

MWI JANUARY 2020 ARTICLE FOR THE METHODIST NEWSLETTER

GOD MATTERS

What opportunities do we think about at the start of a New Year? Is it committing to a New Year Resolutions? Regardless of what resolution you commit to, the goal is surely to improve life in the coming year. Apparently the most common one is to do more exercise. Wanting to look after our physical and mental health is not a bad thing to do. We are encouraged by our Health Professionals that we should look after our bodies and our mental health so if by making a new year promise enables us to do this, then we are to be encouraged.

Living life in our modern society can be very stressful so for all ages finding ways to destress can be a means of improving our lives and equipping us to do the task that God has called us to. My health and well being is a **God Matter** to me and it can be for you to!

We read in Romans 12 v 2 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” A good way spiritually to start a New Year is by renewing our mind.

This verse in Romans 12 reminds me of God’s perfect will for our lives, but it is also a call to act on our part. Our lives have been transformed by Jesus when we confess Him as Saviour, but it’s up to us to regularly renew our earthly minds and to listen to God so that we can discern His will. Renewing the mind is a constant process, but one with great rewards. Any new habit requires a new process of thinking and renewing our minds to God’s will is the way to achieve this.

Kate Barclay Wilkinson wrote the lovely hymn –

May the Mind of Christ my Saviour live in me from day to day. By his love and pow’r controlling All I do or say. May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe, Looking only unto Jesus as I onward go.

These portions of scripture and hymn reminds me that at the start of the new year I need to keep focus on God and how to seek and serve him better.

In our tradition in the Methodist Church most churches will have “The Covenant Service” on the first Sunday of the New Year. This is a very thought provoking service.

I am sure you are all familiar with the words of the Covenant which commences with **“I am no longer my own but yours (space does not permit me to quote it all) I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made in on earth, let is be ratified in heaven. Amen**

Such a challenging declaration of our Faith at the start of 2020.

One last piece of our new MWI structures falls into place on the 1st January 2020, as our three new district treasurers take up their roles we pray that it will go smoothly. Another **God Matter** in place for the new Decade.

Blessed New Year!!

Joan Strong

All-Ireland MWI President

January Engagement

General Committee Meeting Wednesday 8th January 2020, Edgehill House – 10.30 am.

Dates for your diary:

North Eastern District MWI Executive – **Saturday 15th February 2020** - Mossley Methodist Church – 11.00 am

North Western District MWI Executive – **Saturday 22nd February 2020** – Tandragee Methodist Church – 12 noon

World Federation Study Day – **Saturday 28th March 2020** – Centenary Church, Leeson Park, Dublin