

Resolutions Oral Presentation: Mary Bannon

"Inspired by the Spirit. Women Respond to God's Call" --our theme for 2017-18. Now which woman in the Bible speaks to me as the Chairperson of Resolutions—which woman shows me an example of what it means to respond to God's call in the form of Resolutions?

After much thought, prayer and study I have chosen Deborah from the book of Judges.

Three millennia ago Deborah lived in the Mountains of Ephraim. In the midst of sin and idolatry, Deborah remained true to God and His Torah. She was wise and God fearing, and the people flocked to her for advice and help, to have their disputes decided. Deborah held court beneath a palm-tree, in the open air. There, where everyone could hear her, she urged the Jewish people to return to God. The entire Jewish nation respected this great prophetess since God had gifted her with the ability to discern the mind and purpose of God and declare it to others. As a woman she had intuition as well as inspiration. She could look at the issues and situation of the people at that time in history and, inspired by the Spirit, respond to God's call. She was a resolute woman who obeyed the Lord and insisted his will be done.

So how does Deborah become a model for Resolutions Chairpersons like me, like some of you in your own councils? We need, like Deborah, to be open to the mind and purpose of God which we read in His Word and to listen to people saying to us, "This needs to be changed, this problem needs to be solved", another way of God speaking to us. We need to be prophetesses in our own day discerning the mind and purpose of God. We can then judge what is important and be obedient to God's desire for us. Our resolutions come from women's intuition and inspiration. We use media to "intuite" what needs to be transformed and this will require us to delve "into it" (get it?) through research. Then we allow ourselves to be inspired with the correct wording. And "Voila"! we have a resolution to present.

My experience of God's call in my role has led me to be aware of the news, to listen to people's urging that something be done and has inspired me to respond to this call and to urge and encourage others to respond by studying resolutions passed by the CWL, taking action by writing letters to our MPs and MPPS, becoming aware of how the voices of 82000 members of the CWL have changed laws through our resolutions. I realize that fear exists in writing a resolution but 366 times in the Bible God tells us "Don't be afraid" one for every day of the year-and God even thought of the leap year. Are we all ready to be the "Deborahs" of our time, prophets who see the situation, judges determining what needs to be done and women responding to God's call through the action of resolutions?

