



Thought for the Week from Anglican Mothers Union Australia



Sunday 2 April 2017

Healing

Jesus went back to Simon's house with the others after worshipping in the synagogue. There Simon's mother-in-law was ill in bed. He 'took her by the hand and lifted her up'. So begins Jesus' healing ministry in Mark's gospel. And so it continues when we pray in his name, for those seen and unseen, brought low by injury, fear, and famine. Pray for an outbreak of love in our hearts this Lent. May we pray for the healing of hate and mercilessness wherever it destroys minds and bodies.

God heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

We give thanks today for the work of our members in Ghana where they are in healing by raising awareness of gender-based violence. They also assist in healing young lives by running schools and homework clubs. Early marriage is detrimental to young girls so MU is educating parents and teachers. Members also offer practical health awareness and hospital and prison visiting. We hold in heartfelt prayer our sisters who work in Jesus' name for the healing of others.



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Sunday 9 April 2017

Holy Week

This is the week when Christians begin with rejoicing on Palm Sunday and follow each day in the lectionary with gospel accounts of betrayal, torture, brutality and ignominious death. But before the glory of Easter Day one night gives us the means of hope. The Last Supper lives on in our liturgical practice and brings to consciousness Jesus' saving grace, his presence with us.

The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many'. Matthew 20:28

In the DR Congo women and girls live every day in fear of rape, its brutality and betrayal and ignominy. We give thanks for MU in the eastern dioceses who work with those whose lives are torn apart, the women and girls and the children born from sexual violence, with skills training, emotional and psychological support. We pray with them who say we 'want so much for rape to end'.



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Sunday 16 April 2017

Joy of Resurrection

Rejoice, Christ is Risen. With each returning day we welcome the Son of God who has given us new birth. With new sight the annoyance of a neighbour is tolerated with a living hope that love will blossom between us. With living hope we will bring a loving voice to those who only hear bad news.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3

We give thanks for the work of MU members in Papua New Guinea. In living hope they focus on health issues, raising awareness around gender-based violence and holding seminars on cancer and HIV/AIDS. In new birth they visit the sick and care for widows and orphans. We pray for their involvement with the Government in TB programmes.



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Sunday 23 April 2017

The global village

Who is my neighbour? Jesus teaches us to remember ALL the human race is created in the image and likeness of God; EVERYONE our neighbour. We share the world with all its peoples as if we were living in a village. Through MU we walk down a metaphorical street and daily greet our neighbour and hear of their joys and sorrows. We know their names and can pray for them as sisters in Christ Jesus.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself. Luke 10:27

In Tanzania MU has created a process for bringing neighbours together, the Church and Community Mobilisation. CCM 'is good because it goes to everyone, not just the church', it 'is better than relief as it helps people to find their own solutions and do better.'



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Sunday 30 April 2017

Work

Hey Ho, Hey Ho, it's off to work we go: the Seven Dwarfs had a cheery work ethic, but we are called to have a deeper impulse in our digging and cleaning and baking. The garden and the mine are the Lord's; the canola crop, the taxi, the sheet metal and the church flowers are the Lord's and as such this work deserves our love and mindful application. In the words of the hymn (AHB 458):

Teach me, my God and King/ in all things thee to see,/and what I do in anything/to do it as for thee. A servant with this clause/ makes drudgery divine:/ who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,/ makes that and the action fine.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

Let us thank God for the work of Mothers' Union in Guyana. MU has a thriving Parenting Programme, a Skills Training Centre, and manages two day care centres. They support the newly formed branch in neighbouring Suriname.



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Sunday 7 May 2017

Walking with Christ

The gospels relate the life of Christ as he journeys to Jerusalem. He walks from village to village teaching, healing, visiting friends, gathering disciples. We walk with Christ when we attend to his teaching, witness the healings, give ear to his challenges that nag at our conscience like a thorn in the sole of our feet, a pebble in our sandals.

If any want to become my followers let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me'. Mark 8:34b.

In Kenya some MU members struggle to cope with being a woman. In this context MU is actively pursuing women's rights and gender equality, taking up the cross of walking with Christ as 'they take up leadership roles at all levels in churches and communities'.



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Sunday 14 May 2017



Leadership

Jesus' model of leadership was and is, revolutionary. One might even be tempted to say it goes against nature. Jesus' teaching is nevertheless very clear because the natural desires of the inner circle (and their kin) for preferment were bubbling to the surface during his earthly ministry. His response is unequivocal and he led from the top.

Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave. Matthew 20: 26b-27

As we give thanks for our sisters in Argentina and in AMARE (Anglican Women's Group Renewed in the Spirit) and hear of their 'love in action', we are reminded that love is the way of leadership. Membership in AMARE thrives: their new indigenous bishop commented, "Before AMARE the women felt they were nothing. Now they have a voice and are working. What should we men be doing?"



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Sunday 21 May 2017



Hope

'Lord of all hopefulness' grant us the inner peace which comes with faith, hope and love. Hope, like love, has a grander and yet more simple, meaning than loving a film or hoping things will be 'alright'. Hope grows out of trust and as we look to Jesus, rather than worldly assurance, our hope will strengthen and fear will diminish.

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him. Psalm 62:5

Mothers' Union in Uganda has changed since their Eagle process has proceeded further and faith has been rediscovered. Empowerment of communities has come through 'bible studies and envisioning' and bringing them to hope and trust in God and each other. Thanks be to God.



Thought for the Week from Anglican Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 28 May 2017



Overcoming conflict

We thank God for those involved in the work of national reconciliation. May they have wisdom and discernment as they seek to resolve deep-rooted hurts and injustices.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1.19-20

We give thanks for MU members in Angola as they raise awareness of gender-based violence and help single parent families. We pray for them as they work faithfully in your service and ask that you would grant them times of spiritual rest.



Thought for the Week from Anglican Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 4 June 2017



Gift of the Spirit

'O breath of life, come sweeping through us' (TiS 409). Free us from our pride, our thought that we are better than we are, or that we are worse than we are. Cleanse and renew us to freely love and serve you.

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

We thank God for members in Thailand who, in the power of the Spirit, provide a safe environment for vulnerable children in remote areas. They free the children and their working parents from fear. We are asked to pray for their school: for training opportunities, transportation of teachers and building upkeep.



Thought for the Week from Anglican Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 11 June 2017



Wonder of creation

'I love a sunburnt country'. The wonder of creation can often be blurred by our expectation that our land should be a green and pleasant one. Help us to love what you have made, O God, wherever we are and whomever we meet.

The heavens declare the glory of God: the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1

Loving God, we pray your blessing on the work of Mothers' Union in Madagascar, who declare your glory in the face of poverty and distress. May their life of prayer and their love of fellow creatures continue to bring women and men support in marriage.



Thought for the Week from Anglican Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 18 June 2017



Sanctuary for the refugee

When was it that we saw you, Jesus, a stranger, a refugee? In our dark and fearful days, help us, loving God, to see **you** in those who are fleeing war and persecution and famine. We pray for agencies who provide food and clothing and medical attention and give thanks for those professionals who volunteer their assistance.

Jesus said, 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to eat, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' Matthew 25: 35

Mothers' Union is a vibrant force in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands as it works to sensitise organisations, parents, guardians and the wider society about their responsibility in the nurture and protection of children. By an Adopt a Family project the members give personal assistance to families, an invaluable interaction which brings the love of Christ to the hungry, the thirsty and the outcast. May our prayers and God's love strengthen their resolve.



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Sunday 25 June 2017

Love and service

St Paul teaches us in his well love hymn to LOVE that anything we do without LOVE is worth nothing. How potent then is the helping hand held out in love? The meal cooked, the lesson taken, the wound bandaged with LOVE? When we are truthfully loving, lovingly active in our service, we are Christ-bearers. Blessed Jesus, be with us in our serving.

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. 1 John 3:18

Members in South Africa offer their service to the needy, such as soup kitchens for hungry children and they pray and study the bible. They love their land and encourage that love through nature walks, tree planting, and promoting sustainable livelihood methods. Loving God we thank you for the love and service of our sisters across the ocean and we pray for their vision of 'a sustainable journey of cohesion'.