

**OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH  
CO-ORDINATOR & LINK SECRETARY**

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**CIRCULAR LETTER #4**

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I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year. Christmas is one of the most exciting events on the Christian calendar as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Here we see God's grace and mercy He has given us so freely through his son.

In John 1 verses 14 to 18, two things come together; Grace and Truth. This is so evident in *verse 17 that says; "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."* Only God Himself can bring those two things together. As John unfolds this story of Jesus we will read how mercy and truth are held together in an astonishing way. We will also see God himself in action; Jesus revealing the innermost heart of God.

Through this phenomenon, we are also being empowered to hold grace and truth together; that they will sustain human integrity in our own lives. This Christmas, let us pray that our fellow MU sisters who live in countries where persecution is a reality, systematically bring to mind John's words that give them empowerment by God's grace and truth.

**LINKS SECRETARIES**

Thank you all very much for taking the time to up-date your Branch Links.

**THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN AFRICA MU MEMBERSHIP**

Angola	1500 members
Namibia	3000
Lesotho	1200
Swaziland	1128
Mozambique	3049

Angola has been devastated by years of civil war which has resulted in poverty, hunger, pestilence, malnourishment, and general chaos which has been brought about by the global economic crisis. Mothers Union continues to work in their difficult conditions, focusing on issues such as Female Leadership, and Pregnant Women's Illnesses. Literacy and Development programmes have recommenced to enable women to use their talents and take up these programmes that are on offer.

Nutrition programmes have also commenced. This vital initiative helps people to start vegetable gardens in order to support their families as well as providing food for the needy in their district. HIV / AIDS protection is also on the agenda.

#### KENYA

Famine has affected the country as the expected rains did not eventuate. Mothers Union sent \$50,000 in aid to buy maize, beans, rice, salt, and cooking oil.

#### MYANMAR

Norma Dumbrell will lead a team of other Australians who will speak at a conference in Yangon in January 2010. Please remember Norma and her team in your prayers.

#### ZIMBABWE

During the time we were hearing about the country's violence and suffering, Mothers Union members of Zimbabwe did not disintegrate or collapse through despair. If anything, the members became a stronger group, growing in strength, hope, and endurance, and the incredible faith in God's love.

Albertino, Mothers Union President of Masvingo says; "it was indeed a difficult year, but Mothers Union members throughout he diocese did not loose heart."

"Prayers, working together, comforting each other, and offering the help we could, kept us going. Mothers Union is the backbone of all the churches. Wherever one goes, one is welcomed by women in blue and white blouses and black skirts, singing and dancing to music, accompanied by drums."

#### PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

Popondetta Diocese former President Dorcas Javombu has died, and we need to pray for the new President and Committee.

#### IRAQ

There are now 1.500 Mothers Union members at St. George's cathedral, Baghdad. Nawal George is the MU President.

*Beverley*