

BENTIU, SOUTH SUDAN

Wave of Prayer Group:

Group 13: 16-18 February

Bentiu is a Missionary Diocese in South Sudan, carved out of Malakal diocese and part of the Episcopal Church of the Province of Southern Sudan and Sudan. Bentiu town is the administrative, political and commercial centre of Unity State in South Sudan.

South Sudan has been affected by the huge devastation of over 20 years of civil war. Parts of South Sudan continue to experience conflict today. Recently, many of the projects and programmes of the Mothers' Union in South Sudan have been disrupted by the political and humanitarian crisis that began in December 2013. Currently 1.3 million people have been displaced by the crisis, with few signs of an agreement to end fighting and restore peace. Mothers' Union has been at the forefront of the Anglican response to the crisis. The Church has already provided food aid to 721,234 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and is now looking at ways to continue to support displaced people and seek to bring peace, reconciliation and development back to their country.

Violence in the Bentiu area has been unrelenting. On 17 January 2014, a UN official was quoted as saying that the town "*simply did not exist anymore*", and that "*it was completely burnt down*". In April 2014, hundreds of Bentiu civilians were reportedly massacred by the 'Sudan People's Liberation Movement in Opposition Army'.

Tens of thousands of people have taken refuge in a camp near Bentiu, one of several camps set up spontaneously after violence swept across the country last December and currently managed by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The camp is located in one of the world's largest swamps, and for much of August 2014 people were living knee-deep in floodwater contaminated with raw sewage. Those venturing outside the confines of the camp and into the conflict zone risked violence and rape at the hands of armed men.

International organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres report that behind the barbed wire fence, daily life goes on. People are busy trying to secure their shelters by building mud walls and small ditches. "*In general, there seems to be less harassment of women and children who venture outside the protected area in search of charcoal or firewood to cook their daily ration of lentils or sorghum...Some women have set up little businesses inside the camp selling wood to others who are too scared to venture outside. This has allowed them to generate some income*".

Bible Verse:

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Wave of Prayer:

Diocesan Fact Sheet



BUNYORO-KITARA, UGANDA

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The diocese of Bunyoro-Kitara is situated in north-west Uganda covering the administrative districts of Hoima and Kibaale. The diocese consists of six archdeaconries with 58 parishes with around 900,000 members and 600 grassroots churches. Around 98% of its members live by subsistence farming as their source of income.

The diocese has 123 church-based schools (113 primaries, 10 secondary), two technical schools, one teacher training college and one diocesan training college. The diocese runs a large health centre and programmes for orphans and vulnerable children. It also has a microfinance project and a coffee plantation.

There are 4,000 Mothers' union members in the diocese. In the communities where members serve there are problems of poverty, domestic violence and corruption. Mothers' Union has raised awareness of these issues and encouraged communities through workshops and seminars to fight against poverty by working hard and by giving training in vocational skills and income generating projects.

Seminars and workshops aim to strengthen the work of Mothers' Union members in the home and in the church through prayer and the teaching of Christian values. The Mothers' Union leadership team in the diocese has started a mobile catering service as an income generating project. Members work hard together and there is good team spirit which encourages all.

Working closely with the Bishop and diocesan staff, Mothers' Union have helped to raise awareness of the need for unity in the community. Workshops have been conducted with topics covering the need for cultural, interdenominational and social unity. Prayers were offered and now there is unity among cultures, denominations and political leaders for the benefit of all.

Many people in communities have benefitted from Mothers' Union seminars and workshops on marriage and relationship support, Parenting skills, health education and HIV/AIDs awareness encouraging voluntary testing. Mothers' Union members are also engaged in adult literacy, visiting the sick, guidance and counselling.

Bible verse:

Matthew 28:20

And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Wave of Prayer: Diocesan Fact Sheet



OKIGWE NORTH, NIGERIA

Wave of Prayer Group:

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Mothers' Union members in Nigeria are working to support the young and those in need in their communities. They are focused on providing opportunities for children and being role models.

Membership of Mothers' Union in Nigeria is highly encouraged though some groups do struggle with attendance at meetings. Members are able to support families by providing marriage counselling and parenting skills support.

The diocese of Okigwe North is a semi-rural diocese with a very active membership. The diocese is in the East of Nigeria and was inaugurated in January 1994. The diocese has one hospital, four secondary schools, one primary school and several nursery schools.

Members of the Mothers' Union are engaged in Bible Study, evangelism, giving and tithing. Other Mothers' Union activities include:

- Diocesan prayer conferences, a recent one being on knowing God
- Girls Guild's activities including evangelism
- Students rally providing quizzes, prayer and space for testimonies
- Retreats
- School projects
- Visits to schools, hospitals and prisons

Bible Verse:

Luke 19:46
'...and he said. "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'".

Wave of Prayer:
Diocesan Fact Sheet



OMU-ARAN, NIGERIA

Wave of Prayer Group:

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Christianity came to Omu-Aran in the year 1897. The early Christians in Omu-Aran faced serious persecution from the pagans, hence they decided to worship at Ora-Igbomina on alternative Sundays, and at Iloffa which already had a Church. In 1928, the first Church building was erected in the present site, thus placing the Church in Omu-Aran on the map of the then Diocese of Lagos. In September 2006, the Standing Committee of the Church of Nigeria approved the recommendation for the creation of the Omu-Aran Missionary Diocese.

There are 120 members of the Mothers' Union in Omu-Aran diocese.

Mothers' Union's Diocesan President in the diocese, Mrs Elizabeth Adeyemo, has been a Mothers' Union member for nearly 20 years. She has been involved in teaching the women in the parishes, especially teaching them to grow in Christ. Her vision for Mothers' Union in Omu-Aran is to be able to be impactful and to achieve the five objectives of the Mothers' Union.

One of the challenges faced by women in the diocese is that of widowhood - so many young women are widowed. Mothers' Union has embarked on empowerment programmes for these women and so far they have empowered about 20 widows.

Members have a spirit of caring and sharing, and they periodically visit the leper community; they give them clothes, food items, toiletries and share the love of Christ with them. Members have also been visiting the motherless babies home in a nearby town (especially on Mothering Sunday and special Sundays).

Mrs Adeyemo prays that God will grant the members more revelation in the knowledge of Christ so that they can be more effective in soul winning.

For more information visit the diocesan website: www.dioceseofomuaran.org.ng

Bible Verse:

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**Wave of Prayer:
Diocesan Fact Sheet**



KILMORE, ELPHIN AND ARDAGH, ALL IRELAND

Wave of Prayer Group:

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Trauma Teddies for the Ambulance Service



Christmas shoebox appeal

The diocese covers a large geographical area, taking in Counties Cavan, Longford, Leitrim, most of County Roscommon and much of County Sligo in the Republic of Ireland and some parishes in County Fermanagh in Northern Ireland.

There are just under 400 members in the diocese and some of the branches are quite small.

Members take part in services for Mothering Sunday; World Day of Prayer; Opening and Closing services for the branches and our annual Diocesan Festival Service.

KILMORE, ELPHIN AND ARDAGH, ALL IRELAND

Throughout the diocese many members are involved in a variety of initiatives such as:

- Knitting Trauma Teddies for the Ambulance Service. The teddies provide comfort to young children involved in any type of trauma i.e. accident or any emergency situations involving the emergency services.
- Knitting vests for missions.
- Supporting Cregg House in Sligo, a home for those with intellectual disability. Members provide useful items like toiletries, children's books, food supplies and musical instruments. Some of the members communicate with pen-friends there.
- Knitting Prayer Shawls - these provide comfort and support to those in times of sorrow or distress.
- Taking part in the shoebox appeal.

Members in the diocese have embarked on a project called 'Never Alone'. This was a project to tackle the increasing number of suicides in young teenagers. Suicide among teens is a sad and devastating part of life in Ireland today. The incidence of suicide has been rising steadily over the last number of years. With this in mind the Diocese decided to do something practical and 'Never Alone' is a result of their efforts. A short DVD was produced to inform, provoke discussion, reach out to and encourage teens, teachers and parents to engage with this sensitive subject - underpinned by the message that we are 'Never Alone' in life. In conjunction with the DVD small cards are available which can be taken away. They contain some words of encouragement, useful telephone numbers and website addresses.

The diocese have also helped three families by providing funding for three young people to attend a Christian Summer Camp which they would not otherwise have been in a position to do themselves.

Bible Verse:

Acts 18:9

One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

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Diocesan Fact Sheet



KRISHNA-GODAVARI, CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

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The Diocese of Krishna Godavari is a diocese in the Church of South India (CSI), located within the Andhra Pradesh state of India. The Church of South India was inaugurated in September 1947 and is an ecumenical Church uniting the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches. Members of Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) in the Church of South India are affiliated to the global Mothers' Union.

The diocese comprises 2 cities, 5 towns and the rest made up of small villages, with over 800 churches. Membership is mainly with rural people belonging to the Dalit community who are looked down on by other castes/communities, since they are very poor, having a very low income (less than £1 per day).

There are 5,000 members of the Women's Fellowship in the diocese and their activities include:

- Bible Study
- Outreach - visiting hospitals, jails and slum areas
- Helping rural girl children to reach higher education
- Introducing HIV/AIDS education programmes
- Health & Hygiene programmes
- Pre-marriage Counselling
- Family Life/Parenting Counselling

These programmes have helped the girl child in particular and helped members to understand where they stand in society. Improvements in health, hygiene and education have resulted in better inter-personal relationships and given individuals the confidence to pursue their own talents and gifting. For example one young girl from a tribal area was encouraged to pursue her talent in sports and went on to win a State award for weightlifting and running. She went on to higher education and has now completed her 12th Class (UK equivalent of 6th Form College).

Bible Verse:

Psalm 103: 1-2

"Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, bless his Holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all his benefits".