

**Mothers' Union Dioceses of Edinburgh, Colombo,
Kurunagala,
Mpwapwa, Port Sudan and Isikwato**
Intercessions September - December 2014



Theme: 'Sowing the Future Together'

Through Help Us Grow we want to sow seeds of membership, nurture faith and transform communities. Without sowing any seeds we cannot expect to receive any kind of harvest. For Mothers' Union we want to sow seeds that will increase our worldwide membership. - *Taken from MU Website.*

The Mothers' Union theme for 2015 is 'United in Prayer'.

This develops the 2014 theme – 'Sowing the Future together', by focussing on the centrality of prayer in the work of Mothers' Union across the world. As we continue to plan for the future and grow together, prayer is at the heart of all we do.

As we look to build the community of Mothers' Union, we unite with other members across the world, and particularly we are united in prayer. Our theme for the year highlights the importance and centrality of prayer to all we do. As we embark upon the new Wave of Prayer, with over 100 new links added, we have the exciting opportunity to pray for many more people.

We are currently developing themed resources to help us celebrate our new links, inspire us to pray and help us discern how and what to pray. As we work on these resources, let us ask God to illuminate the way he wants us to respond, equip us in our prayer life and take us forward on our journey with Him and in unity with members across the world. When a believing person prays, great things happen. - *Taken from MU Website.*

Faithful in Prayer –

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12
Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. Martin Luther.

As we seek to be faithful in prayer on behalf of Mothers' Union, let us take encouragement from God's word. Reflect on these scriptures and allow the Holy Spirit to increase faith and insight into the value of our prayers.

Pray With Faith :-

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. Psalm 145:18
If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. John 15:7

*And I will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. John 14:13*

Pray With Determination

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. *Colossians 4:2*

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. *Luke 18:1*

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. *Psalm 4:1*

Pray With Power

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. *James 5:16*

Pray With Confidence :- This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. *1 John 5:14*

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *Hebrews 4:16*

Pray Continually :-

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. *Ephesians 6:18*

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Pray With Thanksgiving :- Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

The above prayers were taken from the MU web site

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot" *Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

God's pattern of rest

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. *Genesis 2:2*

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to work, a time to rest; a time to receive and be refreshed.

From the beginning of time, Creator God, you gave us a pattern of work and rest: We will delight in your work of creation, and rest in the world your Spirit has made. We will enjoy moments of peace and repose, in the knowledge of work well done. We will enrich our leisure time with praise of the one who renews our strength. We will find our rest in God alone. He is the one who restores our souls. *Amen*

- **Pray** for relationships to be flourishing and loving
- **Enable** development of all kinds: economic, relational and personal so that family life is strengthened
- **Campaign** for social justice for those on the margins and for greater recognition of the value of stable family life
- **Pray for Our Bye Buy Childhood campaign:** Children, unable to defend their own rights, are largely campaigned for by Mothers' Union. Today's society leaves children vulnerable to many attacks that take away their right to be a child. This campaign was launched in 2010 to raise awareness of the increasing levels of marketing and sexual imagery aimed at and accessible to children. The campaign has already brought about a change in both industry and government. Pray that we may continue to support its impact over the coming years.

To help to focus your prayers - Calendar of dates – Sept. to Dec. 2014

Sunday 8th Sept – Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord

Mon 15th Sept – Holy Cross Day

Tues 16th Sept – Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop

Thursday 18th Sept - The referendum is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for people in Scotland to have their say about the country's future. Pray that people will vote for a result that will benefit everybody in Scotland. Pray that they will not vote with their hearts without considering the cost to us and our children and grandchildren.

Mon 22nd Sept: Matthew, Ap. Evangelist (*Consecration of Bishop of Aberdeen, 2007*)

Sat 27th Sept -10 for 10.30^{am} - Provincial Council Meeting St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Pray for all MU Office Bearers, in Scotland, for all members and branches.

Mon 29th September – Michael & All Angels (*Michaelmas*)

Harvest Time: In the light of our theme, we pray for our work in promoting the MU, that we may be faithful and persistent in presenting the MU to those who don't know about MU, remembering that ours are the hands and feet for this work. We also pray for your blessing on our farmers and those who work on the land and produce the food we eat. Guide those who legislate in this country and also in the European Union, that they may act for the common good and overcome wasteful practices. .

Wed 8th Oct - (*Consecration of the Bishop of Brechin, 2011*)

Mon 13th Oct – (*Consecration of the Bishop of Moray, 2007*)

Autumn Diocesan Council – venue to be arranged.

Sat 18th Oct – Luke, Evangelist – Pray for our all who work in our hospitals, for those we know who are receiving treatment, awaiting the results of tests or recovering from operations. (add the names of those you wish to pray for)

Thurs 23rd Oct – James of Jerusalem, Martyr.

Mon 28th – Simon & Jude, Apostles

Sat. 1st November - All Saints (Hallowmas, All Hallows')

Mon. 3rd Nov. - All Souls - Commemorating the faithful departed.

We pray for those we have loved and see no more, and in our loss we remember all the happy memories and pray this helps us. We pray for those who are grieving and ask that they may be aware of your comforting presence.

Sun 9th Nov – Remembrance Sunday

Tues. Nov 11th – Remembrance Day – We remember those who have given their lives in the armed forces. In this the year of the anniversary of D Day, we pray that the support given to those who still survive and those who have been injured in more recent conflicts, both mentally and physically, will receive better care and support. We pray for the people in the areas of recent conflicts, Israel, Syria and Iraq and the many other places around the world.

Mon 17th Nov – Margaret of Scotland

26th – 30th November – Wave of Prayer:

Pray for: Edinburgh Diocese MU, our Linked Dioceses, their diocesan presidents, trustees and members, their hopes, concerns, projects.

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union

As we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, And in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. *Amen*

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, asks us to respond to the call to join him in praying for the safe release of the school girls abducted in Nigeria.

Over 200 girls were kidnapped from their school in the northern Nigerian city of Borno. Mothers' Union is communicating with members in the surrounding areas for news and to identify any specific prayer needs. Please join us, and our fellow members in Nigeria, to pray for the kidnapped girls, their families and their communities.

Sun 30 Nov – Advent Sunday

Monday 1st December – Andrew Apostle & Patron Saint of Scotland.

Observed also by Greece and Russia. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was originally a fisherman.

Mon 8th Dec – Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord.

Mon 22nd Dec – Thomas, Apostle.

Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve.

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day – We give thanks for the birth of Jesus.

Friday 26th December – Stephen, Deacon & Martyr.

Saturday 27th Dec – John, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday 29th Dec – The Holy Innocents

Tuesday, 31st December: As we look forward to the New Year, we pray for a better year ahead, for the Leaders of the nations and especially our Governments, both at Westminster and Holyrood. We ask you, Lord, to guide them so that they may act for the benefit of all. We pray for Bishop John and all the clergy in the diocese, that they may hear your voice in all they do.

General Meeting 2014

The meeting was held in Belfast on Saturday 21st June 2014 and a group went from Scotland again. It was held in Belfast at the Waterfront venue with a service of celebration the night before in St Anne's Cathedral.

At the meeting members were asked to speak out against social injustice and to campaign for the recognition of the value of stable family life, Pray for ways to do this so that Mothers' Union can work towards its vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Pray for ways in which we can fulfill this crucial campaign of being a Christian. You too can join that voice and aid us in bringing about real, positive changes.

On a local, national and international basis Mothers' Union members take part in campaigns to protect those who cannot protect themselves and enable families to flourish, knowing they are supported.