

## Social Service Department 2020 Rhona Theodore

Social Service aims to promote the welfare of others.



*“The Social Service Department reaches out to the community and individuals who are neglected, suffering or in need, without any prejudice of race, religion, age or gender by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through giving our love and support”. WWCTU*

I wish to acknowledge all who have undergone losses in the devastating fires, those who have died, the loss of property and livelihood, animals and plants. Australia acted as one, working tirelessly through more than a month of disaster - the firefighters, Defence Force, the people. Holiday makers were cut off. Day turned into night. And yet, there was a coming together of the country. It was one integrated Social Service with donations of clothes, food, money and assistance. It is our Summer season of international cricket, tennis and other tournaments and everyone got involved. Then there were the prayers for rain - Australia-wide webinars, connecting those praying from different states. Green shoots are sprouting, and animals are returning. We can take some heart in the regenerative power of the Australian bush.

In a previous Project Kit, I listed “what we can do”, and, over these last few months I have put into practice just some of those listed: visiting the sick - taking meals, books and other items; giving lifts for doctors’ appointments; donating non-perishable foods and other personal hygiene items. This is on-going work that we can do.

### **Sustainable Development Goal 1: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”.**

*(10 years more) The 2030 Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.*

*As recalled by the foreword of the 2015 Millennium SDG Report, 189 countries unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration, pledging to “spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty”.*

*People who continue to live in extreme poverty face deep, entrenched deprivation often exacerbated by violent conflicts and vulnerability to disasters.*

*Only 22 per cent of unemployed persons receive unemployment cash benefits, only 28 per cent of persons with severe disabilities receive disability cash benefits, only 35 per cent of children worldwide enjoy effective access to social protection and only 41 per cent of women giving birth receive maternity cash benefits. However, social protection is not a reality for a large majority of the world’s population.*

*Moreover, baseline projections suggest that 6 per cent of the world population will still be living in extreme poverty in **2030**, missing the target of ending poverty.*

### **What we can do?**

Our Christian season of Lent is just a few days away - a partial “fast” may be to miss one meal a day and put that money away for the 40 days - it may not be much, but what good could our ‘mite’ do? Because I always find it difficult during a fast, each time I feel hungry, I remind myself – “I’m hungry for a purpose and it is only temporary.”

Invite your friends or relatives for a meal and request a donation for a particular fund that you are passionate about.

Each member will have ideas, use those ideas to suit your neighbourhood.

## **Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education**

*(2030 - is just 10 years away).*

*Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.*

*4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and have access to quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes*

*4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education*

*4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.*

### ***What we can do?***

#### This year

Start at the very beginning - join a small group to help the young ones with their alphabet. Help with playgroups.

Sponsor a child (boy or girl) with school essentials - shoes, uniform - whatever is needed for children to participate in everyday school life. Take time to write to your sponsored child - (it is as important as the financial help). It is rewarding.

Obtain a 'working with children' check and where possible help out in schools.

As you start out, volunteer only where you feel comfortable.

#### On-going

There are many campaigns/petitions that are received online - choose those we feel passionate about and add our name. Join in the internet prayer times - add your name to receive these prayer points. When there is a win, thank them.

*"Love each other as if (our) lives depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless - cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave us, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God's words, if help, let it be God's help. That way, God's bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and He will get all the credit as the one mighty in everything". (Adapted from 1 Peter 4: 8-11).*

*"Lord, lay some soul upon my heart, and love that soul through me and may I humbly do my part to win that soul for Thee." (song)*