

Dear Friends,

The Ebola virus continues to sweep western African countries and remains a threat to us all if not curtailed, or better still, erased completely.

Thousands of people throughout the world try to help in whichever way they can, be it physically with little or no regard for their own wellbeing, or financially and prayerfully, which is something we all can and should be doing.

The Methodist Relief and Development Fund charity as it was (it has now been renamed All We Can), has on their website a beautiful Ebola prayer, which goes like this (slightly abbreviated):

“Lord of all nations, we pray for the people of West Africa. We pray that the Ebola virus is contained and its impact limited.

“We pray for those who have already been affected, for families grieving for the loss of loved ones, for communities living in fear, and for health workers and local volunteers doing all they can to provide protection, comfort and prevention.”

The founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley had as his motto: “Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

You may now ask, ‘But what can I give, I who have so little to give and to spare?’

I think the answer is in that beautiful Christmas hymn *In the bleak midwinter* (my Margaret’s favourite), where in the last verse we read and sing this:

“What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.”

So let us remember the Ebola prayer, for there is no quick fix solution to this, and let us put our heart, soul and mind into all that we do for our neighbours, wherever and whoever they are.

God wants no more from us but expects no less.

*Rev Preben Andersen*

Thought for the weak



with the Rev Preben Andersen