## OVERSEAS AND NORTHERN OUTREACH NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 201

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

If I had ever had any doubts about the importance of AMUA's support of work being done in the Diocese of the Northern Territory through our Northern Outreach Fund these were dispelled last week when I had the privilege of representing AMUA at the Mission Partners Consultation organised by Bishop Greg Anderson in Darwin. Bishop Greg, Ministry Development Officer, Rev. Kate Beer, Principal of Nungalinya College, Jude Long and Registrar of the Diocese, Leanne Zamagias shared some of the challenges and the opportunities of ministry in the Diocese to the representatives of mission agencies-including CMS, BCA, ABM, Scripture Union, Wycliffe Bible Translators, AuSIL and the Bible Society- who were present. We brain-stormed ways our agencies could be of more help, and I discovered that AMUA's monetary contribution is greatly appreciated as it enables other ministries to take place. For example, fuel can be purchased (at over \$1.55/ L!) to enable Kate to visit an Arnhem Land parish to offer pastoral support and training. As she said, "MU money is spent four times over as it enables us to do a lot of things in one visit".

I also met the Revd's Colleen and Gayangwa from Groote Eylandt, who are two of the six ordained women serving in remote parishes across the diocese. These faithful women were examples to me of perseverance in Christian discipleship and ministry despite personal difficulties and general indifference in their communities. *Please pray* for them and their brothers and sisters who minister in the vast, sparsely populated, unique Top End. To this end, the Diocese has produced a prayer card and a prayer cycle booklet which are available by contacting the Diocesan office. **Ph** (08) 8941 7440 / **Fax** (08) 8941 7446

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## THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

Already shops are beginning to display Christmas items and are people are turning their thoughts to food, presents and celebrations. If you are like me, finding gifts for those who have everything, or responding to the question, "What would you like for Christmas?" can be difficult. Why not suggest, or make, a special donation to the work of Mothers Union instead? Perhaps you could organise a group or parish "reverse Christmas tree", where people can donate to our work. Be creative about ways to encourage our members and others not to waste money on unwanted gifts but to share with those who depend on us to help them engage in worthwhile projects in Australia and overseas?

God bless you in your work encouraging our members, Christine