



My Dear Friend,

The spirit of Christmas is here with us again! It is my favourite time of the year with the glow of the candles, the warmth of family and friends, the heavenly sound of Christmas Carols and the feeling of a life filled with endless moments of peace and joy.

One of the blessings of this time of the year is the opportunity I get to connect with you wherever you are; and as I think of you, I remember over 2,000 years ago when our Lord Jesus Christ was born, in a manger with humble beginnings, among peaceful animals and in the company of loving parents. Isaiah puts it over so nicely in Chapter 9 Verse 6, *"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ... and His Name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."*

As I reflect on the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, and the change from the hustle and bustle of everyday life to lockdown with new lifestyles, I think of the journey that Mothers' Union has been on in this unprecedented time. There was loss of income from closing our conferencing facilities at Mary Sumner House and members were not able to meet and carry out their usual activities. This resulted in lots of cuts so Mothers' Union could survive the crisis. Some were painful but in all things our members were faithful and we survived by the Grace of God. This gives us many reasons to thank God for his goodness and to prayerfully celebrate another joyous season.

Many of us look forward to the excitement of receiving and opening gifts at this time, but the gift that God gives us is one that is lasting and lives in our hearts forever. It is the birth of his son Jesus Christ in whose Word we can trust, in whose Presence we have confidence, and by whose Power we can do all things.

Let us take this time to celebrate Christmas meaningfully by spending a little time to pray and give glory to God. In the spirit of love, let us also remember those whose Christmas season may be a difficult one. Let us pray that God will touch them, soothe their hearts, heal their pain and fill their lives with his peace.



The Worldwide Board of Trustees and all at Mary Sumner House join me in wishing you God's blessings for a wonderful Christmas. This Christmas Eve night, we will be thinking of you and we will be lighting a candle for you while singing, "O Holy Night."

May your Christmas sparkle and your New Year shine with the peace, love and joy of the Christ Child!

Warm Christmas Blessings to you!

With my love and prayers as always,

Sheran

Sheran Harper
Worldwide President

