

A Christmas message  
from your sister Marthe  
in the Democratic  
Republic of Congo

**£1** every £ you donate  
**£1** **£1** doubled by the Big Give  
+ giftaid it  
**= £2.25**

Dear <cherished member>

<November 2020>

My name is Marthe, and I'm writing from Mothers' Union in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As we approach Christmas and look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ together, I want to thank you for the continued support you give to families and women around the world.

This year, I am excited to bring you some good news for Advent and Christmas. Led by the team at Mary Sumner House, Mothers' Union is taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge.

**If you can give this Christmas, whatever you give online will go twice as far so we can help more women in the DRC change their lives for the better.**

You see, life in the DRC is extremely hard for women and girls, and has been made even tougher as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past 20 years, I have seen the ongoing civil war tear through our country, bringing with it terrible poverty and a culture of violence that affects every aspect of our society. To grow up as a girl or to be a mother in this environment is hard to imagine unless you have seen it. You have to be strong and take courage in God's grace. And many women do. They wake each morning trusting in the love of God and the strength he gives them to laugh, smile and find joy in their lives.

But, for our sisters who cannot read and write, it is so much harder to be strong.

**Illiteracy holds women back here, severely. It simply pushes them to the bottom of society, and robs them of the opportunities and confidence needed to combat the gender inequalities they face on a daily basis.**

I recently met one of those women, Theresa at the Mothers' Union business skills training workshop here in Kinshasa.

As a girl, Theresa attended primary school, but when her mother and father died, so did Theresa's education. She was forced to join her aunt, selling food in the market, and when she was still very young, she got married.

Their first child was a girl, which made her husband angry. 'Why do you give us girls?' he would rage. 'Why can you not give us a boy? I need a boy.' Theresa's husband beat her and she cried every day. Eventually, she fell pregnant again and had a boy.

*That means any donations made online between 1st and 8th December will be doubled.*

Please turn over

**One donation.  
Double the impact**



**theBigGive**  
CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE  
1—8 DECEMBER 2020

**Between noon 1st December – noon 8th December  
the Big Give will double donations made online at the Big Give website  
[www.mothersunion.org/Christmas](http://www.mothersunion.org/Christmas) up to £46,000.**

**Don't forget**

Tear me off and stick me on your fridge, pin board, or somewhere that will help you remember to donate between the 1st and 8th December



Picture taken before Covid-19