

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**DIOCESE OF
GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY**



**NEWSLINK
SPRING 2009**

Scottish Charity SC023885

Diocesan President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Here we are again at the end of another triennial! This is the year of elections, which will be held in the Autumn Council on Sat. 3rd Oct. '09 at Cumbernauld (note change of date). Thank you to everyone who has held office over the last three years for your enthusiasm and hard work. We are called, not to be successful but to be *faithful*. God has blessed us over these last three years and we can look to the next three with confidence in Him.

This year the WWP, Rosemary Kempself will be speaking at the Festival Service on Sat. 23rd May 09 in St. Cyprian's, Lenzie at 11.30 a.m. We will be holding a series of events to give members in the south and north of the diocese an opportunity to meet with Rosemary. Other things are in the pipeline to make this a celebration of MU in Glasgow and Galloway.

What about the future? Let us continue to pray with enthusiasm and reach out in faith. In the middle of a storm on the Sea of Galilee Peter called out in fear, "Is that you, Lord?" If Jesus was there Peter would follow, no matter how unbelievable, frightening, or challenging the situation. Peter walked on water: As long as he kept his eyes on Jesus.

"Lord, help us to keep our eyes on You and not be distracted from our challenges and work by the doubts and fears of this world."

with love,

Enid

Lent



In the cold, dank
January wood
a snowdrop lightens our winter darkness
with its soft gleam.
Tightly closed at first,
its pale bud suddenly bursts into wonderful green,
lace-edged delicacy,
fluttering bravely above the frost and snow.

Lord, may we be like your snowdrop
this Lententide:
at first tightly closed in upon ourselves
as we are once more
drawn into the story of Christ's life and passion,
yet ready to burst out in joy and thanksgiving
at the glory of Easter Sunday.
May our faith shine out bravely,
lightening the darkness of the world's winter
so that it blossoms into the spring of new life in Christ.

*From **In the Palm of God's Hand** a collection of Prayers, Poems and Reflections by members of the Mothers Union Glasgow and Galloway Diocese*

Reflection – from our MU Chaplain

Scott writes...

There have been a number of famous recluses over the years - Agatha Christie, Emily Dickinson, Greta Garbo. Most famous of all is probably Howard Hughes, the billionaire businessman, aircraft entrepreneur and movie producer who, at one point, stayed in a film studio screening room for more than four months.

For various reasons these folk and many others have found it necessary to hide themselves away. Some haven't been able to cope with the fame and adulation they received from the public. Others, like Hughes, were clearly mentally ill and others like Garbo, I guess, simply wanted to be alone. Whatever the reason, they found themselves hiding. I mention all this because in many ways we find Jesus doing just that. In a recent Gospel reading we hear the disciples saying to Jesus, 'Everyone is looking for you', and Jesus says, 'Let's go somewhere else.' (Mark 1: 37-38) Clearly Jesus's motivation as he tells us is to preach in as many places as possible, but it seems to me that we are still left with the reality that having been in one place, Jesus moves off elsewhere, he effectively hides from his first audience to move on to the next. Now obviously, Jesus couldn't be at all places at once, there had to be a moving on. But there is a broader issue that I want to think about today and that is that in our lives as Christians we have to be prepared to acknowledge that we follow the God who moves on, the God who doesn't stand still, yes even the God who hides.

What do I mean by that? Well, if we actually look at Jesus's life and ministry we find an element of mystery. We know next to nothing about his birth and even less about his childhood and early adult years, and when he does come to prominence and starts his ministry he speaks in parables. Why? 'So that the people will be ever-hearing and never understanding.' His disciples consistently misunderstand him and seem to put their collective feet in it over and over again. There is a desire by those who trust him to make him King of the Jews or Messiah publicly, but Jesus will have none of it. Whenever he casts out a demon that threatens to let the cat out of the bag that he is indeed, God's chosen one, he tells them in no uncertain terms to be quiet. If Jesus had a publicity agent, he would have been tearing his hair out at how Jesus handled the crowds. Jesus was someone who, for all the importance of his ministry, did not court the spotlight. He shied away from the obvious political traps that his enemies and even his friends provided for him. Again we could say that there were obvious reasons for this. Jesus didn't want to be associated with the kind of military Messiah the people desired, he was also pretty savvy when it came to the notion of political timing - remember the donkey coming into Jerusalem. It is true that Jesus kept his powder dry a lot of the time. But it seems to me that there is more to it than just politics. There's a sense in which God's activity is always one step removed from where you think it should be. God's doesn't like to be obvious. He seems to want us to work at what he's up to. 'Everyone is looking for you.' 'Let's go somewhere else.'

If it's true that God operates this way, that he hides from us, then the obvious question is, why? Why doesn't he show us just what he's like, why doesn't he make it all clear as crystal, why doesn't he just provide us with a big sign that says 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'? I suppose the answer to that is because he treats us seriously, and more than that, he loves and respects us as individuals. That means that he is prepared to risk the mistakes that we make in order that we may freely choose to follow him.

Don't misunderstand me, I'm not saying that God plays a kind of cosmic hide and seek game just for the fun of it. What I am saying is that God always wants more for us. He wants us to grow up. And like any child who grows up there comes a point, maybe several points, where the child has to

experience the difficult reality that mum and dad are not always there. There comes a point where the child has to come to terms with their own existence and mature to the point where they can get the most out of life. Like all analogies, this one breaks down, but you get the sense of what I'm talking about, I hope.

God is about giving us the freedom to love him for who he is, not who he was to the people of a previous generation or even the people of the Bible. I think all too often our image of God is clouded by the experiences of others. It's good to value the experience of others and to learn from them, but sometimes we can get a bit stuck. A boring and obvious example is the image of God that some folk have - white beard floating on a cloud!

God doesn't want us to get stuck like that. He wants us to move on with him to see new ways of thinking. Some might say, 'Well I'm passed all that, I'm too old.' Age has nothing to do with it. The curious thing, if you look at the Bible is just how ancient many of the great heroes are when they encounter God in a new way - Abraham was in his seventies, Moses was in his eighties, Age has nothing to do with it. What has everything to do with it is whether you want to.

At one point, in his less than convincing charm offensive, having completely cheesed off some would-be followers, Jesus turned to the remaining disciples and said, 'What about you? Do you want to leave too?' And the big dumpling Peter replies with those extraordinary words, 'Where will we go? You have the words of eternal life.' For all his skill at messing up, Peter had somehow grasped that the only way to get to grips with Jesus was to hang on for dear life to his coat tails as he marched into the distance. He knew that understanding this man was not easy, but nonetheless he wanted to.

And it seems to me that it is that same desire to want to, despite all the confusion, despite all the setbacks and difficulties and pains that we experience through life which is what will keep us clutching at those same coat tails as they move ever forward. For at the end of the journey, if we find ourselves still fumbling along behind him we will discover that all is made clear, nothing remains hidden and we hear those words: 'Well done, good and faithful servant.'

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to our MU Chaplain, the Revd Scott Robertson, on being awarded his Doctorate at the end of 2008.

Congratulations to Elsie and Eric Corney who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in February.



A recipe for Mother's Day!



MOROCCAN CHICKEN TAGINE

You will need:

8 skinless chicken thighs; 3-4 tbs honey; 1 large onion, chopped; 3 cloves of garlic, crushed; 2 cinnamon sticks; 1 lemon; 2 teaspoons turmeric; 110g (4 oz) dried apricots, quartered. Serves 4

Method.

1. Arrange the chicken thighs in a casserole dish. Pour over the honey and sprinkle with onion and garlic.
2. Add the cinnamon sticks and sprinkle with lemon juice and turmeric. Top with quarters of apricot and bake in moderate oven at 180°C (350° F, gas mark 4) for about 1 hour, or until chicken tender.
3. Remove cinnamon sticks from the casserole and serve with couscous.

Member's Update

Emily Cameron, Diocesan Youth Representative.

Emily started Strathclyde University in September 2008. She has settled down well and is thoroughly enjoying University life. She is studying for a degree in History and Politics and as part of her first year she is studying Geography and Law. She is working part time in the tax office as an advisor on tax payments.

Last month she celebrated her 18th birthday with a family party followed by 4 days in London with her friends. She continues to dance and is about to start driving lessons.

Belated birthday wishes to you Emily and our best wishes for your continued success.





'Moments with Members'

The answers for this edition come from Margaret Horrell, our Diocesan Enterprise Representative and member of St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh.

Q1. Who or what has made a lasting impression on you?

There are two people who have made a great impact in my life, the first being a Mathematics teacher at secondary school. She made Maths an enjoyable subject but she was also very interested in wildlife and bird watching so her lessons were often punctuated by exhortations to listen to the birds outside and identify them by their song. I have always kept up a keen interest in wildlife since then.

The second person is a Sri Lankan lady, a Buddhist who converted to Christianity after a vision, which she had while studying at University in Britain. Although from a wealthy family she chose to start work as a cleaner in a London Hospital so that she could be as humble as Christ. Now a renowned environmentalist in Sri Lanka and beyond, she tries to devote two days a week helping the Forgotten Poor, those who live on the rubbish heaps in Colombo. She has set up money generating schemes for them, recycling waste paper and making envelopes and cards - allowing people to have dignity in earning. The light of Christ shone out of her and even now I can feel tears in my eyes as I remember her.

Q2. Name a poem, which inspires you.

There is a short poem, which Susan Lewis gave to me called
'The Storm of Life'

Be courageous when the storms of life thrash against the tree.
Dig your roots firmly into the soil of Faith.

Q3. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. What might you have changed with hindsight?

I was very keen to be a Vet but my mother (not an animal lover) persuaded me that I wasn't strong enough to cope with horses and cows. In those days I was a 7 stone weakling. I do wish I had persisted I certainly could have coped with all the small animals which are the main stay of today's vets.

Q4. Has 'political correctness' gone too far?

In some cases yes. We as Christians should be prepared to stand up for everyone's human rights, but also to stand up for our own values and insist that as a predominately Christian country, we can have Christian symbols such as Christmas cards and trees displayed openly in our shops without interference from 'well meaning but misguided local Councils'. My friend who works for a Cancer Research shop overheard a woman complaining during the Christmas period that 'those Christians bring religion into everything'.

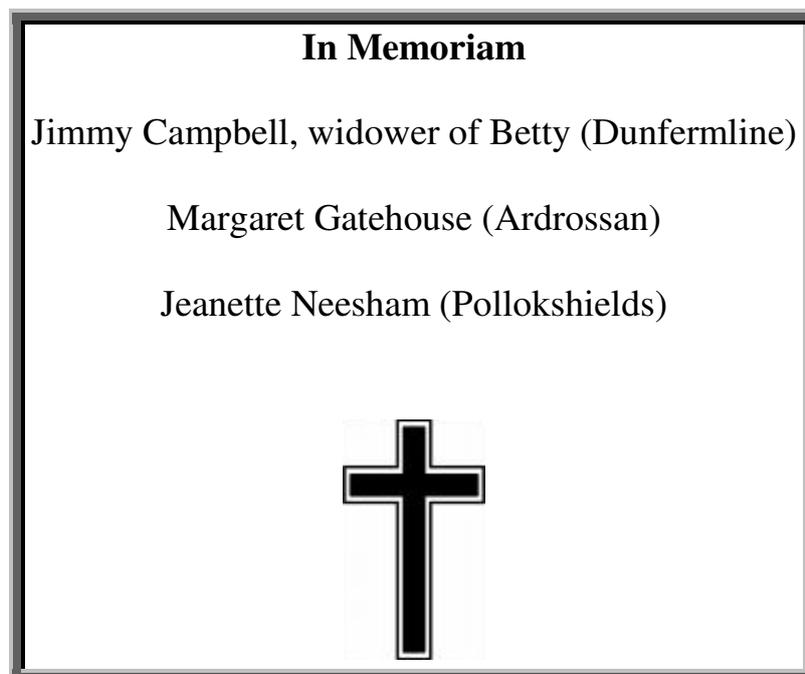
We should be complaining more vocally about the Lord's Name being taken in vain. There is seldom a drama or film on the television where it is not uncommon to hear expletives which are offensive to Christians. We would gain more respect from the other monotheists if we did.

Q5. What could you not live without?

Coffee, as long as it is Fairly Traded.

Q6. What are you doing to minimize your carbon footprint?

I sold my little car this year forcing me to walk more. All the light bulbs in our home are energy saving. We have recently been cavity wall insulated and try to switch off appliances (computers and peripherals) when not actually in use. We compost as much as possible and recycle as much of our waste as Argyll and Bute cater for and we use the 'freecycle' website for other items (a Yahoo group which is available in most areas now).



MU OVERSEAS DAY in Galloway

St Ninian's, Castle Douglas, was the venue for this event, brilliantly organised by Hilary Moran accompanied by Enid Scobie, Diocesan President, Angela Sibley (Action & Outreach Unit Committee MSH and Edinburgh Diocese) and Margaret Horrell (Marketing Representative). 50 MU members from Dumfries and Galloway were present and it was certainly a very enjoyable and rewarding day, starting at 10-30 am and ending with a Church Service at 4pm. There was a break while a soup and sweet lunch was served by the local MU ladies, with tea and coffee to follow.



During the morning session, Hilary addressed the crowd, while using her computer to project slides to illustrate her talk, no mean feat, as anyone who has attempted this will freely admit! Every aspect of the work done by MU throughout the world was covered.

After her address, members were allocated time to make their own contribution to the programme.

Jessie Lockhart led with her impressions of the Stirling Roadshow in June. She was evidently very inspired by what she had learned about the scope of the organisation and the variety of projects in hand. In fact, at the end of this particular day, someone was heard to comment that it was just like a miniature version of the Roadshow.

Praise indeed!



Next came Helen Stephen (former Diocesan President) who gave an interesting account of her recent visit to Antigua, where she had been invited to participate in the Centenary celebrations of the founding of MU in NE Caribbean and Aruba. As this coincided with a Provincial Conference in the West Indies, it must have been a great thrill to be involved in both events.

Margaret Horrell spoke next about the MU Parenting Programmes and also very amusingly about recycling in Africa. It appears that mobile phones are very popular there as a means of communication since every time telephone wires are erected, the locals steal them to make items of jewellery which they can sell! In Nigeria, the law states that reception must be available along all the main roads for use in an emergency She spoke too about the people in Sri Lanka who lived on rubbish tips where every scrap was used. We have a lot to learn from them, it seems, about recycling.

Angela Sibley's account of her visit to Canada, where she attended a Provincial meeting of MU, dealt with another aspect of the work. She set up 3 workshops and being an expert knitter, showed the members how to make prayer shawls. She left one to be completed by the ladies of the diocese.

After lunch, Angela gave a brilliant exposition of how one of these schemes would develop in village life - how one act of kindness which was appreciated would encourage that person to reach out to others in need and gradually, concern for each other would develop as the feeling of belonging to a community took hold. A very important point is that MU supplies the funds but it is the local people who can speak the language who implement the programmes.

Finally, Enid Scobie spoke about the Family Life Programme (FLP) which is operative in 8 provinces of Uganda with hopes of further expansion. Communities gather to identify their own particular problems and they themselves raise the funds to deal with each situation. It was very interesting to hear that new stoves were being provided. These require much less wood to cook and so this is helping to stop deforestation and erosion of the countryside. An added bonus to these is that there is much less wood smoke and so eye problems are becoming less of a problem.

At this point we all moved into the church for the final service of the day. The rector told us the story of St Kentigern and his mother, St Thenew, who was an early believer in Christianity in pagan times. The highlight of this service was the Prayer of Intercession - candles were lit in remembrance of other women who had made a significant contribution to Christian life through the ages. It was a fitting end to a really memorable and inspiring day.



Tribute to Shirley Angell

Hilary Moran

She has Shirley has moved to Norfolk to be near her son.

She joined the MU in Markfield, Leicestershire in 1962 and moved to Seascale in the late 60s becoming Enrolling Member in 1972. She was involved in the Social Concern Department for six years. In 1984 Shirley and Ian left Seascale and came to Largs where in the early 90s, with Hilary, she set up the Largs Branch of the MU.

She has featured in several copies of *Home and Family*.

In the Summer '96 edition, having climbed 20,200 ft in the Everest region in Nepal, she wondered if this was the world's highest recorded position of an MU badge!

There was also a picture of her attending the wedding of an Indian boy whom she and Ian had sponsored through USPG. Sanjo had tracked his sponsors down and invited them to his wedding to thank them.

In the Winter '96 edition her picture was on the front cover, 50ft up a Glasgow climbing wall. This picture featured in the Glasgow Evening Times to promote an active life style for mature women. She had climbed 18,500ft that year, again in Nepal.

She has written a book on the history of 'The Pinnacle Club' – a ladies climbing club and was keen that women should realize their full potential. This, she claims, is why she was so keen on the MU.

Ian was the driving force in getting Largs to become a Fairtrade town. He tragically died whilst walking in the local hills.

Shirley was the driving force in the Largs Church and in the Mothers Union.

She has been Hilary's mentor and her 'angel' looking out for her. She will be missed.



A Message from our Social Policy Contact, Margaret Sherwood

I have just received information from Mary Sumner House, which is of potentially great importance to the aims we espouse in MU if we act quickly and do not delay.

On December 2nd the Scottish Parliament's Committee of Equal Opportunities held a debate on the subject of

“SEXUAL IMAGERY IN GOODS AIMED AT CHILDREN”.

Comments were made by a number of people from groups likely to be concerned such as NSPCC, the Scottish TUC, and the Solicitor General etc.

Points were raised that certain products and activities could be damaging to children in their development.

- It was thought that some products eg Clothes with inappropriate words on them, may lead to children becoming innocent victims of paedophiles or encourage some children to behave in “Sexy” ways that they believe are adult –again opening them to danger.
- It was not clear to the meeting at what age children are able to understand inappropriate messages that are actually being advertised or presented to them.
- It was also not clear who is directly responsible for placing these sexual images in front of children – Is it the responsibility of the producers; Is it the responsibility of the retailers of the goods being sold; or Is it the responsibility of their parents to monitor all that their children see or buy.

It certainly seems completely against MU ideas that anyone should be selling a child's Pole Dancing Set.

THE FINAL OUTCOME of the meeting was that further research needs to be done on this subject in order that the problems can be overcome. With many issues involved here it is important that our laws are fashioned in a way that can become effective.

The whole of the discussion can be read at <http://scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/equal/or-08/eo08-1702.htm#col1702>

Unfortunately it appears that because of their limited budget the committee is likely to be unable to proceed with this issue unless there is sufficient evidence from the public about their concern.

THIS IS WHAT MU MEMBERS CAN DO

Please will you yourself along with as many other members and friends as possible, contact the Equal Opportunities Committee indicating how important we in Mothers Union consider the issue of Sexual imagery in goods aimed at children and that it is vitally important that more research is done on this subject. Children, parents and wider society are affected by commercialisation and the Scottish parliament has a vitally important role in addressing it. It might be an advantage to stress in your response that MU is a Christian organisation whose principal aim is the welfare of Families.

You can contact the Equal Opportunities Committee Clerk, Terry Shevlin at either:-

terry.shevlin@scottish.parliament.uk or
Room T3.40, Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

You may also like to express your thoughts to your own MSP.

Elizabeth Brown, Provincial President of Canterbury and MU envoy to the United Nations writes-

The Mothers' Union contingent is about to leave for New York for two weeks to attend the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations. This year's theme is the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. Previously I have attended meetings on financing for gender equality and the elimination of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Several hundreds of NGOs (non-governmental organisations) attend to lobby governments, network amongst themselves and attempt to strengthen the wording of the previously prepared draft text in the light of important UN documents such as the Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW (Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and the Millennium Developments Goals. However the second week is largely taken up by the governments negotiating out many of the suggested 'improvements' to the text so the final Agreed Conclusions do not contain anything they cannot sign up to!

It is bitterly cold in New York in February – especially for people like Vivian Kityo, MU General Trustee from Uganda, and Salome Leipa, MU Provincial Trainer from Kenya who is joining us this year. The CSW meeting takes place in a large basement conference room with a gallery where NGOs can sit and listen (through translation if necessary), but many of the peripheral meetings and side events take place in the Church Centre office block across 1st Avenue. Some 5-6 of these are scheduled at the same time throughout the first week so we have to divide ourselves up to cover the most relevant topics. Going outside the UN building necessitates lining up again to get through Security (walking through metal detectors while your coat and bag are X-rayed), all quite a hassle – especially first thing in the morning when staff and government delegates are arriving. Later school groups and visitors queue as well – one forgets the UN building is on the tourist route.

Mothers' Union with its practical experience of family life can bring a unique grassroots perspective to this theme, although it is strange to be a faith group amongst the majority secular organisations. At our own side event 'Sharing the Caring: How Mothers' Union promotes gender equality within families' Rachel, Vivian, Salome and myself will each have a slot to bring our individual perspective to this. I shall mention the UK parenting programme, the Flexible Families campaign and the gender stereotyping illustrated within our new Commercialisation of Childhood campaign. *Mothers' Union believes firmly in the importance of creating and supporting healthy relationships between couples and within families – this is where the equal sharing of responsibilities and gender equality can best be instilled.*

Rachel and Jen, MU staff members, stay on for the second week to follow the inter-governmental discussions, but the three of us leave at the end of the first week. It is an exhausting schedule but a great privilege to attend the CSW and take the stories of our members around the world to a forum like the United Nations.

Through Water and the Spirit

St. Cyprian's MU, Lenzie celebrated Baptism with a series of events 11th-15th February! In May 2008 the branch had a wedding display which created interest and brought visitors into the church. The Celebration of Baptism was a follow-up to that event.

On Wed. 11th Feb. branch members met to arrange the flower displays and the baptism artefacts. Some of the baptismal gowns had been in families for generations and dated back to the 1800s. On Saturday the church looked beautiful with the display of gowns, shawls, baptismal presents, cards and flower displays. Fred Gunnee, our organist played a selection of organ music. Refreshments were served in the Hall for visitors. We were delighted that the Kirkintilloch Herald ran an item with picture.



On Sunday there was a special service arranged by the MU with the help of the Rector, Geoff Scobie. The congregation was invited to renew their baptismal vows. Afterwards, there was a lunch in the Hall with a special baptism cake courtesy of M&S! This was cut by two young ladies who had been baptised as children in St Cyprian's (see photo below). MU had used the baptismal record to send invitations to over 40 families whose children or grandchildren had been baptised in the church going back many years!



It was hard work but greatly appreciated by all who attended and enjoyed by those who were involved in many different ways! This event was part of the objective of the MU-bringing children up in the Christian faith - and encouraging adults to continue their faith pilgrimage.



**Extract from our Diocesan President's Report from World Wide Council 11TH-12TH
February 2009**

Representatives to WWC include Diocesan Presidents, Representative and General Trustees together with members of MSH staff. The WWP, Rosemary Kempself and the Unit Co-ordinators report to Council on the first day. The second day begins with a Eucharist led by our Central Chaplain, Bishop Richard Inwood, Bishop of Bedford. Before Council begins the DPs from Scotland meet with the Provincial President, Sheila Redwood for a Provincial meeting.

This year we had been asked to bring 3 pictures celebrating Diocesan projects. It was interesting to see the variety of work undertaken. I took our recipe and book of prayers and a picture of a burial gown for a baby.

Below is a synopsis of the meeting.

Provincial Meeting

1. Child Protection: Sheila Redwood is the MU signatory for disclosure forms for MU members in Scotland. (Note: this does not include vulnerable adults).
2. We are looking for a Representative Member to take over from Jill Cameron (this is a 3 year appointment).
3. There will be a residential Parenting Course in Dunblane in October '09 over 3 days. A minimum of 8 places (4 filled). Interested participants contact Sheila Redwood email: sheila.redwood@btinternet.com

World Wide Council (Wednesday 11th Feb. '09)

(a). WWP's Address.

Rosemary compared travel items with spiritual items: a map and a life map (John 14:1-7); food, material and spiritual; light, a torch and people who act as lights; shelter, a home and a haven.

She reviewed the MU highlights of 2008:

- v Feb.2008 we have consultative status at the UN, and discussed the status of women and reported back to the UK Government.
- v March 2008 the first Regional Meeting in Toowoomba, Australia. There will be 6 of these meetings in part funded by money collected in 1998 nationally.
- v April 2008 the Canadian Conference at which a Parenting Course was run by staff from MSH. Later there was a church event in the Arctic where 11 Inuit were enrolled.
- v Summer 2008 7 Roadshows, attended by 6,000 members and friends.
- v July 2008 MU had a Market Stall at Lambeth and Rosemary addressed the Spouses Conference. Two thirds of the spouses were MU!
- v New publications: Families First and Families Worldwide, was well received. TIP: The CD is good for playing in the car if you have no time to read everything!
- v Feb.09 WWP's visit to Kenya: she spoke to 12,000 people and travelled 2,240 kilometres! She was welcomed with a motorcade, 10 outriders and 3,000 women walking behind!!! One present was a fireless oven which works like a slow cooker. Everyone has a mobile phone and uses e-diary which gives access to a prayer diary.

(b). *Co-ordinator's Reports*

Finance & Central Services

- o MSH can no longer have the top floor as accommodation; conference facilities will be created at a cost of £350,000. It is estimated that the cost will be recovered within 3 months once the facilities are in operation.
- o There are 98,000 UK members current income meets outgoings. However, continuing decline in membership will undermine our work.

- o We need to: increase membership; promote our work; find other sources of income; adopt cost saving measures.
- o 3 things need to underpin our thinking: A VISION; A PLAN; TEAMWORK.

Marketing

- o Make a Mother's Day: hope to continue success and get a wider distribution of the catalogue. Also, make available online to New Zealand, Canada and West Indies.
- o Introduce a catalogue for donations from special birthdays, legacies etc.

Faith & Policy

- o The commercialisation of childhood: major concern for next 5 years along side parenting programme, flexible working and gender equality.
- o Challenge to tackle commercialization of children+make childhood last longer.

Action & Outreach

Described the parallel projects UK & Ireland and Overseas.

- o 3 centrally managed programmes: Parenting Programme, Loving for Life, Development workers in Oxford, Worcester, Chester and Sodor & Man.

Network Projects: AFIA, Prison work, Contact centres.

- o World Wide: 3 Centrally managed programmes: Literacy & Development Sudan, Burundi, Malawi), WW Parenting Programme, Family Life Programme (Uganda). Over 300 Development workers. Network projects include training for HIV/AIDS, income-generating projects, clinics.

Ideas from around the Diocese

Comfort crosses to give to hospital Chaplain.

Parenting Focus Day: families given taster of parenting course, includes free lunch, discussion and sharing.

General Meeting: 18th June 2009 in Croydon, Fairfield Hall. There are 459 tickets left, from 5th March 09 available on MU website.

Triennial Elections centrally: results will be given at WWC 9-10th Sept. 2009.

How welcoming are you?

When you hold your meetings or services at your church, do you consider whether you really welcome everyone or just those who can climb steps and have good eyesight and hearing? If you want to show you value everyone, you need to ensure that access to your premises is wheelchair friendly, there is a loop system installed, all written material is produced in sufficiently large type and you have material in a larger type (point 18) for those who may need it. Have you enquired how you could get a Braille copy, if it was required? When designing a service sheet, consider putting in some appropriate clip art, as this can help those with learning difficulties. Hope these few ideas encourage you to look at your church events to see if they could be made more welcoming.

Barbara Walker

Important Dates for 2009

24th March 2009	Lady Day Service	St Ninian's Castle Douglas	11.30 am
25th March 2009	Lady Day Service	St James the Less Bishopbriggs	11.00am
23rd May 2009	Festival Service * (see below)	St Cyprian's Lenzie	11.30 am
3rd October 2009	Autumn Council	Holy Name Cumbernauld	10.30 am

***Our World Wide President is attending and preaching. Lunch will follow the service.**

National Family Week - 25th - 31st May 2009

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of Newslink. Articles for Newslink Autumn 2009 should be sent to:

Mrs E. B. Murray, 1 Comrie Street, Sandyhills, Glasgow. G32 9TU

or

email elsiebmurray@btinternet.com

no later than **1st September 2009.**

