



## CANTERBURY PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, 3 – 5 October 2012

### Changing Lives, Changing Communities

#### Speed Updating, Thursday 4 October, 2.30pm

#### Umoja

- literally: Swahili (East African) word meaning *togetherness*
- this context: training resource for Bible-based holistic development
- devised by Tearfund
- Mothers' Union promoting its use/method
- resource subtitle: *Transforming Communities*
- method: Church and Community Mobilisation
- starts with God not with people/problems
- aims to change mindset
- foundation is Bible study e.g.:
  - Matthew 9:35-38 (Jesus' compassion for *sheep without a shepherd*)
  - Matthew 4:23-25 (Jesus' preaching/healing ministry)
  - 2 Kings 4:1-7 (Elisha & widow's endless supply of oil)
  - Mark 6:30-44 (Feeding 5000)
  - Luke 10:25-37 (Good Samaritan)
- discover/celebrate spiritual then practical resources
- appreciating what God has done → growth in faith & desire to share
- challenges church to action (Matthew 5:13-16: salt & light)
- step by step examples/guidance
- Umoja is changing individual lives & communities
- next step: *Awaken* – joint Tearfund/MU resource combining literacy/Umoja

Sue Wilson, Central Action & Outreach Coordinator