

Interview with Rev. Marian North Wisconsin FFWPU Pastor and Doctoral Student at UTS

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Rev. Marian North

1. Tell us about yourself!

I've lived in Wisconsin since 1992 with my husband, Glenn. We have 3 children. I currently serve as the state leader and also work full-time.

2. What motivated you to apply to the doctoral program at UTS?

Father taught the importance for investing in the future, for having a vision of where you are going. Father sent so many leaders to study here at UTS, even when they were desperately needed in their communities, in order to have more effective leaders for the future.

When I'm here I feel so strongly how much Father loves this place. He wants it to be vibrant and to be used in a significant way.

I just started D.Min program. I had 2 reasons to come-

1) I feel I owed this to Father. He invested in my education. I should do something more for my education so that I can do more in my ministry.

2) Over the years I've spoken in many colleges, in religious studies colleges, but now I feel that I can do more directly teaching myself in the area of religious education. I'd like to teach a course on Life and Dying that would clearly teach about the spirit world.

I've done work in Hospice care. I plan to write about Time and Eternity, about my experience having sacred conversations with people at the end of their lives.

Many have regrets, or they are scared of dying. Others feel ready to die. The unit of care is the patient and their family.

My main responsibility at church is raising up young people. Our church has excellent workshops for them, but they also need follow-up mentoring and education in the local area.

3. Any final thoughts?

People are being called to leadership in our movement, but there has to be some place for their spiritual training, for leadership education and ongoing renewal.

It's amazing to have time to reflect rather than just being busy. Our church has gone through a lot of turmoil, but we have to go forward. We have to make a place for our children to come back to.