

From the State President August 2020

Dear Members

Just press send! I wonder how many different pictures and stories this phrase conjures up for you? It seems worthy of further examination. I began by looking at the words individually, beginning with *just*. It looks easy, simple to execute, manageable by most, immediate – I just caught the ball in one hand; he just learnt to walk by himself; she just peeled a peach and ate it. Our members just bring along one item each meeting. Our members just help each other and the task is soon finished. Our members just have so many good ideas. However, I do have to admit to a certain irritation in being subjected to an overuse of this word, particularly in prayers. Do you know how many song titles and song lyrics include the word? Here are just five:

- (1) *I just can't wait to be king!* are the words of Simba from The Lion King.
- (2) *I just called to say I love you, I just called to say how much I care, I just called to say I love you, And I mean it from the bottom of my heart*, written in 1984, is Stevie Wonder's best-selling single worldwide.
- (3) *Just as I am without one plea* is a well-known hymn, written by Charlotte Elliott in 1835 and revived in every generation since.
- (4) *I'm just wild about Harry* was made famous by Judy Garland.
- (5) *I'm just an old fashioned girl with an old fashioned mind, Not sophisticated, I'm the plain and simple kind, I want an old fashioned house, with an old fashioned fence, And an old fashioned millionaire* was written by Marve A. Fisher and is best known for its 1956 recording by Eartha Kitt.

I next considered *press* – pressing tablecloths with an iron; pressing hands at a rally; pressing a knob to open or close a container; inviting the press to an event; asking the press to write up an activity in the local paper. There is the linen press for lavender scented sheets and towels; the paper press for autumn leaves and dried flowers; the wool press for each year's fleeces; the racquet press to keep one's wooden tennis racquet symmetrical; the printing press that is used no longer and, of course, the press stud – so useful for joining two parts together. From Wikipedia (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snap_fastener):

A **snap fastener** (also called **press stud**, **popper**, **snap** or **tich**) is a pair of interlocking discs, made out of a metal or plastic, commonly used in place of traditional buttons to fasten clothing and for similar purposes. A circular lip under one disc fits into a groove on the top of the other, holding them fast until a certain amount of force is applied. Different types of snaps can be attached to fabric or leather by riveting with a punch and die set specific to the type of rivet snaps used (striking the punch with a hammer to splay the tail), sewing, or plying with special snap pliers. Snap fasteners are a noted detail in American Western wear and are also often chosen for children's clothing, as they are relatively easy for children to use compared with traditional buttons.

Modern snap fasteners were first patented by German inventor Heribert Bauer in 1885 as the "Federknopf-Verschluss", a novelty fastener for men's trousers. Some attribute the invention to Bertel Sanders, of Denmark. In 1886, Albert-Pierre Raymond, of Grenoble, also obtained a patent. Australian inventor Myra Juliet Farrell is also credited with inventing a "stitchless press stud" and the "stitchless hook and eye". The Prym company has produced snap fasteners since 1903.

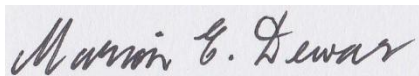
Press invites a response; it suggests a result.

The first thought that occurred to me when I began typing this paragraph was that *send* is a message or a messenger. We are all messengers and we all deliver a message, consciously or unconsciously. We could join the Association for social contact that may develop into friendship, for learning or teaching a particular skill, or because we are ready to 'give back' to society, or because we recognise the value of providing direct benevolent assistance to disadvantaged and vulnerable women, children and families. *Send* also evokes movement, a journey, connection. Plants send out roots to live and thrive. Lace makers and weavers send shuttles flying to produce patterns in thread and thread to piece. We send parcels across the sea (across the sky) to family members. Goods arrive by courier, sent from the factory to our door. Bags of net veggie bags sit 'in quarantine' at *Umina's* entrance, sent from the fingers of clever members via a relative detouring on a hospital visit or returning to work.

When I put the three words back together other images come to mind. There is the 'magic money machine' of my childhood – a tin on a string that flew from the counter to the office. Research tells me it is a cash railway, a cash ball system, a wire carrier, a rapid wire carrier, a pneumatic tube system or a cash carrier. A doll or bear requires a knob to be pressed to hear its voice while pressing on one end of a see-saw made from a wooden ruler and a cotton reel sends the button placed on the other end up into the air. Hosts of television shows call for 'fingers on the buzzer' or 'press the eject button.' The phrase is an order, a command, a demand to act.

Today, the phrase *Just press send!* came to me when I was about to click the mouse to despatch an email on its way. If I had been putting this letter, in the form of a sheet of paper, into an envelope the thought might have been just 'press to seal' and then send through the post, remembering to put a stamp on the neatly addressed envelope. That which is sent ought to be received. In a moment or two this letter will arrive in the In Box of the Editor. I know that she will soon reply with a return email thanking me for my copy.

Just press send and share the outcome!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Marnie G. Dewar". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.