

PRAYERS

LEADER: Lord, hold us, hear us, guide us, love us.

ALL: Lord, in your name we pray.

LEADER: Lord, mold us, challenge us, give us strength.

ALL: Lord, in your name we pray.

LEADER: Lord, we are here, we are waiting, we love.

ALL: Lord, in your name we pray.

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.

The following hymns are suggestions you may wish to use during your service:

- Our Father who is in Heaven
- Fill this place Lord, with your glory
- Go tell it on the mountain
- Jesus take me as I am
- All over the world the spirit is moving
- I lift my eyes
- He is here, he is here
- Bind us together



Wave of Prayer

The wave of prayer is a continuous expression of our commitment in prayer to each other, which runs throughout the year and encompasses all the places in which we are represented.

At this time we join our link partners becoming closer together through prayer.

READING: John 4: 12

KARNATAKA - India

Though this area of India is seen as a high-tech hub there are still many issues Mothers' Union tackles.

A special outreach programme centres around children's rights and advocacy, trying to reverse the gender bias against girls. Work includes prevention of underage labour and human trafficking.

Let us pray for the member's work, families who are struggling to cope as they fight for change and girls/women who feel abandoned by all, without hope in their future. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Father help us to break through despair so your love can be shared. Changing communities to give individuals hope.

ALL: Hold our hearts in your hands Lord, allow all to be warmed by your presence in their lives.

HYMN

READING: Colossians 3:14

ANKOLE - Uganda

Seen as a very traditional kingdom the community struggles with the lack of water, food poverty, rising numbers with aids and witchcraft. The crops farmed are often drugs which bring in higher cash yields for the few who profit; causing growing unemployment and drug abuse. Mothers' Union works within the Eagle Project; a holistic approach which is owned by the whole community, engaging with each other to stabilise family life; providing positive parenting for better child development, marriage counselling and reducing violence against women.

Let us pray for the members work; for those families who are struggling to give positive images for all; for communities coming together for good not evil and for children who need to see a positive way forward. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Father help us to provide role models so that families work together and are able to live with mutual respect.

ALL: Open our hearts Lord enabling us all to live together sharing your love.

HYMN

READING John 17:23

LAYGOS WEST - Nigeria

Once the capital, Nigeria Lagos West has traditional hieratical views and Islamic law. As attention now focuses on a new capital, residents struggle to accept change, losing power, financial strength and investment. The crucial work of the Mothers' Union centres on the empowerment of women; sharing and leading prayers; holding conferences to bring people to the Lord; parenting programmes focus on increasing literacy, gaining saving skills, having skills

which promote a family income and tackling health issues.

Let us pray for members who work in a hostile environment showing how, through love they follow the Lord. Parenting programmes teaching self-sustaining skills and those who are trying to hold families together meeting all needs, either health, financial or spiritual. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Father help us to see change in a positive light and guide us as we plan.

ALL: Hear our hearts Lord as we call for your understanding in hearing our prayers.

HYMN

READING Psalm 133: 1

LICHFIELD - England

Here at home, we share worldwide concerns from family distinctions, health issues, isolation and calls on our faith. We try to work in our local communities finding new ways and projects to fulfill needs, whilst still supporting a worldwide membership with fund raising. We plan to extend our work in our prisons, continue to support families in numerous ways, make prayer a priority and offer hands in friendship.

Let us pray for our members who continue to be involved in projects that support others and for our members who are unable to attend branches but whose commitment is strong. Sharing through prayer, fellowship and faith. *(Silence)*

LEADER: Father help us to open our hearts and hear your call.

ALL: Look deep in our hearts Lord and lead us so we can follow your example.