

Free Presbyterian VISION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

Overcoming
Anxiety

Praying
for the
Prodigal

Encouragements
for Personal
Evangelism

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Editorial

Belfast City Council's proposed new bylaws, aimed at reducing noise nuisance in the city centre, are another reminder to us all that opportunities to share the Gospel in the public arena are slowly but surely being taken from us. While the face of these proposals may give the impression of trying to strike a balance and show fairness to freedom of expression, the endgame is not a difficult one to spot. The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, along with God's Word, are never welcome in the lives of those who by nature are at enmity with God.

As we go out as fishers of men, we do so knowing that the same message mankind desperately needs but refuses, requires the increase of God. This means that along with the indispensable need to cast the Gospel net out at all opportunities, there is the pressing need to be much in prayer for times of refreshing from God's holy presence.

I am also reminded of something else that comes to light because of these recent but unwelcome proposals. When Paul was writing to Timothy, he exhorted him that prayer should be made for all. This meant all kinds of people, such as kings, those in authority, etc. Often this is not the easiest of prayers to bring to God, especially when those over us are hostile to truth; but Paul makes the point that we should pray this, 'that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty' (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

This does not mean that the church should pray that we have it easy, but rather, in times of relative peace and freedom, we use all our means to share the Gospel. Who knows how long we will enjoy the opportunities we have to bring the good news to the streets of our towns and cities? Let us sow well, sow often, and sow prayerfully. ■

✉ Editor
editor@fpvision.org



“In all of our churches, we have parents who are grieving the tragedy of seeing their children turn away from the things of the Lord. In all matters of prayer, we both wait on God's perfect timing, and yet plead with Him for His mighty intervention and mercy .”

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Tel: 028 417 62645
Mob: 07709 429271
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Consecration

The apostle Paul's exhortation to the believer in Romans 12:1-2 has often been described as the foundation for Christian living. Characteristically, Paul pulls no punches as he lays out what it means to be consecrated unto the Lord. Many have followed these words, despite the proclamations from the world that such a consecrated life is anything but reasonable.

While Christians may not agree with the world's evaluation, some find complete surrender to Christ difficult because it entails not knowing what lies ahead. We may be more inclined to fully surrender if the Lord handed us a contract with all the details filled in. And yet the One whom Paul urges us to consecrate our lives to, knows the end from the beginning and will be our constant guide through every situation in life: 'I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye' (Psalm 31:8).

One such couple who trusted in the promises of God were the Americans John and Betty Stam, who served with the China Inland Mission until their martyrdom in 1934.

Betty was twenty-eight years old when her life was taken. When she wrote the words of her well-known prayer, she had no way of knowing what full surrender would cost her. And yet like the psalmist she could say, 'As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him' (Psalm 18:30).

Her prayer was one of complete surrender to the will of God for her life. She said, 'Lord, I give up my own plans and purposes, all my own desires, hopes and ambitions, and

I accept Thy will for my life. I give up myself, my life, my all, utterly to Thee, to be Thine forever. I hand over to Thy keeping all my friendships; all the people whom I love are to take second place in my heart. Fill me now and seal me with Thy Spirit. Work out Thy whole will in my life at any cost, for to me to live is Christ. Amen.'

The last correspondence received from John Stam read, 'My wife, baby, and I are today in the hands of communist bandits. Whether we will be released or not no one knows. May God be magnified in our bodies, whether by life or by death. Philippians 1:20.'

While we may never have to die for Christ, each one of us is commanded to live for Christ. The apostle Paul lived by such a motto, 'For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain' (Philippians 1:21).

May the words of A.B. Simpson warm our hearts for consecration.

*Not I, but Christ, be honoured, loved, exalted;
Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard;
Not I, but Christ, in every look and action;
Not I, but Christ, in every thought and word.
Saved from my sin and myself, dear Lord,
Saved to be filled with Thee;
Self-crucified, so now not I,
But Christ, that lives in me. ■*

✍ **Rev Glenn Wilkinson,**
Londonderry Free Presbyterian Church.

Overcoming Anxiety

“ Christ bids us to cast our care upon Him, to come to Him with that which burdens us and weighs us down, and He will listen, and He will help. ”

Anxiety is not just a mere concern or thought about a particular situation or circumstance. Rather, it is an ongoing, irrational fear, burden, and restlessness over something that is beyond our human control. It is no mistake that God’s Word deals with the subject of anxiety because it is such a vast subject that at one point or another, in one way or another, has affected most of us. There are physical symptoms that can be associated with anxiety - aches and pains, heart palpitations, loss of weight and tiredness. The most extreme cases can cause a person to be housebound.

However, whilst it brings physical symptoms, the battleground of anxiety is often the mind. It is in the mind that we think about particular circumstances, that we imagine particular outcomes, and in which so quickly we can lose our way and spiral into a fearful concern. So often Scripture deals with the subject of the mind. Warnings are given about how we are to guard our minds because that is where the devil so often attacks the people of God.

In Paul’s exhortation to put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6), there is a piece of armour to cover all the main areas where the child of God will be attacked. We read in verse 17, ‘And take the helmet of salvation’. There is armour for the head. In this great spiritual warfare that Paul speaks about, this warring against the devil and his wicked schemes, the

mind of the child of God is the main target of the enemy. Paul again says in 2 Corinthians 11:3, ‘But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.’

That is why Christ says in Matthew 6:25, ‘Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life...’ Christ is not instructing us to be careless, thoughtless, and unconcerned about our lives and the things in them, but rather He is instructing us not to be anxious, not to be filled with fearful, irrational worry about the things of life. The apostle instructs the same in Philippians 4:6, ‘Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.’ The same Greek word translated as ‘be careful’ is the same that is translated in Matthew 6:25 as ‘take no thought’ - it speaks of being anxious.

And so how do we fulfil this instruction of Christ in our lives not to be anxious? How do we overcome anxiety? We can overcome anxiety by meditating upon these truths which centre upon the Person and Work of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Our risen Saviour is the key to living an anxious-free life.

CHRIST'S PURCHASE

1 Peter 1:18-19 reads, 'Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.'

The first thing we must remember is that God's people have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. We belong to Jesus; we are His own. That purchase was made at a very high cost. Paul reminds us that this purchase was not made through corruptible things but through the precious, incorruptible blood of Jesus Christ. Christ has given His life so that we might have life. When we pay a high price for something in this life, we make sure we take good care of it. It may be our home, our car, a valuable piece of jewellery, or even a collectable. This is infinitely more true when we think about Christ's purchase of us.

In that purchase, Christ has won the victory over sin and Satan. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:55-57, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Paul is speaking in many ways of future things, of that day when God's people shall be changed. We shall put on immortality because Christ has defeated death. It is also a reminder to God's people that Christ has won the victory over Satan. We are not fighting against Satan in our power or by our strength, for the battle is the Lord's, and we know that He has already purchased the victory for us.

“The comfort for the child of God is that Christ not only knows but understands. Therefore, Paul exhorts us to come boldly to God in prayer and ask for grace in the time of need!”

What then shall we do? Bring our anxiety to Christ. Fight the battle, not in our strength, but in Christ's strength.

CHRIST'S PERSON

Hebrews 4:15-16, 'For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.'

Christ occupies the position of the Great High Priest of His people. In that role, we learn of Him here as being touched by the feeling of our infirmities. Christ has been tempted as we are and yet we know He was and is without sin - He won the victory!

When dealing with anxiety it can seem at times that those around us, whilst they care, do not understand or comprehend the worry and fear we are facing. The comfort for the child of God is that Christ not only knows but understands. Therefore, Paul exhorts us to come boldly to God in prayer and ask for grace in the time of need!

CHRIST'S PRESENCE

John 14:26-27, 'But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'

God the Father has sent the Spirit to His Church in the name

of Jesus Christ. We have the promise of the presence of Christ in our lives through the Spirit of the Lord. Being alone can exaggerate our feelings of anxiety. However, the child of God is never alone. Whether on the mountain top or down in the valley, Christ our Saviour is ever with us.

CHRIST'S PROPOSITION

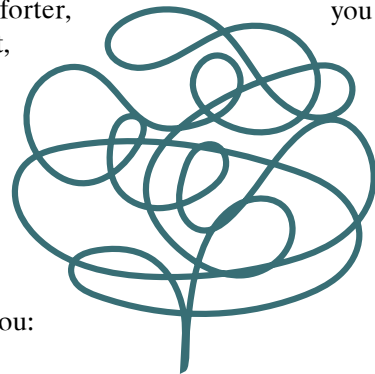
Christ says in Matthew 11:28, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

Sometimes we can feel as if we do not want to burden those around us with our fears and worries. Sometimes others make us feel as if we are burdening them when we try to speak to them. However, the child of God has been given a wonderful invitation by Christ to come unto Him. Christ bids us to cast our care upon Him, to come to Him with that which burdens us and weighs us down, and He will listen, and He will help. There is no burden too great for our Lord.

Christ is the answer to how we overcome our anxiety. Are you burdened today, dear child of God? Remember Christ has purchased you, He cares for you, He is

with you, and today He welcomes you into His presence, bringing all your care and concern with you. ■

✍ **Rev Nathan McVeigh,**
Dunmurry Free Presbyterian



“ Christ still uses the personal endeavours of His people to reach the lost with the gospel and bring men and women to saving faith in Jesus Christ. ”

Encouragements for Personal Evangelism

The practice of outsourcing work to others, work that we could well do ourselves, is common practice today. This is true, especially in a world where time is of the essence and when life seems to be getting busier for us all. Instead of washing our cars, we take them to the local carwash, cleaners are employed to clean our homes and do our ironing, while landscape gardeners are paid to manicure our lawns and weed our flower beds. This outsourcing of work to others has infiltrated the Church of Jesus Christ. Christians are quite happy to hand over the responsibility of evangelising a town to a minister, a missionary or a door-to-door evangelist; but as to being personally involved in such a task themselves, well, you can count them out.

As we see fewer and fewer people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ in this post-Christian, Bible-illiterate,



and increasingly atheistic society, the Church can do one of two things: it can either evangelise or fossilise. Aware that we cannot allow the latter to take place, the challenge that comes to every Christian is as follows: who is to evangelise the localities in which God has sovereignly placed us? Is this work entirely the responsibility of a minister or church outreach team? The teaching of Scripture would indicate otherwise.

When we study the Word of God, we find evangelism being personally conducted by many of its leading characters; the greatest example of this is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Peter, Philip, Nathanael, Matthew, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the demoniac of Gadara, and the dying thief, to name but a few, were all witnessed to, and brought to saving faith, through the personal soul-winning endeavours of the Son of God. The passion of Christ to witness to others on a personal level is a passion that must be rediscovered by those of us who are followers of Jesus Christ. God, who undoubtedly saves by His sovereign grace, is pleased to use the witness of His people to bring others to saving faith. If we are to obey the commandment to love our neighbour as ourselves, then surely sharing the gospel message with them is one way in which we can show that love to them. As we engage in personal evangelism, whether through handing someone a gospel tract, CD or DVD, speaking to a work colleague or school friend, or engaging in the local church's door-to-door evangelism program, certain encouragements will spur us on in such a rewarding task.

“If we faithfully sow the incorruptible seed of God’s Word, we can be assured that God will accomplish His purposes and bring forth a harvest through those efforts.”

ENCOURAGED BY THE PERSON WHO ACCOMPANIES THEM

When addressing the disciples before He departed from this world, the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned His Church to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Annexed to that divine command was the promise, ‘Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world’ (Matthew 28:20). As these men went forth to evangelise the nations of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, God promised that He would be with them. That promise has never been revoked; thus, all who set about the great task of evangelising the lost can be assured that God will accompany them in such an enterprise. And so, Christian, go forth in your efforts to witness to others with the assurance that God will be with you in the twenty-first century as He was with His disciples in the first century.

ENCOURAGED BY THE PROMISE THAT INSPIRES THEM

Jesus Christ promised in Matthew 16:18 that He would build His Church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it. One way in which He goes about building His Church is through the personal witnessing of His people. Contrary to the pessimistic opinion that seems to be rife in the Church, Christ has not given up on His way of building His Church. He still uses the personal endeavours of His people to reach the lost with the gospel and bring men and women to saving faith in Jesus Christ. The Christian can go forth to evangelise with the assurance that the task they are engaged in is one in which success is promised.

ENCOURAGED BY THE POWER THAT ENABLED THEM

The task of sharing the gospel with others can be a very daunting one; we can meet with much opposition as we attempt to speak a word for Christ. Yet God empowers us by His Spirit to witness a good confession of Him before others. Before ascending back to Heaven, the Saviour gave a promise to those who would soon engage in spreading the gospel. He said in Acts 1:8, ‘But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:

and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.’ The same power that enabled the apostles to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in their day is the same power that can enable every Christian to witness for Jesus Christ today.

ENCOURAGED BY THE PROSPERITY THAT FOLLOWS THEM

Too often, we expect our efforts in evangelism to bring immediate results. Now in some cases that might well take place; yet many times we find that months or even years pass before we see any fruit for our labours. However, if we faithfully sow the incorruptible seed of God’s Word, we can be assured that God will accomplish His purposes and bring forth a harvest through those efforts. He promised in Isaiah 55:11, ‘So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.’

We cannot wait for the ungodly to become inquisitive about God’s Word and the gospel. Why? Because, by nature, sinful man will not seek after God (Psalm 10:4). Instead, we need to be proactively looking out for opportunities to present the gospel to family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, classmates and even our enemies on a personal level. So why not then carry some gospel tracts with you, or place some gospel preaching CDs or DVDs in the glove compartment of your car, and employ such material to initiate a conversation with those you come into contact with daily? May we forgo our cowardice and sloth in this area of our Christian lives, and may God enable us to...

*Sow beside all waters,
Sow the Gospel seed,
Here a word in season,
There a loving deed;
Sinners to the Saviour,
Be it ours to lead,
He that winneth souls is wise. ■*

✉ **Rev David Stewart,**
Portglenone Free Presbyterian Church.

CHURCH NEWS

A New Chapter For Mount Merrion

Rev Jonathan Storey was ordained to the Christian ministry and installed in Mount Merrion Free Presbyterian Church on Friday, 8th March, at Martyrs Memorial FPC. Moderator of Presbytery, Rev Samuel Murray, brought the charge to Rev Storey and a message to all present. We give thanks for this occasion and pray that God will bless His ministry in the days ahead. ■



☒ Above: Rev Storey is pictured with the members of committee: Messrs David Osbourn, Tommy Henderson and Austin Hall.



☒ Above: Rev Storey with his wife, Lauren and their son, Isaac.

Milestones in Mourne FPC

On Friday 15th March, Mourne Free Presbyterian Church welcomed their new minister Rev Paul Foster and his family. The Installation Service and following time of supper and fellowship was a joyous occasion with the Lord's blessing and presence truly known.

☒ Far right: A presentation was made to Mr Gordon Imrie to mark his retirement as Youth Leader at Mourne Free Presbyterian Church after 30 years of faithful and loving service. Miss Emma Graham and Mr Jared Morrison, who presented gifts on behalf of the Youth Fellowship and congregation, with Mr Gordon Imrie and his wife, Alison. ■



Christians Worker's Training Academy

Recent graduation service held in Tandragee FPC for individuals who successfully completed the Christian Worker's Training Academy on 21st March 2024. ■

Aghalee FPC 25th Anniversary Services



Above: Revs C Salt, R Johnstone along with Church Office Bearers.

Special services were held on Sunday 25th February to mark 25 years of Aghalee FPC. Guest speakers were, in the morning, Dr Ron Johnstone, and in the evening, Rev Samuel Murray (Moderator). There were musical items, church office bearers reading the Scripture and praying, as well as an encouraging testimony from 19-year-old Stephen Park who was born and raised in the congregation. Rev Cairn Salt, stated “God’s sovereign hand has guided the work in the village from the beginning and with the words of 1 Samuel 7:2 we say, ‘hitherto hath the LORD helped us.’”

Sunday School Awards and Acknowledgements in Clogher Valley



Left: Matthew McClung and Joshua Warner (middle) are pictured alongside Rev Peter McIntyre and Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Ian McClung. Both young men were awarded certificates to mark their completion of the full 107 questions in the Shorter Catechism.



Left: Ruth Andrews was presented with a gift to mark her retirement from service as a Sunday School Teacher. Ruth has served faithfully for 10 years in the Sunday School. She is here pictured with the class of boys she taught last year.

Ordination of Elders in Ballynahinch



On Sunday 10th March, two new elders, Dr Stephen Kyle and Mr Carl Hunniford, were ordained to eldership in Ballynahinch Free Presbyterian Church. They are pictured alongside (L to R) Rev S McCrea (Minister), Rev J Greer, Rev P Foster, Mr P Irwin (Elder in Lurgan FPC), and Rev S Murray.

Dr Bert Cooke Celebrates His 95th Birthday



Pictured are Dr and Mrs Cooke on the very special occasion of his 95th birthday. Officers of Presbytery (L to R) Revs J Greer (Clerk), S Murray (Moderator), and I Brown (Deputy Moderator) were able to celebrate with him.

Tandragee Marks 43 Years of Faithful Service

Pictured is Mr Billy Patton (centre) with his wife, Edith, and minister, Rev John Gray. Billy has stepped down from serving on the Committee after 43 faithful years of labour. To mark this occasion he was presented with a gift and copy of God's Word. Edith was presented with a bouquet of flowers. ■



Never Too Late To Learn the Shorter Catechism

Annalong FPC member, Mr David Graham proved that learning and reciting the Westminster Shorter Catechism is not just for those in Sunday School. He is pictured alongside Rev Ian Harris after being presented with his certificate for correctly answering all 107 questions and answers. ■



David said he was challenged to know the great truths of Biblical religion and was inspired by Mrs Betty Oliver (also Annalong) who during the difficult days of Covid-19, memorised the Shorter Catechism. Rev Harris asked David to write out ten memorisation helps. We hope these tips inspire and encourage others of all ages to go and do likewise.

1. Start with determination and commitment.
2. Break each Catechism up into sections.
3. Go over each section until you know it well, then move onto the next section.
4. Constant repetition is the key.
5. Go over each Catechism daily or twice a day.
6. Take your Catechism everywhere you go.
7. Write out sections of each Catechism, and stick it unto a prominent surface, so you are constantly reminded of what you are learning.
8. Keep reading over the catechisms which you have previously learned.
9. Start and finish your day with the catechism.
10. Endure to the end.

Teaching Opportunities Within Christian Education

Applications are welcome for the following posts from September 2024.

Portadown

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS - Primary/High School
PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER
NURSERY - Maternity cover Sept 2024 - April 2025

Contact: School Administrator or Principal.

Rev D. Abernethy: 07821 544625

darrylabernethy@gmail.com

Mrs D. Haffey: 07510 629500

d.haffey@independentchristianschool.org

Newtownabbey

PART TIME TEACHER

Primary and/or Secondary

Contact: School Administrator or Principal.

Rev B. McClung: newtownabbeyfpc@gmail.com

Mrs L. McClung:

lj.mcclung@independentchristianschool.org

Bangor

FULL TIME TEACHER

Secondary Maths and Science.

Some Primary subjects may be required.

or

PART TIME TEACHER

For primary or

secondary classes.

Contact: School Administrator or Principal.

Mr Bryan McVeigh: 07771 791522 or bmcveigh@sky.com

Miss A Priestley: ae.priestley@independentchristianschool.org

Mourne

TEACHER

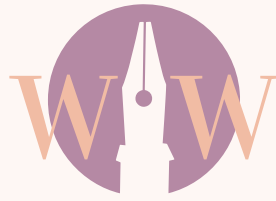
GCSE English, English Literature and Geography.

Key Stage 3 English, Geography, Scripture and Church History.

Key Stage 2 Art and Church History

Contact: School Administrator

Mr G. Imrie: 07714 530607, gordonimrie@yahoo.co.uk



A Word to Women

Named & Known by the Lord

Recently, I was reading about the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey. It is engraved with these words, 'Beneath this stone rests the body of a British Warrior unknown by name or rank ... buried here on Armistice Day 11 Nov 1920, in the presence of his Majesty King George V'. I have always felt the sadness of this 'unknown' soldier. Somebody, somewhere, missed him and grieved for him when he did not return after battle; he was somebody's son, brother, husband, or father. I was very conscious that this was someone unknown because there was no evidence of a name to put on the grave.

This got me thinking about the importance of a name. Our name becomes the evidence of our identity. When someone hears our names, they have a picture in their mind of us: what we look like, what memories they have of us, and what kind of testimony we have with them.

Some people choose a particular name for their baby because they simply like the sound of it; some choose a name that is of sentimental value, possibly the name of a loved one who has passed away; others may choose a 'posh' name because they think that it will benefit their child socially.

In Bible times, there was a lot of meaning behind names, with many of them being affiliated with the Lord, as in the case of Jacob. His original name meant 'deceiver' which we all know to be true but then, after he had wrestled all night with the Lord in prayer, as a prince, he had power with God and prevailed. The Lord rewarded him with the new name of 'Israel'.

During a devastating life situation and as a result of stepping out of God's path and will, Naomi (meaning 'pleasant')

gave herself a new name to portray the depth of feeling that she had – in Ruth 1:20, she said, 'Call me not Naomi, call me Mara (meaning "bitter").' Sometimes in life, we give ourselves very harsh names which betray how we feel about ourselves. We may say we are unloved, old, rejected, and countless other dusty labels that we put on ourselves instead of enjoying the blessed privileges and blessings that the Lord has given us. Unfortunately, Naomi made the mistake of blaming the Lord for her difficult and bitter situation and seemingly forgot that it was she and her husband who left the place where God had placed them to go and look for aid in a heathen place.

“
*Our
Heavenly
Father sees
and knows
you by name.
He says He
'will not
forget thee.'*
”

You and I have been given an everlasting name (Isaiah 56:9) by the One with many great names – 'His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6). In the same way that a son or daughter might be called after a parent or grandparent because of a love and fondness for them, we are called after the Lord Himself. Jeremiah 14:9 reminds us that 'thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name.'

I was surprised to read that on each side around the main inscription on the grave of the unknown soldier are four texts and the top one says, '**The Lord knoweth them that are His.**' Even if this soldier is unknown to us, we would hope that he is one of the Lord's own and therefore, he is indeed known by Christ. Our Heavenly Father sees and knows you by name. He says He 'will not forget thee. Behold I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands' (Isaiah 49:15&16). ■

✍ **Mrs Karen Murray** is married to Rev Samuel Murray (Portavogie Free Presbyterian Church).



Believe it or not, but this year marks the seventieth anniversary of that well known sweet, the 'Love Heart'. Under the guidance of David Dee, joint owner of the Swizzels sweet factory, these quirky little sweets came in six flavours, with each one bearing a short message written upon the heart-shaped centres.

In real life, we all have things upon our own hearts such as our feelings, our desires, likes, and dislikes. If the truth be told, we are led by our hearts. What we say, what we do, how we think, and the way we behave is all driven by our hearts. The Bible says, 'Where your treasure is [or whatever your favourite thing is], there will your heart be also' (Matthew 6:21). We usually love something and put our hearts into it, as long as we get something back in return. However, if those returns do not live up to our expectations, we soon move on to something else. Human love is like that. It chops and changes all the time.

The same cannot be said about God's love. God's love is an unchanging love. God never changes. He is the same yesterday,

today and forever. God's love is an unending love. In Jeremiah, God says 'I have loved thee with an everlasting love' (Jeremiah 31:3). God's love is an inexplicable love. It is hard to explain. Our continual sinful behaviour often leaves us in a very unlovable position. Yet the Bible says that, 'God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us' Romans 5:8. The great apostle Paul speaking of the Saviour's death said, he was the one, '...who loved me and gave himself for me' (Galatians 2:20).

Now, in the light of all this, do you really love God as you ought to? In Deuteronomy 6:5, God says, 'Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart.' Have you been obedient in this one thing? Perhaps at present, you do not love God as you should. Your whole life is taken up with love for other things, sinful things, foolish things. It would much better if you were to get your priorities right by putting God first, and seeking his forgiveness. Then you can say with John, 'We love him because he first loved us' (1 John 4:19). ■



There are many emotions mentioned in the Scriptures. Look up the following Bible references to find the emotion.

Write the answers in the boxes provided. Then take the letters from the yellow spaces and use them to spell out another emotion that is connected with the colour green.

Psalm 118v6

--	--	--	--	--	--

Proverbs 16v32

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

John 15v11

--	--	--

Ezekiel 32v9

--	--	--

ANSWER:

--	--	--	--

Are you 12 or under?

Send your answer, name, address and church to:
Rev Garth Wilson e: answer@fpvision.org



THE CHALLENGE OF MISSIONS

BY OSWALD J. SMITH

When I consider the books that have had the greatest influence and effect on me as a Christian, there are few which have had a greater impact on me than *The Challenge of Missions* by Oswald J. Smith. It is a short book, yet one which the Lord has used through His providence in my life. I first read it several years ago, and again when the Lord began opening the door for service in Uganda, and once more in the weeks before this short book review. It is certainly not a new book. It was first published in 1959 and for that reason may not be readily available. While it is old and maybe hard to find, its message is certainly not out of date and should be sought out and read by every believer at least once.

Early on in this book, the writer gives a motto and theme for that which follows: 'The supreme task of the church is the evangelisation of the world.' After these words, the remainder of the book

sets out to prove these words to be true. By doing so, there is a challenge for all of us in terms of our place in

worldwide evangelism. The writer's enthusiasm for worldwide evangelism is not only infectious but weighty; he speaks from his own experience. This is certainly not a book of 'do as I say not as I do' because it is clear from what he tells us in this book, that he had given his life to his part in the Great Commission.

This book, as well as being challenging and coming from a place of personal experience, is a practical book. The book sets out how each of us can and should be part of world missions. The challenge to go and serve is certainly in this book, but it also clearly sets before us the fact that, while not all are called to go, yet there is still a service for each to do. This reality is emphasised by Smith when he writes, 'You must go or send a substitute.' These words are typical of what we find in this book.

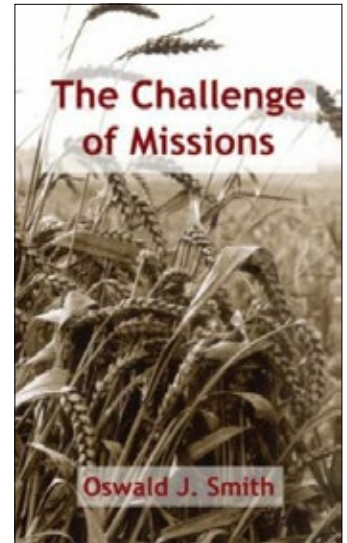
It is a book that calls on us as individuals and churches to reevaluate our priorities. As he speaks from experience of some of his methods for mobilising and sending others into worldwide missions, you will find that they are undoubtedly radical in terms of modern day attitudes to world missions. Yet maybe it is those

attitudes which must be addressed by all of us.

If you cannot get the physical book, it certainly can be found online as a PDF. So in whatever format you find it, I encourage you to get your hands on it and read it. Read it prayerfully and read it with an open heart, and may *The Challenge of Missions* challenge you as it has repeatedly challenged me. ■

✉ **Rev Ray Carscadden,**
Missionary in Uganda.

“
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REDEMPTION



The theme of redemption is precious to every child of God, because redemption is the greatest theme of the Word of God. From Genesis to Revelation, from beginning to end, the Word of God has this most marvellous of subjects running through it: 'Redemption through His blood' (Ephesians 1:7). It has been a theme that the saints of God have often gloried in when singing the praises of the Lord. In Moses' song of Exodus 15, we find a hymn about national redemption. In Heaven's glory, there is a song about redemption being heralded out at this very moment: 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain...' (Revelation 5:12). Let us not forget that the Church on earth loves to sing about redemption too, with beautiful hymns centred around this truth. It is a wonderful blessing to sing about the finished work of redemption. As believers, we should not, nay cannot, ever become bored or weary of such a theme!

E'er since by faith I saw the stream,

*Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme,
And shall be 'til I die.*

If redemption is so very dear to the Church of Jesus Christ, then what is it? How do we explain or define it? What is redemption and why is it so precious to the Christian? Well, the simplest definition is: setting free by the payment of a price.

The central truth of the Gospel is that all have sinned and all deserve the wages of sin which is death (Romans 3:23). In and of ourselves we merit the eternal wrath of God in Hell forever more. However, Christ has set His people free from sin, death, and Hell by paying the necessary price - the only price, the highest price; 'ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... but with the precious blood of Christ...' (1 Peter 1:18-19). He, the Lord Jesus, gave '... His life a ransom for many.' (Mark

“ THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION IS THAT OUR SIN DESERVES JUDGMENT, WRATH, AND HELL. WE STAND IN DESPERATE NEED OF REDEMPTION BECAUSE, IN OUR NATURAL DEPRAVITY, WE CANNOT SAVE OURSELVES. ”

10:45). Ultimately, because the price was paid and precious blood was shed, we not only are purchased as the people of God but we are also adopted into the family and fold of God, with the promise, yea, assurance of everlasting life in Heaven's bliss. No wonder redemption is a beloved theme among the blood-washed throng!

THE NEED FOR REDEMPTION

As already stated, we as sinners have a need – a desperate need – for

redemption. In our natural and totally depraved condition, we are 'sold under sin' (Romans 7:14). In such a plight, we cannot enter Heaven. God in His sovereign justice gave us a Law – the Ten Commandments. Essentially, the Law and God's expectation of our obedience can be summed up in 1 Peter 1:16, 'Be ye holy; for I am holy,' but how disappointing we have been. Our legal representative, Adam, disobeyed God. Sin entered the scene, the fall took place, and all of Adam's children have subsequently been born in sin and shapen in iniquity. To add insult to injury, we have continuously been rebellious, and Ephesians 2:2 describes us correctly as 'the children of disobedience.' We live in a day and generation that trivialises sin, but the reality of the situation is that our sin deserves judgment, wrath, and Hell. There is nothing trivial about that! We stand in desperate need of redemption because, in our natural depravity, we cannot save ourselves. We need a Saviour, a Redeemer – the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

*Not the labour of my hands,
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow;
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

THE SOURCE OF REDEMPTION

Our plight of sin could not have been any worse, yet the wonder of it all is that God was not only aware of our desperate and pitiful position, Jehovah was ready to intervene in our case. The Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – entered into a Covenant, the Covenant of Grace, a marvellous promise of grace and redemption to sinful men and women. Maybe you ask, why? Ephesians 1:5,7 gives us the answer: 'according to the good pleasure of His will...according to the riches of His grace.' Something that must be highlighted is that redemption is entirely and completely from God and His good grace toward us as sinners. We do not generate anything ourselves – it is all from God. He and He alone is the author, the origin, and

the source of our redemption and His Name alone is to be praised for this marvellous act of grace toward us.

THE WORK OF REDEMPTION

What are the outworkings of this grace of redemption then? God's absolute justice allows substitution. It is permissible for one to stand in the place of another and pay the penalty for him. In this Covenant of Grace, the dreadful redemption price was fixed - the perfect, righteous life of Christ imputed to His people and the atoning sacrificial suffering and death of Christ to cover their sin debt. Only the righteousness and blood of Christ could make possible the redemption necessary for the believer. Christ accomplished everything required for our full and free Redemption.

*Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness,
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.*

Even though we refer to Christ as Redeemer – and it is right to do so - do not think that the Father and the Holy Spirit have no part in Redemption. There is no disunity in the Godhead. The Father sovereignly chooses those who should be redeemed (Ephesians 1:3-5); the Son undertakes to pay the price of redemption (Ephesians 1:7); and the Holy Spirit undertakes to apply redemption through the effectual (successful) call of the Gospel to the elect (Ephesians 1:13-14).

THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF REDEMPTION

Galatians 4:4-5 states, 'But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem

them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.' Everything Christ did, He did with His people in view. Christ lived a perfect life on behalf of His people, Christ died an atoning death on behalf of His people, Christ rose again on behalf of His people and - even now in the glory – Christ intercedes on behalf of His people. Everything Christ did, is doing, and will do, He has done with His people in view and on behalf of them.

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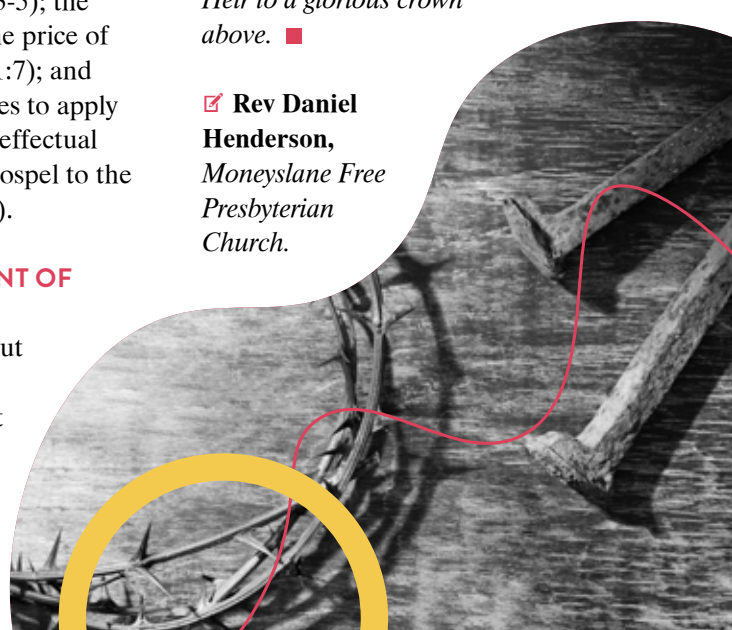
The tremendous thing to note is that all Christ has done in redemption has been successful and accomplished. Thus, Hebrews 1:3 says: '... when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty

on high...' The work of redemption was finished, accomplished and successful. That's why, as Protestants, we believe the Roman Catholic Mass to be so blasphemous – an attempted repetition of redemption. It cannot be!

Redemption is complete, what a blessed thought! Let us be those who ever rejoice in such a truth!

*I am redeemed and I know it full well,
Saved by His grace I with Him shall dwell;
I am redeemed and the child of His
love,
Heir to a glorious crown
above. ■*

✍ **Rev Daniel
Henderson,
Moneyslane Free
Presbyterian
Church.**



Martin Boos

Robert Murray McCheyne and his friends passed through France en route to missionary endeavour in the Holy Land in 1839. He recorded in some detail his utter despair concerning the naked superstition of the Roman Church that met him and sought by various means, including personal debate and tract distribution, to witness for Christ to those enclosed within her fold. You cannot read his ninth pastoral letter to his congregation in Dundee and conclude that he was soft or ecumenical in any way. Yet, invoking the words of the Lord to Elijah (1 Kings 19), he confessed that even in Babylon (a code word in Protestantism for Popery) – even there – ‘the Lord may have many hidden ones.’ As an example, McCheyne mentioned one name and he is our ‘unsung saint’ for this issue: Martin Boos.

Boos was born on Christmas Day, 1762 at Hulbenried in Upper Bavaria. His father and mother died within two weeks of each other when he was only five years old, leaving a large family behind. Martin was brought up by his uncle who finally acquiesced to his desire to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood. He persevered in his studies and became the parish curate in a large German town called Unterthingau. He records how he sought piety in the various

severe disciplines available. These included lying on a stone floor, even in winter, along with self-flagellation, fasting, and feeding the poor. Despite such, he confessed that he had no peace with God.

He was converted to Christ largely through the testimony of a dying woman in 1788-89. He assured her that she would die very peacefully and happily. ‘Why so?’ she asked. ‘Because you have led such a pious and holy life.’ The dying woman drew no comfort from this reply. She repudiated her own efforts, related her personal faith and trust only in the merits of Christ, and then rebuked her surprised listener and erstwhile admirer for being an unfit clergyman! This opened him up to the reality of salvation and he records how it was ‘behind the high altar at Wiggensbach’ that ‘I obtained my living faith and all the gifts and graces that the Lord has granted me.’

His preaching and spiritual advice to enquirers was of a most evangelical kind and this brought him and his many converts into much tribulation with the Roman authorities. He was detained on several occasions, banned from preaching, and accused of Lutheranism before church courts because of his insistence that justification is by faith without

works. He held his own in every debate and his influence grew.

Amazingly, he was never found guilty of heresy – proof that the Lord was in control of all things. Had he not been persecuted, then his influence would have been confined to a small part of Germany, but he was also vindicated by the Lord.

Boos died within the Roman Catholic fold in 1824. A dead Lutheranism in Germany held no attraction for him. However, many of his converts left the harlot system and several pastored evangelical Protestant churches.

McCheyne’s congregation was well acquainted with Boos. In the above pastoral letter, he urged them to ‘remember what I used to read to you out of Martin Boos.’ His journals and records of his various interrogations are still on record. Perhaps it was from these that McCheyne used to encourage his Scottish parishioners.

Samuel Rutherford believed that even in the Roman Catholic Church ‘many secretly believe and obey.’ We might do well to pray that God would raise up more Martin Boos to do a similar work for Christ. ■

✉ **Mr Colin Maxwell,**
Home Missionary.

“We must remember regeneration is just the beginning of a new life. There is much more to experience and know of God. The new birth brings life where death once reigned, and it sets the soul in a new direction.”



REGENERATION

The word regeneration is well-known by evangelical Christians. Surprisingly, the word occurs only twice in the Bible. In Matthew 19:28 it is applied to the future restoration or restitution of all things in our world. It is only in Titus 3:5 that we encounter the common meaning we give to it: 'Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.'

THE DEFINITION OF THIS DOCTRINE

Reformed theologian L Berkhof writes, 'Regeneration is a creative work of God (which) produces a new life.' It is the generating or begetting of new life in the soul. The key Biblical passage on this matter is John 3:3-8. By prefacing His statement with 'Verily, verily' in John 3:3, the Saviour is asserting the necessity of regeneration or the new birth. Jesus was very clear: 'Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.' This is repeated in John 3:5 and emphasised in 3:7, 'Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again.' If we are not reborn, we are not Christians.

- » It is the work of God. Man has no ability to produce this life. Note multiple references in 1 John to being 'Born of God.' Please note also Philippians 1:6, Colossians 2:13.
- » It is miraculous. A dead person cannot raise himself. Only God can bring life out of death. Every Christian is a living miracle!
- » It is passive. Man does not act or cooperate. It is the work of God alone (John 1:13; James 1:18).
- » It is a radical change. 'We have passed from death unto life' (1 John 3:14). This changes the entire disposition of the soul.
- » It precedes faith. Conversion is the result of regeneration.
- » It is permanent. It is everlasting life that the Lord imparts (John 10:28).

Regeneration gives us not only new life but new light. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17; Colossians 3:10; 1 John 4:7)

THE DISTORTION OF THIS DOCTRINE

Three distortions of this doctrine are:

1. The Arminian view is that the human will is one of the causes of regeneration. Scripture contradicts this in John 1:13, 'Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.' Dr A

Cairns states, 'While saving faith does include a decision or choice to have Christ as Saviour – a decision that is truly ours – it is the decision of the new man, not the old man. The new man is the product of the regenerating act of the Spirit.'

2. Baptismal regeneration is an erroneous doctrine taught by many today. This is the belief that at baptism spiritual life or salvation is imparted.
3. Liberal theology denies the need for this new birth. Many never hear the need to be born again.

THE DEMANDS OF THIS DOCTRINE

The necessity of the new birth requires regular preaching on regeneration. It should drive the Church to prayer that God would impart spiritual life as this is beyond the ability of any person or preacher to effect.

We must remember regeneration is just the beginning of a new life. There is much more to experience and know of God. With the new birth comes a new battle but also new blessings. The new birth brings life where death once reigned, and it sets the soul in a new direction. Our life course is forever changed (Ephesians 2:1&2)!

We all must ask ourselves, is there evidence of new life in me? Without it, we shall not enter Heaven. ■

✉ Rev Wesley Irwin,
Rutherglen Free Presbyterian Church.



Praying for the Prodigal

In all of our churches, we have parents who are grieving the tragedy of seeing their children turn away from the things of the Lord. I am sure in your church prayer meeting this is a common theme in prayer: praying for the prodigals.

We know that there will be no repentance and faith until the Lord works in the hearts of the unconverted, and yet the Lord has instructed His people to persist in prayer, 'Men ought always to pray, and

not to faint' (Luke 18:1). In all matters of prayer, we both wait on God's perfect timing, and yet plead with Him for His mighty intervention and mercy.

Christian parents are to be assured that just as the Lord saw the grief of His people in Egypt before the Exodus, the Lord sees our affliction and sorrows (Exodus 3:7). Our Great High Priest is touched with the feeling of the infirmities of Christian parents as they grieve over the rebellion of their offspring.

Augustine's mother, Monica, long prayed for the conversion of her son. In his youth, he despised his mother's Christianity and pursued a life of immorality and self-gratification. In his *Confessions*, Augustine spoke of his grief over the mother 'now gone from [his] sight, who for years had wept over [him], that [he] might live in [God's] sight.' How thankful we are for parents who faithfully and continually pray over their loved ones.

PRAYING FOR THEM

We must pray for a humbling of heart in the lives of all the unconverted, including those who have been raised in Christian homes. The reference to the ‘prodigal’ is taken from the parable of the lost son in Luke 15. Strictly speaking the word ‘prodigal’ is referring to the son’s wasteful extravagance, though we often use it in the sense of one who has broken away.

The prodigal was undoubtedly full of pride as he left his father’s house. He rejoiced in a new freedom, released from the encumbrances of home. As soon as his money was spent, the prodigal ought to have humbled his heart, confessed his fault, and returned to the father. Instead, like so many of the unconverted, he sought to make things better without the father, and so took employment on a pig farm. But it was on that farm that the Lord truly humbled him, as he came to see the pigs were better provided for outwardly than he was. The Scriptures say, ‘he came to himself’; those words show us the humbling of heart in the young man. It was only then that he cried out confessing his sin, ‘I have sinned.’ It was only as he was humbled that he even began to think about the father and the father’s house – up to that point he had delighted in his sin. Having come to himself he completely abandoned his previous ideas of self-reform, acknowledging that the father owed him absolutely nothing; he had to cast himself upon the mercy of the father. We can pray then that those who have rebelled against the things of the Lord would be brought to this place where they are confronted with their own unworthiness and would flee to Christ for mercy.

Understandably, parents long to protect their children, no matter what their age. What parent wants to see their child injured? Thus, it is not easy to pray, ‘Lord, humble my child’, knowing it may take great suffering and affliction to humble them. Yet, our love for their eternal wellbeing exceeds all love for their temporal wellbeing. We long to see them truly contrite before the Lord, truly wearied of the husks of this world, yearning for the satisfaction that only Christ can give.

PRAYING FOR GOD TO USE OTHERS

It is interesting if you study the subject of prayer for the lost in Scripture, you will find much prayer about labourers, open doors, and boldness (Matthew 9:38; Colossians 4:3; Ephesians 6:18-20). It is right that we pray the right people come into the lives of prodigals, and the right words are spoken. The parents of grown prodigals will be aware that a multitude of words is often seemingly wasted; there must then be the desire that the right word is spoken at the right time.

At times, the answer to those prayers will be the parents themselves. When Jonathan Edward’s son Timothy was extremely ill with smallpox, the godly preacher wrote to him. He wrote, ‘But whether you are sick or well, like to die or like to live, I hope you are earnestly seeking your salvation.’ Later in the letter, he wrote, ‘Young persons are very apt to trust in parents and friends, when they are sick, or when they think of being on a deathbed. But this providence remarkably teaches you the need for a better friend, and a better parent, than earthly parents are; one who is everywhere present, and all-sufficient; that can’t be kept off by infectious distempers; who is able to save from death or to make happy in death; to save from eternal misery and to bestow eternal life.’

PRAYING FOR THEMSELVES

As Christian parents pray for their children, they must also pray for themselves, that they would be armed against Satan’s attacks. The devil is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10); he certainly accuses the parents of unconverted children. One parent will be condemned by Satan for sending their children to a government school, another will be condemned for sending them to a Christian school, and another will be condemned for home-schooling. One will be condemned for forcing

them to go to church for too long, and another condemned for being too lax about their church attendance.

It is right we all confess our failings before the Lord, but we must discern that there are times when what we are ‘hearing’ is the message of the accuser! ‘If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous’ (1 John 2:1).

When Jairus was approaching his house with Jesus, a servant from his house said, ‘Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master’ (Luke 8:49). The messenger was inferring Jairus ought to give up all hope – it was too late for the Lord Jesus to do anything

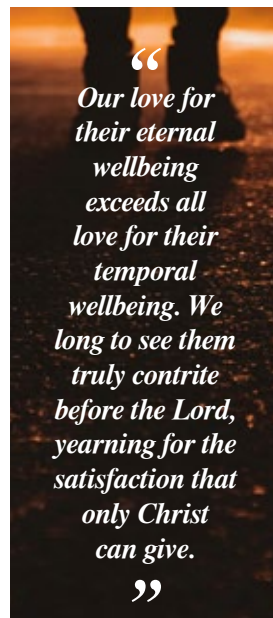
for his daughter! But Jesus immediately responded, ‘Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole’ (Luke 8:50). We need to discern then that not every voice is the voice of God! Satan has messengers in unexpected places; his purpose is to drain us of all hope, but we are to hold on in faith.

Christian parents must also pray that their joy remains in the Gospel of Christ. Samuel Rutherford spoke of how if he was to see souls from Anwoth in glory ‘[their] heaven

would be two heavens to [him].’ I think every sincere Christian parent can identify with that. Yet, our joy is not determined by where our children are spiritually; our joy is bound up in the person and work of Christ.

Habakkuk spoke of the worst type of atrocities imaginable from an agricultural perspective - no harvest and no flock or herd - yet he still rejoiced in the Lord. Though our children may be far from grace, ‘yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.’ (Habakkuk 3:18). ■


✉ **Rev Philip Gardiner,**
Perth Free Presbyterian Church,
Australia.




50th Anniversary


Mission Vision Conference



 **Above:** The Officers of Presbytery along with Officers of the Mission Board, past and present.

In March 1974, the general Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church approved the formation of a Mission Board and appointed its first members. No one at that time could have predicted the impact that decision would have for thousands of people across the world. From small and humble beginnings, the missionary endeavour of the Free Presbyterian church has continued, under God, to

 **Right:** Rev Mercer preaching at the conference.

 **Below:** Banners displaying the various mission fields in which the Board labours.

go from strength to strength. Our first missionaries served in Spain and Kenya, and while those two countries continue to feature in our missionary efforts, we now have missionary interest in several other nations, including an extensive home missions programme.



To mark the 50th anniversary of the Mission Board, a series of special services were arranged from 6th-9th March 2024. The theme was 'Mission in Action' and focused on three fundamental parts of a biblical mission strategy. On consecutive nights, messages were preached on the priority of evangelism, the purpose of discipleship, and the pattern of church planting. Short video presentations were shown highlighting the outworking of the strategy across our various mission fields and reports were given, marking exciting developments in the work. On Saturday 9th March, following an anniversary dinner, the Rev Samuel Murray (Moderator) preached on 'looking forward and pressing on' in the Lord's work.


The conference was a time to focus on the Lord's mercies in the past and to pray for continued mercies for the future. We are thankful to God for raising up missionaries to go to the mission field; for stirring the hearts of His people to support the mission arm of the church prayerfully and practically; and for the ongoing help He gives to the Mission Board. For fifty years we have witnessed numerous answers to prayer and rejoice in all that He has done and will continue to do.

The Mission Board is indebted to all who attended the services in person or watched online. We are grateful to the Lisburn congregation for hosting another Mission Vision conference and for providing refreshments each evening. As the services closed, prayer was offered that God would continue to provide for our mission work, bless our present missionary candidates, and raise up others who will say, 'Here am I; send me' (Isaiah 6:8). ■

 **Rev Colin Mercer,**
Mission Board Chairman.



Message from the Moderator

 **Above:** The Moderator preaching at the Missionary Rally.

On Saturday 10th March 2024, I had the privilege of preaching in Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church at the final service organised by our Mission Board to mark its 50th anniversary. The congregation consisted of past and present members of the Mission Board; past, present, and outgoing labourers under the Board; Missionary Council representatives; members of Presbytery; and friends from across our denomination. The heartbeat of the missionary enterprise of the Free Presbyterian Church was healthy and strong in this gathering

our Mission Board and the missionaries who have laboured under its auspices.


On behalf of our whole church family, I would like to thank the Chairman and members of the Mission Board for their labours. Behind the scenes, they devote countless hours to praying for the work, planning each new phase, solving problems that arise, investigating the potential to evangelise in new harvest fields, and overseeing the practical support upon which our missionaries rely. May the Lord continue to bless our



Mission Board, its missionaries, and all who support this invaluable work. ■

 **Rev Samuel Murray,**
Moderator of Presbytery.

What the Lord has accomplished through the missionary vision of the Free Presbyterian Church is truly remarkable. The beginning was small, but the latter end has greatly increased. Many have risen up and many more will rise up to bless the Lord for the work of

 **Below:** At the Mission Board dinner, Rev John Gray was presented with a Bible by the Chairman, Rev Colin Mercer, in acknowledgement of his 25 years of faithful service, as he stepped down from the Board.

 **Below:**
50th Anniversary Mission Board Dinner



MISSIONARY VISION

New Churches and Motorcycles in Nepal



☒ **Top:** Baptism of new Believers.



☒ **Above:** The church building near the Chinese border that must be vacated.

The Mission Board were recently made aware of a need for two new church buildings in Nepal. The first is near the Chinese border where a congregation and pastor currently meet in a blue tin church. This is a rented building which they must vacate, leaving them nowhere to congregate. Interestingly, a plot of land nearby has become available for purchase on which a building can be erected. Although this congregation, made up of poor people, has done remarkably well in saving money to build a new church, they are vastly short of the amount needed.

The second church is in mid-west Nepal. A congregation of approximately forty people meet with their pastor. Some of these people were saved through the radio broadcast, including several young people. The Moderator of the Nepal Presbytery, when visiting in this area, held Bible studies with these young people. He also had the privilege of baptising eight of them as they publicly professed Christ as their Saviour. They, too, need a church building and are looking for land on which to build.

The Mission Board, which has a particular burden to promote evangelism, church planting, and church maturity in Nepal, agreed to send financial support to each congregation to assist in purchasing land and erecting a suitable church structure. Please pray for these new congregations that they will be strong and fruitful.

Over the years, the Board has purchased motorcycles to enable Nepalese pastors and Presbytery officers to carry out their duties. Some of those bikes were purchased seven years ago and have been invaluable to the work. Rev Thapa had mentioned how these motorbikes have been repaired in the past and now need replacing. The Mission Board, having received this request, agreed to send funds, which, along with the resale value of the old bikes, will purchase six new motorcycles. Remember these men in prayer as they travel on dangerous roads doing the work of the Lord. ■

☒ **Rev David Brown,**
Asian Subcommittee Chairman.

Beulah Christian Literature (BCL) Bookshop Ministry in Kenya

A Christian bookshop manager once told us that all that is needed in Kenya to sell books is a meeting point. The kiosk in Kitale has proved this as it has a constant clientele requesting books and there, recently, we met a missionary couple from Turkana and were able to supply them with literature for their pastors and schools.

The bookshop in Kakamega which is much larger than the kiosk in Kitale has been described by those who visit it as 'a haven with diverse Christian books; supportive community and expert staff; a treasure trove of Christian literature; a cozy reading place; a serene bookshop with doctrinally sound and Gospel-oriented materials; a place to deepen one's spiritual walk.' We were encouraged by these comments and the fact that a receptionist at a local hotel recommends the bookshop to

visitors. Three employees in the mall attend the Tuesday Lunchtime Bible Study and BCL Kakamega is a witness to the local university.

So, whether it is a point of contact as in Kitale or a meeting place as in Kakamega, there are many satisfied customers who visit these two outlets of Beulah Christian Literature. Moreover, BCL being one of the two main bookshops stocking reformed materials enables us to supply books to both Faith College of the Bible, Eldoret and Bomet Bible College.

In the past when the books arrived from Northern Ireland via the Revival Movement Container, we stored them in a spare bedroom in the mission house, but as the number of books arriving increased due to the generosity of God's people at home, it was decided



☒ **Above:** Rev & Mrs Patterson in the new bookstore.

to renovate the two-room house on the lower compound and to use it as a bookstore. To assist us with the moving and organising of the books to the lower bookstore we had help from three girls, Joy, Linda, and Dorsila. The Kakamega church are presently renting the school on the compound where we stay, and a quantity of books was sent there for storage for the bookshop and literature work in western Kenya.

Pray that God will bless the books distributed by BCL. ■

☒ **Alison Patterson,**
Missionary to Kenya.

MISSIONARY VISION


Uganda

Ten Years On


It is amazing to consider that 3rd April 2024 marked ten years since the first visit to Emmanuel in Uganda by representatives of the Mission Board, which three years later in March 2017, led to the Mission Board officially taking over the running of the Emmanuel Mission station.

In the years that have since passed so quickly there has been a significant amount of development, expansion, and consolidation of the work. It is especially encouraging to think of the hundreds of people who have heard the Gospel through both the ministry of the Emmanuel Church and the Christian School. We rejoice that the Lord has blessed – to the saving and discipling of many people in the community. In addition to the meetings at the Emmanuel Church, there are now also two outreach Sunday Schools and a ministry in two local prisons.




 **Above:** Miss McAfee with the three registration certificates.



 **Pictured:** Pupils from the Emmanuel School lined up to welcome the Mission Board representatives in 2014.



 **Above:** The lower end of the building site



 **Above:** Outreach Open Air Meeting

As a Board, we are more convinced than ever that the Lord has opened to us in the land of Uganda, ‘A great door and effectual’ (1 Cor 16:9). But there is much scope for further expansion – to plant churches and commence additional Sunday Schools. We pray that the Lord will raise up more labourers, especially from among the Ugandans, to carry the Lord’s work there still further forward.

At this tenth anniversary there are some significant developments that are taking place, and some very positive tokens for good. In answer to prayer the Lord has been providing the personnel to strengthen our missionary team, and we look forward to the McAuleys joining Miss McAfee and the Carscaddens in Uganda later this year.

Also, a major building project is underway to provide appropriate and

safe accommodation for our missionary families. The first stage of building a secure compound and putting in the access road is now well underway.

Just recently a very important milestone was reached when the Secondary School registration was granted. Now, for the first time in the twenty-year history of the Emmanuel School, all three departments of the school have official registration with the Education Authority in Uganda.

As we look back over these last ten years labouring in Uganda, we want to say a sincere thank you to all who have supported the ministry there in whatever way, and truly we say together, ‘The Lord has done great things for us’ (Psalm 126:3). ■

 **Rev David McMillan,**
Ugandan Subcommittee Chairman.

Office:

Mrs Glenda Graham
3 Carrigenagh Road
Kilkeel, BT34 4NE
T: 028 4176 5574
office@fpcmission.org

Chairman:

Rev Colin Mercer
12 Crevenagh View
Omagh, BT79 0JH
T: 028 8224 2299
rev.mercer@fpcmission.org

Secretary:

Rev David McMillan
1 Drummanmore Grange
Armagh, BT61 8RQ
T: 028 3778 8150
rev.mcmillan@fpcmission.org

Treasurer:

Mr Alastair Hamilton
37A Ballymacvea Road
Kells, Ballymena BT42 3NH
T: 078 6061 6302
a.hamilton@fpcmission.org



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Dates For The Diary

MAY

12th - 19th

SANDOWN FPC, 60TH ANNIVERSARY MISSION

Time: Sun 6.30pm, Mon-Fri 8.00pm

Evangelist: Rev William McCrea

12th - 26th

HILLSBOROUGH FPC & BALLYNAHINCH FPC, JOINT TENT MISSION HELD IN ANAHILT

Time: Sun 3.30pm, Mon-Fri 8.00pm

Preachers: Rev Ian Kenny, Rev Stephen McCrea

17th

CALVARY FPC, MAGHERAFELT ANNUAL LADIES' CONFERENCE

Time: 8.00pm

Speaker: Mrs Jayne Creane

Testimony: Mrs Rachel McAuley

19th May - 2nd June

COOKSTOWN FPC & MAGHERAFELT FPC, MID-ULSTER GOSPEL CRUSADE

Venue: Moneymore Recreation Centre

Time: Sun 7.00pm, Mon-Fri 8.00pm

Evangelists: Rev Marcus Lecky, Rev Ryan McKee

JUNE

2nd - 14th

GRACE FPC, NEWTOWNARDS GOSPEL MISSION

Time: Sun 3.30pm, Mon-Fri 8.00pm

Evangelists: Noel Shields, Colin Maxwell

23rd - 28th

MONEYSLANE FPC, WEEK OF MEETINGS

Time: Sun 7.00pm, Mon-Fri 8.00pm

Subject: The End Times

Preacher: Rev David McMillan

28th - 30th

ANNALONG FPC,

18TH ANNIVERSARY BIBLE WEEKEND

Saturday, 7:30pm: Bible Rally

Lord's Day, 12 noon & 6pm: Rev. John Morrow

(Soloist 6pm: Miss Faith Haffey)

JULY

28th July - 4th August

LOUGH ERNE FUNDAMENTALIST CONVENTION

Venue: Bethel Free Presbyterian Church, Enniskillen

Time: Sundays 12 noon & 8.00pm,

Weeknights & Saturday 8.00pm

Guest Preachers: Rev John Armstrong,

Dr John Douglas, Rev Samuel Murray (*Moderator*)

FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH International Congress 2024

MONDAY 1 - FRIDAY 5
JULY 2024, 8PM

Venue:

MARTYRS MEMORIAL
FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Speakers:

Rev Samuel Murray, Rev Ian Brown,
Rev Larry Saunders, Rev John Wagner,
and Rev Paul Foster.

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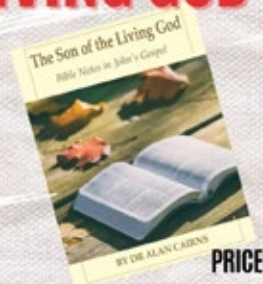
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