

Diocese of Kondoa

Speech given by Mothers' Union of the Diocese of Kondoa to Bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Given M. Gaula at the third conference of the Mothers' Union from 8/8/2016 to 12/8/2016 in Kondoa

Bishop, greetings in the name of the Lord.

We thank our God for the way that he has encouraged you through the work of the Diocese that he has given you visions for the work of the Lord in our Diocese, that this work is visible, that the church is healthy and that Christians have new strength to serve their God. The Mothers' Union of the Diocese continues to pray for you as you carry out the work of God and may you overcome all hindrances.

Bishop, this conference is the third Mothers' Union conference in this diocese and its purpose is for us to meet together to evaluate various plans that were made at the second conference which took place from 23-25/8/2013, to receive reports from each deanery and to know the challenges facing us and how to overcome them.

Bishop, before you we are very happy and we thank God that we have been given permission to conduct this very important conference, the 58 delegates have travelled safely from their parishes and have arrived at the venue.

Bishop, we, the women of the Diocese of Kondoa, are very happy that our friends, Bishop James Langstaff and Mama Bishop James, have participated with us in this conference through which we have been taught many things regarding Christian women and micro-entrepreneurship. We see that we are part of their family and they are part of ours. Therefore they want to teach us things that we can use even if we become elderly. The work that the Mothers' Union are doing in the Diocese of Kondoa, their children and their grandchildren will prosper because of these teachings. May God bless their work in the Diocese of Rochester, their family and the work of their hands.

We welcome you to the Diocese of Kondoa.

Bishop, we would like to thank you personally for accepting our invitation to open and close our conference. It is clear that your accepting is a sign that you value us, you care for us and you love us, the women on this Diocese and that we are one of the important pillars of the church in this Diocese. We pray that you will have a heart to lead us in a good way so that we can care for our families and that we may know that our Lord Jesus Christ is our Saviour.

We recognise that you have a lot of work, for example you have confirmed our young people in various parishes in this Diocese and outside of our Diocese. We are sorry for your heavy workload and congratulate you for the work of the Lord that you have done without hesitation, in that you heard the voice of God and it called you outside of your Diocese but you agreed to it.

Bishop:

For the past 3 years the Mothers' Union department has worked towards the following aims:

- To help the pastors' and catechists' wives to learn to read, count and write.
- To run a seminar on micro-entrepreneurship.
- To strengthen the sewing project.
- To strengthen the work of UWAKI in the deaneries and parishes.
- To do evangelism.

- To hold a Mothers' Union conference.
- To buy a vehicle for the Mothers' Union.

The achievements of the Mothers' Union for the past 3 years are as follows:

- To run an empowerment course with 103 participants, of which 10 were pastors' wives and 16 were catechists' wives.
- The Mothers' Union of the Diocese sent representatives from every deanery to learn about micro-entrepreneurship in Morogoro and Mtumba.
- Evangelism has been done in the parishes and others have done evangelism outside of their parishes, thus the Mothers' Union has evangelised to many people and they have received the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- The Mothers' Union planned to buy a car as an economic activity however after some thought we decided to build a hostel as it would be easier to run and it would strengthen us even more.
- The Mothers' Union was able to send one member to a seminar for Sunday School teachers so that she can teach the Sunday School teachers in our Diocese.

Bishop, this conference has been held in accordance with our aims and we have eight aims for the next three years. We pray to God that he will lead us in the completion of these aims and each one of us as we fulfil our responsibilities. The aims are as follows:

1. To conduct a census of all Christian women and to keep records of members.
2. Every woman that is able to read and write should have a Bible, service book and hymn book.
3. To complete the building of the hostel.
4. To continue to give various trainings to the wives of pastors and catechists.
5. To do evangelism inside and outside of the Diocese.
6. To conduct a seminar for Sunday School teachers.
7. To conduct spiritual meetings in the deaneries and parishes.
8. To run various trainings for women in the parishes and deaneries.

Matters arising:

Our achievements met with some difficulties during the period in which we were accomplishing them, which are as follows:

- Some of the leaders and members have not attended seminars, meetings and teachings. For example the number of those receiving education is less than intended.
- Contributions have not been collected in some areas and others have been late.
- The leaders in the parishes and deaneries have not fulfilled all their responsibilities having attended a seminar regarding their responsibilities.

We ask that the Area Deans and pastors may participate in the leadership of the Mothers' Union in the churches they lead and that they help to advise us on our tasks as we are all involved in building the church of the Lord so this is one of their responsibilities.

Bishop, we the women of your Diocese have great respect for you and great faith that the work you are doing will be apparent in our Diocese and that you will continue to stand up for women through your leadership and that we will see that women will know their rights and will see the opportunity they have in the church.

We, the women, continue to work below our leader, a strong woman of position and vision, our Mother, Mama Bishop Given Gaula, to ensure that our Mothers' Union groups in the parishes are strong, evangelism is carried out for all people in every corner of our Diocese.

We have recognised that God has touched the lives and hearts of the women of this Diocese and we are able to serve God wholeheartedly. We are hoping to see positive participation in that we promise to give you our participation in moving our Diocese forward.

Finally, Bishop, we thank you again for giving us the money to enable and roof the building of the hostel, we thank you for agreeing to set aside your other work to come and join together with us. We hope that your work continues well and wish you good health as you serve God.

May God bless you all, Bishop Given Gaula and your family and Bishop James Langstaff and your family.

Please receive our small gift as a sign of our love and thanks to you. Amen.

From the women of the Diocese of Kondoa.