

MWI DECEMBER 2019 ARTICLE FOR THE METHODIST NEWSLETTER

GOD MATTERS

The long summer days have past and the colours of Autumn are fading. Winter is approaching with the wind, rain and possibly frost and snow. The temperatures are dropping too, enticing us to sit by a lovely warm fire. **“The fire is the winter’s fruit”** says an Arabian Proverb. The fire offers comfort from the elements outside.

With December approaching we can feel stressed – oh dear when am I going to get the time to write my Christmas cards, or is it too early to put the Christmas Tree up in the first week of December? When is the best time to buy the extra food, or when can I fit in entertaining family and friends? So many demands on us all in December! With the hustle and bustle, we can forget Christmas is **A GOD MATTER**. We overlook that the first six letters in Christmas is **Christ**. The birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.

When thinking about Christmas and especially the buying of gifts, my thoughts went to **Galatians 5 v 22 & 23**, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”** You may be thinking that this is a strange bible reference for Christmas. Now a days most people don’t need a lot of gifts, so wouldn’t it be a good thing to show the fruits of the Spirit instead. Fruit in this verse can mean **“deed, action or a result”**. Even if we could concentrate on two or three of the fruits of the spirit to show to others this Christmas that we care and more importantly God cares. **God Matters** to us as his children and we should wish to share this good news with others.

Christmas has become very commercialised and many don’t think of the significance of the Christmas story. I love it that the primary school children still put on the Nativity Play.

I love singing the Christmas Carols and my favourite is,

“In the bleak midwinter” (particularly the last line) –

But what I can I give him, give him my heart.

As well as enjoying Christmas with our family and friends may we also remember those who are not as fortunate as we are and show them the fruits of the Spirit in our lives and present them as gifts of love, sharing and caring.

Encouragement is another gift we should show to others. To encourage one another in the Lord’s work as we read in 1 Thessalonians 5 v 11 **“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”** Encouragement can mean a lot to a fellow believer trying to do the Lord’s work.

May we all have a joyous Christmas as we celebrate that “Jesus is the Reason for the Season” - *“EMMUAL GOD IS WITH US”*.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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