

MARCH 2021 MWI METHODIST NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

“Without God, it is utterly impossible. But with God everything is possible.” Mark 10 v 27 (TLB)

God Matters in All Circumstances.

I am so pleased that three of my longest friends. Ann, Nancy and Gentian, from Omagh MWI, readily agreed to contribute to this article. I trust their choices of scripture verses and short meaning bless you as they have blessed me.

Ann

It is lovely to have a personal relationship with Jesus. I have known his presence and help down through the years and the verse that has been a real blessing to me is **Isaiah 41 verse 13: “For I am the Lord, your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you’”**. I was an only child and was very close to my Mum. When I was growing-up she was ill most of the time which brought its own difficulties and when I was twenty-two she passed away after being bedridden for 16 months. This was a very difficult period in my life and this verse became very precious to me. It was good to know the Lord was taking my hand in his and saying to me “Do not fear, I will help you, I will be with you”. Since then when difficulties arise this verse has been a real strength to me.

These are not easy days for anyone but isn't it wonderful to know that God is with us whatever we face amidst the anxious thoughts and worries of life. He is there strengthening helping and He holds us in his hands, and He whispers, strong and sure, to the deepest core of our spirit “Fear not”.

Nancy

The verse that is precious to me is **John 14 verse 27: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”**.

This verse has been so precious throughout my life. God first used it many many years ago. I was working in the Shetland Islands with the Faith Mission when late one evening I had a phone call from home to say my mother was very ill and come home immediately. I felt panic stricken and wondered how I would get home from Shetland to Northern Ireland, travel wasn't easy, and in those days, there was no mobile phones. God said very clearly to me “I will

give you my peace, but you must receive it". I kept trusting and experienced the peace of God and arrived home safely. May I encourage the readers to allow the peace of God to reign in their lives.

Gentian

1 Corinthians 13 v 4 – 7: " Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trust, always hopes, always perseveres".

As a child and teenager, I sat under the Rev Harry Pinkerton's ministry. During these years he captivated the congregations where he ministered with stories about his friend 'Wee Johnny' which he told us with simple, homely endearing charm, and his own childlike faith made a real impression on me. He frequently used these verses in his ministry as they are the heart of the Christian faith. Our society is filled with rudeness, harshness and crudeness which does not display the character of God. Love is so important as, apart from it, every other good thing is useless.

May we take time to reflect on the above scripture that Ann, Nancy and Gentian have shared with us and the reason why they mean so much to each of them. Ann **knew** that God would take her by her right hand and guide her through all the difficult situations in life and is still doing this today. Nancy could **rely** on God's peace through an exceedingly difficult situation and God did not let her down. Gentian has stressed to us how important '**Love**' is and it should be central to our Christian walk. We are left in no doubt that **God Matters** to each of them.

"Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom."

Galatians 5 v 14. (The Message)

Joan Strong

All-Ireland MWI President