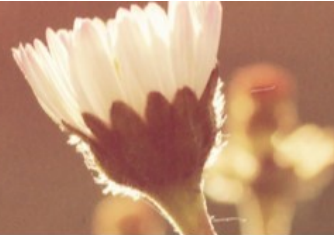


GOOD NEWS STORIES



YOUR GOOD NEWS STORY!

We would love to share your Good News story here! We are looking for short stories of around 300 words.

Please send your story asap, so we know how many we can fit in our next centrefold (with your name and church details) to:

editor@methodistevangelicals.org.uk

Thank you!

THE CYCLES OF LIFE

Marine de Villepin

I am convinced that everybody has to find their 'mission' in life - something that is specific for them to do; I knew I had something specific to do, which involved using my talents - but I didn't know how to link my job and my family with my 'mission'.

My background is nursing, however, since my husband joined the Marines and since becoming a mother, I have tried to build my own business as a photographer. In March this year, Anne asked me to share some of my photos for MET Connexion - I was able to offer photos for several articles and one of them appeared on the cover! I loved that my photos could be used in this way, for God.

When this edition was complete, I couldn't find motivation for my other work. I prayed and asked God to help me to find my mission, to bring meaning to all my work. On 28 April, I asked for a sign and I read: 'I will do whatever you ask in my name so that the Father may be glorified in the Son' (John 14:13). I prayed to God, 'I want my work to

give you glory'. I then thanked God, trusting him to show me the way. On 30 April, I received a phone call from a Christian charity asking me to do a project which was tailor-made for me - using my nursing background as well as my photography. I received this as my sign. The day after God gave me confirmation: 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you' (John 14:27).

In my photography work, I had found it difficult to promote myself and get clients. Since then, I haven't had to look for work - it has come to me. I don't know exactly where I'm going with this, but I know that if I follow God's lead, I will never be lost...

Marine de Villepin is a French, Christian photographer and a military wife, currently living in Plymouth, where her husband is posted. She has contributed her photos to the last three editions of MET Connexion (including this one!) For more information and to see more of her work, visit: www.esprit-photographie.com

The photo of 'The Cycles of Life,' featured here is the project that encouraged Marine to give her work to God.

ONLY JESUS - A TESTIMONY

Ann Foster

I was born into a Methodist family, a child of the manse; I was immersed in all the usual church activities - signing on the dotted line to become a member of the church at the age of fifteen. I grew up very dissatisfied with attending church, as I felt that, if there was a God, there must be something more than I was experiencing. So, I dropped out, but searched for the 'something more' in the occult, which I found much more exciting!

By now, I was married, my father had died and my mother came to live with us. As we lived quite a distance from the church, I drove mother to the services and started attending again. A new Minister, Albert Gard, had just

started with us and he seemed quite different. He spoke of Jesus as a close personal friend with whom he had a warm, intimate fellowship. I began to wonder! One Sunday, during a meeting, he challenged us, asking what Christ had done in our lives in the past few weeks. No one said anything as far as I can remember and I began to wonder even more!

My marriage was going through a very difficult time and after having yet another row and neither wanting to stay nor able to leave, having been brought up by very godly parents, I prayed this simple prayer to Jesus: 'Jesus, Albert tells me you can change peoples' lives. Please take my miserable life and make me the sort of woman you want me to be.'

Firstly, I was filled with such a love for Jesus that I couldn't stop crying. It would only need the mention of his name to start me off. As you can imagine,

this proved difficult in church and sometimes I had to leave through lack of control! Secondly, I became aware of a very spiritual realm and, thirdly, I came to know the scriptures as the very word of God. Albert was gracious enough to baptise me upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

This happened more than forty years ago. I have had so many experiences before and after surrendering my life to Christ that I could fill a book. Enough to say that at eighty-three I am still wanting more, but now I know that I do not have to look elsewhere, but to Jesus ONLY.

'Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.' (1 Peter 1:8).

Ann Foster attends Goring by Sea Methodist Church.