in Adelaide from 1982-1987 and Diocesan Treasurer from 1988-1990. She also held the position of MU Australia Vice-President from 1986-1992.

At the beginning of the Requiem Mass to celebrate Audrey's life, which was held at St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide on the 25th February, 2011, six symbols were placed near her coffin. They were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| A candle | to represent light immortal |
| Water | to represent the waters of Baptism |
| The Scriptures | to represent the Word of God |
| The Cross | to represent forgiveness of Sin. |
| MU diocesan Life Vice President Badge | Her witness to the values of Christian marriage and family life |
| A towel | Her joy to serve others. |



THE BRISBANE DIOCESE MEMORIAL FUND

This fund was established in 1991 from a bequest and a generous donation from a member in memory of her mother. The bequest stated that the money was to be used for MU work pertaining to the five objects.

Donations in memory of deceased members are deposited in this fund. The fund money is invested. Amounts are listed in each year's annual Financial Report in the AGM booklet. Since 2006, \$7,400 has been used from the Memorial Fund to provide nine bursaries for the Clinical Pastoral Course undertaken by all persons studying for the Priesthood - thus fulfilling the Aim of MU.

At last October's Australia Council Meeting a motion was passed to establish an Endowment Fund for MU Australia, again with the object of using bequests to further the aims of the organisation. A bequest brochure will soon be available.

The summer of natural disasters

Water, water everywhere...

In Victoria, nature threw a challenge at us, at first at a distance and then right on our doorsteps. Flood warnings seemed out of place as it had been dry for so long and we were more alert to bushfires. We watched the horrors unfold in Queensland and prayed for those in trouble.

But then it began. Here was a challenge...What do we take? What can we take? What should we take? And for some, how can we take it? – And even where are we going to take it? The sudden dislocation – for how long? Where to? Who will help? And even more challenging – what changes will we find when we do get back home? How will we deal with it? Many of our members and friends have confronted these experiences this year and at the time of writing, some are still waiting and watching. Those of us unscathed are planning ways we can help.

Through dealing with the floods, new relationships have been created, with service organisations and agencies, neighbours and strangers, and strengthened with family and friends. But what of our relationship with God in all this? Whether as an observer looking on, or as someone involved, have we paused to hear the voice of God helping us deal with the situation, guiding us as we seek to help, bringing comfort in the desolation and helping to find the words to bring comfort. I do not yet know how many MU/Caritas members and their families have been affected but there are bound to be some. We will find them and ask them what their needs are and which needs MU can address, and in the meantime hold them in prayer.

Ronda Gault, Bendigo Diocesan President



Anne, Ronda, Joy and Kaylene in the Carisbrooke church which was badly damaged

MU VISITS CARISBROOK. Five weeks after the floods, Anne Kennedy, Joy Venville and Kaylene and Ian Vlasveld travelled to Maryborough to deliver a boot load of new clothes which had been given for the flood victims. They met Ronda Gault, Bendigo Diocesan

President at the Anglican Church in Carisbrook which had suffered massive damage during the floods. They spoke to a lady who related how she had 10 minutes notice to evacuate and only took her keys! The flood waters were 18 inches deep inside her house and the pillows on her bed floated to the kitchen. The clothes dryer, with clothes in, it filled with the dirty water. Her request was for a sewing kit so she could sew on a button! The brown muddy water and sewerage which entered homes via the showers and toilets made such a mess and has destabilised a lot of homes. People are in need of all kinds of help and because the floodwaters have caused an increase in the mosquito population which now raises the risk of serious mosquito-borne diseases, they are desperate for good mosquito repellent.



Holy Trinity church, Ingham, Nth Qld cleanup

In North Queensland we pray for all those who have been affected by the disasters of 2011. Before I begin a description of our Diocese, the cyclone and subsequent drenching we have experienced, we acknowledge the states, communities, towns and people in other parts of Australia, New Zealand and Japan who have been traumatised and devastated by the disasters which have occurred around our land and globe.

Unlike those in the path of a cyclone where we do have frequent warnings and updated information, I also acknowledge that the speed of some of the disasters did not allow victims to be prepared in the same way as us. Those frequent updates urged us to be prepared and take action. We had automatic phone and text messages, action plans and disaster centres. Jesus urges his people to be prepared and by the grace of God we came through Cyclone Yasi by being prepared.

Yasi the history maker. Cyclone Yasi will be recorded in history as the strongest cyclone to hit Queensland since the beginning of records. The tidal surge which was whipped up was considered to be a 1 in 500 year occurrence, as evidenced at beach communities such as Tully Heads and Cardwell. Even as I write this message our Diocese is still receiving flooding rains.

Through all this, communities have drawn together, new mates and friendships born and the rebuilding will make our towns more resilient places to live in.

Penny Douglas, North Queensland Diocesan President

Isabel Farlow - A journey of pastoral care

Isabel was born in Lismore but grew up on the Clarence River. In 1952, while they were both members of the Youth Fellowship at Maclean, Isabel met Eric whom she married July 1952. They have been blessed with four children, Glenda, Rhonda and Jan, and Steven; 9 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild - all so very special.

Isabel began her journey of pastoral care and leadership by becoming Sunday School superintendent and teacher at St James' Church, Maclean. While working in this role, the Sunday School grew from 13 to 105. For three years, Isabel was also involved in religious instruction with senior girls at Maclean primary school.

Within the Church community, Isabel was actively engaged in pastoral care through her roles of treasurer of Women's Guild and her assistance with catering and Meals on Wheels.

Isabel had been a member of Young Wives for some time when in April 1960 she attended her first meeting of Mothers' Union, the first step on a very special fifty year journey. In December 1960, in St James' Church Maclean, Isabel formalised her commitment to Mothers' Union.

When the family moved to Wyoming on the Central Coast, Isabel joined Christ Church, Gosford branch of MU and twice served as branch president. Throughout her years in many roles, a special interest has been mentoring young members. In 1981 Isabel formed a new branch at Holy Family, Wyoming and became the foundation secretary/treasurer.

Her general church work continued during her time at Wyoming. She was Central Coast Deanery Leader on the Diocese of Newcastle Executive with happy times spent working with Elizabeth Appleby. Also during this period Isabel formed a GFS group with a membership of 25 girls.

In 1990 Isabel and Eric moved to Alstonville. Here she became a member in the existing MU branch, in which she has held the positions of treasurer, vice president and president and continues today as president of that Branch.

Isabel's leadership roles increased as she became MU Diocesan President (and also Treasurer) in the Grafton Diocese. In this capacity she attended the Australia Council, first in 1997 and then on several more occasions. She also attended all meetings in the Northern and Southern Zones and took on the role of Northern Zone secretary/treasurer.

After being Diocesan President, Isabel then became NSW State President of MU and held this position for three years during which time she coordinated the State Conference held in Grafton Diocese.

Looking back over her years in MU one of the most wonderful occasions was her visit to England to attend the world wide Council 1998. Isabel attended as MU President of Grafton Diocese. The opening ceremony at Winchester Cathedral was attended by 2000 members. At the closing ceremony at York Minster, 10 days later,



Isabel Farlow standing centre with Eric, Noela Slade, Leila Matthews and Bob Eagles

with 4000 members in attendance, Isabel was one of those chosen, to be a Eucharistic Assistant.

Commitment to and leadership in MU, has also led her to attend every State Conference since 1979, travelling to Bathurst, Armidale, Gilbulla, Sydney, Canberra, Newcastle, Grafton and Mittagong. As well as these she also attended many Diocesan Conferences.

One of the very special activities that Isabel helped to bring into being is 'Play Place'. At the instigation of MU and with Isabel's encouragement, research was conducted into forming 'Play Place' at St Bartholomew's Church, Alstonville. This is a group for mothers and their infants and toddlers. It is run by members of St Bartholomew's and is a wonderful example of pastoral care at work. Isabel has attended every week since its inception in 2001. She has welcomed many mothers and their children with love and enthusiasm.

A special presentation of Isabel's 50 year badge and certificate was made by Grafton Diocesan President Gae Shorten in a special segment at the Sunday Service in St Bartholomew's Church, Alstonville. Two other 50+ years' members, who had previously received their badges, were also acknowledged with Isabel, when all three were presented with beautiful posies made by another MU member.

As on any successful journey, Isabel says that she has been blessed by knowing so many people who have had an encouraging and special influence. These include Margot Sanders, Elizabeth Appleby, Jan Livingstone, Yvonne Phelps and retired Bishop George Browning.

During her 50 year journey in MU, many wonderful friendships have been formed all over the world and her summation of it all is that it has been a blessing and a privilege to serve. Her favourite saying is 'be still and know that I am God'.

What is the point of praying?

Bronwyn Fryar, Prayer & Spirituality Coordinator

After many years of praying I still often find prayer quite puzzling. I have no doubt of my need of it. I have no doubt of the experience of God coming to me through prayer. I have no doubt of how I need to bring to the loving arms of God those I love most and those I have concern for. Nevertheless I still ask myself the question : Why do I pray, what difference does it make?

We are faced every day with the world's overwhelming brokenness and our own vulnerability and frailty. Sometimes we are deeply touched by the photograph of one lonely child, or one parent's grief. It brings a human face to the tragedy of so many. There are powerful forces of evil at work in the world. We feel deeply outraged at the wounds that human beings inflict on one another and we feel deeply helpless to change the situation. The glib answers and religious platitudes do not help those in the midst of unimaginable sorrow, or bearing great burdens in life.

Writing after the Asian tsunami in 2004 Archbishop Rowan Williams reflects : *So why do religious believers pray for God's help or healing? They ask for God's action to come in to a situation and change it, yes; but if they are honest, they don't see prayer as a plea for magical solutions that will make the world totally safe for them and others.*

In giving us free will and creating the world and its natural processes and patterns it appears that God does not generally then intervene in the order that he set in place. Could we believe in a God who randomly chooses where tragedy will strike? This is not the God who revealed himself in Jesus who became truly human. The experience of prayer is that we are pruned, changed and shaped in our drawing towards God. In whatever we have to wrestle with nothing separates us from the heart of his love. In all of this our experience in prayer and belief is that God emerges as a faithful presence. Our call is to make the mercy of God real for others. Only because we can call our God, 'Abba', and pray to 'our Father' can we hope to bring this message to others. Perhaps prayer is baffling because in fact it is so simple and yet we try to make it so complicated. So why do we pray? We pray because we know we are incomplete until we encounter God. We pray

because we love others and want to act for them. Praying for people makes us more sensitive to what their deepest needs are and leads us to doing what we can for them.

Genuine intercession always has about it some of the costly identification of Calvary, where with Christ, we are helpless with the helpless and needy with the needy, and on their behalf we offer ourselves, our time, our energy, our concern, our love, acknowledging our total dependence on God and our humble waiting for him to respond to us in ways and at times of his own choosing.

Tom Smal 'The Search for a Theology'

In the journey with prayer, we come to see that in success and failure, tragedy and triumph our moments of despair and our moments of joy all we have to do is to turn simply to God, and say 'Hello, it is me. Just me.'



LIFE GOES ON BECAUSE HE LIVES

Day by day, in countless ways, people try to bury Jesus Christ under the cold stones of indifference or within the walls of institutions or to contain him in a creed, or to stab him to death with sin. But He always rises. He cannot be buried, smothered, contained, or stabbed. He always rises from the ashes of the fires of selfishness and carelessness. He is ever breaking forth with new life. The empty tomb tell us that life goes on because He lives. 'Because I live ye shall live also' (John 14:19) What a fantastic promise!

William A White

GFS and MU together in Papua New Guinea

Val Gribble, GFS Australia Ltd, Consultant to GFS PNG

It was again a pleasure to have Ros Sahhar, the Overseas and Northern Outreach Coordinator for Melbourne diocese travel to Papua New Guinea with five GFS members who were involved in children's ministry training in the dioceses of Port Moresby and Popondota. We spent ten days in PNG, five in each diocese and once again experienced the richness of the culture and the warmth of the people.



Ros with a mustard stick

Ros first visited with us in 2009 and had quickly observed the many needs of the church in both dioceses. Her parish had assisted Ros and her family to raise money for the purchase of laptops and printers for MU in both dioceses and for Rita Senini in Popondetta who works in Women's Ministry and is supported through ABM-A. So MU in Port Moresby welcomed Ros in traditional style to show their gratitude for her gift and they have grand plans for using their laptop to improve communication particularly in publishing a diocesan newsletter.

Popondota diocese is a much larger diocese with 49 parishes. Where else but in PNG would a dancing and drumming group come onto the tarmac to greet you as your plane lands. On her last visit Ros joined in with GFS village visits but this time MU had planned a very busy and often daunting program of village visits for her. While GFS were conducting their training, Ros was able to experience life in the villages, never easy for women

and to visit their gardens, their lifeblood. As always we experienced the very poor road system and the high cost of vehicle travel. All of this knowledge is invaluable in planning future work with members. Sometimes the needs of the people overwhelm us and we are always confronted with the lack of resources in schools.

Popondota diocese is still recovering from Guba, the cyclone which devastated the diocese in 2007. At the time of writing this article we are in the recovery phase of our disastrous floods and cyclone through the eastern states but in Oro province there was none of the support which we received and many people are still homeless. MU is working hard to support the villagers and



GFS group with Ros at Kokoda

Ros who is a talented seamstress has made stoles for the Bishop to give to the priests who had lost all their vestments in the floods.

Our final weekend in Port Moresby coincided with St Francis' Day and we celebrated with the congregation of St Francis', Koki Parish with Bishop Ramsden and Sue. This was a further opportunity for Ros to meet other MU members who are always so excited to greet and talk to members from Australia.

These visits have done much to open up communication with MU in two dioceses of PNG and Australia There is so much that both our organisations can do in PNG and I welcome any MU members who may like to join our annual visits.



Rita receiving her laptop computer

Challenge – change – relationships

Lady Day in Bendigo, Jenny Rainsford

Bendigo Diocese which has been experiencing all of the above over the past few months, is continuing with the above theme for both MU and Caritas in 2011.

With the floods in Victoria there have been many challenges and many opportunities for MU and Caritas members to show love and support in very practical ways to those in the flood affected areas of the diocese. We have helped to clear debris that has been swept into and around properties, churches, and homes. We have helped to stand up fences, to clean out homes, halls and churches, to work in garden areas helping to bring some sort of normality and sense of order again. We have opened Op Shops and offered the contents free of charge; distributed new clothing; offered hospitality in homes; provided meals; listened to the stories of those affected, and become encouragers. For many in the diocese the effect of the floods has made some dramatic changes in the lives and futures of families, both on farms and in towns, and also on many businesses. It has in some cases put extra stress on marriages. Ongoing help and encouragement will be needed for a long time. *'Give up, or go forward'* This was part of the challenge given by Bishop Andrew Curnow at the Lady Day celebration held at Holy Trinity SE Bendigo. These were the options facing Mary when the angel Gabriel announced to her that she was carrying a special child. This news must have been overwhelming – but she did not give up and neither should we.

During the Eucharist, the 50 years of membership of seven MU members was acknowledged. Included in the presentation was Elay Kunoo, a Karen grandmother who worships with her daughter, Sein as part of the Bendigo Cathedral parish. The family has come to Bendigo from a camp on the Thai-Burma border.



Presentation of 50 year membership scrolls

MU and Caritas members and friends were also pleased to welcome Joy Freier, wife of the Anglican Archbishop of Melbourne, as the afternoon speaker. Joy challenged all present to continue to build relationships by getting to know those who are from poorer countries and even trying to learn a few words of their language. She told of her recent visit to St Paul's Werribee in the Melbourne Diocese, where there is a Karen congregation with 150 children and a very large MU membership. 'We all have something to offer,' said Joy as she reminded everyone to take time to learn people's names, and to listen to their stories.

Remembrance was made during the morning Eucharist of nine members of MU who have died during the past year. These included Laurene Sherlock, 91 years of age, wife of the late Rev'd Robert Sherlock. Laurene was a former member of the Bendigo MU Diocesan Executive holding the position of MU Overseas Correspondent from 1986 to 1992.

CONGRATULATIONS

To MU members Jocelyn Ross (NWA President) and Joyce Hayman (a long-standing member in Sydney, on being awarded an OAM in the recent Australia Day Honours List. Joyce received hers for service to MU while Jocelyn received hers for service to the community particularly in teaching of the hearing impaired. Jocelyn's husband Bill also received an OAM.

If you know of other members who were honoured, could you pass on their names and addresses to Australia President Libbie Crossman so that she can formally acknowledge them. Libbie's email address is ppmuaustralia@telstra.com.

A tribute to Noel Higgins

Noela Oswin OAM

Members of St Mark's MU Buderim Branch were saddened to attend a Memorial Service for one of our most devoted and long serving members but we rejoiced that if there were any reserved seats in Heaven, surely her name would be on one of them.

Noel Mary Higgins was born on December 22nd 1919 and passed away on January 30th 2011, aged 92. After attending school at East Camberwell Girls' School and because so many men were away at the War, she worked in the advertising profession, enabling her to do her advertising degrees, the youngest person to do so in Australia. She met John, a fighter bomber pilot and they were married in 1944. After the War John went back into the advertising business and three children, one girl and two boys were born. Noel joined MU. Training with the wife of the Archbishop, Mrs Wood's weekly group for Speakers, resulted in her becoming a full time member of the Talks & Resources Department in Melbourne.

In 1968 Noel was asked to go to the South Pacific for 3 months joining a team sponsored by the Melbourne Diocese as part of their input into Mutual Responsibility International. During that time she was on staff for the MU Conference in Suva where chosen MU delegates came from the New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, Western Samoa, Tonga and the Fijian Islands for MU training. Members later visited those countries to help them to practice what they had learned. On return Noel was MU representative for the whole of Australia on the General Board of Religious Education, which met annually, and she was also involved with Christian Education and Marriage Guidance.

Noel and several other ladies did a lot of praying and managed to revive the branch

In 1977, Noel and John moved to Buderim, on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. St Mark's Branch MU was about to fold up through lack of interest but Noel and several other ladies did a lot of praying and managed to revive the Branch. Buderim is now one of the largest on the Coast and when it celebrated its 40th Birthday in 2009, Noel provided the design for the banner.

In 1980 MU Australia sponsored a month's European tour, taking in Oberammergau, a wonderful experience where members from all over Australia with a common interest were able to travel together. As Branch President, Noel introduced the first of a number



Noel almost always wore her hat

of visits to Kenilworth Homestead, on the Mary River, Qld. with the first of many Quiet Days being held there. After being welcomed by the owner Jenny Roe with a spiritual talk, morning tea would be served before a tour of the property. Jenny and her husband Jim had turned the property into a retreat for troubled people, with meditation at little sites that had been set up. After a picnic lunch, there would be a time for quiet contemplation then Jenny would give another of her inspirational talks. Members really appreciated the beauty and peace of their visits to Kenilworth Homestead.

At Christmas, Noel would organize a lunch with an overseas theme often with a speaker who had been a missionary or worker who was able to extend members' knowledge of church work in other countries.

Noel treasured her membership of MU and continued her active membership of the branch for as long as she was able. We were delighted to have her with us for a meeting at the end of 2010.

Noel and John celebrated 60 years of marriage in 2004. Sadly John passed away only a few years later and with increasing frailty Noel began to find life difficult. She was a resident of Buderim Views Nursing Home at the time of her passing. We will miss her cheerful smile, great knowledge and spiritual guidance. As we sang the final hymn at her Memorial Service, 'The Day Thou gavest Lord has ended', we all offered up the prayer, 'Well done Thou good and faithful Servant'.

Go and bear fruit

Wendy Mayer, Education Officer

I was washing my car the other day, something I don't do at all regularly, so it gave me some reflection time in a way I don't get very often.

The car reminded me of an experience I had a month or so ago, when I was in a parking lot, and the driver next to me lightly touched the door of my car with his as he opened his driver's door. He was devastated that his car might now have a mark on it and made quite a fuss.

To me, a car is a means of getting from place A to place B in the most convenient way. I like mine to be reasonably clean, but most importantly I want it to be reliable. A small mark or two on the outside doesn't worry me at all. For this man, his car was obviously much more important to him, and things that wouldn't even register with me would be very high on his priority list. I suspect he would wash his car more often than once every 6 months!

I recently attended the MU Australia Executive meeting at a Conference Centre south of Brisbane. There were 14 of us at the conference, all from different parts of Australia, and all with different MU backgrounds and different roles on Executive, so our priorities are all different too. But fortunately, unlike the man in the carpark and me, we all have a common vision 'Sharing Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening, and supporting marriage and family life.'

The theme for the Executive Conference was 'Go and bear fruit', based on John 15, the Vine and the Branches. In John 15 : 3 Jesus said 'I am the vine;

you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.'

To remain, or abide in Jesus we need to put our trust in him, believing that his way is the best way for us to live our lives, and we need to obey his commands, even when they aren't what we want to do. In John 15:12, Jesus says 'My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.' In John 13:35 Jesus said 'By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'



Wendy's car wash

The hallmark of a Christian should be the love we show for other Christians. Sadly, this is often not our experience, but we have the opportunity of putting this into practice in our MU branches. Let's make sure that we show love to each other through caring actions, as well as words. Keep in touch with members who can't get to meetings, make sure we are welcoming to newcomers, and to visiting speakers and encourage our clergy. Let's make sure people know us as disciples of Jesus through the way we love.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit;

I am putting 'The MU Guide on How to Treat a Speaker' on the MU Australia website. You may want to use it to make sure you are lovingly caring for your guest speakers by making sure their experience at your branch is a positive one.



The chapel at Santa Teresa Spirituality Centre, Ormiston, where the AC executive meeting was held

Children and advertising

What's happening to our kids? Sharon Kirk

Once upon a time children were just that. They were young, naive and free to enjoy the innocent pleasures of childhood; things such as play, imagination and creativity. Their sense of themselves developed gradually, and their awareness of sexuality came later in adolescence.

Today it seems that such innocence is being denied our children. The innocent pleasures of childhood are now tainted with a new message. As they are consistently bombarded with advertising and media which is geared towards physical beauty, sexuality, and pursuing relationships, young children, and girls in particular, are hearing a very powerful message about what they should value and aspire to.

This message is potentially dangerous to young and old minds alike, contributing to confusion, insecurity and low self esteem. The damage can be seen played out in relationship difficulties and dysfunctional behaviours such as anorexia, bulimia and addiction to pornography. None of us is immune, and neither are our children!

MU considers this issue one of great concern. It has been discussed at a national level both in Australia and England. In fact the Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union in the United Kingdom, Mr Reg Bailey, at the request of the British Government, is currently chairing an independent review of the commercialisation and sexualisation of childhood. This speaks volumes about the gravity and relevance of the topic.

In the Diocese of Armidale MU is undertaking a project to raise awareness of the early sexualisation of children in our culture. To this end MU is sponsoring 'Denied Innocence', a presentation compiled and delivered by

Wendy Smith, in association with Women's Forum Australia. In her presentation Wendy outlines where this message is coming from, what the dangers are, and what we can do about it.

MU Armidale is hoping to take this presentation to as many towns in the Diocese as possible, so that people have an opportunity to be aware, be informed,

and make a difference. So far there have been 5 opportunities to deliver the presentation, with over 100 people attending. The response is always similar: a new or renewed awareness and a desire to stand firm, resist and oppose the trends which threaten our children and their future lives.

From Wendy Smith: A survey of 6,000 Australian parents has revealed a deep concern about the impact of media and



Wendy Smith

technology on the wellbeing of their children. A recent Australian Government-funded study found that 96% of parents surveyed were particularly concerned about the content of television shows and instituted their own rules about what their children could and could not watch. The Annual Report - Growing up in Australia: the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children also found parents were concerned about how their children use the computer, with 94 % of parents having rules around computer usage. The study, commissioned by the Australian Government, follows 10,000 children over the course of their youth, and measures their physical, learning and cognitive development as well as their social and emotional functioning. The Annual Report includes findings from nearly 6,000 of the parents involved in the study. This report gives valuable insights into the everyday lives of families and helps the Government design policies and programs that will make a difference. One of the key responsibilities of all governments is ensuring children are healthy, safe and happy to give them the best start in life.

Despite the parents' concern for the content of media and technology 96% of 9 to 10 year old children surveyed have access to a computer at home. They reported using a computer for a variety of activities at least once a week, including homework (59%), playing DVDs (46 %), finding information not related to school (44%), playing games – not on internet (44%), and visiting social networking sites (11%). Furthermore, one in ten children, aged 9-10, surveyed had access to a mobile phone for their own use. With so much debate surrounding the use of technology and, in particular, the imposition of a mandatory internet filter, it's clear from this survey that the general community is inherently concerned about content on the internet.



The promotional poster

What does the Lord require of you? (Micah 6:8)

Doreen Hall, Social Responsibility Coordinator

How do we know what God wants us to do – as individuals, members of MU Australia and Church. How do we answer this question? As I look back over my life I see how God has guided me – sometimes I was aware, sometimes not. I believe we can see a pathway through our lives, not knowing why we did things, yet praying and trusting we were on the right track.

As one of eight children, I knew I wanted to be a teacher but could not see how my parents could afford to let me continue my final 2 years – I gained a scholarship which paid my fees to attend the local Anglican Church School.

After completing my 3 year training at Teacher's College, and gaining my certificate, I began teaching in High Schools. I still love working with teenagers. After a few years I married Kevin who was already a Priest and I was one of the first female teachers to be employed in WA after marriage.

We served together in many parishes across the State from Forrest River Mission near Wyndham, to Albany on the South Coast. Our 2 daughters enjoyed meeting many bishops, especially the Archbishop of Canterbury who had to stop at Port Hedland on his way to consecrate the new Cathedral in Darwin.

In every parish a door opened for me to teach in the local High School where I had many opportunities to assist teachers, teenagers & their families; I also was able to join CWA, BPW and Theatre Groups. Often I was the only contact with the Church for members. I think I was putting my faith into action by helping others see that life could be different and rewarding as a 'Church Person'.

This year in my Diocese I missed the Lady Day celebration so that I could attend the funeral of a friend and support her daughter who is my Goddaughter. I really did put my promise at her baptism into action – there was no question where my priorities were and I am sure MU Diocese of Bunbury had a great celebration.

A crisis may move us to take action – in the last few months Australia has faced a series of huge natural disasters – floods, fires and cyclones. Many people have lost homes, possessions, family members and friends. The media have covered all these almost nonstop. We feel we want to help but do not know what to do other than pray. That is something we can all do no matter what our age, situation or health. Perhaps this is what 'the Lord requires of each of us'.

God blesses us with all kinds of gifts; others need these gifts of Faith, Hope and Love. We need to share them with those we meet. Look back over your life and see where the Lord has guided you, and where he is leading

you now – you may be as surprised as I am.

May God bless us as we seek to do His will in our lives.

Available Resources Anglicare Australia 'State of the Family Report' October 2010. In From the Edge – a report looking at barriers of exclusion that many Australians face. These could be good areas for MU Australia to look at in their locality. Family: - Breakdown & Dysfunction; Young People:- drugs, suicide, body image. Aboriginal: – cultural

PRAYER IS AN AMAZING THING – It has been said a thousand times, dare I say it again? Oh why not – prayer is an amazing thing.

Not only does prayer produce amazing results, because God is awesome, but knowing we are being prayed for is an amazing source of peace. The knowledge that faithful people are holding you in prayer, holding you in their hearts before God, is simply the most precious gift. I have just spent the last (almost) three months in both a terrible place, and a wonderful one at the same time. I have had both major surgery and minor surgery with weeks and weeks of painful recovery.

Unfortunately things didn't go according to plan; there were complications and consequences, which resulted in more surgery. It was a very difficult time, as I am sure that so many can relate to from your own experience. The thing that made all this bearable, first and foremost, was the presence of God there with me at every twist and turn. Add to that the presence of family, the well wishes of friends and the fact that so many people were praying for me. Knowing that my own prayers were being echoed in the hearts of so many faithful people gave me indescribable comfort. So, thank you for all your prayers, they have made all the difference.

We can all benefit from a reminder that praying for something, or someone, is a beautiful thing. Never, ever, think that being asked to 'just pray' is a consolation prize – no, it's first prize!

Many of our members, as old age creeps up, and the body is not as nimble as it used to be, often say things like 'I want to help, I just can't do what I used to do'. Or 'that sounds great but I'm too old to do that'. And when these members hear the response 'that's O.K. you can still pray for us' they should never feel that they have been palmed off with the consolation prize. To hold all our hopes and dreams, our plans, our doing and our being, in prayer, is not an afterthought, it is not the task we give to those who can do little else; it is essential, it is foundational. It is something we should all be doing. Everything we do in our MU ministries, everything we undertake, should be literally soaked in prayer. So, remember, to be asked to pray when we can do little else, is a privilege and a blessing. Prayer is awesome, and to be held in prayer by others is just amazing.

Thank you, blessings and peace, The Rev'd Sandy Moore, Perth MU Chaplain.

Journeying together among others

Dr Robin Ray presents the third of three articles based on presentations to MU Australia Council in October 2010

This is the third and final article based on presentations delivered to MU Australia Council in October 2010. As the third presentation was more of a workshop, the article will focus on selected aspects of the content. In the previous articles we have thought about our journey with God and those close to us; we used the tools of scripture, prayer and the MU objects to build our knowledge and skill for our journey with others. During the third presentation we broadened our discussion to consider people around us who impact on our journey. We journey among others in the broader Australian community as well as among others from around the world. The recent tragedies in Japan and New Zealand and the struggle for freedom and justice in Libya and other countries have brought our journey among others into a sharper focus. Our lives are influenced by those around us and as Christians, we have an obligation to pray meaningfully for those we journey amongst.

Whom do we journey amongst? Some of the answers to this question included those on the fringes of our faith communities, in our wider Australian community, specific groups like refugees, asylum seekers and displaced persons, victims of people trafficking (yes this is a problem in Australia), and people in other parts of our world.

Beginning closer to home and in line with the objects of MU, we discussed the plight of families living with difficulty in our own communities. We discussed the increasing rate of parental stress arising from a lack of positive parenting models, single parents and shared custody arrangements. We also talked of the more recent problems brought about by long periods of separation as travel for work increases and defence force personnel are deployed for longer amounts of time. Families are also under stress from increasing care requirements as more and more, people with mental and physical illness are cared for in the community by family and friends. While the MU objects, particularly Object 5, encourages us to share in the support of families in crisis, we also need to recognise that the level of institutional trust in society has changed. People may be suspicious of the church, fear that we are there to try and convert them rather than to help. However, we should encourage each other and work together in branches and our parishes to engage more with families in our community.

Back to the tools:

* Prayer: Our MU Worship and Prayer Book gives us a place to start. One suggestion is to use prayer 37 on page 76. You may find other prayers or pray from your own heart.

* Use your reason, skills and knowledge, check with others about your approach, balance their need with your good intentions.



*Bible Study Group
Robin, Albertina, Mary & Terri*

* Anglican tradition – pray for them, walk beside them rather than directing them, assess their needs, work with their questions, share your own Christian journey, give them time – one visit is not enough. Remember the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-35). Philip took time to explain the Scriptures to him and to answer his questions. Read this passage and think about how its message can be applied to the mission and ministry of MU members.

* Focus on the MU objects most relevant to the situation and the journey you are all undertaking. You may like to pause here and think about how MU is making connections among others in your community. What else could your branch be doing to journey more effectively among others?

We also need to consider how we journey among others globally. The third MU object requires us to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service. In the year 2000, the United Nations met to address the plight of people in under developed nations. From this meeting, world leaders pledged themselves to eight goals, known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Six of these goals have direct links with women while the seventh (access to clean water, relevant/suitable sanitation facilities) has implications for women. Gender equality and the empowerment of women are at the heart of the MDGs and are preconditions for overcoming poverty, hunger and disease. But progress has been sluggish on all fronts, from education to access to political decision-making. When we, in our comfortable Australian lifestyles realise that among other issues:

* 40% of world's population do not have basic sanitation

- * One billion people use unsafe sources of drinking water
- * Every ninety seconds a girl/woman dies in childbirth
- * Children of women with 5 years of primary education have a 40% higher survival rate than children of women with no education
- * Educating girls is the single most effective policy to raise overall economic productivity, lower infant and maternal mortality, educate the next generation, improve nutrition and promote health; we cannot help but be moved to journey with our fellow women (some of whom will be MU members), to do what we can to improve their life. While advances have been made through implementation of the MDGs more work is needed and MU members can be part of this work.

Some suggestions include:

- * Having more fund raisers for the overseas projects. MU is contributing significantly through their work with women in underdeveloped countries. However, your fees only contribute a few cents to this work. I urge you to give more through your branches and the Australia Council Treasurer. Collective sums of money achieve more than small donations.
 - * Look for tea and coffee bearing the green and blue Fairtrade logo. You will pay more, but this will ensure that those who grow, harvest and produce the product will be paid a fair wage and that the village will benefit. If your local stores do not stock Fairtrade tea and coffee, lobby them to do so.
 - * Continue to pray for these people, encourage your parish to support existing validated programs such as Anglicord or Interserve. A word of caution: while in the past we have sent goods overseas, this is now no longer appropriate. Sending items is insecure, attracts import tax, and may become a tool of corrupt regimes.
- In journeying together with God among others may we prayerfully and actively engage with the MU objects and use our skills, talents and knowledge to further the work of God's kingdom in our world

A 'LIFT' STATEMENT

At Australia Council in 2009, the CEO of Mary Sumner House, Reg Bailey, challenged us to describe the Mothers' Union to strangers. 'Say we were in a lift' he said 'and someone asked us about the badge we were (hopefully) wearing, what would we say? Would we enthusiastically describe the organisation or be apologetic?' The following description comes from a booklet produced by Mary Sumner House entitled *A rough guide to Mothers' Union* and is worth remembering.

Mothers' Union is an international organisation of 4 million Christians in 81 countries who give money, time, experience and prayer to support marriage and family life. They share a vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships: reaching out to communities they change lives and bring hope.

Each member is committed to achieving this vision through the aims of the organisation

We are primarily a movement of volunteers who partake in worship, prayer and fellowship; and who work in or contribute to projects and programs to help encourage and support families and marriages.

To be a member a person should have been baptised in the name of the Trinity and agree with the Aims and Objectives. Membership is open to both men and women in most countries, regardless of age or marital status.

Is that how you see the Mothers' Union and MU Australia?

THE CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE

The following is a response from Rosemary Bent, MU Provincial President in New Zealand, to an email which I sent to her following the Christchurch earthquake.

'Mothers' Union branches in NZ have given \$500 NZ for the Australian flood relief appeal. My newsletter asking for donations, went out to groups the day of the Christchurch earthquake which meant the donations for the Australian floods/cyclones were not as great as I had hoped!

New Zealanders are having many fund raising events all over the country for the Christchurch earthquake. The memorial service in Hagley Park attended by Prince William was wonderful.

The little MU branch in Christchurch has 6 members and all have had damage to their homes but all are well. Mother Keleni, CSN who is an MU member and Reverend Mother of the Community of the Sacred Name, was away at the time of the earthquake. The Community House which had been badly damaged in the September earthquake was empty at the time, as the Sisters were living in the little Retreat House in the grounds. Since this latest earthquake the Community House is to be demolished.

The whole country was moved and very grateful for the quick response of the Australian government in sending urban rescue teams and police to help with the rescue and relief effort.'

Ed Note. MU Australia is grateful to the members in New Zealand who donated to our National Disaster Fund and at our AC Executive meeting in April, it was agreed that we will reciprocate.

But I had a praying Grandmother!

*Buspa's column...John Cronshaw, with a special response to Faye
(Mia Mia Autumn 2011)*

Some time ago I listened to a taped personal story of a young American girl who had become involved with the back stage of the heavy music circle, and became involved with the excesses that it brought – including drugs.

This girl's testimony was that backstage one night she could feel her body closing down, her life ebbing away. But in her high pitched voice she kept affirming 'But I had a *praaaaying* Grandmother!'

It was the faithful prayers of her grandmother, possibly unknown to her at the time, that kept standing in the gap (Standing in the Gap – see a previous Mia Mia) on her behalf before the throne of God.

Paul, writing to Timothy writes 'I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now I am sure dwells in you.' (2 Tim 1:5) In 1 Timothy 5, addressing the need to honour widows she writes that 'She who is a real widow, and is left all alone, has set her hope on God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.' (1 Tim 5:8) Around the world there are millions of people of faith whose families do not share that faith. Do not think of prayer as the 'last resort' but your most powerful resort and 'pray without ceasing'.

Psalms 107:6 reminds us 'Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.' Psalm 40:1 says 'I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.' We need to ask ourselves the question – 'How long was it between the first and the second part of these verses?' What is the time gap between 'waiting patiently' and God's turning to me to hear my cry?

Come with me to the birth of Jesus, and the presentation of the baby to the Temple at the time of purification. We meet two very old, godly people in the form of Simeon and the prophetess Anna. Please read the narrative in Luke 2: 21-38). How long did they both wait for the promised Messiah?

In our church we have an example of someone coming to faith, possibly in response to a mother's prayer, but after the mother had died. One of our parishioners said 'If only... (the mother) could see her daughter now. She would be so thrilled!'



Heather, reading to her grandsons Isaac and Caleb in Sunday school at Holy Trinity, Riverton

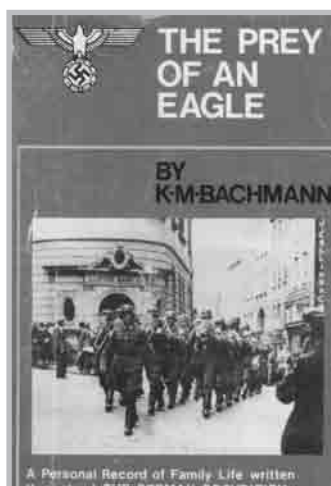
My encouragement to those who despair over their children and their children's children, is to be faithful in prayer, to wait patiently for the Lord. Be assured, and comforted that God's love for your children is as deep as your love for them, and His care is infinite.

Read 'Sitting on his lap' (Mia Mia Spring 2008) to capture the story of Ruth and Naomi and Joseph's father, but let me also remind you of the famous people in the Hebrews Hall of Faith in Hebrews 11. Remember that your faith is precious (a beautiful word) to Almighty God in 1 Peter 1:7 and Hebrews 11; verses 1 through to 35(a) are all 'success stories' of people of faith. Yet there is a balance. There is no formula with God as we are all unique, and He deals with us lovingly in a way that suits our uniqueness. So the verses from 35(b) show us the other side of a faithful life – jeers, flogging, stoning, being sawn in two, destitution, persecution and mistreatment.

And here is the pivotal verse (39-40). 'These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.'

So Faye and others in the same circumstance – keep praying that the Lord will knock on their doors and they will let Him in. And keep your own door of access open so that in the right time, your family will come to ask about the God they cannot see or hear.

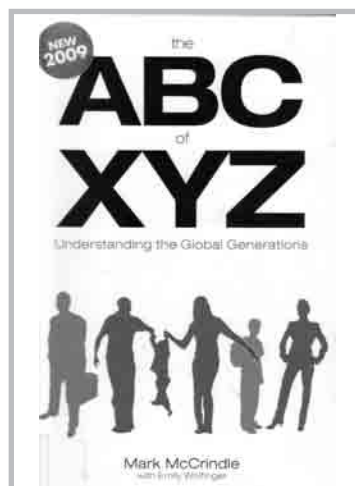
Reviews and Resources



THE PREY OF AN EAGLE
KM Bachmann

Printed in Guernsey, by The Guernsey Press Company Limited, Braye Road, Vale, Guernsey, in 1972

Available from Amazon.com/books



THE ABC OF XYZ
Understanding the Global Generations

Mark McCrindle
with
Emily Wolfinger
published by
University of NSW
Press

available from all good
bookstores and via the
internet

When my daughter and I had the chance to stay with friends at St Peter Port, Guernsey, in 1984, I bought a book that was an account of living there during the German Occupation from 1940-45. 'The Prey of an Eagle is a collection of letters written by K.M. Bachmann to her mother, who had been evacuated to the mainland with her husband and grandchild, a girl of 10 years old. The anguish felt by Kit was extreme and she felt better by putting her thoughts down, so that should the worst happen to the remaining islanders, her parents would know what took place on their return.

The reason her husband wanted to stay was the fact he ran a jewellers' shop, and he and Kit felt that the war would not last long. Kit and Peter had a son born during the Occupation which was very hard on them, but gave them a reason to survive.

In the preamble at the front of the book, she says and I quote, 'Inevitably, in letters to the absent members of one's family, there are many evocative comparisons between the peaceful years of one's own youth, and the sudden changes that war brings. These I have been strongly urged to leave intact, as part of the fabric of life in Guernsey, past and present.'

The book is beautifully written and the humour that emerges from their remaining family and friends, keeps them sane despite the rationing of food, fuel, electricity to the point where they were virtually starving by the time the Germans capitulated. The Germans on the island ended up enduring the same hardships and lack of food.

There was no mention of 'The Guernsey Literacy & Potato Peel Pie Society', but they did attend some dramatic plays, which broke the boredom of life.

I have read this book many times and will continue to do so, because it brings history to life, and I find it very hard to put down.

Judith Turnbull

Based on more than a decade of research this book is designed for those who want a short and lively introduction to Australia's generations. The book explores what a generation is, how its definition has changed over the years and the trends that are emerging for the future.

I was listening to the ABC one evening when I heard the author of this book being interviewed. Being interested in generational characteristics, I decided to borrow it from the library. I had heard of the Baby Boomers of course and of Generation X's, Y's and Z's but I was not aware of the Federation generation or of the Builders.

The book briefly touches on the Federation generation which it defines as those born between 1901 and 1924. These were young men and women during the Depression and the World Wars, many fighting in both wars. The Federation generation witnessed some of the most iconic events in world history, such as the sinking of the Titanic and when Australian women were given the right to vote.

The Builders (and that's me), are Australia's current senior generation, born between 1925 and 1945, during the Depression and the war years.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines the Baby Boomers as 'those who were born in Australia or overseas during the years 1946 to 1964. (That's my children – just!). The fertility rate began its rapid rise in 1946, peaking in 1961 and by 1965 it had dropped again to just below the 1946 level.

Gen X-ers are defined as those born between 1965 and 1979. In reading the characteristics I think my kids fit better into this category.

Gen Y-ers were born between 1980 and 1994 (and that's my grandchildren).

Gen Z-ers are those born between 1995 and 2009 and the next generation which Mark McCrindle calls the Alpha generation, began in 2010.

It's fascinating reading with lots of tables, diagrams and statistical information.

Elizabeth Harris

The world wide President learns about Australia

Gillian Whittle, formerly of Rockhampton

It is not every week that the world wide President comes to your branch meeting and even more daunting when you are the guest speaker. Recently Rosemary Kempzell, attended a special service in Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff, which was followed by a Deanery lunch. Afterwards the President of the Llandaff branch, Elizabeth Evans, invited everyone to coffee to meet the members of the Llandaff branch. Rosemary and the executive stayed on for the meeting. Gillian Whittall, formerly of Rockhampton, was the guest speaker, talking about MU in Australia. Gillian and Chris have been living in Wales for the last fifteen months. Chris was Dean of Rockhampton and is now chaplain and researcher to the Archbishop of Wales. They live on the Cathedral Green, which has been the location for two episodes of Doctor Who. Rosemary addressed the meeting saying that it was appropriate to learn about the Pacific region which had been in everyone's prayers with the disasters over the last 12 months.

Gillian's PowerPoint focused on different aspects of MU in Australia, making links with the Mothers' Union in the UK. Until they were displayed side by side members were not aware that the world maps were different and this is an important aspect of focusing on the particular part of the world where members live. Many members were impressed with our choice of 'MU', rather than 'Mothers' Union', and this is already giving rise to much debate. They were very interested in our new Worship and Prayer book and were impressed by the layout, the ease of use and the sketches of Australian flora.

Gillian had a collection of Mia Mia and these were made available to members. While the UK has more publications ours was regarded as having quality articles and a wide coverage. Llandaff diocese has had a newsletter for many years and it keeps members up to date with initiatives and has helpful advice such as 'how to keep warm in winter'. Members were interested to read the Rockhampton newsletter and liked the reports from Diocesan Council as they felt it let them know what was happening outside of the branch and was a tangible link for members.

The talk then spent some time on explaining the programming and activities of the Cathedral branch in Rockhampton and how it is so different when you have 18 members. Llandaff has over 50 attending most meetings so this necessitates a more formal structure and a committee to organize all aspects of branch

activities. In Wales the president is invited to take on that position by the vicar, rather than being elected by members. Members were very interested in Rockhampton's baptism preparation, the baptism cake provided by the members and the Teddy Bears' Picnic for baptismal families. With so many baptisms taking place outside of a Sunday Eucharist in the UK these opportunities are not there.

Llandaff diocese gives to many charities and were interested in our support for PNG and the outreach of providing pampers packs for the local Women's Shelter. Gillian ended with a discussion about the importance of MU supporting its members and talked about the different ways members supported each other in the Cathedral branch in Rockhampton. She has herself been greatly supported in Llandaff. When she arrived she joined the local branch and as it meets twice a month during the day she quickly got to know many members. In August 2010 she was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer of the blood – Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia – and two months later went into renal failure. This was a difficult time without any family for support. The members of the Llandaff branch became Gillian's family and visited her in hospital and home, cooked meals, phoned regularly and still provide so much ongoing support. Chris only had to put his head in the door at a meeting and he was overwhelmed with everyone asking after Gillian. One member made a prayer mantle (shawl) and this, with a special prayer, has become part of her daily devotions. Gillian was pleased to be able to share with her new Mothers' Union family aspects of the life and work of her previous MU family in Rockhampton Australia.



Gillian, with Rosemary Kempzell, Elizabeth Evans, Branch president and Raye Saunders, Diocesan president

God's colours in everyday life

Jan Misiurka, Promotion & Development and Caritas Leader

I was reading a reflection recently in Daniel O'Leary's book 'Prism of Love – God's colours in everyday life'. In it he told a story about an old church in Holland where for many years all those who used it, on entering, would stop and bow in the direction of a white-washed wall. No one knew exactly why anybody did it, but everyone had been doing it for such a long time that nobody questioned the habit. It was tradition. It felt right.



One day the parish decided to renovate the church. Among other things they began to strip the paint off the old walls. While doing this they discovered traces of a painting under the white-wash on the wall towards which everyone always bowed. Very carefully, they continued peeling so as not to damage the picture underneath.

Slowly there emerged a very beautiful centuries-old painting of Christ. Nobody was old enough to have actually seen it. It had been whitewashed over for at least a few centuries. Yet everyone had bowed to it, not knowing why, but sensing that there was some good reason for the reverence.

Gradually the story was recovered. Everyone was now interested in the whole revelation. Eventually they came to know who painted the picture, why it was painted, what it meant and why it was so special to their ancestors. They bowed now, with a new reverence, joy and meaning.

This story was headed 'Peeling off the whitewash. How easily we forget that original vision' and I would like to relate it to MU and Caritas!

Perhaps as MU branches and Caritas groups we need to set aside a time each year to reflect on what we have done and achieved, in the light of what our initial aims were, and to peel off a few layers, to look at and question our traditions and reason for being, to ensure that we are still accurately interpreting and reflecting the aims and objects of our great organisation. Conceivably we may find that what has been handed down as

'MU/Caritas ALWAYS does it this way' may prove to be false, therefore giving us the freedom to move in a different direction. Possibly the Minutes do not always need to be read out, giving us more time to productively put our thoughts into action. The options are really quite endless, depending on which way we look. We need to look at creative ways of reaching out to people of different generations, and indeed now with varying cultures and changing attitudes. In reflecting objectively we may also find something quite beautiful that will have us also bowing with new reverence, joy and meaning.

On that thought of reflection, some new, bright, eye catching, informative, promotional material for both MU and Caritas has been produced, and all dioceses should receive a complimentary pack to distribute to all MU branches and Caritas groups, consisting of MU Post Cards, MU Brochures, MU Posters, Caritas Posters and Caritas Post Cards. Watch out for these wonderful new promotional tools and plan how you will be able to use them. Following the distribution of this complimentary pack items will be available from The Publications Department at a cost.

OUR NEW PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

At the recent Australia Council Executive meeting in Brisbane, Life Vice President Elizabeth Appleby launched the new promotional material. The MU poster, brochure and post card and the Caritas poster and post card were designed by Marjorie Voss our previous Promotion and Development Coordinator and Caritas Leader. The material is exciting and portrays MU Australia as a vibrant organisation.



Elizabeth Appleby, Marjorie Voss and Australia President, Libbie Crossman at the launch of the new promotional material

Leading groups in the 21st century

Glenda McSorley, Sydney MU

'A Leader is a person with a magnet in his heart and a compass in his head,' Howard Hendricks

One hundred and thirty women of all ages and experiences gathered at the Chapter House to consider Christian Leadership in the context of the Biblical view of leadership together with recognising the needs of both the older and the younger women in our community.

MU Sydney was the sponsor of the seminar and our President, Christine Jensen, welcomed Jane Tooher to give an overview of Biblical teaching on Christian Leadership from Philippians 1:27-2:30. Jane's talk focused on:

the gifts and skills a leader has or needs;
how a leader must conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel;
how suffering for Christ is a consequence and involves living for others; and
how one must be obedient and prayerful.

Among the 12 things Jane has learned about female Christian leadership are:

rejoicing in other people's gifts;
trusting others;
having confidence;

These are all keys to successful, godly leadership in Jane's view. Those present were encouraged and heartened by Jane's insight and biblical teaching.

Our second session was led by Narelle Jarrett who, through examples of popular media and culture, gave us an overall understanding of how younger people think and are influenced by their environment. It is sometimes a challenge to be relevant and to be able to connect across the generations. Narelle's personal insight and encouragement for us to LISTEN, TO LOVE THOSE WE MEET INTO THE KINGDOM was helpful. We were also reminded that with evangelism through Christian encouragement, God will facilitate the process. That is encouraging!

Our third session featured Wendy Mayer who spoke on 'What are the needs of older women and what do we do about it'. We looked at the generations of older women: the Builders (born prior to the mid 40s) and the Boomers (born from the mid 40s to the mid 60s). We looked at how they function, how they spend their time, and at their needs.

all our needs are met by God;
we and those around us need to love and be loved (1 John 4:7 and 19);
respect and self esteem are vital and are from God (1 Peter 2:9); and
there is a real desire to recognise and fulfil potential (Ephesians 2:10).

Fellowship was enjoyed over lunch and the afternoon sessions featured two Workshops led by Jane and Wendy, and a Panel Q&A featuring all the speakers. Questions reflected the concerns of those present about their ability to be equipped to be bold for Christ in their individual situations and circumstances. The bottom line is that as leaders or potential leaders we want to be good and effective in our churches and communities. In the end Christian leadership is servant leadership and this is impossible without submission to the love and lordship of Christ.

MU seeks to connect with the community. To share Christ's love by encouraging, strengthening and supporting marriage and family life. We see real benefits in gathering with other like-minded people to find ways and means of achieving our goals under God. We were delighted to be able to sponsor and facilitate the seminar.



lunchtime at the Seminar

Copy Deadlines for Mia Mia

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| March/April/May | 31st December |
| June/July/August | 31st March |
| Sept/Oct/Nov | 30th June |
| Dec/Jan/Feb | 30th September |

This will coincide with the two Families Worldwide Prayer Diaries due January and June. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of MU Australia. While every effort is taken to ensure the accuracy of dates and comments, MU Australia cannot accept responsibility for loss, damage or inconvenience caused through any error or omission.

Mia Mia editor can be reached at miamiaeditor@bigpond.com

Faith and Works

Beverley Ovens, Overseas & Northern Outreach Coordinator

Faith and Works; these two words seem to trouble people. In James 2:14-16, it would seem that James is questioning the fact that we find salvation in Jesus Christ. However, his writing is very clear. He could not countenance a profession of faith without deeds which showed that faith in action. He chooses a vivid illustration of what he means:

Suppose a man has neither clothes to protect him, nor food to sustain him, and suppose his so-called friend comes to express the sincerest sympathy for his sad plight; and suppose that sympathy stops with words and the friend does nothing at all to alleviate the plight of the unfortunate man. What use is sympathy without some attempt to turn that sympathy into some practical assistance?

Here, James is simply challenging hypocrisy. What kind of faith is it that gives others platitudes rather than compassion?

What kind of faith in the Lord Jesus does nothing to show Christ's love to others? The answer is a faith that has no value and is not acceptable to God. Saving faith is different – it is visible – active.

There are three main challenges in the passages.

1. Our faith is not only defined in words but how we live. The words we speak should tell how we live. Very often we get involved in all manner of arguments about world issues and forget about showing Christ to the world.
2. If we really do have a faith, then we have great responsibility to be mindful of how we conduct ourselves and how we relate to other people.
3. We have to act responsibly when our emotions come into play. Emotional responses seldom serve a purposeful solution to a practical problem.



Beverley (right) in Honiara

This kind of active faith is practised by people who are mentioned in the Bible.

The Bible also gives us many examples of such people. People who were different. People who put their faith into action and helped others.

The Mothers' Union has entered into partnership with Anglicord for the Consultative Parenting Seminar in Honiara, and in addition, MU Australia has provided funds for the Facilitators' training.

In January 2011, I attended the Mothers' Union Conference in MYANMAR. I was overwhelmed by the depth of faith the Christians in that country have, even though the wages are extremely low and the people have very little. When I asked the women who were fortunate enough to have employment how they manage to exist, every person replied that each day they pray and ask God to provide food for them and each day their prayers are answered.

Yet, although the people there are struggling to provide food for themselves, they are the most generous people I have met for as long as I can remember. It is a testimony to the Christian faith that they practice, and a witness for Christ to other religions about how they live. People are not convinced by what we believe, only by how they see us live. Only if our faith is shown in action will it touch the lives of others.

Ed. Note

As I print Beverley's article, she together with Kaye and Rob Healey, representing our Parenting Encouragement Program, are in Honiara at the Consultative Parenting Seminar. They left from Brisbane immediately after our Australia Council Executive Meeting and we look forward to hearing from them on their return.



Lady Day around the dioceses

The celebration of the annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary

NORTH QUEENSLAND

While in other Dioceses, MU members may be able to meet as a Diocese on Lady Day, the distances in North Queensland and the cost of travel make it difficult to gather as a Diocese. However, this year, MU members from Bowen in the south to Ingham in the north met together for a service in the Cathedral in Townsville, before going to the new Bishop's Lodge for a shared lunch.

During the service, members from each branch lit candles as part of a litany focusing on the work and witness of MU. Each candle reminded MU members of the various ways in which they are called to share Christ's love in the world. In his sermon Bishop Bill Ray focused attention on the objects of MU and the increasing need for their application to the social



needs of modern society. Following the service members found their way to Bishop's Lodge where they enjoyed lunch and fellowship under broad umbrellas and threatening skies but no rain (thankfully). A short quiz based on the gospel and the Magnificat stretched our minds and provided a bit of fun before leaving for the journey home

WANGARATTA



Banner bearers at Wangaratta Cathedral with the harmony day flags in the background.



Bishop John Parkes presented MU long service awards to some of the members who were able to attend the annual Lady Day celebrations.

WILLOCHRA

On Lady Day, members of MU in the diocese of Willochra travelled to the cathedral at Pt Pirie to celebrate the annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was a meaningful service where Bishop Garry Weatherill celebrated the Eucharist, and MU banners were processed into the Church. The theme, a new flower within us, was worked out in meditation, prayers and drama where in response to the words of Mary's song, a lighted candle, a bowl of water and a red rose were brought up to the table below the altar.

Following the service we all enjoyed a delicious luncheon prepared by the ladies of the Cathedral parish.



Pouring the symbolic water

Recipes for success

Bless, O Lord, this food to our use and us to thy service, and keep us ever mindful of the needs of others. In Jesus' Name. Amen

QUICK AND EASY TASTY RECIPES

APPLE TEA CAKE

Ingredients

2 apples grated
1 cup sugar
1 cup sultanas
1 1/2 cups self-raising flour
125 gm melted margarine
2 eggs lightly beaten
1 teaspoon mixed spice

Method

Mix all together and bake at 180° until nicely brown. Brush with melted butter and sprinkle with a mix of sugar and cinnamon. Nice served warm and nice the next day spread with butter.

ZUCCHINI CAKE

Ingredients

1 cup plain flour
150gm sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon bicarb. soda
250 gms grated zucchini or 1/2 zucchini, 1/2 carrot
300gms mixed fruit
75gms pecans or mixed crushed nuts (optional)
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1/2 cup olive oil

Method

Beat oil, eggs, vanilla till frothy. Mix in with other ingredients. Use a 25cm 10cm loaf tin and bake for about 1 1/4 hours at 180°. Ice with lemon or cream cheese icing.

BANANA CAKE

Ingredients

2 cups plain flour
1 tsp baking powder
1 tsp bicarb. soda
1 large ripe banana mashed
1 cup milk
1/2 cup oil
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups sugar



Method

Beat eggs, oil, sugar and milk. Add to other ingredients. Bake in loaf tin at 180° for 40 minutes. Ice with lemon or cream cheese icing.

APPLE MUFFINS

Ingredients

2 cups plain flour
1 tspn baking powder
2 tsp cinnamon
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
375 gms chopped apple
3/4 cup raisins
125 gms melted margarine, cooled
2 lightly beaten eggs
3/4 cup milk.



Method

Combine dry ingredients. Mix in eggs, milk and margarine. Cook in muffin trays for 20 minutes at 180°.

Dorothy Thorpe, Auburn SA

PUMPKIN SCONES

Ingredients

1 tspn butter
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 egg
1 cup mashed cooked pumpkin
2-2 1/2 cups SR flour



Method

Preheat oven to very hot. Beat butter until soft, add sugar and salt, beating until mixture is well combined. Add egg and pumpkin and beat well. Add sifted flour and stir quickly with a round flat knife until mixture forms a soft dough. Turn on to a floured board and knead for a couple of minutes. Pat out until 2cm thick then cut into 5cm rounds. Brush top with milk and cook 15-20 minutes. Place in a basin, lined with a teatowel and cover until ready for use.

DATE LOAF

Melt 1 1/2 tbsps butter or margarine. Mix with 3/4 cup brown sugar. Add 1 cup chopped dates, 1 egg and 1/3 cup chopped walnuts and stir well. Add 1 1/2 cups SR flour and 1 teaspoon carb soda. Sift into date mixture and add 1 cup boiling water. Stir until well blended. Place in a lined loaf tin and bake at 180° for 45 minutes. Serve sliced with butter



ADELAIDE

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, EDWARDSTOWN

Wherever you go, whatever you do, may an angel be watching over you. For our branch Christmas break up our Night Group entertained fellow MU members and guests with a play called Ten Little Angels by Joan Gale Thomas. This play had been used for a Sunday school presentation many years ago.

The play was performed with due reverence but occasionally a chuckle crept in as older knees tried to rise after tucking baby Jesus in, and again when a little balance was lost while showing the other angels how to kneel!

The highlight of the evening was our oldest member Eunice Nancarrow aged 92 taking part with enthusiasm and directing the star. Our good friend Margret Pressley accompanied the 'angelic' voices, and all attending were given tiny gingerbread angels and star sweets. Our evening ended with a beautiful supper provided by our Day Group.



BALLARAT

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Janet Le Marshall a member of St Paul's Ballarat MU celebrated her 100th Birthday in February with the members of St Paul's congregation and of MU. Janet a healthy, active lady enjoys attending MU meetings and has been on many holiday tours. She has been a member of the C.W.A for 79 years and still wins prizes for cakes and jams.

On the Sunday that Janet celebrated her birthday at St

Paul's, baby Ebony Jennings was baptised and this delightful photo was taken.



Janet with baby Ebony

BENDIGO

SOUTH EAST BENDIGO CARITAS

The S.E. Bendigo Caritas ladies have had a very busy February. We began our year with a get together at Lake Weeroona. After a leisurely stroll around the lake, we adjourned to Quills Restaurant for a meeting and a delicious supper of desserts and iced coffee. In February, some of our members spent the afternoon visiting elderly parishioners at the Bendigo Retirement Village and Bentley Manor. We also supplied a large selection of fresh fruit cut up and made into a delicious fruit salad to be served with ice cream at the Annual Parish Fair. We have had a request from one of our members whose son is a chaplain at Charlton to supply large plastic containers for residents to store their belongings in after the floods.

Some of our members have already celebrated their 70th birthdays and over the next few months more will be doing so. As everyone knows, 70 is now the new 50! This has proven true recently at our Lake Weeroona night when we almost got 'picked up' by a bunch of young accountants having dinner at The Boardwalk Cafe. One of the accountants strolled across to our gathering at Lake Weeroona and asked: 'What are you girls up to? Would you like to join us for some champagne?' We were tempted but being good Caritas Ladies, we did not yield!

We think 2011 will be a fun year. There were eighteen of us at the first meeting for the year and everyone seemed happy, enthusiastic and looking forward to another year of fun and fellowship together. Several Caritas members are either the wives or mothers of clergy, theology students or chaplains. Some of us are facing surgery. We try to do what St Paul suggested and that is to 'encourage each other in our faith'.

BRISBANE

ST STEPHEN'S COORPAROO

Members at St Stephen's MU have enjoyed seeing some young faces at their meetings and were thrilled to welcome young mum, Kristy as a new member in November.



SYMES GROVE-ZILLMERE - 50 YEAR BADGES

Diocesan President Shirley recently presented Marjorie Cunningham with a 50 year badge and scroll. Marjorie was the foundation president of Caboolture MU 50 years ago and members of that branch joined in the celebration.

ST CLEMENT'S STAFFORD

At their birthday celebration last year, the branch's oldest member, Elsie Kelly was presented with her 50 year badge. At 95 Elsie gardens, bakes, crochets and knits. She also makes sandwiches for the Ecumenical Coffee Brigade. With a loving spirit and heart, Elsie is an inspiration to all members of St Clement's.

ST ANDREW'S CALOUNDRA

Four members who had been present at the inaugural meeting were again present when the branch celebrated its 25th anniversary. A 50 year long service badge was presented to Betty Knight and 25 year badges to a number of members.

CHRIST CHURCH MURGON

A mighty effort by so few led to a successful 50th anniversary of Murgon MU last year. Guests included Shirley Beale and Narelle Blunt and members from Sunnybank, Gladstone, Gympie, Highfields, Kingaroy and Nanango.

ST LUKE'S TOOWOOMBA

The branch recently celebrated 80 years of continuous service with a candle liturgy service. A ciborium was presented to the parish as a thanksgiving for ministry past and present. Susan Skowronski was presented with a 25 years of service badge.

CLEVELAND BEANIES

Cleveland Evening Group of 8 members has been meeting for over 5 years and now has 2 new members. After a talk about a trip to Alaska, they started making beanies to donate to the Seafarers Mission. Pictured in their beanies are (back) Barbara Michael, Jenny Sime, (middle) Dianne Rice, Agnes Kennedy and (front) Veronica Pedwell.



DARWIN

30 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP

Darwin MU members celebrated the end of another successful year at their December meeting which included a Thanksgiving Service and Luncheon.

Margaret Butler was surprised when she was invited to accept a certificate acknowledging her 30 years of Membership. Margaret joined MU Darwin when the Branch was formed in February 1980, and has been a stalwart member ever since. She is the only foundation member still in the Darwin branch. Well done Margaret! Praise the Lord.

GRAFTON

HOLY TRINITY MOTHERS' UNION SOUTH WEST ROCKS A QUIET DAY

As many of our members had been busy, over the Christmas and the January holiday season, with family and friends visiting, a Quiet Day to start our MU year was suggested and accepted by all. The venue for the day was Anne and Stan Deveridge's home and garden and Gloria Eccles was asked to lead the day with Donna Bain assisting with music.

Gloria and one of our invited guests were asked for a few words on the day from their perspective which follow:

Gloria - When I was approached to facilitate the Quiet Day I was feeling very dry spiritually but had no hesitation in accepting the invitation. I knew God would enable me to rise to the occasion and in the process fill me again with the living water. I began by alluding to the story in Ezekiel about the dry bones and followed with a poem written by Joyce Rupp. Towards the end she writes 'Someone named God comes to my fragments and asks, with twinkling eye: May I have this dance?' This led beautifully into the song by Chris Hagger 'dancing with Jesus'.

I felt, at the beginning, totally inadequate but settled down with the loving support and participation of the women present.

My topic was Life as a Journey, thinking back very briefly to 2010 for the highlights that encouraged and inspired us and an acknowledgement of how we handled the difficult times. 2011 was presented as a challenge to prioritise: and we were asked some searching questions which we mulled over for a short time and then came back to share.

After lunch we had a short session on thoughts in the garden where we opened our senses and reflected on God's presence in our hearts and its flow on into our lives and what it felt like to have God's hand in ours.

The day was beautifully enhanced by Donna Bain's musical contribution, and the fact that we could stroll around Anne's beautiful garden.

Pauline - I had a most enlightening time at MU Quiet Day at Anne's beautiful home. As I wandered in her lovely garden having a quiet time with the Lord and

praying for guidance in an emotional time for myself I held out my hand to the Lord and he took it in his. A peace came over me and the palm of my hand burned and continued to burn for at least 30 minutes afterwards. This is an experience I shall never forget and the Lord was with me as he is with everyone who reaches out to him in prayer.

Gloria's and Pauline's brief reports give the overall essence of the day. With Donna's excellent music on guitar and choice of songs everyone joined in beautifully singing, praising and magnifying the Lord. All attending were touched in some way and at the end of the day were refreshed, relaxed with a great sense of the peace and presence of our Lord.

MELBOURNE

JIGSAWS AT FRANKSTON

At the February meeting at St Paul's Frankston MU we did jigsaws while thinking about relationships. As individual pieces of the jigsaw connect with others, a beautiful picture is able to be constructed and built on our love and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and also on mutual understanding and respect for one another. As we shape and grow the community in which we live, the building of many and varied relationships depends on the efforts of all of us – of every single piece in God's jigsaw of creation.



NEWCASTLE

MEREWETHER BRANCH PRESENTATIONS

At Merewether MU Christmas luncheon we honoured several of our long serving members. Elizabeth Powell, Joan Smith and Shirley Hayes were presented with 40 year certificates and Dorothy Bodell, Jeanette Johnston, Jan Letcher, Evelyn Turner and Marie King were presented with their 25 year badges. Well done all of you. This is a great achievement.

GOSFORD BRANCH A MEMORABLE DAY

On 7th September 2010 Gosford MU welcomed Diocesan Chaplain Canon Catherine Bowyer and her mother Judy Redden to their meeting. When Judy Redden was Gosford Branch President, 25 years ago, Elizabeth Linquist who is now Branch President and Secretary was admitted to MU. 25 years later it was time for Canon Catherine to celebrate the Eucharist and present Elizabeth with her 25 year long service badge. Truly a grand occasion for Gosford Branch

OUR RESOURCES AT WORK

Lola Reinhard of Williamtown/Medowie/Mallubula Branch writes:

When it was their turn for 'The Box', the MU team at St Saviour's Church Williamtown displayed the MU resources in the church for everyone to browse and borrow. Ivy Collins, who is not an MU member, but who is the sister of Shirley Beaton, formerly from Gloucester, had her eye caught by the book 'How to design and make Banners for Sacred and Secular Festivals'. She filled in the borrowing card and off



she went with the book to tackle the banner pictured on the front – the Peace Banner. And what a success she made of it! Not only is it a beautiful ornamental work about one metre in length, but Ivy has attached the story and symbolism of the art to the back of the banner. It is awaiting a faculty from the Bishop to allow it to hang permanently in St Saviour's.

So, thank you, Ivy, for your work of love, and thank you, MU members of W/M/M Branch, for sharing our MU resources with others. Perhaps if another Parish does not have a library, its MU Branch, like W/M/M, may consider opening the MU resource box to everyone in the Parish when it becomes available.

PERTH

BADGES TO ETHIOPIA - LOIS MCGRATH

Bishop Andrew Proud from the Ethiopia Church in Addis Ababa visited Perth and several other dioceses in Australia during Lent 2010. He spoke at our Parish and showed a power point presentation which featured many photos of MU members and he spoke very highly of the work the MU Members did in his Diocese. In the course of the talk he mentioned that members have uniforms but no badges to wear with them, so at our next Council meeting in Perth members were asked to send me any badges they didn't want (many were buying the new Australian badge). Last October I posted over 60 badges

to Bishop Proud and this thank you is the result.

Dr Janice Proud

Anglican Church in Ethiopia

PO Box 14601, Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Dear Lois

I would like to thank you for your kind gift of MU badges from the MU in Perth Diocese. They arrived this week after a rather slow journey. However, the timing is great as we have Sarah Jupe from the MU in London coming at the end of the month and we will have a big meeting of MU reps from all our churches. We will be able to distribute them on that occasion. I have a few in hand from groups in the UK, but there were not enough for everyone when we met recently at our local assembly (synod). Please thank you members for thinking of us. Our ladies will be delighted. I attach two photos of some of them singing at Matar and Nininyang, when we went to celebrate Christmas with them.

Best wishes

Janice



MU members in Addis Abada, Ethiopia

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, MOUNT PLEASANT

At very special service held at St Michael's a window donated by the MU membership in thanksgiving for the Centenary celebrations, was dedicated by Bishop David Murray, and the Guest Preacher was Father Hilary Greenwood, SSM one of the brethren from St James' House at Wollaston.



The window was designed by Ken Wildy and depicts a semi-abstract figure with a suggestion of wings and an overall impression of flight and movement in keeping with the idea of God's messengers and their activity on his behalf. The clever use of colour

coming from behind the figure and flowing down to the bottom of the first panel and into the second conveys the sense of power of God coming with and behind the angel. Included with the depiction of the angel are suggestions of the 'whole armour of God'. The bottom of the window is used to create the impression of the powers of darkness and chaos subdued and expelled by St Michael and the angelic host from the realms of heaven to the earth.

The use of lighter glass means that maximum light is allowed. The outside is able to 'come through' the image, and the weather conditions create an ever-changing depth and movement in the window itself. The MU emblem is placed at the bottom of the design, and on the plaque on the wall.

ROCKHAMPTON

ROCKHAMPTON CENTENARY

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of MU in the Rockhampton Diocese this year, a commemorative candle will begin a pilgrimage, commencing in Blackall and completing its journey in Rockhampton. Blackall, a thriving pastoral town in the Central West of Queensland, hosted the first branch meeting on August 28, 1911 and MU first came to the city of Rockhampton at St Barnabas' parish in 1917. A Centenary planning committee, convened by Rev'd Claire Dewar, a 40 year member and former MU Chaplain, is excitedly planning the celebrations.

The candle will then play a central part in the Celebration Candle Liturgy to be held at St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday, 25th September at 9.30am. A Luncheon, to which all present and past MU members are invited, will follow at St Luke's Parish Hall, Wandal. Bishop Godfrey and Bronwyn have generously offered *Lis Escop* as the venue for a High Tea to be held on Saturday afternoon, with all proceeds to be directed to MU's Centenary Project. MU members with a past connection to Rockhampton Diocese are warmly invited to share in our Centenary celebrations on 24th-25th September and should make contact with either Rev'd Claire Dewar, 17 Wattle Grove, Yeppoon, 4703 Phone (07) 49391240 or Bronwyn Fryar, PO Box 6158 CQMC, 4702 Phone (07) 4922 3755 email bafryar@bigpond.com



Committee members Claire Dewar, Bev Jarvis & Bronwyn Fryar

WANGARATTA



Fun for everyone. Central Goulburn MU members with Nagambie Lakeview Lodge residents and staff at the MU visit fun afternoon.

FUN AFTERNOON AT NAGAMBIE LAKEVIEW LODGE HOSTEL

'You are never too old to have fun' commented the residents of the Lakeview Lodge Hostel when the MU members visited the Hostel on Wednesday 6 April with wigs, colourful hats, beads and music. The residents, MU members and staff all joined in the afternoon fun by dressing up. For those unable to stand for long, as well as for able bodied ones who could dance in the centre of the floor, Betty Catchlove as Mrs Music played for the armchair 'Hokey Pokey'. Then came some Easter hymns and various readings for those born before 1950... and 1970...

Len Clarey stole the show for one of Betty's jokes dressed as a hula twirler blonde just like Ray Ralston in the film South Pacific. The afternoon's fun rounded off with everyone doing the Chicken dance and enjoying fellowship over afternoon tea. The staff invited the MU group back and thanked them very much for a joyous time.

WILLOCHRA

AUBURN/RIVERTON BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Two new members have been welcomed to the branch this year. At our first meeting we welcomed Rosslyn Rowett and at our May meeting Wendy Marling will become a member. Our numbers are growing and hopefully we will soon have a membership of 14.

The Breakfast Club at the High School is now in its 4th year and we have continued to provide a nutritious breakfast one day a week. Members have been collecting goods for a local women's refuge and have begun a new project to collect stationery, pens, pencils and colouring books for refugee children in an Adelaide Hills Detention Centre.



Roz Rowett, second from left with Auburn/Riverton members

WAKEFIELD AREA QUIET DAY

Rev'd Flo Walters, Wakefield Ministry District part-time priest joined members from Balaklava and Auburn/Riverton for a Quiet Day in March.

Flo celebrated the Eucharist and later took us through a period of reflection on Ash Wednesday and Lent. Flo asked us to write down our thoughts to compose a Lenten Reflection prayer which is published in this copy of Mia Mia on page 5.

We were pleasantly surprised to find that our thoughts were able to be put together in this way and thanked Flo for giving us this opportunity to praise God and to reflect on the season of Lent.

CELEBRATIONS OF 100 YEARS AND 50 YEARS OF MU FELLOWSHIP

Congratulations to Balaklava branch which will celebrate 100 years of MU and to Maitland branch which will celebrate 50 years of MU in August this year. Diocesan members all look forward to sharing the joy of these occasions with them.

The Last Word

FROM THE EDITOR ...

Dear friends,

As a relatively new member of MU Australia I still have a lot to learn about the Mothers' Union both here in Australia and overseas. It seems that whenever I attend a gathering of members either at Australian level or at diocesan level, I discover something more about this wonderful organisation. I often find it difficult to come to terms with the fact that I share my membership with some 4 million Christians in 81 countries of the world.

Our recent Australia Council executive meeting held in Brisbane was no exception. Marilyn Oulds in her presentation as a Trustee, pointed out that our Mothers' Union membership throughout the world is 48% in Africa, 49% in the Indian sub-continent (including Myanmar, Korea etc), 2% in the United Kingdom and 1% in the rest of the world. We are certainly outnumbered here in Australia, yet it is our fundraising which provides the finances for programs in these countries, including of course Papua New Guinea and Melanesia with which we are directly involved.

As a result of our summer of natural disasters it has become necessary for us to consider a distribution of funds from the National Disaster Fund. I am pleased to be able to report that so far this year \$11,000 has been raised by members to add to the existing amount in this fund. Australia President, Libbie Crossman has written to every Diocesan President, asking them to apply for funding for fire, flood and cyclone projects in their dioceses.

The new promotional material was launched at the executive meeting and it is really stunning. Colourful and informative it should be used by all of us to promote MU Australia and Caritas throughout our parishes and dioceses. The new wedding brochure is now available and again is well worth ordering from the Publications Department for use in churches. Brochures from Mary Sumner House relating to children, ie Children in Church, Godly Play, and others are currently being adapted for use in Australia and will soon be available. The Publications Department has a catalogue of goods which can be ordered through your diocesan Publications Department and I recommend that you use this facility.

At the Australia Council Meeting last December a motion was passed that MU Australia establish an Endowment Fund. Bequests made to MU Australia will become a valuable part of this fund and we are in the process of designing and producing a bequest brochure.

I recently received an email from Mary Sumner House in which the writer praised Mia Mia as promoting MU Australia as an exciting and viable organisation and I believe that what is happening now and will continue to happen in the future, will bear this out.

The promotion of MU Australia by us, its members, through the professional quality of the informative material provided to us will ensure that those in our churches and in the wider community will be aware of the work which we are doing throughout the world.

With love
Elizabeth

Would you like to have YOUR
say in

mía mía?

If you have any other points of view about some of the articles, or are able to give further insight into the issues, please send your comments to the Editor. Your thoughts could lead to some interesting and helpful sharing.

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MU Australia

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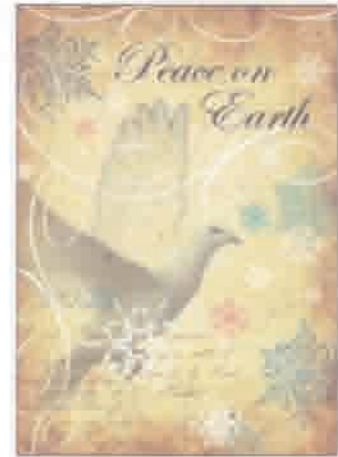
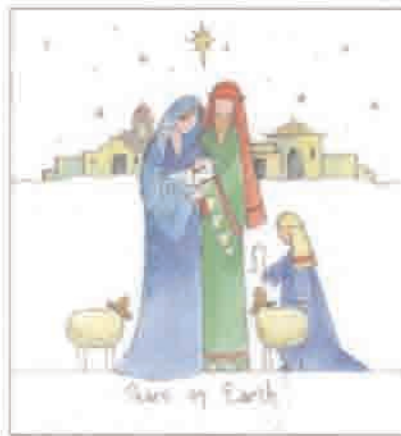
The Aim of The Mothers' Union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

The Objects are:

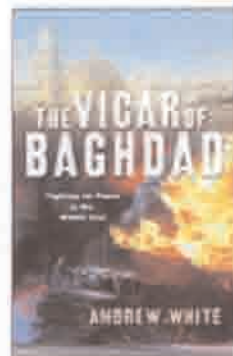
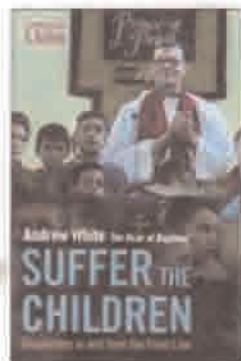
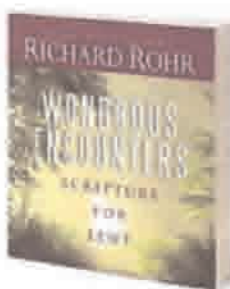
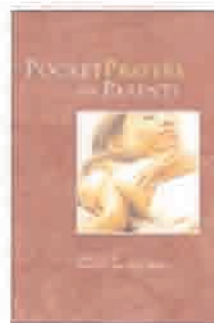
1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.



MU Christmas Cards



Plus cards and books for children
Lots more -
details from your Diocesan Co-ordinator - just ask!



2012 bookmark calendars