

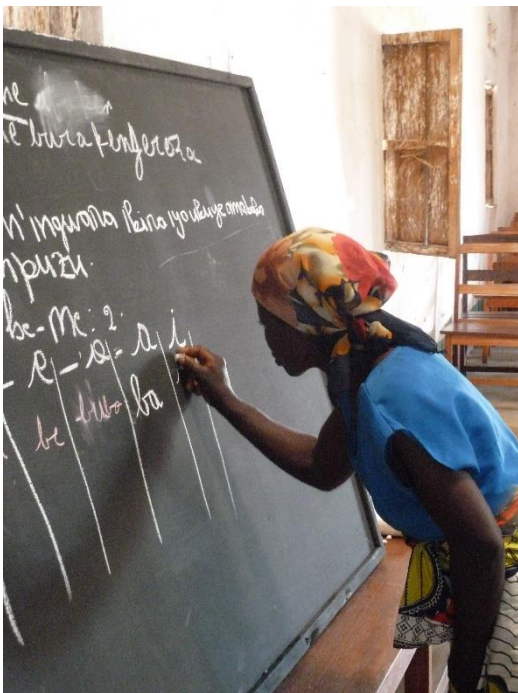
## Mothers' Union Linked in Prayer

From the very beginning of Mothers' Union in 1876, in the sitting room of our founder Mary Sumner, prayer has been the cornerstone of the movement. Now active in more the 80 countries worldwide, dioceses are linked together by prayer, supporting and encouraging each other as we reach out to our local communities with practical help.

Just as every family is formed by a network of relationships where some members have a particularly close bond, so the same is true of Mothers' Union. Each area in which Mothers' Union members are active is linked closely with other diocese around the globe, so that they can get to know one another. It is sometimes difficult to maintain personal contact for any number of reasons, but members pray for each other, and if appropriate support each other in more practical ways.

On every day of the year there are Mothers' Union members taking part in a Wave of Prayer which spans the globe. Members and branches in the Diocese of Truro are linked with Makamba (Burundi), North Karamoja (Uganda), Lokoja and Sapele (Nigeria) and Tirunelveli (India), and our Wave of Prayer is during September 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> each year. During this period Wave of Prayer services are held in branches across our links and we gave thanks for the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive. This year we lit a candle of remembrance for all who have been affected and continue to be affected by the coronavirus pandemic throughout the world. Also during this period our diocese and our links are held in prayer by members worldwide.

Many of the members in our linked dioceses face daily challenges of poverty, hunger, climate change and other man-made crisis, but through our Central Projects and Programmes, supported by members throughout Britain and Ireland, Mother's Union is making a difference.



In Burundi for example the Literacy and Financial Education Programme has enabled women to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills, essential for discussing and planning action on their daily issues and challenges, bringing real changes to their lives. In areas where this programme has been run, women have often reported a decrease in domestic abuse and more equal and positive relationships. Since the beginning of this programme over 50,000 people have been helped to become literate, with over 70,000 setting up savings groups and income generating projects.

When members are enrolled to the Mothers' Union, the Aim and Objects of the organisation are read out not only for new members but also for existing members to hear and to affirm once again. As part of the Objects we are asked 'to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service'. Although news from our links can be sporadic, the Wave of Prayer is a continuous expression of our commitment to each other. Central to our work, both here in the United Kingdom and worldwide, we believe that prayer can be transformational, and as we are linked throughout the year our prayer life encompasses all the places in which Mothers' Union is represented.

Sheila Waring  
Truro Mothers' Union Diocesan President