

**Mothers' Union Dioceses of Edinburgh, Colombo, Kurunagala,  
Mpwapwa, Port Sudan and Isikwato**  
*Intercessions September - December 2013*

**Theme: 'The Seeds We Sow'  
- leading to 'Help Us To Grow' and  
'Sewing the Future Together'**



**The Kingdom of God:**

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. *Matthew 6:10*

These are words that we regularly pray, but how often do we stop to consider how the kingdom of God will fully come to earth? And what this will mean for humanity?

The kingdom of God can be described as being "now and not yet"; we are living in the time between the first and second coming of Christ. His first coming began the process of establishing the Kingdom on earth. Thus we see the rule of God in some measure. There is some justice and goodness in the world. Many have faith in, and acknowledge the Lordship of Christ; and some divine activity is apparent. Christ's second coming will usher in the Kingdom completely in all its fullness. Evil and injustice will be trounced, never to rise again.

The rule of God will be perfectly and totally established; to live in his Kingdom will be to experience total goodness. Christ has entrusted us with a role to play in bringing in God's rule; partly through our praying and campaigning for social justice. Let us be encouraged and give thanks where we see the shoots of his Kingdom growing. Where the harvest is scarce, let it motivate us to continue to pray and campaign.

Lord, we pray that through our campaigning we may sow the seeds of your kingdom on earth. May we depend on you in all our plans that justice and peace may flourish.

Amen *Extract from Faith & Policy Watch – July 2013*

**SEVEN REASONS TO PRAY** (*taken from the MU web site*)

Even though God knows all of our needs, Scripture stresses the necessity of prayers. Here are seven reasons why we are encouraged to pray regularly.

- Prayer connects us to God and God's power. Changes take place when we pray. Sometimes the issue is transformed, at other times we are the ones changed. Either way, God's power is at work.
- Prayer is a way of sharing our burden. Some problems are difficult to share with another human being. The issue may involve deep guilt or shame, making it difficult to confide in a friend. In such cases, prayer can help ease the burden.
- Prayer puts into words what troubles us. No difficulty can be resolved until it is identified and articulated.
- Prayer reduces feelings of helplessness. Rather than feeling as though life is out of control, when we pray, we take the first step in reclaiming our lives and putting order into chaos.

- Prayer is a powerful reminder that we are not alone. Life's troubles often leave us feeling isolated, lonely, and vulnerable. Prayer reminds us that we are not facing difficulty alone.
- Prayer generates courage. We become strengthened, and more confident as a result of prayer.
- Prayer provides us with a sense of direction. Rather than merely being tossed about on life's sea, we receive insight, guidance, and direction from prayer.

**Sunday 8 Sept – International Literacy Day - Universities & Schools:** Pray for those starting a new course of study, students, pupils and staff – those leaving home for the first time – particularly those we know.

**Mon 9 Sept - Birth of Mary, mother of the Lord - Sat 14 Sept – Holy Cross Day**

**Wed 11th – Friday 13th September 2013.** Pray for The All Unit Conference taking part at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Pray for those leading the conference and for all taking part.

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Sept – Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop -Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Sept:** Matthew, Ap. Evangelist

**Mon 30 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. .

**Fri 18 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, especially Catherine Pow, Edinburgh MU Sec., after knee surgery.

### **Blessings on Your Journey**

As you begin this pilgrim journey may your heart be open to surprise.

With reverence, gratitude, and acceptance may you behold your life each day.

On every step along the way may hidden goodness come to meet you.

In meditating on your memories may courage be your companion.

As your life-stories rise up to greet you may you welcome them home with love.

On every step of your pilgrimage may you find new grace for living.

From unexpected places in your life may blessings rise up to anoint you.

As you walk the memory road may it become a path of transformation.

As you look upon your wounds may you know the joy of healing.

In claiming the beauty of your life may you recognize the One  
in whose image you are created. In moving beyond the wounds  
may you be able to take up your life and go on with your living.

*Blessings on your journey! from Behold Your Life, Macrina Wiederkehr*

**Wed 23 Oct – James of Jerusalem**

**Mon 28<sup>th</sup> – Simon & Jude Apostles**

**Friday 1 November - All Saints (Hallowmas, All Hallows')**

**Sat. 2 Nov. - All Souls** - Commemorating the faithful departed.

We pray for those we have loved and see no more, remembering all the happy memories. We pray for those who are grieving and ask that they may be aware of your comforting presence.

**Mon Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day** – We remember those who have given their lives in the armed forces. We pray that the support given to those who have been injured, both mentally and physically, will receive better care and support. We pray for Canon Andrew White (*The Vicar of Bagdad and whose wife is a MU member*) and for the work he does in trying to keep a Christian presence in the area.

**Do it anyway** - *Anonymous*

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred. Forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are successful you will win some false friends and some true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you. Be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone might destroy overnight. Build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

But give the world the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is all between you and God;

it was never between you and them anyway.

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Nov – Margaret of Scotland**

**Mon 25 Nov** - International Day for elimination of violence against women. Pray for all who have suffered, that they may find help, support and healing.

**I will not die an unlived life**

I will not die an unlived life.

I will not live in fear of falling or catching fire.

I choose to inhabit my days to allow my living to open me,  
to make me less afraid, more accessible, to loosen my heart until  
it becomes a wing, a torch, a promise.

I choose to risk my significance,  
to live, so that which came to me as seed goes to the next as blossom,  
and that which came to me as blossom, goes on as fruit.

*Dawna Markova*

**26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 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

**Saturday 30 November – Andrew Apostle & Patron Saint of Scotland.**

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

**Sunday 1 December – Advent Sunday – World Aid's Day**

The beginning of the ecclesiastical year on the Sunday closest to November 30.

*Advent is the season before Christmas - In Western Christendom, four Sundays are included. In Eastern Christendom, the season is longer and begins in the middle of November.* Help us to prepare for the coming of Jesus in the midst of all the pressures and commercialism of the season.

**Mon 9 Dec – Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord.**

**Sat 21 Dec – Thomas, Apostle.**

**Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve.**

**Wednesday 25 December - Christmas Day – We give thanks for the birth of Jesus.**

**Thursday 26 December – Stephen, Deacon & Martyr.**

**Fri 27 Dec – John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Sat 28 Dec – The Holy Innocents**

**Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Extract from MU Faithful in Prayer: (next 6 lines)**

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 Worldwide, 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.

**When the time is ripe**

When the time is ripe, the vision will come.

When the heart is ready, the fruit will appear.

When the soul is mature, the harvest will happen.

Not to worry about all the unspoken, the unnamed, the undelivered.

Not to hurry the sprouts out of seeds, the weeds out of garden.

Let it all grow. wait for the ripening.

Yearn for the yielding if you must, but be patient, trust the process.

Talk to the restlessness, sit with confusion, dance with the paradoxes,  
and sip tea with the angel of midlife.

Smile while you wait, empty basket in hand, all too eager

to snatch the produce of your spiritual path. *Joyce Rupp*