

## 2018 ORAL SPEECH

In John Chapter 21 Jesus asks Simon three times “Do you love Me?” and then tells him to “Feed My sheep”. Like Simon, we do not always understand what we are being asked to do nor do we respond right away.

How often do we ask someone to take a leadership role and they have many excuses for saying no I.e. I don’t speak good English, I don’t use a computer, I can’t speak in front of people, etc.

God often calls us not directly but through other people.

My CWL journey began by my husband volunteering me to drive a senior lady to a meeting. Shortly thereafter I was asked to let my name stand for president-elect and being assured it was just a formality as other names would be on the ballot, there wasn’t. God called me again when someone asked me to take on London Central Committee secretary then chairperson. I didn’t think I could but oh well it was only a small group so perhaps I could do it. Next came Sheila Howard insisting I run for diocesan -no way am I smart enough to do that! But those who knew Sheila know she didn’t take no for an answer so ..... How I struggled, not because of the roles I was given but standing up in front of everyone at convention had my knees knocking, nauseated and sweating. But God called me to keep going and things became a little easier till that tough decision to keep moving up to the role I have held the last 2 years as president.

I am so glad I listened to that call. I have learnt a lot about myself and my faith through the many people I have met along the way. I know that God has accompanied me on this journey.

I encourage you to respond when God calls you himself or perhaps through others, you will be glad you did because He will be there with you.