

Dear friends

I was very privileged to spend my three week Easter vacation from Wesley College in 1996 in Argentina. Some months earlier a Superintendent on Sabbatical had visited the College and shared about her ministry there including the mission to the Toba Indians in the north, which really interested me.

I spent a few days at the mission, a few days in Venado Tuerto and the remainder in Rosario. Argentina is very much into remembering dates. The night I flew there they were remembering the night thousands were taken from their homes and never seen again. On 2nd April there were continual announcements saying it was the fourteenth anniversary of the Isla Malvinas (Falklands) war. This made me feel a little uncomfortable.

Streets were named after dates eg. 9th July (Independence Day), May 1st and May 28th etc.

I hold dates in my mind and heart. The month of May has, for me, many significant events:-

- 8th will be my 30th spiritual birthday. Blind to the posters around the town, I was led by a voice in my head to an Evangelistic event in a marquee where I came to know and feel the love, forgiveness and acceptance of God (the Evangelist was Argentinian).
- The following May 1990 there were 3 events. The start of God's nudging to preach; at the celebration weekend at Cliff College, amongst the thousands, Revd John Vincent spoke directly to me with God's call; and on returning home a minister told us (my late husband Roy and myself) of his vision he had of us studying at Cliff College. We went there 1991/92 and Roy died 5 months later
- May 2001 on a holiday that should have been cancelled because we were going into a country in conflict I (from Carlisle) met Les (from the Isle of Wight) whom I married.

Although these are some of the very significant events in my spiritual journey over these last 30 years, and seem good testimony, what is more important is 'am I allowing God to touch, transform and guide me today and all my tomorrows'?

Some of you, like me, will know the day whilst others of you may feel that you have always known God. I'm sad that for almost 39 years I missed out on knowing the presence, love, peace and blessings of God. Some of you may wish you had a 'Damascus experience'. Feeling the 'grass is greener on the other side' crops up from time to time in all kinds of aspects in our life journey.

Sharing our story and how God is touching us today enables others to 'see' the possibility for Him touching their lives, and so the Methodist Church, next year, is

having a Year of Testimony. Testimony will also be the focus for our next Circuit Service on Sunday 26th May.

Sometimes, we can even be fearful of sharing our story with those within the church let alone those outside in case they think we are fanatical or a bit 'bonkers', but if we dare to take that first step we could be surprised how many others feel the same way and are liberated to share too. The ripple effect quickly takes place and both individuals and congregations grow in love, caring and spirituality.

Are you up for it?

I pray that our gracious Lord will give us the desire, the blessing and the words to share.

Every blessing
Jenny