

## **Kericho, Kenya.**

We pray for the Diocesan President and all the Mothers' Union members in Kericho.

Kericho is located within the highlands west of the Kenyan Rift Valley. It is home to Kenya's biggest water catchment area, the Mau Forest. Kericho is a very green area with a high altitude and virtually daily rains. It is the centre of Kenya's large tea industry and the hills are covered with fragrant tea bushes. Kenya is the world's third largest tea producer. Much of the tea is exported, with the UK being the largest market.

The Youth Enterprise Development Fund has transformed the lives of Kenyan youth by providing economic opportunities for them. One success story is that of the Sailo Youth Group in Kericho. Last year, in a predominantly tea growing area, the group harvested 9,800 kilos of coffee berries and this year they expect to be able to harvest at least 14,000 kilos. The group used to take their coffee to a factory far from their area, but due to the increase in production of their coffee, the factory decided to open a branch in their village to make transportation easy.

Kenya is in Mothers' Union Zone D along with Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Jerusalem and the Middle East. Kenya has a population of over 47 million and there are around 117,000 MU members.

The Mothers' Union in Kericho is very active in promoting family life and in particular the spiritual life of women. Members are active in projects that support the economic empowerment of women; environmental protection; fighting crime, alcoholism and drug abuse; feeding the hungry; visiting the sick in hospital; visiting those in prison; and outreach to single mothers and widows. In many dioceses in Kenya, there is an emphasis on helping those whose life has faced adversity. In Kericho, frequent visits are organised to community members where food and other household items are taken and shared.

Lord, we thank you for all the good works being carried out by Mothers' Union in Kericho and for the commitment of the members there. We pray for positive outcomes to all the hard work they are putting in. We also give thanks for the success of the work carried out by the Sailo Youth Group. We pray that their coffee enterprise will continue to thrive.

**Amen**