



## ***'In Mary Sumner's Footsteps'***

A programme of discussion and  
planning for Mothers' Union members  
2018

(Part 2)

## **In Mary Sumner's Footsteps 2018 (part 2)**

In the first part of this year's Branch discussions, we concentrated on the idea of listening - both to God and to each other. We recalled the words of advice from Mary Sumner, our founder, and noticed that they sounded as relevant today as they were well over 100 years ago when she wrote them.

Now, in the light of our discoveries so far, it is time to turn to another subject about which she wrote with great passion - the work of speaking.

### **1. Steps of faith**

- We have an urgent need to identify more members who could visit their neighbouring Branches and lead a meeting
- Mary Sumner called this a 'venture of faith'.
- She made an earnest appeal to members to sacrifice their own shyness and self-distrust in the cause of the Mothers' Union
- She said: *'You can say a few words that are necessary at a meeting of your own Branch; why not also to another Branch in your own neighbourhood?'*
- She also said that no Mothers' Union member had the right to say she could not speak until she had tried!
- *'Christ has need of your individual work - no one else can do it. If you refuse, that particular piece of work will remain undone.'*

## 2. Response to His call

- Here in Lichfield Diocese today we should like to encourage many more members to share in the mission of Mothers' Union by preparing one or two simple talks on any aspects of the society's work worldwide that particularly interests them. **Could someone from your Branch do this?**
- Mary Sumner would often point to the rich rewards won by the speaker who learns to make ventures in the name of the Lord.
- One new speaker wrote: *'She has led even very timid and inefficient me to dare to speak to Mothers' Union branches, because she made the Union such a great reality that one had to speak about it when no one else could or would'.*
- Mary Sumner recommended training both the voice and the heart for speaking and we can offer to do that today too - new speakers will be given all the help they need.
- She said: *'One great secret of success in speaking is to be thoroughly 'enthused' with one's subject - a thorough belief in the greatness and importance of the cause we have taken up, the crusade to try and win every home in the land for our Sovereign Master'.*
- Finally: *'Make Him your friend and helper in this matter. He can quiet all your restless anxieties and banish all your fears and your thoughts of self, and tune your mind to peace and harmony'.*

## **ANSWERING MARY SUMNER'S CALL**

- The Trustees have become aware that if Branches are to continue inviting speakers to their meetings, then there is a pressing need to train more members to fill this role.
- They also feel that this would provide the opportunity for members to hear up-to-date news of Mothers' Union mission and projects from round the world as well as nearer to home.
- Members who volunteer as speakers can choose to offer any topics which appeal to them from a huge range which is readily available in the Diocese and from Mary Sumner House.
- Newly trained speakers will then be able to offer a wide variety of material to Branches including workshops, discussion papers, games and practical activities which will  
broaden the scope of meetings and make them more enjoyable
- Regular training opportunities will be offered to all speakers during the year as required, on a local basis.
- Speakers can decide for themselves how far they are prepared to travel (just your own Deanery, for example) and all expenses will be reimbursed.
- IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BECOMING A LOCAL SPEAKER FOR MOTHERS' UNION THEN PLEASE CONTACT THE MU DIOCESAN OFFICE (01785 227221)  
email: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)