

My dear Friend and Fellow Member,

Loving and prayerful greetings from me to you in this my fourth Christmas letter to you, where has the time gone?

I do hope that you have, in some way, had the opportunity to celebrate with members close to you one, or more events during our one hundred and fortieth year of Mothers' Union, an organisation that changes lives through small and great acts of care.

My Mothers' Union life continues to bring me so many joys and I do thank God for his abundant blessings upon me. I especially thank you for your prayerful support, I would not want to fulfil this journey that I have been asked to do without your prayers. In return for your loving care, I want you to please be assured of my prayers and my love. We may never meet but I want you to know that I appreciate your prayer ministry so much.

I have been very busy in recent months. I was really delighted to represent Mothers' Union members at the "Party in the Mall", a celebration for our Patron, HM The Queen on the occasion of her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday in June. I have been truly blessed to meet with members in Canada, a beautiful country, I could not believe just how vast it was! I have also visited members in Lusaka, Zambia and Rwanda. Each member special, each one serving God and his Church through their membership.

I am writing this letter to you after the wonderful celebrations in Winchester Cathedral on 22 September, the home of Mothers' Union, and where we had the opportunity to thank God for our founder, Mary Sumner, on the occasion of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mothers' Union. I laid flowers on her grave, gave thanks for her vision and determination and asked God to continue to bless our work through our service of others.

How amazing to be part of two congregations at the morning and afternoon Services of Celebration, almost three thousand people worshipping together, giving God the praise and asking for his guidance for our future Mothers' Union life.

We do not know what plan God has for our organisation, for our lives but if we trust and obey, in the words of Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all shall be well and all manner of things shall be well. The greatest honour we can give Almighty God is to live gladly because of the knowledge of his love"

I believe that Mary, the Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ lived "gladly because of the knowledge of God's love". I look forward with great anticipation once again to hearing about her journey of faith and love.

And in Mary's own words "Let it be to me, according to your word" coming to life in the form of the Christ Child, Jesus, King of all, born not in a palace but in a lowly stable in Bethlehem. The Christmas story continues to fill me with awe and wonder and great joy. Yes, my dear friend, I really do love Christmastime.

As we approach this blessed and holy Christmas season, please be assured that I shall continue to hold you in my heart, I shall pray for you and for those you love and care for.

My prayer from me to you – with love.

Lord, please continue to bestow upon my dear friend and those held dear, your blessings and especially your protection. May the love that came to earth at Christmas surround this family with hope, joy and peace. In your name I pray. Amen.

With my love and my prayers,

*Lynne*

Lynne Tembey Mothers' Union Worldwide President