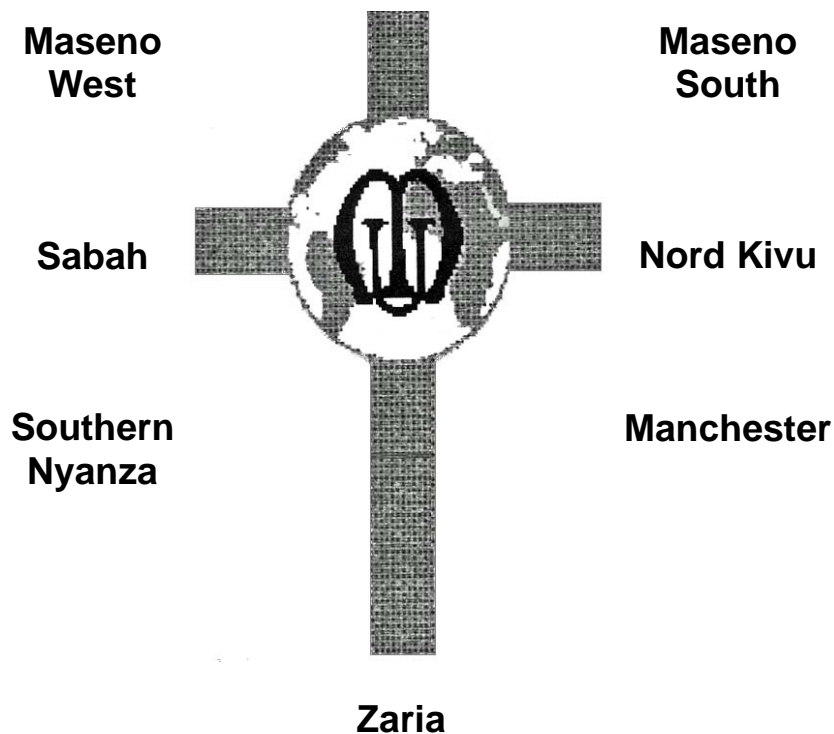


**Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer  
21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

**The Cost of Relationship**



**Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine in our darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church gathered today.**

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.

“The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many”

(Matthew ch.20 v 28)

Leader: “He died that we might be forgiven  
He died to make us good;  
that we might go at last to heaven  
saved by his precious blood.”

There are many different kinds of relationships – in our families, with friends, in churches and in communities, in marriage and romance, at work and in society at large, but all these come at a cost to ourselves and others. The Mothers’ Union believes that our most important relationship is with God and our focus this year is on the “Cost of Relationships”. As the family of God and members of His worldwide church, let us pray:-

**All: God of all relationships  
You know the joys and the sorrows, the laughter  
and  
the tears that our closest relationships can bring.  
Protect us when troubles arise, that we may  
nurture each other.  
Inspire us when fatigue sets in, that we may be  
faithful.  
Bless us in each moment we spend together.  
Thank you for the precious gifts we are to each  
other.**

**Amen**

**Hymn: The Servant King**

Leader: We are joined in prayer with members in our 3 link Dioceses in Kenya, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Sabah and in our new link Diocese of Zaria in Nigeria, and we ask that God will bless them and the work in which they are involved.

**All: Heavenly Father, we pray for a clear vision for the work you want us to do. Enable us to give ourselves freely to those in your world who have special needs at this time. May we be your hands, feet, eyes and ears as we seek to show your love in our communities today.**  
**Amen**

Leader: The post election violence at the beginning of last year affected all three of our diocesan links in Kenya, particularly in Maseno West and Maseno South where the whole communities were disorganised and Mothers' Union plans had to be abandoned. So many members were displaced from their homes and are now living in camps, many had their homes burnt.

Sadly, many of the HIV/AIDS sufferers who were under the care of the Mothers' Union are now lost and cannot be traced. In both dioceses hunger and poverty levels have tripled as a result of the skirmishes. Uncontrollable price increases in foodstuff and fuel have strained people's lives and as a result there has been less participation and contribution towards Mothers' Union programmes. Also there have been increases in infections and deaths due to inadequate health facilities and medicine.

Nevertheless, Mothers' Union members worked in shifts around the clock to help the displaced people, giving out donations of clothing and food and preparing meals. The displaced people have also needed counselling and prayers. There is much training going on with reconciliation and healing for mothers to help them cool down the tribal temperaments.

Now also in both Maseno West and South there is a great drive going on to develop sustainable projects at all levels to make members economically empowered and to target new members.

In the Diocese of Southern Nyanza, where up to 75% of the people live below the poverty line and where

there is a high level of HIV/AIDS, the Mothers' Union aim to target 10 new members per parish in 2009 as well as organising training and leadership skills for the newly elected Archdeaconry officials. It is their aim that by the end of 2009, "Mothers' Union shall have strengthened the spiritual functions in the Diocese." They too also aim this year to improve their financial capacity through Income Generating Activities and stewardship. These Mothers' Union projects include poultry keeping, brick making, basketry and crochet, tie and dye, chairs and utensils for hire and the making of herbal soap.

Let us pray for the work of these Kenyan Dioceses:

**All: Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the work undertaken by members in our three linked Dioceses in Kenya, work which is so vital to the well being of so many families. We pray for a lasting peace and reconciliation between tribes and a return to order so that projects can once more develop and flourish. Bless all our members in Kenya and their Mothers' Union workers and presidents. May the knowledge that we are praying with them today bring them encouragement.**

**Amen**

**Hymn: Brother, Sister, let me serve you.**

Bible Reading: Luke ch. 9 vs. 57 - 62

Leader: Once again the Democratic Republic of Congo has been suffering the horrendous ravages of civil war but, whilst our members in North Kivu have not been directly affected with fighting, nevertheless, many displaced people have been finding their way into the Diocese to escape from the fighting and killings in their own areas. These displaced people are living in wretched conditions, they have not enough to live on

and the situation is plunging the Mothers' Union in North Kivu into an economic crisis.

During the past 2 years Mothers' Union have run literacy classes and classes on household cleanliness, cooking and family welfare. They are much encouraged to find, on the whole, a change in outlook and behaviour. The mothers who attended the classes had low self esteem but are now beginning to undertake work in the parishes. In the literacy centres several mothers who can now read and write are learning to start small businesses such as soap making, specialised cookery, keeping small herds of animals and gardening. Their problems are still financial as they need money to complete their work and a lack of transport means they have to walk long distances and often the roads are impassable.

Let us pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in North Kivu:-

**All: Heavenly Father, as we pray for the work going on in this troubled land we thank you for the courage of all Mothers' Union members and their workers in North Kivu. We pray for the many families who have lost loved ones through war or AIDS. Grant courage to the Mothers' Union leaders and workers to enable them to continue to work to relieve suffering and hardship. We pray for their new Bishop Enoch and Phoebe his wife. May their ministry be one of guidance, encouragement and inspiration. Amen**

Leader: We pray for the women of Sabah as they continue to reach out in love and care for members of their own community and we also pray for the Mothers' Union members in Zaria Diocese in Nigeria with whom we have just been given a link.

Let us give thanks for the work and great blessings we have received in our own Diocese over the past year.

Our new Parenting project is doing well. We have completed the first course and look forward to starting the second one. We pray for the schools involved in our “virtual baby” project and the success of our student “starter packs”. We remember in prayer those who have had a need to use our hospital hospitality bags, knitwear for premature babies or sadly “angel pockets”. We have continued to support the homeless and those moving into a home of their own who have been given “starter packs” of household items, and we have continued in our own parishes and communities reaching out to those in need.

We give thanks for our link with members in Salisbury Diocese and the happy times we have shared in our mutual visits.

**All: Heavenly Father we pray for all members in our diocese and give thanks for leaders and members of the Trustees, especially our President, Barbara. We ask for guidance, vision and commitment in all we do in our parishes and in the Diocese. Amen**

**Teach us good Lord  
To serve you as you deserve  
To give and not to count the cost  
To fight and not to heed the wounds  
To toil and not to seek for rest  
To labour and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing, we do your will  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 in love and service reach out as your  
hands  
across the world. In Jesus' name.  
Amen**

**Hymn: Take my life and let it be**

**All: A Psalm of Light**

**The Lord is my lantern, I shall not falter  
He goes before me on the dark and lonely  
footpaths  
He lifts the shadows that wait around my door  
He lights the empty corners of my room  
In the greyness of doubt and uncertainty  
He will guide me.**

**In the darkness of hurt and despair  
I shall seek His brightness  
His light is constant and His comfort everlasting  
I shall travel with Him always  
And He will lead me safely on the journey of life.**