



"My parenting improved, my children learned to respect us as parents, and to promote peace in the community." Sidonia

Mothering Sunday is an emotional day for many people all around the world. Some think of our mothers with love and prayer. Some of us have painful memories. Some remember those who have been like a mother to us.

Now is the perfect time to come together to celebrate and uplift mothers worldwide. By giving an ethical Gift of Peace today, you can help support parents and children build harmony, solve challenges together and create a better future in God's Kingdom.

In the Solomon Islands, an archipelago of 992 scattered islands to the northeast of Australia, Mothers' Union members have been delivering our Worldwide Parenting Programme since 2012. But we've only reached nine out of ten dioceses there so far.

With your help we can provide more Parenting training and roll out the programme to more families in urgent need.

We are overwhelmed with demand for this specialist support in the Solomon Islands, where more than 85% of children experience violent discipline*. Parents have a desperate need for their children to experience peace at home and to grow up understanding about healthy relationships.

"I feel sorry for those families who have not yet had the chance to attend the training," says Sidonia, who joined a two-week intensive Parenting programme in 2012 when her children were aged eight to fifteen. "It's a very effective approach to resolving problems, family issues, and it's a powerful impact on child development."

Sidonia is now a grandmother, and is so enthusiastic about the...

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*Source: https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/violence/violent-discipline/

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...transformation in her family that she tells anyone she can about the programme – she has even enrolled her son on to the course.

"Before I attended the training, my husband's and my parenting was not good," she says. "We didn't go to church and we sometimes fought about money, our son was hot-tempered and our children disobedient. On the course, I learnt how to change from being an 'authoritarian' parent who smacked her children – to 'authoritative', saying kind words and earning my children's respect."

"It was hard. I broke down, and I had a lot to repent, but I am very happy and thankful to God. My children have learned to share with others and bring peace. And my husband has given up drink."

Terry and Ella attended the training together when they had two new twin daughters and were juggling home life with both of them working. "As a young married couple with our first children, everything was new," says Terry. "We were exhausted."

"I notice that when parents don't have time for their children, the children can feel rejected," adds Ella. "We learned the importance of making time, making them feel loved, teaching them the qualities of how we should live, our religion, church traditions, and how to behave to others."

Terry and Ella now have a two-year-old son as well. "We feel equipped to face the challenges as the children grow. We're so grateful for the training so we can support them through each stage of their development. We pray that we can give them the best they need to be good, and to share that goodness with others."

With God's grace, your gift this Mothering Sunday can bring peace and hope to more families and communities.

The mix of people in Terry and Ella's group is also an indicator of communities' wish for change. "Young men attended as well as couples," says Terry. "With domestic violence prevalent in our communities, if more of our young men and couples can attend this training, it will help them to tackle, manage and reduce the violence."

That's what your support for Mothers' Union can achieve worldwide. While we join together this Mothering Sunday and give thanks to our Lord, please give your Gift of Peace today.

Thank you and God bless you,

Kathleen Snow

Worldwide President, Mothers' Union

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PS. You can choose your Gifts of Peace from the catalogue enclosed. Why not dedicate your gifts to a loved one, and have your message displayed in the chapel at Mary Sumner House? Write your love and prayer on the card enclosed, and return with your completed gift order form.



"We recommend that Parenting training is available for the young people in our communities. So they can help identify the good in them, to help themselves and raise up their families in a positive way." *Terry and Ella*



This Mothering Sunday, Mothers'
Union in the Solomon Islands
will be fundraising to help roll
out the Worldwide Parenting
Programme and establish a
Mothering Sunday Programme
in the Anglican Church of
Melanesia Synod calendar.
Please join them and support
our global efforts to bring
peace to more families and
communities in need of peace.

Registration charity number: 240531

