

Wonder Women! – Then and Now President's Letter February 2020

Dear Sisters

I hope you all had a good Christmas and a happy New Year. Phil and I were fortunate in being able to meet our new little granddaughter Robyn for the first time and spend her first Christmas Day with her which was very special.

I am writing this on a cold January evening, although I feel it is not as cold as it should be. All the science seems to point to global warming and I feel as Christian women we need to try to play our part in looking after this God-given world.

You will have received your questionnaires and will hopefully be completing them at the February meeting. When Executive Committee met back in the Autumn, it was felt that some information about how the answers are used would be useful to Circles.

The first thing to say is that Naomi cannot stand for Home and Overseas Secretary and I cannot stand for President as we have both completed the terms allowed under the Constitution. I hope you all have some ideas about who might replace us, please ensure that you have asked prospective nominees if they are willing to stand before you nominate them and please indicate that they are happy to be nominated on the form.

Secondly – the selection of the Devotional Theme: We received some feedback that Circles were unwilling to suggest themes as their idea was never used. At Central Committee all the suggestions for themes are noted, minuted and discussed. The Committee try to incorporate a number of the ideas behind the themes into one theme so that as many Circles as possible may see something of their suggestion in at least one of the Papers. It is not possible to incorporate all the ideas into the chosen theme and ultimately, I feel the final decision should rest with the Devotional Secretary as it is she who has to write 9 papers on the subject.

Thirdly, projects; when the Committee decides which projects to support, we try to have a mixture of Moravian and non-Moravian. The committee receives many suggestions from Circles, too many for us to be able to support them all unless we donate only a small amount of money to each. When making the decision around which charities to support the following criteria are applied:

1. There needs to be accurate information provided about the charitable status of the organisation and an address to which we can send the money.
2. There needs to be good information about the work the charity carries out and how MWA money would be used by the organisation.
3. We tend to avoid the big charities who will receive many donations.
4. We look at what we have supported in the last few years so there is no duplication.
5. We group the suggestions together into categories e.g. children, homelessness, cancer etc and then try to choose one from each category.

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Once again, I would like to reassure you that all your suggestions come to the table and are noted, minuted and discussed. There is always lot of discussion around which projects we should support – indeed this is usually the longest and most complicated part of the meeting.

Please do continue to make suggestions, I think one of the strengths of MWA is the potential for participation from all the members. Every Circle has the opportunity at some point to send someone to Central Committee and I would strongly urge you to do so when the opportunity arises.

I hope this letter has explained what happens at Central Committee, if there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper.