



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 2nd July

Faith in Action – ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES, GRENADA AND ST LUCIA

Province of West Indies. Members are involved in a number of projects, including a parenting programme, educational support for students, food parcels for the needy and visiting the sick and housebound, elderly and orphans.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3.18)

Mother Theresa of Calcutta said, “Faith in action is love – and love in action is service.”

Let us take a moment today to consider afresh the practical ways that God is calling us to share his love with others as we live out our faith through action.

We pray for members across St Lucia, St Vincent & The Grenadines and Grenada as they identify ways to put their faith into action to support their communities.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 9th July

Flourishing Relationships – USA

Although the USA is a very wealthy country, there is still great poverty and unemployment. MU branches provide food and clothing to shelters and food banks. They are also involved in social issues, helping those living with HIV, providing “goody bags” for young mothers and a meal for more than 400 people every thanksgiving.

“In humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:3-5)

May our relationships with each other continue to flourish as we grow older.

We pray for the USA Mothers Union Provincial Conference in August. May the outcomes bless all members in their work to support flourishing relationships.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 16th July

Grace and Mercy – TONGA Province of Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

Members are active in the wider community, visiting hospital patients and the elderly. They visit local schools to support students in their studies and encourage

them to take part in cultural activities to preserve their cultural heritage.

“God’s mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God’s grace that you have been saved.” (Ephesians 2:4-5)

We give thanks for those people we have known over the years who have displayed the grace of God through the way they live.

Heavenly Father, we pray that members in Tonga will be blessed by your grace and mercy as they serve you in their communities.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 23rd July

Adventure – ENGLAND Province of Canterbury and York

The partnership programme Hat•tê•āh sees Mothers' Union working with The Children's Society, Home for Good and the Diocese of Canterbury. Hat•tê•āh is a Hebrew word for ark – a place of safety for refuge. The scheme provides necessary awareness for those working with young refugees in a professional capacity.

“Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9 (GNT))

“The adventure of the Christian life begins when we dare to do what we would never tackle without Christ.” William Penn, Quaker, 1644-1718

Loving Lord, we pray for members in Canterbury and York, that they will continue to adventure together in the work to which you have called them, and find great delight in serving you.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 30th July

Restfulness – ZIMBABWE Province of Central Africa

As members help to support pupils in schools and at universities, they are starting to excel in their education. Health conditions are improving as access to healthcare services has increased. MU has supported the building of a maternal health wing and equipped small and poorly equipped clinics in Harare with foetal monitors.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:28-29)

“Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you.” St Augustine of Hippo

Gracious God, we pray for the work of Mothers' Union in Zimbabwe as they continue to be involved in initiatives to counter the effects of food insecurity in their country.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 6th August

Mothers Union Worldwide – MALAWI Province of Central Africa

Empowering women in business is one of the ways MU is helping to change Malawi. Across the country they are working to support St Agnes Guild, the young women's section of the Church. Members enable these young women to grow physically and spiritually by leading Bible studies and teaching skills that can be used to produce an income.

“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous deeds among all peoples.” (Psalm 96:3)

9th August is Mary Sumner Day. We give thanks for her vision and praise God for members worldwide. May God inspire us with faith for the present and envision us afresh for the future.

We pray for members in Malawi as they seek to work alongside other departments of the Church in ever greater partnership.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 13th August

Valuing Youth – MYANMAR

MU operates under challenging circumstances in a country with socio-economic problems and where the Church is a small minority. In spite of this, members are a strong, dynamic and engaged group. In 2016 they launched the Worldwide Parenting Programme and they seek to reach out to the vulnerable and needy in their communities.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

We give thanks for the young people we know. May God show us how to be good role models; to lead by our example and to give them the space to learn for themselves.

We thank God for the growth of parenting groups across Myanmar and pray for them in this valuable work. May many families find support and encouragement through these groups.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 20th August

Diversity and Inclusion – NEW ZEALAND

In 2016 members marked their 130th anniversary and gathered for a provincial conference where Rev Liz Richards, MU member and chaplain at a Women’s Corrections Facility spoke about women who are pregnant when sentenced and whose babies remain with them after birth. Organisations including MU support them with undergarments, toiletry packs, off-cuts of fabrics for quilt-making, knitting needles and wool.

“In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26, 28)

We give thanks for the work with young people carried out by our members in New Zealand and pray that God will provide them with all they need as they serve this generation.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 27th August

Faith for the Future – ALL IRELAND

In 2017 MU in Ireland celebrates 130 years of love and service. Their annual conference, Family Matters, considered suicide and its impact on family members. They published a student cookbook for distribution to first year college students and embraced the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power, and the wonders he has done.” (Psalm 78.4)

God overcomes. God’s love suffices. God is the constant in an ever-changing world – today, tomorrow and always.

We give thanks for the 13 Decades celebrations throughout this year in All Ireland and pray that they will envision our members both to honour the past and to look to the future with faith.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 3rd September

Literacy and Learning – SUDAN Province of Sudan

When Sudan and South Sudan split, Sudan was declared a Muslim state. There is no freedom for Christianity there, and not even Christmas is a public holiday. MU's

Literacy & Financial Education Programme is making an enormous difference. Where women had no hope or opportunities to work, they're starting businesses and sending their children to school.

"Always remember what you have been taught, and don't let go of it. Keep all that you have learned, it is the most important thing in life." (Proverbs 4.13)

"Acquiring literacy is an empowering process, enabling millions to enjoy access to knowledge and information which broadens horizons, increases opportunities and creates alternatives for building a better life." Kofi Annan, 7th UN Secretary-General

We pray for the work of MU in Sudan, as it becomes its own province this year. May their blessings be many and their challenges few.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 10th September

Fruitfulness – BARBADOS and BELIZE Province of West Indies

The Breakfast Programme continues to be a mainstay of MU's ministry in Barbados, reaching out to hundreds of needy children and families. In 2016 Belize was battered by Hurricane Earl and at times of crisis like this MU members spring to action to support those who have been affected.

"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." (John 15.5)

May Christ live in our hearts by faith. May we be rooted in his love. May our lives display the fruit of the Spirit.

We pray for MU in Belize and Barbados. May their work in schools and in parenting programmes flourish and be fruitful; that many will benefit from their initiatives.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 17th September

Peace – NORTH EASTERN CARIBBEAN & ARUBA Province of West Indies

Members continue to reach out in their communities as they visit the sick, housebound and those in prison. Branches provide educational support to needy children, help with Meals on Wheels and are active in the Parenting Programme, targeting parents whose children are in juvenile detention centres.

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you." (Isaiah 26.3)

"Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal." Martin Luther King, 1929-1968

We pray that members in North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba and in Belize will experience an abundance of peace as they seek to serve you in practical ways in their communities.



Thought for the Week from MU – Sunday 24th September

The Word of God – INDIA

Huge challenges around gender-based violence and women's empowerment are being faced in India. MU (known in India as WFCS) is involved in a broad range of activities, including income-generation to support vulnerable community members, advocacy and women's empowerment, leadership training, sharing fellowship. These programmes have helped women to grow in faith.

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (Psalm 119.103-105)

We give thanks for members in India. We pray for those in leadership positions, that they will be given wisdom and be guided by the Word of God.