



# Advent Devotional 2025



*By Eleanor Rivers  
Head of Communications, MAF in Australia*

Advent begins with a simple yet powerful truth: light always overcomes darkness.

Into a world weary with waiting, confusion and fear, Jesus came "the true light that gives light to everyone" (John 1:9 NIV). His light still shines today, breaking through the shadows of our world and our hearts.

When my children first started school, my constant prayer for them was that they would be light - that wherever they went, they would bring kindness, courage and hope. I prayed they would notice the lonely, speak truth gently and reflect God's love in how they lived. I often reminded them that darkness can't stay when a light is turned on. No matter how small the flame, it pushes the shadows back.

Light will always overpower darkness. That same truth is what Advent calls us to remember - and to live. Christ, the Light of the World, has placed His light within each of us. Whether you're guiding children, serving in your community, or praying for those in need, you carry His light into the spaces around you. It doesn't have to be bright or showy; even the smallest act of faith can reveal Jesus to someone sitting in darkness.

Through Mission Aviation Fellowship, that light also travels far beyond where we can go ourselves. Solar panels bring physical light to remote communities, powering clinics and homes, but they also remind us of the greater light we share - the unending power of Christ shining through His people.

Your prayers for MAF staff and the communities they serve are part of that glow. Every prayer strengthens someone else's light, ensuring hope keeps burning in the hardest places.

As this Advent season begins, may we pause to let Christ's light warm and renew us. And may we be willing to carry it - into our families, our workplaces, our streets and even across oceans through our prayers.





## **The Light We Carry - The Light of Christ**

### **December 1<sup>st</sup> (Monday)**

Pray that as Advent begins, hearts everywhere would recognise the true Light of Christ, that this season rekindles hope in weary places and reminds us that Jesus' light still shines today.

### **December 2<sup>nd</sup> (Tuesday)**

Pray for MAF pilots, engineers and staff serving in remote areas. Ask that every flight brings help and the light of Christ and that their presence reflects His compassion and hope.

### **December 3<sup>rd</sup> (Wednesday)**

Pray that our prayers would strengthen MAF teams worldwide, that our faith fuels their courage and reminds them they're not alone.

### **December 4<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

Pray for MAF staff and families overseas - for endurance, unity, joy and that their words and actions shine Christ's light.

### **December 5<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

Pray that we reflect Christ's light in our homes and communities and that our generosity and daily choices allow His light to shine through us.

### **December 6<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

Pray for weary or discouraged members of the MAF family. Ask God to renew their strength, fill them with peace and remind them that no darkness can overcome His light.

### **December 7<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

Pray that this Advent, God unites all who serve, give and pray through MAF. Ask that their shared mission draws many hearts to the hope of Jesus' love.

## **Joy in the Skies - Christmas on the field**

### **December 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

Pray for the community youth groups that our MAF staff are involved with. Pray that each person attending will grow in the knowledge of God's love for them and joy in them.

### **December 9<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**

Please pray for our MAF staff as they celebrate Christmas away from family and friends. Pray for joy and encouragement over the holiday season.

### **December 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

Pray for the teachers and students that fly with MAF between communities and homelands. Pray for safety and rest over the holidays, pray that the joy of learning will permeate each student, that they can grow into the person God has made them to be.



*By Melissa Higgins  
Pilot, MAF in Arnhem Land*

“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.” (Luke 2:10 NIV).

During Christmas we celebrate freedom from fear, good news and great joy for all people! What an incredible privilege.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with Christmas Carols, Christmas parties, Youth Group events, school graduations, and, of course, lots of flying! One of the fun flights that we help out with each year is flying Santa around to different homelands.

Santa and his helpers from Laynhapuy Homelands Corporation buy presents for all the children in each homeland. Everyone comes out to meet the plane and have some Christmas fun. It is really great to see everyone's joy when Santa comes to visit.

At this joyful time of year, we celebrate the amazing gift that God sent to us in Jesus, Who came to earth as a newborn, wrapped up, given to us - a gift of unconditional love. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.” (Isaiah 9:6 NIV).

At Christmas we see joy, anticipation, planning and generosity, beauty in the decorations, light and laughter all around us. There is also much hurt and grief that permeates this season. We don't gloss over the pain or hide it until after the celebrations. Jesus came to take our pain on Himself and to transform us with His joy.

And joy isn't a shallow feeling, it's a deep trust, a childlike wonder knowing that God has saved us, we are safe when we are in the centre of His will.

Christ's joy and our joy is made complete when we come together with our brothers and sisters, with our neighbours to celebrate and enjoy the free gift of grace that is ours. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!





*By James M.  
MAF in South Sudan*

When the angels appeared to the shepherds on that first Christmas night, their message was simple yet world-changing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests." (Luke 2:14 NIV)

Peace. It's a word we all long for - but one that can feel painfully out of reach. Many of us live in lands where peace has been broken time and again - where fear, division and uncertainty have become familiar companions. South Sudan, where we have lived these past 9 years, has known the sounds of civil war and prolonged unrest for decades, and even when the guns fall silent, the wounds remain.

Last month, our family experienced something rare and beautiful. Our daughter, who serves in another nation also marked by sustained civil unrest, joined us for a holiday in Kenya where life is much more calm and stable. As we walked through an island wildlife sanctuary enjoying close encounters with wild animals (safe because no natural predators were on the island), it struck me how fragile and temporary earthly peace can be. Borders shift, governments change and calm can vanish overnight. The world's peace depends on circumstances.

But the peace Jesus offers - the peace the angels sang about - is different. It's not the absence of conflict but the presence of Christ. It's a peace that begins in the heart, where fear and guilt once ruled, and extends outward to shape how we live, forgive and hope. Isaiah called Him the Prince of Peace, and through His death and resurrection, Jesus made peace between God and us. Because of Him, we can know a peace that no war, no unrest and no uncertainty can destroy.

So this Christmas, we pray for our MAF staff in countries around the world, many living in uncertain times or through the sadness of being far from loved ones. As we pray for them let's remember that true peace is not found in treaties or safe borders - it is found in the Saviour who came to dwell among us. May His peace rule in our hearts and overflow through our lives into a world still aching for the hope of Bethlehem. "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7 NIV).

**December 11<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

Pray for the MAF kids, that they might experience deep joy where God has placed them. Pray for safety and for good friendships and good health over the holidays. Pray that each child's faith will deepen over this Christmas season.

**December 12<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

Pray for the Christians and the church in Arnhem Land, that the wonder and joy of Christmas may become real and relevant.

**December 13<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

Pray for those who are grieving, sick and having a difficult time during this season. Pray that even though their circumstance might not change, that they may experience a deep joy, inviting God's presence into their lives and a peace that goes beyond understanding.

**December 14<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

Pray for great joy amongst the homeland communities as they celebrate God's great gift, to all people, this Christmas.

**Peace on Earth****December 15<sup>th</sup> (Monday)**

Pray for God's peace that passes all understanding to guard the hearts and minds of our MAF staff in South Sudan, as many celebrate Christmas far from home.

**December 16<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)**

Pray for peace in this time of unrest and conflict. Pray that wars will cease and that the people of South Sudan will know what it is to live in a land that is stable and at peace.

**December 17<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

Pray that the peace of Christ would dwell richly in the hearts of all believers this Christmas.

**December 18<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

Pray that those who take part in the Peace and Reconciliation workshops run by MAF in South Sudan, would find the strength to offer forgiveness, and experience God's peace.

**December 19<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

Pray for the flights that our MAF pilots are involved with. Pray for safety in the air, pray that all who fly will know God's peace in their hearts, and feel safe and secure during the flights.

**December 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

Pray for the national staff in South Sudan, many of whom have lived through past wars. Pray that God's deep peace will permeate any fear or anxiety.

**December 21<sup>st</sup> (Sunday)**

Pray for the children of the MAF staff, that this Christmas might be a time of joy, celebration and coming to know more of God's love and peace.





*By Chris Barnes  
CEO, MAF in Australia*

As Christmas approaches, we're reminded that hope is a gift - one meant to be shared. When the angels appeared to the shepherds, they said, "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people" (Luke 2:10 NIV). That moment changed everything. The shepherds didn't keep the news to themselves - they ran to see and then they ran to tell. Hope moves us outward.

Whenever I visit MAF programs I am struck by just how tangible that hope is. For the isolated community, MAF represents more than a means of transport; it represents connection, care and a reminder that they aren't forgotten. There is a sense of relief and joy as the MAF team unload supplies and greet local partners.

In these moments, I see what "hope renewed" really means. It's not always loud or dramatic - sometimes it's the quiet arrival of help, the steady presence of people who care or the faithful prayers that keep others going. Through MAF's ministry, and through your prayers and support, that kind of hope continues to travel - across mountains, over rivers and into the hearts of the isolated.

This Advent, we celebrate the light and hope of Christ that first broke through in Bethlehem - a hope that still shines through every MAF staff member, every flight, every supporter who chooses to pray or to give, and to every person touched by God through our mission. Together, we are part of the same story: God's gift of hope being shared with the world!

As we reach the final week of Advent, may your heart be filled with gratitude and peace. May you know how deeply your prayers and generosity matter - and may your own hope be renewed by our God Who makes all things new.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13 (NIV).





## Gratitude and Hope

### December 22<sup>nd</sup> (Monday)

Pray that we would enter this Christmas season with grateful hearts, remembering all that God has done through MAF and its supporters this year. Pray that every act of generosity would bring renewed joy and purpose.

### December 23<sup>rd</sup> (Tuesday)

Pray that the message of Christ's hope would continue to travel through MAF's ministry - reaching families in isolated areas who are longing for good news. Pray that each flight and every encounter would be a reminder that God sees and cares.

### December 24<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)

Pray that hearts will be filled with peace and gratitude this Christmas Eve, as we celebrate the gift of Jesus, the hope of the world.

### December 25<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)

Give thanks for the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and for the joy, peace and love we share through Him today.

### December 26<sup>th</sup> (Friday)

Pray for MAF's faithful supporters - that this Christmas, they would be filled with peace, joy and the deep assurance that their giving and prayers have eternal impact. Pray that their hope in Christ would be strengthened.

### December 27<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)

Pray for MAF staff and families who are far from loved ones this Christmas. Ask that God would surround them with comfort and renewed hope, as they continue to serve others with love and courage.

### December 28<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)

Pray for those MAF serves in isolated communities - that through the practical help and spiritual encouragement they receive, they would encounter the transforming hope of Jesus.

### December 29<sup>th</sup> (Monday)

Pray that as the global MAF family celebrates Christmas, our unity in Christ would shine brightly. Pray that together - donors, staff and prayer partners - we would continue to share the greatest gift of all: the hope of salvation.

### December 30<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday)

Pray that God would renew hope in all who feel weary, uncertain or burdened. Pray that this Christmas, His light would bring peace to anxious hearts and that His hope would overflow through MAF's ministry and through us all.

### December 31<sup>st</sup> (Wednesday)

Give thanks for God's faithfulness throughout the past year and pray for His guidance and blessing in the year ahead.