

MWI October 2019 Article for the Methodist Newsletter

GOD MATTERS

As I write this article for October it is the last week in August. It is hard to believe the summer holidays are coming to an end. I hear my daughter Zelda, a Nursery School Principal, and my daughter-in-law Shirley, who teaches P1, remark how quick the holidays have gone in. There will be some nervous children this week starting school for the first time and others moving into Secondary School education. Children are a gift from God, they are precious. It tells us in Proverbs 22 v 6 **“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”** We as mothers, grandmothers, carers, youth leaders, etc should be continually praying for our children/grandchildren and young people. We need to ask God to protect them and keep them safe. There is so much going on today that can cause undue pressure, such as social media which has a very strong influence on our children and young people. We need to encourage them to be involved in church activities, and to feel part of the family and worship of the church.

I was very impressed with the resources that IMYC showed us at 2019 Conference in Cork. One in particular grabbed my attention : a little card with a picture of a light bulb on it and the words SALT + LIGHT – Matthew 5 v 13 – 16. On the reverse side of the card there is a place to write a child’s name and underneath it says **“I am praying for you”** and a place for your name. Also, a verse which says **“You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept.”** Matt 5 v 12-16 MSG. IMYC encouraged us to take a few of these cards and use them with our children/grandchildren. It would be fantastic if every member of MWI got one of these cards and prayerfully chose a child in their church or community and that these children would know that someone is praying for them every day. I am sure if each branch secretary got in touch with IMYC, at Edgehill House, by phone to 0289076 7969 or email to imycd@irishmethodist.org they would be delighted to give you a pack of cards. To me this is a vital and everyday God Matter. God tells us to care for his children. Please consider this wonderful venture.

We have four aims in MWI and the second one is **“to relate the teaching of Jesus Christ to life in the home, the church, the community and the world.”** In using these IMYC cards we would be responding to and developing this aim.

I use a devotional book called **Hope for Each Day** written by the late Dr Billy Graham. One of his daily devotions is entitled **“Training our Children”** and the verse quoted is Proverbs 22 v 6. I quote a few words, **Children need to know right and wrong, and the best place to learn it is at home. If they don’t learn it there, they may end up without any moral and spiritual anchor.** May we as MWI be diligent in praying for our children and young people and helping them to know that God Matters.

Joan Strong

All-Ireland President

October Engagements

Saturday 5th Launch of North Eastern District, half day event – Coleraine Methodist

Saturday 12th MWI Executive Meeting – Thomas Street Methodist Church

Saturday 26th North Western District Executive – Dungannon Methodist Church

Sunday 27th MWI Service - Finaghy Methodist Church