

28 April, 2020

Dear Members,

It is amazing how much can change in a few weeks. My husband David and I left the day after the World Day of Prayer with another couple of friends Peter and Meredith to sail on our yacht for almost two weeks around the northern coastline of Kangaroo Island. For the most part cruising is fun and relaxing and the company was great. We didn’t listen to the radio news often. However, Peter checked his computer news many times a day and kept us aware of the world picture as it began dramatically changing. We had planned to attend two Rotary Conferences in Mildura and Whyalla in April and the Rotary World Convention in Hawaii in June. We would have gone on to Massachusetts to see my family, and my sister-in-law there had been making plans for some fun activities during our visit. Al this evaporated before our eyes.

Shortly after our return the South Australian borders were shut down, Kangaroo Island was ‘closed’ and the state and federal governments were advising us “old” people to stay home. Everything certainly had changed exponentially while we were away. (Some friends suggested we should have stayed on the yacht!)

We have many things to be grateful for including the wonderful World Day of prayer service at St Jude’s written by the women of Zimbabwe which to my mind was one “out of the box” - extremely moving and thought provoking. Those of you who were there will distinctly remember Jaison Midzi’s talk followed by the amazing enthusiastic singing and drum playing where he was joined by MU member from St Elizabeth’s Modeste and her mother who was visiting from Zimbabwe. Weren’t we lucky to have this service before the virus was rampant?

Sophie has been working very hard to keep everyone at St Jude’s connected and I wanted to reach out to all our MU members to wish you well and to share a message from our Diocesan President Marion McCall and also a reflection from our wonderful Chaplain Dawn Colsey. Sophie has offered to include these three messages on the St Jude’s website where we hope the majority of our people can access it, even if it means asking a grandchild to show you on their iPad. I hope the interaction you are having with neighbours, and people you don’t know at all is as heart-warming for you as that I have experienced. It is as though people think ”we are all in the same boat, so we might as well smile at each other about it, make a joke and, yes, offer assistance where needed”. For the most part it is bringing out the very best in people which gives everyone a real lift. We are all looking forward to resuming our MU monthly services and meetings at St Jude’s, whenever that may be. I have spoken to a few of you during the isolation time and would be delighted to hear from any of you who would like to chat. Phone me on 8296 6033. You are all very much in my prayers as we go through this difficult time. Mary Sumner’s prayer is very applicable today, I feel, even though we may not be touching that many lives daily.

*All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee: and every life I touch do thous by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayers I breathe, or the life I live. Amen*

Love and every blessing to you,

Pam