JULY AND AUGUST 2021 MWI ARTICLE

HOPE IS A GOD MATTER

My term of office would normally have ended after MCI Conference in June but as life has been so different these last 18 months, it was agreed that all the General and District Officers stay in post until June 2022, as their work was severely curtailed during the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

THANKS  Unfortunately, Mrs Liz MacBean our General Secretary felt she could not take on a further year because of personal reasons. Liz has been a member of the General Executive for the past six years, three as Assistant Secretary and three as General Secretary. We are grateful to Liz for the quiet and competent way she undertook her duties. Isaiah 30 v 15 comes to mind. “In quietness and confidence will be my strength”. Liz went about her duties quietly and was confident that God was her enabler. As a good secretary it was as much about what she did as what she said, and her technical knowledge and ability served us all well these last six years. We in MWI thank Liz for all her hard work and wish her God’s richest blessing for the future. We extend a warm welcome to Mrs Moira McMurray who takes up the post of General Secretary in June this year.

As I write this article Covid-19 restrictions are gradually being lifted and if all goes according to plan, we are hoping that life may get back to a different normal come September. We in MWI move forward with hope for the future and follow our governments’ rules on what we are allowed to do.

Our Bi-Annual Fellowship Weekend was planned for September 2020 but could not happen because of Covid-19, and is now planned for 17 – 19 September 2021, in Drumalis Conference Centre, Larne. Rev Dr Heather Morris, Secretary of Conference, wishes us well and says it is vital that we look to the future with hope. Booking Forms will be available from your District Secretary or your Branch Secretary. There are not as many places as normal as numbers are restricted due to the social distancing required by our governments. We pray God’s blessing on our weekend and look forward to our Helen Kim Scholars, Wanda Hogan and Rachel Allison sharing on the theme ‘Hope, Joy and Celebration’.

A devotional book that has blest me is one by the late Dr Billy Graham. His portion on ‘Hope’ was
particularly a blessing to me during this period of uncertainty.

Dr Graham refers to 5 things the bible says about hope.

- Hope is never lost – sometimes it is difficult to see hope in a situation. Romans 8 v 24
- We can be confident in hope – hope assures us that we can be confident in it because it is the law of God. Hebrews 11 v 1
- True hope comes from God – True hope comes from trusting God even when circumstances are difficult. Romans 13 v 15
- Hope is a gift – Hope given by God works together to give us confidence, joy, peace, power and love. Romans 5 v 5
- Hope Endures – we can have a future that is full of hope. Proverbs 23 v 18

As Methodists Women in Ireland may we move forward into a new church year with hope in our hearts as we seek to know God and make Him known.

Joan Strong
All-Ireland MWI President