

FEBRUARY 2021 MWI METHODIST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

“We are told to make love our aim, and we are given the grace and insight to do it by the God who created our minds and who demonstrated love before us all on His cross.” Eugenia Price

GOD MATTERS IN OUR LOVE FOR HIM AND OUR NEIGHBOUR!

February is sometimes referred to as the month of Love! 14th February is known as St Valentine’s day or a day of Romance. There are apparently nearly as many Valentine’s cards sent as Christmas Cards. Shops will have an abundance of Red Roses and Chocolates in the shape of hearts... maybe there will be diamonds bought as couples pledge their love to each other. Who of us can remember back to our youth sending Valentine Cards with quotes “Roses are Red, Violets are Blue, the Honey is Sweet but not as sweet as you” or “I am your Valentine will you be mine”?

Thankfully, we don’t need to wait for one day a year to tell someone we love them or to do **acts of love**. Love is something we need to feel and to give everyday of our lives.

1 John 4 v 7 – 9 (Life Application Study Bible) Loving One Another

“Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

Clearly Jesus is our example of what it means to love. Everything he did in life and death was extreme and unconditional love. Jesus exults us in **Matthew 22 to: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself”**. As I watched the Queen’s annual Christmas Day Speech, I was impressed by the clips she showed of people in the community doing great acts of kindness. Showing love and kindness, to people in need because of the pandemic is a tremendous thing to do.

I thank you all for the acts of love and kindness that have been and are being done among our Methodist people on our island. I pray that God will show us

more ways to embrace our family, neighbours and our community with God's unconditional love. As we sang at Christmas, **"Love came down at Christmas"** – God sent his Son to show Love and to be the Light of the World. May we continue to show Jesus as the Light of the World through our love for others in acts of kindness and compassion. May we be prepared to go the second mile in these difficult days and reach out in a safe way to the vulnerable and the lonely in our communities. It is easy to sit back and hope that others will do this task, but Jesus has reminded us in **Matthew 22, to love or neighbour as ourselves**. The question is who is our neighbour? Surely our neighbour is the person who we meet in the street, speak on the telephone, queue alongside at our shops etc., encounter the beggar on the street and the recently bereaved.

We in MWI are encouraged to know Christ and to make Him known not only for ourselves, but in our homes, churches and in the Community. May we continue to pray for Wisdom in ways to love our neighbour as ourselves.

In the January Newsletter I commended that women pray together between the hours of 7.00 and 8.00 pm each evening, so I trust that many of us are uniting in prayer, seeking God's intervention on COVID-19 and for wisdom for our governments on how they move forward in these extremely difficult and stressful times.

Paul writes in Romans: **"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels, nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

May that be true for us and our neighbours in this month of LOVE – it is God's Matter first!

Joan Strong

All Ireland MWI President