

## **Kumasi, Ghana.**

We pray for the Diocesan President and all Mothers' Union members in Kumasi. Ghana has a population of 31 million and the Mothers' Union in Ghana has around 2,500 members.

Kumasi is located in south-central Ghana. Kumasi was carved out of a dense rainforest belt among hills rising to 1,000 feet and has a humid, wet climate although January is in the dry season with daytime temperatures between 69 and 89 Fahrenheit.

In the early 1900s, the British took control in Ghana; cacao cultivation was introduced, and the railroad from Sekondi was built. A rapid population increase led to the city's expansion and to the drainage of swamps, the installation of a sewage system, and modern city planning. English is the official language of Ghana and is universally used in schools in addition to nine other local languages.

The wealth of Kumasi is derived from its location at the junction of Ghana's main roads and from cacao farming in the hinterland. Trade and mining contribute to the local economy. Handicrafts, such as traditional *kente* cloth, are significant sources of income.

Kumasi is Ghana's second largest city and is fast losing its agrarian lands because of physical development. This situation has compelled the authorities to evolve innovative ways to advance urban farming. The measures include the cultivation of vegetables and other crops in containers and backyards to mitigate the effect of the loss of cultivable land. Currently, a substantial proportion of the agrarian landmass has been taken over by private developers, especially the wetlands. This has impacted heavily on agricultural productivity and has also resulted in persistent flooding due to the resultant loss of waterways. We pray that this situation may be turned round for the good of all the people.

Mothers' Union members in Kumasi have been energized in their relationships with God and each other. Some groups of people who have been excluded in their communities are becoming more self reliant with the help of Mothers' Union projects and programmes. Another big challenge is social injustice and Mothers' Union is working hard to tackle this.

We thank you Lord for our members in Kumasi and for all their efforts to improve the lives of their people. We pray that their work in respect of social injustice will bear fruit.

**Amen**