

MWI NOVEMBER 2019 ARTICLE FOR THE METHODIST NEWSLETTER

GOD MATTERS

I wish to say a huge thank you for all who came to my Installation Service on the 14th September 2019 at Glengormley Methodist Church and your support was greatly appreciated by me. The large attendance was overwhelming. It was an amazing service and God's presence was very tangible. For all who willingly took part in the service and for the excellent catering – for all the cards, letters, text messages, emails etc, I cannot express my appreciation too much. Your encouragement means a lot to me and to MWI.

As we consider **GOD MATTERS**, 'Thankfulness' has been on my mind. Harvest Thanksgiving Services which you probably have been celebrating in your church, gave us the opportunity to be thankful. It is easy to grumble about the changing seasons and the unexpected weather. Did we not pause at our Harvest Thanksgiving services and recognise that God is in control and he has provided us with all that we need, not all our greed? Did we not mean it when we brought flowers and fruit or gave gifts to those in the Developing World – all to express our Thankfulness for His physical provisions and His eternal gift of Salvation?

Jesus also speaks of another harvest. We read in Matthew 9 v 37 & 38 that Jesus said to his disciples "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Jesus saw the multitudes and was concerned how they would all hear the "Good News" of the Gospel. Are we faithful in praying for more workers to go and share the gospel? Christopher Wordsworth's hymn (H & P 337) captures the harvest of both the earth and of souls. He was grateful for God's creation and for God sending us His Son so we can have redemption and forgiveness of sins and have eternal life.

O Lord of heaven and earth and sea. To thee all praise and glory be; How shall we show our love to thee. Who givest all? .

Thou didst not spare thine only Son, But gav'st him for a world undone, And freely with that blessed One Thou givest all.

For souls redeemed, for sins forgiven. For means of grace and hopes of heaven, Father all praise to thee be given. Who givest all.

**“Don’t judge each day by the Harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.”
(unknown) May we all be planters! – A GOD MATTER.**

As I travel around to meet women in several churches, I am struck by how much they offer to God in their service. They show such gifts of kindness and are thankful for the opportunity to play key roles in church and the wider society. Let us all show our thanks to them and to recognise that all goodness comes from God – “I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Corinthians 1 v 4).

Thankfulness really is a **GOD MATTER!**

Joan Strong

All-Ireland President MWI

November Engagements

Belfast South Methodist Church – Tuesday 5 November at 7.30 pm

“All In” event in Lismore Comprehensive School, Craigavon – Saturday 16 November – I hope to attend.

The World Federation Day - Saturday 2nd November is postponed. Expected new date is March 2020.