

Dear friends,

*“Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off”*

*Proverbs 24:14 (NIV)*

Happy New Year Everyone! New Connexional year, that is. I trust that you have found time to relax and have a bit of a holiday during August. Although, I suspect that the pace hasn't really stopped for some due to all the holidaymakers!

Where has the first year of the new Circuit gone! Much has happened during the past year. It has been a time of getting familiar with new staff and new people from the two merging Circuits. There have been happy times and tense times. From a Connexional perspective, it has been a challenging time.

This challenging time continues as we progress into the new year towards Conference. There is much to consider and pray about. For some it is going to be an anxious few months. This is why we need to take heed of the words above, to seek the Wisdom of God and so be assured that He is with us into the future.

However, the Conference need not dominate our day to day activities as local churches. We have a very exciting new year ahead of us! There will be lots of opportunities available to express our main focus; which is to bring people to Jesus and develop discipleship. For all the technology of our time, people still have insecurities, pain, questions and spiritual longing. We will need to be innovative in how we present Sunday worship and mid-week connection with our communities, so as to help people meet the One Who can satisfy. Again, we need the Wisdom of God to be innovative.

Maybe we can garner wisdom from the early community of believers as we see how they met together to praise Jesus over meals, and gained the goodwill of the people. This is possibly a key. Let us develop strong faith communities as we journey to the future.

God's continued wisdom and grace,

*Edwin*