



ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

Christian Care for Families

8th August 2020

From the President's Desk

Dear DPs and Members,

And we thought it would be all over by now! Our country is still suffering the ravages of Covid-19 – some states have regained their freedom, others are in Stage 4 of the lockdown. We are fortunate that, despite the restrictions, most of us have a roof over our head where we can safely isolate. We have ways of keeping in touch with friends and family and food is available to buy. We continue to pray for our sisters and brothers around the world where life is much more difficult. We pray for all the families displaced in the Beirut tragedy, others affected by floods, civil unrest, drought and all those events that put stress on relationships.

MARY SUMNER DAY

We will be remembering our Founder on 9th August. I know many of you were planning special services, and for those who can enjoy meeting together I pray that your services will go well. For others, there is a Service in the MU Worship and Prayer Book for Mary Sumner Day.

As well, our Trustee, Rev'd Canon Libbie Crossman will be leading an online service at 5.30pm Melb/Syd/Bris time on Sunday 9th August (8.30am UK time) to which you are all invited to log in to at <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/posts/2915874808522719>. I am sorry if this arrives too late for you to join in, but it should be accessible after the live service. The service sheet is attached enable you to join in the service. Another service from the Diocese of Blackburn (UK) can be accessed at <https://youtu.be/4MANRnmalyo>. Participate and enjoy!

URGENT APPEAL FOR MARY SUMNER HOUSE

You have been amazingly generous in your giving to this appeal. So far AMUA has forwarded \$81,298 in total to help overcome the shortfall of funds being faced by our movement due to Covid-19. A letter from our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, is attached, acknowledging our last donation. We also had thank you notes from Richard Miller from MSH who writes:



Please accept my sincere thanks for the transfer. I can confirm safe receipt. You really are an incredibly generous province! A formal thank you letter will duly follow but it feels somehow insufficient reward in the face of such a response to our call for help. Please do let your members know how deeply thankful we are. Kindest regards, Richard.

and Jeanette Lawrence, our Regional Development Coordinator who writes:

Please send my thanks to all in Australia for this. Their support has been amazing. Take care and God bless. Jeanette

And another message:

A lighthearted message of thanks from all of the team at Mary Sumner House to the wider Mothers' Union movement for the astounding response to our Urgent Appeal.

Dear all

With so much pain and suffering going on across the world, filling our television channels and news feeds, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and fearful. It is also easy at times like these to believe that the world is a dark and tragic place, and to forget the goodness in our fellow human beings.

This year in particular calls for deep faith – faith in God, and in ourselves. It is a powerful thought that a relationship with God can bring any person around, no matter how irredeemable they or their situation may appear. As detailed below, members are stepping up their response throughout Britain and Ireland and overseas, instilling faith and combating fears.

Just as we lit candles to signify the light of Christ during our Thy Kingdom Come service last month, we must be the light in the lives of others. That is what Mothers' Union members do best, staying connected and staying supportive. Each member is woven into the life of their communities just as the Holy Spirit is woven into our hearts.

If you are reading this newsletter and don't feel like the light in the lives of others, that's OK too. We have resources to help build you back up and all manner of ways of staying connected to the wider movement.

With love and prayers,

The Fundraising and Communications Team

In spite of the difficulties of this year, you and members worldwide have all helped with keeping the 'hub' of MU going. Every contribution, small or large, will support the work of MU around the world. I am humbled by your response.

Branches and groups

Lovely to hear that some groups are again meeting face-to-face! Others are meeting by Zoom, and I know many DPs and branch leaders are keeping in touch with members. It's most important to keep the threads of MU unbroken, so that we can resume our work of prayer and service when we emerge from our enforced rest. It's been good that many members have paid their annual contribution despite not being able to meet. It's important to keep up our contributions to our projects both here and overseas, so if you haven't paid, please talk to your Treasurer about how you can do so.

Over the past three months, I've been Zooming with up to nearly 40 Provincial Presidents and Community Development Coordinators each Thursday night, and we pray for each other and share how our countries are coping with Covid-19.

An issue that has surfaced worldwide is the rise in domestic violence during the lockdown, including an alarming increase in teenage pregnancies. I ask you to pray about these issues, and to recall our MULOA learnings – Listen, Observe and Act – in your community. There will be women and girls who we know who are suffering at this time – be aware, keep in touch, act if necessary. Lockdown, in any shape or form, does not prevent people seeking protection from abuse, and cannot be used as an excuse for not being allowed to leave the house.

Zooming along...

Provincial Presidents also had a couple of Zone C Zoom sessions with Trustee Libbie and MSH Jeanette. It's good to hear NZ is almost Covid-19 free, and that Melanesia has been completely free. In PNG, Rose Sitae (PP) and other members are moving around giving talks about hygiene as numbers rise in their country. Through Jeanette we have heard how the UK and other parts of the MU world have been affected, too.

In Melbourne, we have heard of one MU member who has died from the virus, Evelyn Dibbs, who at 103 is our oldest victim. Her family asked that she not be remembered just as that statistic, but for the lifelong service she gave to the Community. We continue to pray for Evelyn's family and friends, and for others who have been affected, and for those who are mourning the loss of family members and friends.

Healing Webinar

Sheran Harper and Dr Ruth Senyonyi ran a session on *Healing* recently for MU. I encourage you to watch it on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/FI-woN8hzx8> – I could relate to many of the issues relating to the lockdown and perhaps you will be encouraged by the meditation, teaching, and comments. It goes for around 1 hour.

In 1885 Mary Sumner said: "Together, by the Grace of God... we can calm each other when we are afraid; strengthen one another when we are weak; and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength". These words are just as relevant today as then.

Love and peace,

Anne

Provincial President
Anglican Mothers Union Australia

