

KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 31: 20-22 April

The Diocese of Kinshasa is a vast Diocese in the North-west of the Democratic Republic of Congo that spans from the edge of the Equatorial rainforest to the coast at Matadi.

The Diocese also includes the whole of the Republic of Congo. The Archdeaconry of Brazzaville was started in 1997, it covers the whole of the Republic of Congo and is organised in 4 Parishes with many sub-parishes with more than 1000 believers, 450 of which are women. The women participate in the activities of the Church but lack adequate training to exercise their role in the Church. The hope is to train women in evangelism and development in order to support the Church in Brazzaville when they become a Diocese of their own. Despite the number of women in the Church, only 72 women are enrolled into Mothers' Union. The plan is to invest in training more women as members of Mothers' Union.

The whole of the Diocese of Kinshasa is a missionary Diocese; it was founded in December 2003. The Anglican Church began in the East of Congo as missionaries came from Uganda to evangelise the border region, however, in the west of the Congo, its presence is very limited. They are now trying to actively grow the Anglican Church in the region. Despite, its relatively small numbers, there is much to celebrate, the Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinator Rosalie Etsa became the first ordained woman in the Diocese, which is the cause of much celebration.

Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Kinshasa runs a literacy-based self-reliance programme called "Awaken". Awaken is run in all the Dioceses of the Province of Congo. Awaken uses the Bible Studies found in the Church and Community Mobilisation Process to enable people to become literate, as well as empowered to understand their own context and understand God's plan for their lives.

Bible Verse:

Proverbs 31:26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

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VICTORIA NYANZA, TANZANIA

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 31: 20-22 April



Mothers' Union in Tanzania has one of the largest memberships in the world with over 815,000 members.

The Diocese of Victoria Nyanza is located in northern Tanzania, along the shores of Lake Victoria and has over 50 parishes in Mwanza and Geita regions. The Cathedral Church of the diocese is located in Mwanza. Mwanza is a port city with a population of over 700,000, making it Tanzania's second largest city, following the capital Dar es Salaam.

The Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union in Victoria Nyanza is Mrs Mary Kwangu (pictured above-centre). Mothers' Union members in Victoria Nyanza are very committed to the work of the Mothers' Union and are involved in a number of activities including sewing and craft projects, poultry projects, running kindergartens and nursery schools, agricultural projects and evangelism.

Mothers' Union also have an active prison outreach and regularly take gifts of food and other items to give to prisoners, also spending time with them listening and praying with them.

Bible verse:

Romans 12:12
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

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Diocesan Fact Sheet

AHOADA, NIGERIA



Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 31: 20-22 April

The Diocese of Ahoada is in the Rivers State of Nigeria. It was created in 2004. There are 120 members of the Mothers' Union in Ahoada.

The Diocesan President of Mothers' Union is Mrs Edna C. Ekpeye. She has been a member of the Mothers' Union for ten years. Mrs Ekpeye's vision for Mothers' Union in the diocese is to establish a central skills acquisition programme where the less privileged will be taken care of, and at the end be self-reliant.

The Diocese is growing both spiritually and otherwise, despite the abject poverty in some communities. Mothers' Union members help the most vulnerable in the community with gifts of cash and also gifts in kind.

Mothers' Union members in Nigeria are working to support the young and those in need in their communities, particularly focussing on providing educational opportunities for children and being role models. The diocese has a very active Children's Ministry and Mothers' Union in Ahoada work very closely with both the Anglican Youth Department and the Anglican Children's Ministry Department.

The Mothers' Union holds a conference every October where members gather together to share fellowship, ideas and plan together their activities for the coming year.

Bible Verse:

2 Tim 3:16

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

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WARRI, NIGERIA

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 31: 20-22 April

The Diocese of Warri is in the Delta State of Nigeria. It was created in 1980.

Warri city is one of the major hubs of petroleum activities and businesses in southern Nigeria. It is a commercial capital city of Delta State, with a population of over 311,970 people according to the national population census figures for 2006. Warri is predominantly Christian.

There are 2000 members of the Mothers' Union in Warri diocese. Their vision is to have spirit-run members and to be financially strong.

Members are active in a number of outreach activities including visiting the sick and the elderly. Branches meet regularly for fellowship and Bible Study, and to examine the aim and objectives of Mothers' Union.

Mothers' Union in Warri request prayers from their fellow members around the world for spiritual, numerical and financial growth within the diocese.

Bible Verse:

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

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OXFORD, ENGLAND

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 31: 20-22 April



Worldwide President's Visit

Oxford Diocese covers the counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. The principal city is Oxford and the Mothers' Union has a small office at Christ Church. There are over 2,000 branch members in 87 branches and 170 Diocesan members.

In the diocese the work of Mothers' Union is carried out through various diocesan projects, both large and small, that are aimed at supporting families in both good and bad times. Deaneries and branches run their own local projects too.

Mothers' Union branches undertake a wide variety of tasks both in churches and in the wider community, including prisons. Work undertaken ranges from organising Pram Services and welcoming families who bring babies for Baptism, to Fair Trade Projects. Lots of branches make Happy Bags sometimes called toy bags or quiet bags, for young children attending services in church, often containing MU leaflets or prayer cards for parents to read; "Children in Church", or "Children and Spirituality". To maintain their long standing reputation for making excellent tea and cake many branches help with catering for fêtes and other occasions as well (including receptions after funerals).

Others run Mother and Toddler Groups, and help in Community Cafés or Day Centres and lunch clubs for older people. Henley Branch's First Time Mums project, especially for new mothers who are adjusting to their new role, has been a great success too.

Other activities include:

- Diocesan and area services, branch prayer groups
- Retreats and Deanery Quite Days
- Inspired Day

On the practical side, among other things MU members knit and sew for premature babes in hospital and collect toiletry items for people who are admitted unexpectedly to Accident and Emergency departments with no time to collect a sponge bag; they also put together bags for women and their children who are victims of domestic violence and seek shelter in Women's Refuges.

For more information visit the Diocesan Mothers' Union website: www.muoxford.org.uk

Bible Verse:

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

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PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Wave of Prayer Group:

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Mothers' Union Diocesan President, Mrs Louise Werner

Port Moresby is the capital and largest city of Papua New Guinea. It has a tropical wet and dry climate, with consistent high temperatures throughout the year. As a capital city it often struggles with security problems.

The Diocese of Port Moresby has 8 urban Parishes and 2 rural mission stations, and has 130 members in total.

Port Moresby is a city Diocese and being the nation's capital this comes with its own challenges. As one of the main missions is reaching out to families facing problems, this often involves travel from one end of the city to another. Most members use public transport for this, but this leaves them open to the high risk of pick pocketing and bag snatching.

Mothers' Union continues ongoing activities and meetings of members and Mothers' Union in the diocese has made many strategic alliances in the city. It has a partnership with Anglicare in Adult Literacy which looks to include young people who drop out of school and help them to enrol at Flexible Office Distance Education (FODE). There is also a partnership with Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) in capacity building for leaders in leadership, literacy, and life skills programme. Alongside this the Port Moresby Diocese has successfully imparted skills training across the diocese on sewing, baking, cooking and tie dying fabrics.

Bible Verse:

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.