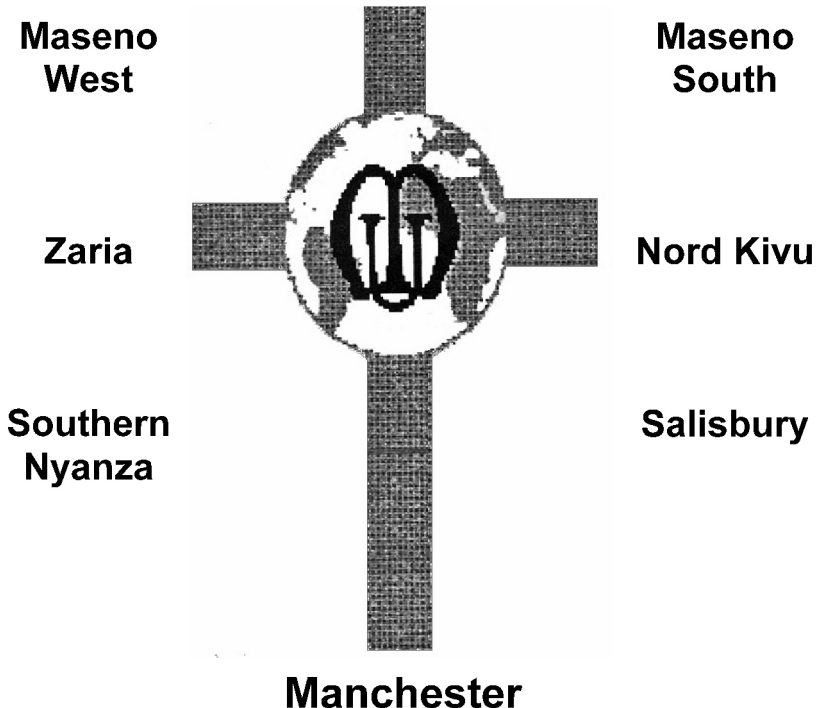


Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer

21st – 25th May 2011

Faithful Relationship



His love for us is strong and his faithfulness is eternal.
Psalm 117 verse 2

The Wave of Prayer is a daily act of prayer and reflection undertaken by members throughout the world. This leaflet is produced to help you join with our link Dioceses and pray together on our five special days and throughout the year.

Faithful Relationship

Leader: “For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.”
(Colossians 1 v 19-20)

Jesus was very clear that faithful relationships are the model and structure for living together in harmony as families, friends and neighbours and as communities, nations and internationally.

Through, and in all these different faithful relationships, we have both an identity and a purpose and we learn to recognise and experience God's faithful presence in our lives.

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

**All: Almighty and loving God we thank you that you are present not only here but everywhere.
Be with us today as we celebrate with members around the world.
We pray especially for our link members in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria as well as friends in our link Diocese of Salisbury.
We thank you that no one is outside your love and no place beyond your concern.
Great is your faithfulness from one generation to another.
Amen**

Bible Reading:**Genesis 9 vs. 12 – 16**

Leader: In ancient times people saw the rainbow as a symbol of peace and harmony. Ancient Hebrews recognised it as a special sign given by God of His promise to His people.

**All: God of hope
You flooded your earth with the waters of your
grief Yet you set Noah, his family and all the
animals apart in an ark of promise and salvation
God of Noah Keep us faithful in watching and
waiting Grant us hope and courage to stand ready
for Your return.
Amen**

Leader: We are joined in prayer to-day with members in our link Diocese of Zaria. Since the visit of Mrs. Hannah Bello last spring we have learned a little more about our latest link.

Zaria diocese is still very new. It was only formed in 2007 and the Mothers' Union and Women's Guild work together. They have over 50 churches in rural areas which are virtually cut off in the rainy season because the roads are too bad to travel.

This past year the Mothers' Union and Women's Guild have held two joint conferences and report that each church in the diocese has been encouraged to have a prayer and spirituality link. They hold monthly prayer meetings when prayer requests are offered and testimonies given regarding answers to prayer and they tell us that God has proved himself to be a prayer answering God. However, the numbers attending the monthly prayer meeting have not been very encouraging.

In 2009 they marked Mothering Sunday with a novelty football match with the girls named “golden girls” versus “royal mothers” and they are planning this again for 2011.

Hannah Bello says, “I have a dream that every Nigerian girl should be able to read and write in English.”

**All: Heavenly Father we pray for the joint work of the Mothers' Union and Women's Guild in Zaria and for Mrs. Hannah Bello and those who help her. We pray that their faithful work will lead to the fulfilment of her vision to enable all young Nigerian women to become literate in English.
Amen**

Hymn: Father hear the prayer we offer

Bible Reading: Matthew 16 vs. 13 - 19

Leader: We remember members in the diocese of Nord Kivu whose new bishop, Bishop Ise-Somo Muhindo, was consecrated in December. He was able to visit us in February and share with us his deep faith and his experiences of life and ministry in Nord Kivu.

In the larger towns the situation is calmer but the rural areas are still being subjected to numerous militia groups who come in, mainly looking for food, but who burn down houses and rape the women.

A big Mothers' Union conference for all the Congo Dioceses took place last October and was attended by two staff from Mary Sumner House. Due to ongoing civil war in the country, it was the first visit that had been made by anyone from Mary Sumner House for

many years. They wanted to visit Nord Kivu after the conference but were informed whilst they were there, that the Diocesan Secretary had been shot and it was unclear who was behind the attacks. Nord Kivu is still considered unsafe and Bishop Ise-Somo is also concerned about the elections which are soon to take place because these could cause further outbreaks of violence.

The Mothers' Union members' concerns are based around literacy and tribal animosity. Members underestimate themselves and get quickly discouraged. At the moment they do not have either a strategy plan or vision and all their work and energy is concentrating on caring for and helping the raped women.

All: Heavenly Father we pray for members who are working under very difficult and unpredictable circumstances. We pray that the joint vision of all Mothers' Union members in Congo of “holistic development of society through a united Mothers' Union” will bear fruit. Uphold, strengthen and inspire them to do your will. Amen.

Hymn: I am trusting thee Lord Jesus

Leader: Our three link dioceses in Kenya, Maseno West, Maseno South, and Southern Nyanza continue to care for orphans and widows and sick people particularly those suffering from HIV/AIDS which has a very high incidence in Southern Nyanza. This is the poorest of our three dioceses where up to 75% of the people live below the poverty line.

All three dioceses aim to improve their financial capacity through Income Generating Projects and good stewardship. These Mothers' Union projects include poultry keeping, brick making, basketry, crochet, tie and dye and the making of herbal soap. Through regional fellowships, they are sharing ideas and learning from each other.

All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the work undertaken by members in our three Kenyan Dioceses which is so vital to the well being of so many families. We thank you for their vision and faithful commitment in helping to ease the lives of so many who are suffering from poverty and AIDS. Amen.

Leader: Finally, we pray and give thanks for the work going on in our diocese. We pray for Barbara our President and members of the Trustees that they may be given vision and guidance in all that they undertake. We continue to thank God for the many blessings and encouragements we have received in the past year and ask that he will inspire, encourage and enable us to continue in our diocese and in our own communities.
Amen.

All: Gracious and loving God, receive our thanks, and help us to follow where you lead us. In the name of Christ. Amen.

The 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 reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

Hymn Lord for the years

Leader: May God bless us.

All: In our sleep with rest.

May God bless us.

In our dreams with vision.

May God bless us.

In our waking with a calm mind.

May God bless us.

In our souls with friendship.

May God bless us.

This day and every day.

Amen.

Wave of Prayer Timetable

Saturday 21st May – Wednesday 25th May 2011

Time	Saturday 21st	Monday 23rd	Tuesday 24th	Wednesday 25 th
8-9	Salford	Diocesan Members	Heywood and Middleton	Ardwick
9-10	Radcliffe and Prestwich	Oldham East	Heywood and Middleton	Walmsley
10-11	Radcliffe and Prestwich	Oldham East	Hulme	Walmsley
11-12	Withington	Oldham West	Hulme	Eccles
12 -1	Withington	Oldham West	Rochdale	Eccles
1-2	Bury	Leigh	Rochdale	Rossendale
2-3	Bury	Ashton	Bolton and Deane	Stretford
3-4	North Manchester	Ashton	Bolton and Deane	Stretford

**Members of the Indoor Members Prayer Circle will observe
Sunday 22nd May**

This Wave of Prayer Leaflet is for use throughout the year
Please feel free to adapt it as you wish

**O breath of love, come breathe within us,
Renewing thought and will and heart.
Come love of Christ, afresh to win us,
Revive your Church in every part.**