

NO TURNING BACK

Mothers' Union works at the grass roots level of countries to empower, develop, and uplift people and communities. These processes are life-changing, giving people hope in The Lord Jesus as well as bringing relief from hunger and abject poverty.

In 2008, **Malakal** diocese in the Sudan received assistance to establish a Cafeteria which provides a meeting place and an income-generating venture for the community. The income will be used for community development, and projects which include programs for Health, Nutrition, Sanitation, and HIV/AIDS. Financial support will also be distributed to local hospitals, orphanages, and families.

In **Guyana, West Indies**, MU was able to provide funding for projects in depressed communities. Strategic places in Georgetown were selected to provide services such as 'Snackettes'. These venues will offer people light meals at low cost. Income from the projects will then be used for the empowerment of women, helping to develop their skills to better provide for their families, as well as delivering a vital service to the wider community.

In the **Province of Melanesia** MU provides programs in conjunction with other organisations. As education is not compulsory, only 20% of women are literate and understandably, this is one of the target groups to be serviced. MU has run Literary Schools in each diocese and hosted many Leader Workshops, especially those which deal with child abuse and sexually transmitted diseases.

In the Ysabel dioceses, the MU focus has been on Workshops involving parenting and marriage issues, with husbands as well as wives participating. In addition, with health programs in progress, malaria has been reduced by 50% In 3 months.

There is no turning back for MU work. It is looking ahead constantly, helping another person to stand upright to do deeds in the name of The Lord Jesus Christ.

In the gospel of Luke, Chapter 10: 25-37, the man asked Jesus a thoughtful question about the next life and was not satisfied with the answer (verse 25).

In verse 29 he pressed further looking for a guarantee.

At times, it is easy for us to try to bring God's Love to an simplistic formula instead of trusting in His grace and mercy; this detracts from our primary purpose of bringing joyful service to others, and loving them as He has loved us.

Jesus does not show any interest in what the person thought his need was. Jesus goes straight to the real need, and tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. The Samaritan in this parable is the real hero, even though no one at this time respected the Samaritans. This man was able to understand, as well as express God's Love better than the religious experts of the day.

Accordingly, Christian faith is about being willing to receive God's Love and forgiveness, and to express those very qualities to those around us. In Verse 31 when Jesus asked; "*Who do you think was a neighbour to the man?*", *the expert in the law replied; "the one who had mercy on him."* Jesus then told him; "*Go and do likewise.*" Here the word *mercy* embraces empathy, compassion, and taking action on behalf of those are helpless.

The Bible commands us to love our neighbours. Who is my neighbour? We are all neighbours. The whole world is our neighbour. Just as MU develops programs and does not turn back, we are not to turn our back or to turn back in our Christian lives. Let us then cut to the quick and show mercy and compassion to those who cross our paths with heavy burdens,

Just what are we going to do about this? How can we help these people? We can take a lead from the Good Samaritan and be a comfort to others around us. We can pray personally; we can pray using The Wave Of Prayer every day for our MU sisters around the world.

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1/4/2010*