Diocesan Fact Sheet

RUMBEK, SOUTH SUDAN



Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 75: 21-23 September

Information:

Bilateral relations between South Sudan and Sudan were officially started on 9 July 2011 following the former's independence from the latter. Sudan became the first country in the world to recognize the independence of South Sudan. Since South Sudan's independence, relations between South Sudan and Sudan have been poor and frantic.

Rumbek is the capital of Lakes State, central South Sudan, and the former capital of the country. Following the peace agreement ending the Second Sudanese Civil War, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement chose Rumbek to serve as the temporary administrative center of the Government of Southern Sudan. Later, Juba was selected to become the permanent capital. Like most South Sudanese towns, Rumbek suffered significant infrastructural damage during the civil war, in which an estimated 2 million people perished.

Recently, many of the projects and programmes of the Mothers' Union in South Sudan have been disrupted by the political and humanitarian crisis that began in December 2013. Currently 1.3 million people have been displaced by the crisis, with few signs of an agreement to end fighting and restore peace. However, the Mothers' Union has been at the forefront of the Anglican response to the crisis. The Church has already provided food aid to 721,234 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and is now looking at ways to continue to support displaced people and seek to bring peace, reconciliation and development back to their country.

Bible Verse:

Deuteronomy 7:9

'Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the **faith**ful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.'

Diocesan Fact Sheet

Mothers' Christian care for families

SOROTI, UGANDA

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 75: 21-23 September

Information:

There are 2,650 Mothers' Union members in Soroti diocese.

The Diocese which is situated in eastern Uganda is currently experiencing economic difficulties where agriculture is the main occupation. Giving is dwindling and the few "projects are overwhelmed".

Mothers' Union work covers a wide range of activities seeking to make a difference to lives of families in the communities. They are involved in Mission and celebrations, women's conferences, radio talk shows on domestic and gender based violence, schools ministry, counselling and home visits.

Also classes on baking, tailoring, mushroom growing, cultivation of crops, cattle rearing and a village savings loan association.

Some communities have used their new skills to generate income and provide food for their families.

Mothers' Union projects have changed lives for the better so that families are encouraged to practice good hygiene; there are church weddings; reconciliation and behaviour change of the children at school.

Through the work of the CDC many social issues have been raised. She has campaigned through radio broadcasts and meetings and Councils on such topics as gender based violence, Human Rights, climate in Uganda, child sacrifice, issues of sexuality, family planning and HIV/AIDS.

We thank God for answering our prayers. Eg Mothers Union prayed for a child of four years who had never walked, God helped her so that she can now walk. Also people are delivered from demon attacks, and women deliver safely.

Bible Verse:

Our favourite Bible verses are Philippians. 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

and St Matthew 6:33 Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Diocesan Fact Sheet

Mothers' North Christian care for families

ABA NGWA NORTH, NIGERIA

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 75: 21-23 September



Information:

The Diocese is is situated in the tropical rain forest of southern Igbo plain in the present Abia State of Nigeria. The people are largely farmers, producing yams, cassava, cocoyam, maize and other tropical farm products. Major rural industries include garri and palm produce in addition to Akwete cloth weaving in which most women from the area are engaged.

(Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngwa)

Mothers' union activities include services, prayer days, retreats, meetings and workshops.

Bible Verse:

2 Timothy 4:5 'AS for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully'

Diocesan Fact Sheet





Wave of Prayer Group:

Bible Verse:

Matthew 5v 16

"Let you light shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven"

Diocesan Fact Sheet



PETERBOROUGH, ENGLAND

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 75: 21-23 September

Information:

Diocesan President Barbara Haynes Mothers' Union members 971

Our diocese is quite diverse. Made up of part urban with a considerable part made up of rural communities. In the rural areas we are aware of some lonely and isolated people where lack of public transport is a problem. In the urban areas there is considerable unemployment and poverty, this has necessitated the setup of homelessness centres and food banks.

Geographically the diocese is a long and narrow diocese, which means that travel to get together can be a problem but one which of course we do overcome.

Action and Outreach

A.F.I.A holidays, Families are sent on individual holidays by the sea [we are as far from the coast as is possible, so this is a real treat] after referrals from a professional. Children's' activities. Baptism support.

Prayer groups, diocesan M.U. prayer chain.

Supporting residential homes and supplying activity aprons for the residents especially with dementia or post strokes.

Kit bags filled with essential equipment for homeless people that are sleeping rough.

Toiletries and knitted teddies for the Women's' refuges.

Supporting the homeless centre [originally set up by M.U.,20+ years ago but now a charity in its own right] by volunteering . Volunteering at the various food banks.

Knitting...something that our members excel at. Teddies for the emergency services to give to children in traumatic situations. Blankets and tops for Africa. Making Angel pockets for the still born babies who are too small to clothe

Travelling cribs. which families have overnight during Advent to help children experience the true meaning of Christmas

Sending Christmas cards to prisoners.

Volunteering in a prison crèche.

Quiet days.

Joy bags for hospital patients.

We are planning to set up a centre to give lunches, to children who have free school meals, during the school holidays. This is still at the planning stage. The plan is to begin small, in one deanery and then to gradually expand as we become experienced.

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Feedback

We feel that we have shown that somebody cares . We have shown practical and compassionate help.

Hopefully the churches and diocese have thought that we are working with them, especially when it comes to family life.

A.F.I.A. holidays always seem to touch the souls of those who receive them . On one occasion we were told that a family who had never had a holiday and didn't believe that they could manage one , returned from a holiday to announce that they enjoyed it so much that they were going to save and arrange their own the next year . AND they did.

Campaigning

As a diocese we are active in answering all discussion papers sent to us from M.S.H. as we think that it is a privilege to be asked to be involved.

After the discussion in one branch before filling in our reply about Gay marriage in church, the vicar arranged a diocesan [not just M.U.]day for a discussion on the subject which was well attended. This was all because of the opportunity that had been given to M.U. members.

Bible Verse:

Ephesians 4 v 25

'We are all members together in the body of Christ'. Often used by me in a paraphrased version of 'we are members one of another'. This is something that I personally find very important within the M.U.'