

Reflection May 2022



My dear friends, what a joy it is to share with you, as, at least where I live in South Wales, the weather is comfortably warm and it feels like summer is on the way. We certainly need something to warm our hearts because it seems to me the world is in a sorry state right now. As a member of the Worldwide Trustee Board, I am privileged to hear first hand of some of the difficulties facing our members around the world. In parts of Africa there have been many natural disasters, and in both Africa and Asia political unrest has meant power supplies and recourses have been interrupted. In the UK also inflation and the high price of gas and electricity is causing hardship. This means that Foodbanks are more in demand than ever as families struggle to heat their homes and feed their children. War still continues in some parts of the world bringing more hardship, suffering and loss of life. With all this happening it's good to know that the MU is standing tall with its theme of Transformation –NOW. As Christians we are blessed because we know God has the power to transform lives, all we have to do is bring our concerns to Him. Recently the Trustee Board was honoured to be Commissioned by The Archbishop of Canterbury. In his Reflection the Archbishop said, "what can God not do? "What is He unable to do? He went on to say "He is unable to make mistakes" We need to remember this because in Isaiah 43: 19 it says 'Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already-you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there'. In the mist of so much unrest this is indeed good to remember. God is in charge and if we put our trust in him, he will not let us down but will renew us with new strength and new vigour.

But let's look at some May celebrations we can share in. As well as Ascension Day we also celebrate the feast day of St Matthias, the disciple who was chosen to replace Judas after he betrayed Jesus. Like the name Matthew, the name Matthias means Gift from God. In fact, let us celebrate that we are all gifts from God and following on from that God gives us the gift of generosity. In these hard times I know you will have given, as you are able, to the many appeals there are for monetary gifts, maybe you have been able to give items of food to your local food bank. We have an organisation where I live which operates a scheme called 'Can on the Wall' The organisers ask that we place a non perishable item on the 'wall' outside our house on a given day. They then collect the items and distribute them to needy people in the community, this is something to celebrate.



May is such a busy month because we also have the MU Summer of Hope campaign. This year we are celebrating women in Leadership and we are linking it to the Queen's Jubilee, she is such a wonderful role model and inspiration to us all. Do look out for the exciting resources which are being produced for this campaign. The back cover page of the latest addition of 'Connected' tells us by doing so we will be helping to support the next generation of female leaders. Giving them the skills, knowledge and confidence to shape the future and transform communities and families for the better. So, as we look at all the problems in the world this May, let us not get downhearted. Let us remember the sun is still shining so, let us reflect on what the future holds. Let's consider God's promise of doing a new thing, let's continue to put our trust in him and let's pray that he will help us to continue to support our communities, celebrate in style and give thanks for all the good things in our world.

Love & Prayers
Jenny

Let us Pray

Let us praise God together with the words of a favourite Hymn.

*Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together with cords
That cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together in love*

There is only one God,
there is only one king.
There is only one body,
that is why we sing

Fit for the glory of God,
Purchased by his precious blood,
Born with the right to be free:
Jesus the victory has won.

We are the fam'ly of God
we are his promise divine,
we are his chosen desire
We are the glorious new wine

Father, we bring before you our world, a world which you have made and we need to take care of. We bring before you all who are suffering because of war and natural disasters.. We pray for our local communities, asking that you will give us generous hearts to befriend those around us as you surround each of us with your love. We ask that you will uphold the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to transform lives, working towards a better future for all. In Jesus name AMEN

Our Father..... AMEN

