

## MWA PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2012

### FOLLOWING IN CHRIST'S FOOTPRINTS

Dear Sisters

I must first start my letter with an apology. The subscription forms will not be coming out to the Circles until at least next month. I am sorry for any inconvenience this causes you and hope that you will hang on to your money and send it when requested. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Once November has arrived, it is only a matter of weeks until Christmas. I always feel that shops spoil Christmas by starting their preparations much too early in the year. Many people feel that they are already fed up of Christmas before it has even arrived! As well as the physical preparation for Christmas, for Christians there is the spiritual preparation. The season of Advent is our time to think about and anticipate the celebration of the first coming of Jesus.

When I was a member of Fairfield's Young Wives Group, we used to have an Advent Service held at our November Meeting. This was the idea of Sr Beth Torkington in her preordination days! It was a lovely service and as we had women in the group who were not regular church attenders, it was a way of giving them an opportunity to contemplate the real meaning of Christmas. Perhaps it is an idea which you could copy in your Church.

Sr Norma Maynard will be writing the letter for December/January, so I will take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let me finish however by encouraging you all to prepare spiritually for Christmas by taking time out amidst all the preparation and "busyness" to think, to pray, to contemplate the real reason why we celebrate Christmas. The final verse of our lovely Carol, "Morning Star" contains words which can be used as an Advent prayer:

MORNING STAR, MY SOUL'S TRUE LIGHT,

TARRY NOT, DISPEL MY NIGHT;

JESUS MINE, IN ME SHINE

FILL MY HEART WITH LIGHT DIVINE.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper

