

Job 19:21-27 Luke 10:1-12

Isn't it good to gather like this and be reminded that we are part of something much bigger than ourselves?

Something that stretches far beyond our little corner of the world.

- Beyond borders
- Beyond cultures,
- And even beyond language.

Back in May as I was preparing to head to Peru with SAMS Ireland, our Diocesan President Jacqui Armstrong said I should try to get a photograph with some of the Peruvian members of the Mother's Union. Now given that there are only 40 members in the whole of Peru, which has a population of almost 35 million, I thought the chances were pretty slim. BUT, I soon discovered, I was wrong, all I had to do was ask this question: "are there any members of the Mother's Union here today" and they came forward. And guess what? Before I came home I had met and had my photograph taken with all forty.

Most of them spoke no English and my Spanish is limited to introducing myself, but yet, there was this immediate sense of belonging together. You see, as members of the Mother's Union we are bound together by our faith in Christ and our shared mission to the world.

Our gospel reading today, from Luke 10, speaks right into the heart of that mission.

As Jesus sends out seventy-two of his followers to prepare people's hearts to receive Him and He says to them:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

A powerful reminder, isn't it?

The harvest *is* plentiful, but the workers *are* few.

And I think we all feel the weight of that call, *that challenge*, as Jesus calls us to step into the work that God has set before us, both in our local communities and around the world.

Mission Begins Right Where We Are

Sometimes, we think of "mission" as something far away, something that happens on the other side of the world, by someone other than us.

But here's the thing, mission is for all of us, right here, where we are.

It's not just about being sent to distant lands.

- It's about being sent into our homes
- Into our neighbourhood

- And even into our local Mother's Union branches.

After all, Jesus didn't say in Luke 10 how far we have to go in order to make disciples.

So that while for some, to make disciples calls for them travel to another country, for others, it could mean reaching out to someone in our own community.

The truth is the harvest is plentiful everywhere. It's plentiful globally and it's plentiful locally.

So that each one of us are called to be part of God's mission, we are called to make disciples

And through the work of the Mother's Union, we get to see this call being lived out so beautifully, for at the heart of all we aim to do collectively is this mission that is deeply rooted in faith and filled with compassion.

Whether we are supporting mothers through parenting programs or empowering women through economic projects, or simply taking a meal or home-baked cake to a family going through a hard time. In all these things we are showing what it means to love others practically, both globally and right here at home.

Practical Love in Action

One of the things I absolutely love about the Mother's Union is, that it's not just about big, grand gestures.

Yes, Mother's Union does incredible work on a global level, but alongside this we each have the opportunity to perform those small, everyday acts of kindness that make a huge difference in people's lives.

It was Mother Teresa who once said:

"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family."

And isn't that true?

Changing the world starts right where we are:

- Maybe it's helping a mother in our community who's struggling to make ends meet.
- Maybe it's supporting a woman recovering from domestic violence.
- Maybe it's taking time to visit someone who's lonely,

Whatever it looks like, the mission of the Mother's Union is about bringing hope, healing, and the love of Christ into individual lives and families.

Now think for a moment about how you respond to this call in your own life.

- Maybe you're involved in a local program that supports families.
- Maybe you have a gift for reaching out to those who are lonely.
- Or perhaps you knit comfort teddies or those little red hearts that bring so much comfort to bereaved families.

Whatever it is, know this, it matters to God.

Every act of love, no matter how small, is part of God's mission.

In fact, none of my branch members are able to be here today because they're on mission even though they don't even seem to realise it. Because they are serving tea, coffee, and homemade scones as they draw alongside the elderly and lonely at our community coffee morning.

And what they are doing is mission, and it matters to God.

Each of us are called to serve in our own way.
And the beauty of it is that God sees and values every bit of it.

Your mission, your acts of service, *and* your prayers, matter to God.

A Global Family on Mission

Our prayers are a vital part of God's Mission, because they connect us to the work of our sisters in places: like South Sudan or the Democratic Republic of Congo, as they work in areas affected by conflict and poverty.

- Rebuilding communities
- Offering trauma healing
- And providing education to those who desperately need it.

They have answered the same call that Jesus gave to those seventy-two disciples, they have become the workers in the harvest field.

And the amazing thing is that as members of the Mother's Union, as members of Christ's Church, we are all connected to them because we are all part of one global family and when one part of the body hurts, we all feel it.

We feel it and we respond:

Through prayer

Financial support

And raising awareness, as we join hands with our sisters around the world who are a part of this incredible movement, that is transforming lives through the love of Christ.

The Power of Prayer

And in all of this we mustn't overlook the power of prayer.

Sometimes, we forget just how powerful prayer really is.

But prayer connects us with God's heart and aligns our will with His.

The Mother's Union has always been rooted in prayer. Around the world it's members gather to pray for families, for peace, and for the work of mission.

And this morning I want to encourage you to know, that your prayers play a key part in God's mission.

Whether you're praying for a country, a local project, or for someone in your own family, **never** underestimate the power of prayer.

Your Role in God's Mission

And finally, can I encourage you to remember that Jesus speaks those words to each one of us today.

Jesus says to us:

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

You are God's answer to that call, you are to be a part of God's mission.

It doesn't matter where you are or what your situation is. God has a role for you to play.

And your contribution, no matter how small it may seem to you, is valuable to Him.

- Through small acts of kindness
- Supporting Mother's Union projects
- or lifting others up in prayer

You are making a difference.

Together, as members of the Mother's Union, we are part of something truly amazing that is bringing God's love to the world, one person, one family, at a time.

So, let's be intentional about how we live out this mission.

Let's look for opportunities to serve, love, and share the hope we have in Christ.

And let's remember that we are part of a global family, working together to bring healing and hope to a broken world.