“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

-John Wesley

This quote hangs on a framed piece of art in my dining room. I found it at a thrift store years ago - but it has always resonated with me. Through an e-mail exchange with a mentor and dear friend, I found out recently this same quote hangs in their home as well, as it was a gift from their mother.

Each day I find myself reflecting on this. This past week I attended a mental health summit virtually, and a common message was reiterated by several of the panelists. “There is no instruction manual, or mastery level program on what to ‘do’ during a pandemic.”

Some of the questions I find myself asking are:

How do we best serve students?
How do we best serve schools?
How do we best serve educators?
How do we best serve families?
How do we best serve our loved ones?
How do we best serve those furthest away from hope and opportunity?

These questions are ones that I wrestle with daily and are the anchor points of deep conversations I have with my professional and personal partners in progress.

Ultimately, I find both a sense of comfort and a call to action as I go back to these words by John Wesley. There is no playbook for this. There is no musical score that guides us through the melodies, harmonies and rhythms. There are no terms of service agreements to scroll through that will precisely tell us what to do through all of this.

For me, each day all I can do is wake-up and do all the good that I can, with all the means that I can, in all the places that I can, at all the times that I can, to all the people that I can, as long as I can. This mindset has freed me to think, work, and serve in ways that have proven to be more creative and liberating.

Some final words of encouragement that were eloquently expressed by another important figure in my life, the beloved Mr. Feeny from one of my favorite shows Boy Meets World - “Believe in yourselves. Dream. Try. Do Good.”