

Free Presbyterian VISION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER



**Bilney and
Latimer:
The Power of
Sincere Testimony**

**Great
Gospel Words:
Glorification**

**Overcoming
Worldliness**

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Editorial

When King David mourned the death of Abner, he spoke words that since that time have been used when referring to the passing of a Christian giant of the faith. David said to his servants, 'Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?' (2 Samuel 3:38).

The passing of Dr John Douglas at the end of July carried with it a similar feeling throughout our denomination. One of our founding members is no longer with us but is now rejoicing in the presence of the King of Kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. Truly a prince and great man has now received the 'well done' of God. With necessary time given to mourn his departure from us, we will be able to reflect upon the ministry he carried out under God. In the next edition of the *FP Vision*, we plan to include a more lengthy consideration of his life.

So many of us, particularly those closest to him and who ministered alongside him, will have much to say about the deep impression he left on them. He was a man of the Word of God and a man of prayer. I cannot forget the experience of hearing him seek the face of God in prayer at my first Ministers' and Students' Week of Prayer, which was held in Kilkeel. There was a face-to-face communion he evidently knew with the Lord. Likewise, His God-given gift to extract truth from Scripture and apply it to the hearts and minds of all was a privilege to behold.

The words of Paul can be said of Dr John Douglas, 'I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing' (2 Timothy 4:7,8). ■

✉ Editor,
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Note from the Editor:

In the July/August edition of the *FP Vision* a quote was included at the close of the devotional section of the magazine. The inclusion of this quote was an unintentional editorial oversight. The *FP Vision*, as the official organ of the Free Presbyterian church, remains committed to our Protestant and Biblical stand against Roman Catholic teaching.

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Dr John Douglas

18 June 1933 - 30 July 2024

“The memory of the just is blessed.”

Proverbs 10:7



Dr John Douglas was a foundation member of the Free Presbyterian Church, Clerk of Presbytery, Principal of the Whitefield College of the Bible, Bible teacher, Gospel preacher, conference speaker, Pastor, adviser and friend. He was a mainstay in our denomination. He had no equal and his contribution to the cause of Christ is incalculable. We pay tribute to his faithful service.

✓ **Rev Samuel Murray,**
Moderator.

Dr Douglas was an exemplary Bible teacher, evangelist, church planter and pastor. He was a mentor. Most of all he was a man of God who lived and breathed the Word of God. His love for Christ and his burden for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit were always a feature of his ministry. It has been one of the greatest privileges in my life not only to have known him, but to have worked alongside him in a small way, to pray with him and to call him a friend.

✓ **Rev Roger Higginson,**
Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church.

Speaking of the passing of my Bible teacher, I was asked by one of our sons what was the main thing I learned from Dr Douglas' Bible teaching? I answered, That every minute detail of the Bible is real and can be applied to life. He made the Bible live and a book to live by.

✓ **Rev Ian Goligher,**
Cloverdale Free Presbyterian Church (retired).

I never heard Dr. Douglas teach or preach without benefit. My mind goes back fifty years to September 1974 when I first sat in his English Bible class as it was known then. What blessing to my soul!

✓ **Rev John Greer,**
Clerk of Presbytery.

Words seem so inadequate to fully express the influence Dr Douglas has been, not only in my life, but in the lives of so many. He was a true man of God whose spiritual legacy will continue to be a blessing in the days ahead. To me, he proved to be a wise counsellor, a trusted confidant, and a faithful friend.

✓ **Rev Ian Kenny,**
Hillsborough Free Presbyterian Church.

I first met John Douglas in 1964, 60 years ago. He was a man who walked in the footprints of the prophets and apostles (Acts 3:19-21). John Douglas sought throughout his life to bring home to God's people the vital importance of Bible Prophecy, a subject sadly neglected by many pulpits today. He rightly considered it was a vital subject along with all the prophets and apostles. Anything that I know of this glorious subject I was taught by John, under God.

✓ **Rev Ivan Foster,**
Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church (retired).

As a young believer and not long saved, I was greatly blessed and challenged under the ministry of Dr Douglas when he came to preach for Pastor J K Paisley in the Gospel Tabernacle Ballymena - well over 60 years ago. How wonderfully God has blessed his mighty ministry since then in every area of God's work in our denomination since those early days. I am deeply thankful for his unique life and testimony.

✓ **Rev James Beggs,**
Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church (retired).

He modelled before me the kind of passionate preaching of God's holy Child, the only Saviour of sinners, that I have tried to emulate. To witness him preaching Christ was to be persuaded that this is urgent business; to his great credit (and he undoubtedly ascribed this to the glory and grace of God) he maintained this impassioned and intense form of address right to his final messages.

✓ **Dr Ian Brown,**
Deputy Moderator.

Under God, Dr. John Douglas taught me the importance of studying the Word of God and how to apply it to the conscience of men.

✓ **Rev Thomas Martin,**
Comber Free Presbyterian Church.



Bilney and Latimer:

The Power of Sincere Testimony

In Cambridge, England, in 1524, an unusual scene unfolded in a quiet university room. The chamber belonged to a priest called Hugh Latimer, and into it entered a student by the name of Thomas Bilney. The priest often heard confession, so the fact that a student arrived for that business was not in itself unusual. What was unusual was the nature of the confession that he was about to hear and the powerful melting effect it had on the priest's soul. On entering, Bilney fell on his knees before Latimer. He was not only younger, but was also much smaller physically than Latimer. 'Little Bilney' looked

powerlessly insignificant and hopelessly needy as he said, 'For the love of God, I beg you to hear my confession.'

Latimer's heart rose with pride and joy at the sight. They were not strangers to one another. Many a time their paths had crossed, and Latimer knew that Bilney espoused Reformed principles and that he was an influential figure among the 'heretics' who regularly met at the White Horse Tavern to pray and study Scripture. Bilney recognised Latimer as a sincere and morally upright man with personality and gifts of eloquence. He was, however,

vehemently opposed to the reformers. That morning, shortly before their meeting together in the room, Latimer had preached on the subject of the doctrines of Philip Melancthon. The students were required to be in attendance, and Bilney was present. He carefully listened to the priest as he lambasted the recent 'heresies' and especially laboured on the danger of the private study of the New Testament. Seeing Bilney meekly appearing at his door so soon after the sermon, Latimer assumed he was a penitent and warmly received him, anticipating the confession of one returning to

the fold of Rome. Surely, Latimer thought, his sermon had convinced the lad of the heresies of Luther, and Bilney was now sorry for receiving and actively promoting them. The inwardly beaming Latimer was prepared to not only hear the confession but also to bestow absolution and warmly embrace the restored backslider. Latimer saw before him not only a penitent but also a trophy for Rome. Bilney, with his influence among the ‘White Horse’ Protestants, could be, Latimer thought, a weapon forged for the destruction of the heretical opinions.

AN UNEXPECTED CONFESSION

The confession, however, was not as Latimer expected. His countenance dropped as he listened to Bilney relate how he had sought to please God by his works and, after much misery, how he found Christ. He testified that it was through the New Testament he came to know God’s love in a crucified and risen Saviour. Latimer wanted to stop the lad from speaking. He wanted to drive Bilney out or else flee the room himself and escape. There was, however, such a power and Divine presence with the youth that the priest was fixed to the spot for nearly two hours. It seemed as if he was being reduced in size before the ‘little Bilney’. The priest became the penitent. Rome’s tool became Christ’s trophy, and a weapon was forged for the Reformed faith. He, who just a short time before thought to give absolution to Bilney, instead received it from Bilney’s Lord.

Latimer later related that, from that day, he ‘forsook the fooleries of Romanism’ and started to drink in the richness of Scripture, ‘From that time forward I began to smell the Word of God.’ Years later, he said, ‘Bilney was the instrument whereby God called me to knowledge. I must thank him, next to God, for that knowledge that I have in the Word of God, for I was as obstinate a papist as any was in England.’ The two men became great friends, and both would, at different times, mount the scaffold and become martyrs of Jesus Christ. Bilney died in Norwich in 1531, and Latimer died in Oxford in 1555.

REFORMATION HISTORY - THE STORY OF CONVERSION

Reflecting on this scene, we must not suppose it was absolutely unique. Indeed, a priest converted in the confessional did not happen every day in sixteenth century Europe. However, Reformation history is filled with multitudes of conversion narratives. Endless books have been written on the great movement that rocked Europe; but, at its root, it was a great awakening, a day of salvation, and a breath of God’s Holy Spirit that brought multitudes into a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The story of the Reformation is about new converts finding souls and making more new converts. It is the story of John 1:40-46 on a multiplied scale. Bilney first found Latimer.

A GENTLE SOUL WINNER

While Latimer became the household name in England, in the scene contemplated here Bilney is the humble hero and the wise and gentle soul winner. Several things stand out about Bilney in this encounter.

First, there was his love. Bilney had no contempt for the priest, but had compassion. He saw in Latimer not just a formidable opponent but one who was blind and in misery, as he himself had been. He pitied the cleric, and even when he waxed eloquent in preaching against the doctrines of Luther and Melancthon, he only felt the more for him. Bilney knew that God could make this Saul a Paul, and he earnestly desired that He would do so. So, instead of leaving the sermon with fruitless criticising and complaining, he took himself to the closet and prayed for Latimer’s conversion. Like Christ, he made intercession for the transgressor.

The second thing then was the humble and gentle way in which Bilney came

to Latimer. Bilney did not just pray; he resolved to speak to the priest directly. He felt that Latimer could not be won in a confrontational and argumentative way. Besides, Bilney was not a confrontational person - he was reserved and backward, quiet and gentle. Coming as one making confession was not a trick. He bowed before Latimer as though he were a servant. There was no arrogance, no sense of superiority, just one humble sinner bowing to win a fellow sinner. He was not seeking Latimer’s absolution, but he did make a humble confession of how he had treated God and His Word and how he had found mercy through Christ.

A third thing was the intense sincerity and the absolute genuineness of Bilney. He spoke from experience. He once was blind but now could see and knew that he spoke in the presence of the One who caused him to see. He could humbly bow because the Lord humbled Himself to make him see. Thus, Bilney was real and genuine. He truly loved the Lord and the souls of sinners.

It was these three things that caused Latimer to be transfixed in the presence of the tiny confessor.

He had not heard before such a confession. He had not witnessed true humility of soul and sincere Christian love. He had not heard one talk about sin and God’s Word and the Lord Jesus with such genuineness. ‘By this confession’ he said, ‘I learned more than before in many years.’ Into that chamber in 1524 entered one light, but two lights left it. Five hundred years later, their light has not yet gone out. This is the power of sincere testimony to Christ. ■

“
The story of the Reformation is about new converts finding souls and making more new converts. It is the story of John 1:40-46 on a multiplied scale.
 ”

✉ **Rev Gregory McCammon,**
Gilford Free Presbyterian Church.

Meet the Youth Council President

With the appointment of Rev Julian Patterson as the new Free Presbyterian Youth Council President, I thought it would be an ideal opportunity for readers of the *FP Vision* to know him a little bit better. Rev Paul Foster has served the Lord through the youth of our denomination with admirable diligence and faithfulness and has now passed on the baton to Rev Patterson. No doubt he too will serve the Lord well in this capacity; please pray for him as he enters into this new aspect of Christian ministry.

✉ Editor,
editor@fpvision.org



ED: Tell the readers a little about your background: how you were saved and the connection to youth in your testimony?

JP: My background is probably not the typical upbringing of a young person in the Free Presbyterian Church today, in that I was not born into a Christian home. However, I was sent along to a Methodist Sunday School during my primary school years. Whenever I entered secondary school the issues of peer pressure and friendships were to play a crucial role in my life. It was through peer pressure in my early teenage years that I became involved in what is described in Hebrews chapter 11 as ‘the pleasures of sin for a season.’ It was not until second year, around the age of 13, I encountered the Gospel through a Christian friend in

this school. As a result of that friend’s influence, I found myself in the last place I ever thought I would be in the world – a Scripture Union week in the Lake District in England! It was during that week that the leaders taught us the first six verses of John chapter fourteen. On the last evening after considering verse 6 where Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life’, I was converted to Jesus Christ. Looking back at my conversion in my teens, I believe these influences have driven me to play an active role in youth ministry.

ED: What or who were some of the most important influences upon you after conversion to Christ?

JP: One of the things that I cannot stress enough to every Christian, but especially

the young believer, is the importance of having good friendships. Proverbs 13:20 states, ‘He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.’ On returning to school as a Christian the following year after my conversion, I faced the challenge of friendships and influences. I can safely say that the Christian friendships I made as a teenager through God’s grace played a huge role in influencing me as a young Christian.

One of the questions I was immediately confronted with was where I would attend church. Eventually, I found myself attending the Comber Free Presbyterian Church through the friend in school who had originally invited me to the Scripture Union

week. It was here, as a young Christian, I would be surrounded by believers, both young and old, who would have a huge impact on my spiritual walk. At my home congregation I found young people with a desire to serve the Lord who were a great encouragement to me – many of whom I still hold close friendships with and some who are now colleagues in the ministry as well. Another influence which I cannot emphasise enough to the young reader is the impact that the example the godly eldership in Comber played in shaping me as a young believer. Their examples and encouragements are something that will stay with me throughout my life.

As I progressed into my late teens, the Youth Council also provided me with the opportunity of growing as a believer. Some of my happiest memories are of the training weekends, outreaches, and missionary weekends, and the clear challenges and directions given in serving the Lord.

ED: What are you looking forward to most in your new role as FPC Youth Council President?

JP: Whenever God called Abraham, He said in Genesis 12:2 that He would bless Abraham and, in turn, make him a blessing. It does not seem all that long ago that as a younger believer, the Lord was using the Youth Council and its various events as a channel of blessing to myself. In many ways I am humbled and still a little dumfounded that I am now the President of the Youth Council and therefore, I am simply looking forward to, in turn, being a blessing to the youth of our denomination and beyond.

As previously mentioned, I was converted essentially through youth ministry, and it is something that has always been close to my heart. I see in youth work and, by extension, the Youth Council, a unique and crucial opportunity to extend the Kingdom of Christ. Sometimes the teenage years are called ‘the rebellious years’ but they are also years where there is great potential to instill biblical principles into the developing hearts and minds of our youth. There is also



“ Sometimes the teenage years are called ‘the rebellious years’ but they are also years where there is great potential to instill biblical principles into the developing hearts and minds of our youth. ”

the opportunity to present the Gospel to those who are grappling with life’s great meaning and questions.

ED: Are there different challenges for the Christian youth of today compared to previous generations?

JP: I recently stumbled upon the thoughts of colourful Scottish Congregational preacher George MacDonald on children and youth. He was a contributor to a Christian youth magazine, not too dissimilar to our old *Truth for Youth* magazine. In one of these articles he said, ‘When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over.’

Every generation of the body of Christ has faced challenges and will continue to do so. There are issues that remain like temptation and remaining pure in today’s impure society. Peer pressure

is something that our youth will always face. I think, however, that we do need to sympathise with our youth in light of the peculiar challenges they face today. There are more acute issues surrounding identity and self-acceptance which we really need the Lord’s people in our congregations to pray over.

ED: What encouragement and advice would you give to young people today as they seek to live for the Lord?

JP: Several times in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament we are exhorted ‘take heed to yourselves.’ I would encourage the youth to, above all else, pay close attention to their own spiritual walks and lives, and seek to develop their own quiet times of prayer and Bible study with the Lord. As well as that, seek to find and cultivate good Christian friendships and learn the joy of serving Christ early. ■

Ordination and Installation of Rev Aaron Fitzsimons



Rev Aaron Fitzsimons was ordained to the Christian ministry and installed as the minister of John Knox Memorial Free Presbyterian Church on Friday 14th June 2024. The meeting was held in Newtownabbey Free Presbyterian Church (kindly granted). Among others taking part, his own father, Rev Paul Fitzsimons, opened in prayer and the Moderator, Rev Samuel Murray, brought the charge to the new minister and congregation. ■

📷 **Above left:** Members of Session and Committee: Mr Thompson, Mr Ferris, Rev Fitzsimons, Mr Parks, Mr Boyd, and Mr Ferguson.

📷 **Above:** Rev Fitzsimons with his wife, Anna, and their children, Jonah and Myah.

Marking 25 Years in the Whitefield College



At an end-of-term buffet, Whitefield College Principal, Rev Nelson, made a presentation to Mrs Linda Bell, who was retiring after almost 25 years as Office Administrator. They are pictured with Lecturers (Revs Mercer, Johnstone, Murray, Brown, and Greer) and Committee Convenors (Rev Smylie and Mr McIlroy). ■

New Elder Ordained in Comber



Sunday 30th June was a special day in the calendar of Comber Free Presbyterian Church as Mr Robert McConnell was ordained to office of elder. ■


📷 **Above:** Mr Robert McConnell (front row, centre right) is pictured with members of Session and Committee.

Revs Greer and Dane Retire from the Pastoral Ministry

Ballymena


A Retirement Service was held for the Rev John Greer in Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church on Friday 28th June 2024. The church was filled to capacity which was testament to the esteem in which people held the Rev Greer and his ministry across three congregations, Sixmilecross, Newtown Square Pennsylvania, and Ballymena. A number of ministerial colleagues took part in the service including Rev James Beggs, Rev John Wagner (a close friend of Rev Greer), and Moderator of FPCNA, Dr Larry Saunders.


The evening was punctuated with singing from the congregation, the Greer family, and Rev Fred Greenfield. Presentations were made to Rev Greer and his wife as a token of the Ballymena congregation's gratitude and love towards them. The Moderator, Rev Samuel Murray, brought a fitting and blessed closing word from 2 Corinthians 13. ■


 **Above right:** Rev and Mrs Greer alongside Rev David Stewart and ministerial colleagues.

 **Right:** Rev and Mrs Greer with their family.



 **Above:** Members of Session and Committee.

 **Left:** Rev and Mrs Dane.

 **Credit:** Catherine Moore.

Crossgar

Crossgar Free Presbyterian Church held a special service on Friday 2nd June to mark the retirement of Rev Gordon Dane who has ministered in the congregation for 21 years. A large congregation including extended family, friends, and colleagues attended the service which was led by the Rev Alan Smylie. Rev Samuel Murray, Moderator of the denomination, gave an encouraging message from God's Word. Mr William Dick, Clerk of Session, spoke, thanking Mr Dane for his commitment and dedication as a pastor to the congregation. He made reference to his gifts and talents as a preacher and teacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Mrs Freda Gill presented Mrs Dane with flowers and a watch, thanking her for her labour with the children and the Ladies' Fellowship. In reply, Rev Dane said he counted it a privilege to be the minister of the congregation, thanking them for their friendship and fellowship down through the years. ■

Carryduff Recognises Long and Faithful Service



📷 Above: Seated left to right: Mr Wilfred Crawford, Mrs Barbara Crawford, and Mr William Smith. Back row (left to right): Mr Laurence Crawford, Mr Alan Irvine, Mrs Rosemary McLaughlin, Rev McLaughlin, Mr George Anderson, and Mr Mark Stronge.

On Sunday 7th July, there was a special, long service with presentations made at Carryduff Free Presbyterian Church. Mr William Smith, outgoing treasurer, was presented with a Bible and gift for his 25 years of faithful work. The minister, Rev David McLaughlin, then gave a tribute to the tireless Sunday School work of Mr Wilfred Crawford who has served in the Sunday School for over 40 years. Presentations were made to Mr and Mrs Crawford on this occasion. ■

Sunday School Excellence and Achievement

Annalong



At the Annual Sunday School's Children's Day Services in Annalong FPC, Mr David Bennet, Sunday School Superintendent, together with Rev Ian Harris presented Noah Agnew and Jacob Murray with special prizes and a framed certificate for answering correctly all the questions in the *Child's Catechism*. ■

Ardaragh



Emma Harshaw has successfully completed with distinction the full 107 questions of the *Shorter Catechism*. She is pictured here alongside Rev Andrew Murray (right) and Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Mark Megaw (left). ■

Tullyvallen



Sam Johnston receives his certificate for saying the entire *Child's Catechism* word perfect and has now begun learning the *Shorter Catechism*. In the picture are his father Timothy, Sunday School Superintendent, Winifred Rainey, his Sunday School teacher, and Rev Graham Middleton, minister. ■

Ballynahinch

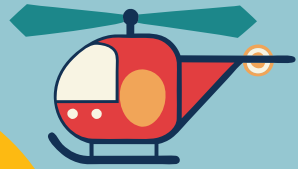


Pictured is Annabelle Robert receiving her certificate for correctly answering the *Child's Catechism*. She is pictured alongside Sunday School teacher Mrs Hazel Pentland, Rev Stephen McCrea, and Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Stephen Moore. ■

Markethill



At their Children's Day Service, four young people, Sophie, Joseph, Lois, and Noah, were presented with certificates for completing the entire *Child's Catechism*. They are pictured with Rev Andrew Patterson and Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Alan Hopps. ■



'What time I
am afraid I will
trust in Thee.'

Mark 13:26

Clouds

In this article, I want to talk about clouds. Many a poet has been inspired to write about clouds, and many an artist has been compelled to paint them, because they draw upon the imagination. The farthest that I and my childhood friends ever got was to lie looking up at them, imagining we could see all sorts of shapes and faces.

In the Bible, 'clouds' are mentioned in 49 verses across 21 books of the Old and New Testaments. Sometimes, the Scriptures speak about clouds in relation to the weather. For example, in the story of the battle between Deborah and Sisera in Judges 4-5, the Lord helped bring about victory by sending rain clouds, causing the enemy's chariots to get stuck in the mud. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah prayed for the drought

to cease and before long the skies were black with rain clouds.

In the book of Jude, clouds are used to describe the state of understanding that the ungodly have with regard to spiritual matters. As clouds without water, they are carried about by the wind. I suppose our modern-day equivalent would be to say they are living in 'cloud cuckoo land'. Rather than accept reality, they prefer to run with their own foolish notions.

The Scriptures also associate clouds with the second coming of the Lord. Sometimes sunrays can be seen breaking through a gap in the clouds. These golden shafts of light can be quite breathtaking. Such heavenly scenes should remind believers that one day the Lord himself shall descend from heaven and with a great shout, causing the dead in Christ to

rise. Those who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord and be with him forever.

So, boys and girls, whenever you look up and see the clouds, do not just think about the fact that it might rain, rather think about yourselves. Are you like an empty cloud being blown about every which way because you prefer your own sinful notions, rather than the truth of the gospel? Whether it be in death or at his second coming, are you ready to meet God? Spared to see old age, King David's last words were about leaving this world and going to be with the Lord. What a bright and cloudless morning he imagined it would be. In closing, can I ask, what about you? ■



QUIZ

As well as clouds many other weather-related words are found in the Bible. Complete the word search. Some of the words you will need can only be found by looking up the Bible references.

Then with the letters left over spell out something you might wear on a sunny day.

ANSWER:

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



SUN
RAIN
STORM
THUNDER
WIND
FROST
TEMPEST
HAIL
HEAT
ICE
WARM
HOT
DRY
ISAIAH 1:18
REVELATION 4:3
JOB 38:30

R	A	I	N	N		H	E	A	T
A		S	D	S	N	O	W		E
I	C	E	R	T	F	G	H	W	M
N		U	Y	O	R	L	O	A	P
B	H		F	R	O	S	T	R	E
O	A	S	E	M	Z	U	A	M	S
W	I	N	D		E	N	S	S	T
	L	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	

Are you 12 or under? Send your answer, name, address and church to:
Rev Garth Wilson
e: answer@fpvision.org



GLORIFICATION



Of all the truths of the Gospel, glorification is the most precious when it comes to Christian experience. It is not the highfalutin notion of some ignorant zealot who longs for greatness just for greatness' sake, but a wonderful reality in the grace of God. Many are experiencing it already; and many more, an innumerable company who are redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, are yet to enter into the joy of it all (Revelation 7:9).

IT IS IMPORTANT TO DEFINE TERMS: TO KNOW WHAT GLORIFICATION IS NOT, AND WHAT IT IS

Serious Christians do not want to be led away by error, for error is destabilising (2 Peter 3:17), and false hope has a detrimental effect on the way a man lives: it corrupts good manners (1 Corinthians 15:33).

On the other hand, when glorification is rightly understood, it keeps a man humble, strong, and true. The Bible says, 'For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if

we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.' (Romans 8:24, 25).

Glorification is not the sainthood of the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Their false teaching states that the Act of Canonisation comes at the end of a long process requiring extensive proof that the candidate for canonisation lived a specially pious life. He, or she, must also have worked some notable wonder. But though, in Catholicism, canonisation is not normally called glorification, in practice it is even more than that: it is a kind of deification. This is far removed from the truth of Holy Writ.

According to the Bible, glorification is the final stage of Christian development.

Consider these words from Romans: 'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.' (Romans 8:29, 30).

God loved His people in advance of their existence and purposed to save them. In respect of their experience, note their vocation: 'Whom he also called'; their justification: 'them he also justified'; their sanctification: 'conformed to the image of his Son'; then their glorification: 'Them he also glorified.' 'Glorified' comes from the Greek word which means 'to adorn with lustre, clothe with splendour, render excellent or illustrious.'

The Tyndale Bible Dictionary gives the following definition of glorification:

'Glorification is the completion, the consummation, the perfection, the full realisation of salvation.' The believer's spiritual capacity will continue to grow, and his experience of Christ will continue to deepen. Glorification means there is no going back, no standing still, just endless learning.

This is borne out by Scriptures like Ephesians 2:7 and Revelation 7:17. In the endless ages, God will continue to show His people 'the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus,' who will 'lead them unto fountains of living waters.'

GLORIFICATION HAS TWO KEY STAGES

First, we must consider what happens to the believer at death.

Paul told the Philippians: 'I have a desire to depart and to be with Christ which is far better.' (1:23). Death is a departure, not an end, nor even a temporary halt. For the Christian, it is not just about going to Heaven but about being with the Saviour.

Somebody once said, 'It matters not whether I live or die. If I live, Jesus will be with me. If I die, I will be with Jesus.' But it does matter. To have Jesus with me is a wonderful blessing. But great as it is, it is not so great as being with Him. The realisation of hope is 'far better' than the mere holding of that hope, and a sight of Christ is far more satisfying than an awareness of Him (John 14:8, 9).

When a child of God sees his Saviour, at that point he becomes sinless. The very capability of wrongdoing is removed from him forever. He stands 'without fault before the throne of God' (Revelation 14:5). Hebrews speaks of 'the spirits of just men made perfect' (12:23).

The second aspect of glorification relates to the believer's body.

The Bible teaches that on the day of resurrection, the Christian's body will be changed, and 'fashioned like unto Christ's glorious body' (Philippians 3:21). It will therefore be the same body in which he had lived before, but with a supernatural makeover. It will be corporeal, tangible, but also endowed with special powers, and no longer capable of suffering or death; it will be the perfect home for his sinless soul, when they come together in a split second, at the sounding of the trumpet of the Lord (1 Thessalonians.4:16, 17). Re-embodied believers are then 'caught up together in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.'

The icing on the cake is this: 'And so shall we ever be with the Lord.' We will be with Him in Heaven. We will be with Him on a renewed

“ WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, GLORIFICATION IS A TREMENDOUS COMFORT TO THE CHRISTIAN IN HIS SORROWS; IT KEEPS HIM FAITHFUL IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION; IT GIVES HIM THE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD WILL NEVER ABANDON HIM; IT HELPS HIM NOT TO BE TIED TO THE PRESENT STATE OF THINGS; IT KINDLES HIS LOVE AND PRAISE FOR THE SON OF GOD. ”

earth, too, because when He appears in glory, and His people appear in glory with Him (Romans 8:17, Colossians 3:4), the whole creation will be 'delivered from corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.' (Rom.8:21). Finally, the glorified will be with Christ in the eternal age. This is the glory of glories, when Heaven comes down to earth (Revelation 21:2, 3).

When all is said and done, glorification is a tremendous comfort to the Christian in his sorrows (1 Thessalonians.4:18); it keeps him faithful in times of persecution (Romans 8:18, Revelation 2:10); it gives him the confidence that God will never abandon him (Philippians1:6); it helps him not to be tied to the present state of things (Hebrews 11:10); it kindles His love and praise for the Son of God (1 John 4:19).

Never forget that there is no salvation at all except in the Son of God and in His precious blood.

Bob Jones Jr said, 'It is the blood that fuels the glory.' (Hebrews 12:24). The blood that fuels the glory of Heaven has purchased glory for us, too!

'What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?' (Romans 8:31, 32). ■

✍ **Rev Kyle Paisley,**
Oulton Broad Free Presbyterian Church.

“ THE BLOOD THAT FUELS THE GLORY OF HEAVEN HAS PURCHASED GLORY FOR US, TOO! ”

ACCORDING TO PLAN

BY GRAEME GOLDSWORTHY

A Sunday School teacher once asked the children at the beginning of class: 'Who can tell me what is grey and hairy and lives in one of the trees called eucalyptus?' The children were taken by surprise at this unexpected and new approach from their teacher. They thought there was some kind of trick in the question and were left stumped, with no answer. After repeating his question several times, the teacher finally received an answer, 'I know you are talking to us about Jesus, but He looks like a koala.'

Something similar happens to us when we open the pages of the Bible, especially the Old Testament. Sometimes, we try to see Christ everywhere and, to do so, we use the most unlikely imagination. Other times, and I would say this is the case for most Christians, it is very hard to see Christ in all of the Scriptures.

Graeme Goldsworthy does an excellent job at expounding and explaining the central message of Scripture, which is none other than Christ and His redemption.

He does it simply and practically. The reading of this book is easy and light. It starts from several essential premises such as

the integrity of the Bible as a united message from God, the centrality of Christ in it, and the full and inerrant inspiration of the Bible as the Word of God. And, almost without realising it, we are introduced to the discipline called Biblical Theology.

According to Plan is divided into four chapters: 1) Biblical Theology, why?; 2) Biblical Theology, how?; 3) Biblical Theology, what?; and 4) Biblical Theology, where? The first chapter explains why Christians should study Biblical Theology. The second chapter shows that it is possible to know God and how. The third chapter is a display of the main themes that God has revealed to us in his Word and how they are progressively developed in the Bible to their full manifestation in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The fourth chapter shows how this understanding of God's message in His Word will completely change our knowledge of God.

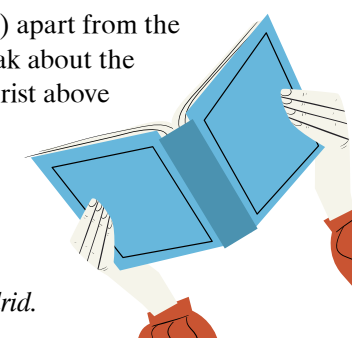
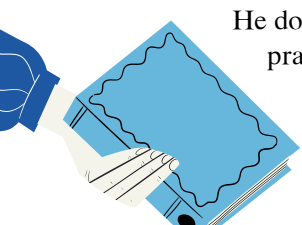
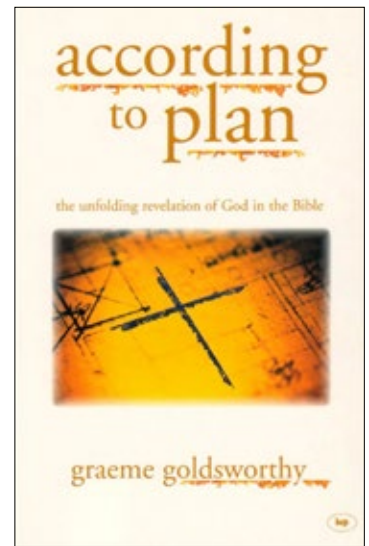
When you observe a forest, you may make one of two mistakes: either you focus on a single tree and lose sight of the entire forest, or you just get a generic view of the forest without delving into the elements that make it up. Goldsworthy helps us not fall into either of these two extremes when reading the Bible and helps us understand how each part is part of the whole.

Another fundamental aspect of this book is that it helps us understand that our study of the Scriptures is not a mere encounter with bare facts about God, but rather it is an encounter with God himself, in the person of Jesus Christ. Goldsworthy uses a spotlight to point us directly to Jesus Christ as the One who perfectly reveals God to us.

Goldsworthy, as Sproul would have done in his day, asserts that every Christian is a theologian. The question is not whether he is a theologian, but how well he should do theology. The Lord's exhortation is to search the Scriptures (John 5:39), and to do it well (2 Timothy 2:15). This book is an ideal tool to help you achieve it.

In conclusion, this book is excellent. It is a book I read, studied, and taught others as a lecturer of Biblical Theology at Grace Bible College in Spain. If you want to acquire a clearer and deeper understanding of THE message of the Bible, this is your book. If there are other books (and there are) apart from the Bible that speak about the Lord Jesus Christ above all, this is one of them. ■

✓ **Rev Angel Alvarez,**
Alcorcon, Madrid.



NATIONAL QUIZ

Do you love the Bible, quizzes, friendly competition, fellowship and fun? If so, then this year's Youth Council Quiz is for you!

Taking inspiration from a Quiz which was greatly loved many years ago throughout our denomination, the Youth Council is inviting all Youth Fellowships to form a team (or teams) to compete in a national quiz competition. Teams will compete against each other in organised venues around the province on Friday 25th October. The teams which perform best will then gather for the much-anticipated final on Friday 22nd November in Lurgan Free Presbyterian Church.

Teams are to consist of four persons: Team member #1 must be aged 15 or under; team member #2 aged 20 or under; team member #3 aged 25 or under; and team member #4 aged 30 or under.

To keep the quiz fair for all, questions will only be asked from Genesis chapters 37-50, Zechariah chapters 1-6 and Romans chapters 1-10. A good variety of rounds will held that involve team



discussion and head-to-head challenges as well as rounds inspired by Quiz Shows such as Pointless and the Chase.

If you are interested in being part of a team, please get in touch with your local Youth Fellowship leader. The Youth Council desire that all

team entries are sent to Rev Julian Patterson as soon as possible so that you do not miss out on what promises to be a great time of friendly competition and fun not to mention (what we trust) will be a learning of Biblical truths that will benefit you for the rest of your life! ■

YOUTH COUNCIL DATES

More details of each of these events can be found at fpcyouth.org or on Facebook and Instagram at *FPC Youth Council*. Alternatively, speak to your local YF leader or delegate.

DELEGATES' MEETING

2nd September, 8.15pm
Ballymagerny FPC

NATIONAL RALLY

for all Youth Fellowships
13th September, 8pm
Ballymena FPC

DAY OUTREACH

14th September
Londonderry FPC

INFORMAL MISSIONARY EVENING

with Glenn Hamilton
14th September, 6.30pm
Magherafelt FPC.

ENCOURAGEMENT

TRIP to Bristol
20th - 23rd September

SPORTS FUN NIGHT

28th September.
Meadowbank Sports
Arena, Magherafelt

YC NATIONAL QUIZ

First and Final Rounds
25th Oct + 22nd Nov 2024

OCTOBER EVENINGS OF PRAYER

Please see Facebook for your local area's information

50TH ANNIVERSARY GOSPEL MISSIONS

3rd - 5th Oct:
Mid-Ulster, South Down and part of Mid-Down
17th - 20th Oct:
North West, North Antrim and South Antrim
7th - 9th Nov:
Belfast, North Down and part of Mid-Down
8th - 10th Nov:
West and South West

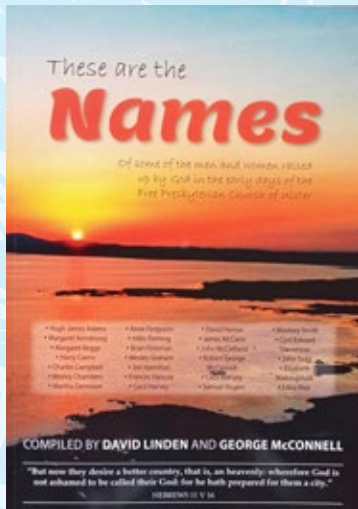
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FPCYOUTH.ORG

BOOK
RELEASE

These Are The Names



The Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster is nearly 75 years old and consequently, today we have a generation who know very little about our early stalwarts. Those of us who know something are crying out to know more and even those more senior who know most desire to bask in the radiance of nostalgic recollection. While a good sprinkling of congregational histories can be obtained, there is very little written that brings to us a collection of biographical sketches of past worthies of the denomination.

Step in retired minister Rev David Linden and Kilkeel elder Mr George McConnell. These two brethren have rendered great service for us in their recently produced book entitled, *'These are the Names'*. With 140 pages of clear text interspersed with dozens of photographs, it is an easy read that will thrill every Free Presbyterian.

Twenty-five short biographical chapters recall for us the lives of humble Free Presbyterians who have gone to their reward. A few of the names are those of ministers or missionaries but most are taken from the rank and file. They are not all men either – about a third are women. The icing on the top is a fine preface by Dr John Douglas. He explains the title of the book and draws us into the drama of observing God's grace in the fine lives of those we should never forget. There is one defect – the omission of so many more worthies who could have been named. Hopefully it is just the first volume. Get it and cry out to the authors for more. It can be obtained from the Beulah Bookshop in Newcastle. ■

✍ **Rev Gregory McCammon,**
*Chairman Historical Committee of
Presbytery.*

Belfast Pride Protest

On Saturday morning of 27th July, a band of faithful members from the Free Presbyterian Church stood together to witness for the honour of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel message against the so-called 'Pride' March in Belfast.

Like in the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics 2024, some of the worst of our iniquitous society was also on display in Belfast, a few of whom were shouting abuse from passing cars. This year, the Rev David McLaughlin led the service on behalf of the Government and Morals Committee of the Free Presbyterian Church. He thanked those present for attending and in his opening remarks stated that it was an honour to stand and to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel in this end time age of apostasy. Around



40 people attended the Open Air and were encouraged to pray fervently for a mighty revival of true Bible-believing religion for Belfast and throughout Northern Ireland.

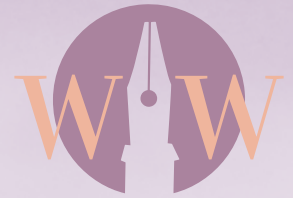
The PSNI were present to record the service, which began at 10:45 with the singing of the favourite Gospel hymn, 'Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It'. After Rev Garth Wilson opened in prayer, Rev Thomas Martin read the Scriptures from John chapter 3. This was followed by a short testimony by one of our young people, Mr David Rea from Newtownabbey FPC.

Quite a number present took part in sharing their favourite Scripture texts.

Rev McLaughlin called this the 'Gospel Shots' section, believing in the power of the living Word of God. After another hymn was sung, entitled, 'Jesus the Name High Over All', Rev McLaughlin then preached the Gospel message from 1 Timothy 1:15 on the theme: 'The Greatest Saying in the Whole World'.

The service concluded around 11:30 with singing about the boundless love of the Lord Jesus towards all sorts of sinners, and Rev David Brown closed in prayer. We pray for the LORD to use this Gospel witness for His glory. ■

✍ **Rev David McLaughlin,**
*Secretary of the Government and
Morals Committee.*



A Word
to Women

Trust & Obey

Have you ever placed an order – either for groceries or in a café – and upon receipt of the order, you have been told, ‘Sorry, one of the items you have requested is unavailable and an alternative has been provided instead’? Perhaps upon hearing this you initially felt surprised, bewildered, or downright disappointed as you accepted the fact that something which you had planned and looked forward to was now no longer available.

However, in a short space of time, you realise that the unwelcome alternative which had been provided was, in fact, much more helpful or tastier than the item you had ordered originally. Eventually, you were thankful for how things turned out.

On a much grander – and more important – scale, this is, on occasions, how the will of God works, too. We make our plans, but the Lord has something different – and much better – already prepared for us (Proverbs 16:9).

To us, His providence can sometimes be seen as an ‘unwelcome alternative’. Yet, in reality, it is exactly what He has planned for us since before the beginning of time. What joy and comfort this can bring to us! Just as the very hairs of our head are known by God, so too every moment of every day has been orchestrated by Him!

When these ‘unwelcome alternatives’ come into our lives, how do we react? Are we ungracious and angry towards God when we realise that His perfect providence does not match up with our plans? Do we, like Jonah, respond with stubbornness and decide on going our way anyway, even if it is not actually

what is best for us? Or do we exhibit Christlikeness by willingly submitting to the perfect plan of God?

How do we cope with God’s providence when it is not quite how we imagined? Do we, like the Israelites, mumble and complain along the way? Or, do we gladly submit to God’s way,

knowing that His grace is sufficient and God’s way is perfect, even if this path takes us through pain and difficulty? These instances can be difficult to navigate. Yet, allow me to point you to Christ, the One who has displayed trust in the will of God to be perfect, through His suffering for the salvation of His people, and who is also the only sufficient One. It is only through Christ and His grace that we, too, are able to submit ourselves to and find joy in the will of God for our lives.

It is my hope and prayer that whatever the Lord’s providence is for your life – and mine – He will give us the grace to accept it, and the faith and sight to see it as His best for us (Romans 8:28).

“
*Allow me to
point you to
Christ, the
One who has
displayed trust
in the will
of God to be
perfect.*
”

*When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey!*

*Trust and obey, for there’s no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey. ■*

✍ **Mrs Chloe Foster** is married to Rev Paul Foster,
Mourne Free Presbyterian Church.

Overcoming Worldliness

James 4:4 says that ‘the friendship of the world is enmity with God’ and that whosoever ‘will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.’ 1 John 2:15 warns us, ‘If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.’ These are warnings to take very seriously since they show that worldliness is utterly opposed to God. In the absolute sense, the one who lives for the world is unsaved and far from God.

This is not to say that God’s people are free from the pull of the world. Even we, who have turned from the world to Christ, are bombarded by the appeals and false promises of this present evil world and must actively resist and overcome worldliness by the power of God.

WHAT IS WORLTLINESS?

The temptation is to think of worldliness merely in terms of a select list of activities and to assume that we are not worldly so long as we are not engaging in drinking, gambling, watching television, etc. In Scripture, however, worldliness refers to an entire system of thinking and living that is set in opposition to God. It encompasses the world’s values, pleasures, and aspirations.

1 John 2:16 speaks of worldliness in terms of ‘the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life’. The lust of the flesh refers to a life governed by our sinful cravings. The lust of the eyes likely refers to covetousness and a heart set on the things that we see all around us. When John refers to the pride of life, he speaks of all boasting in the substance

of our lives here and now, and the tendency of finding our significance and value in these things.

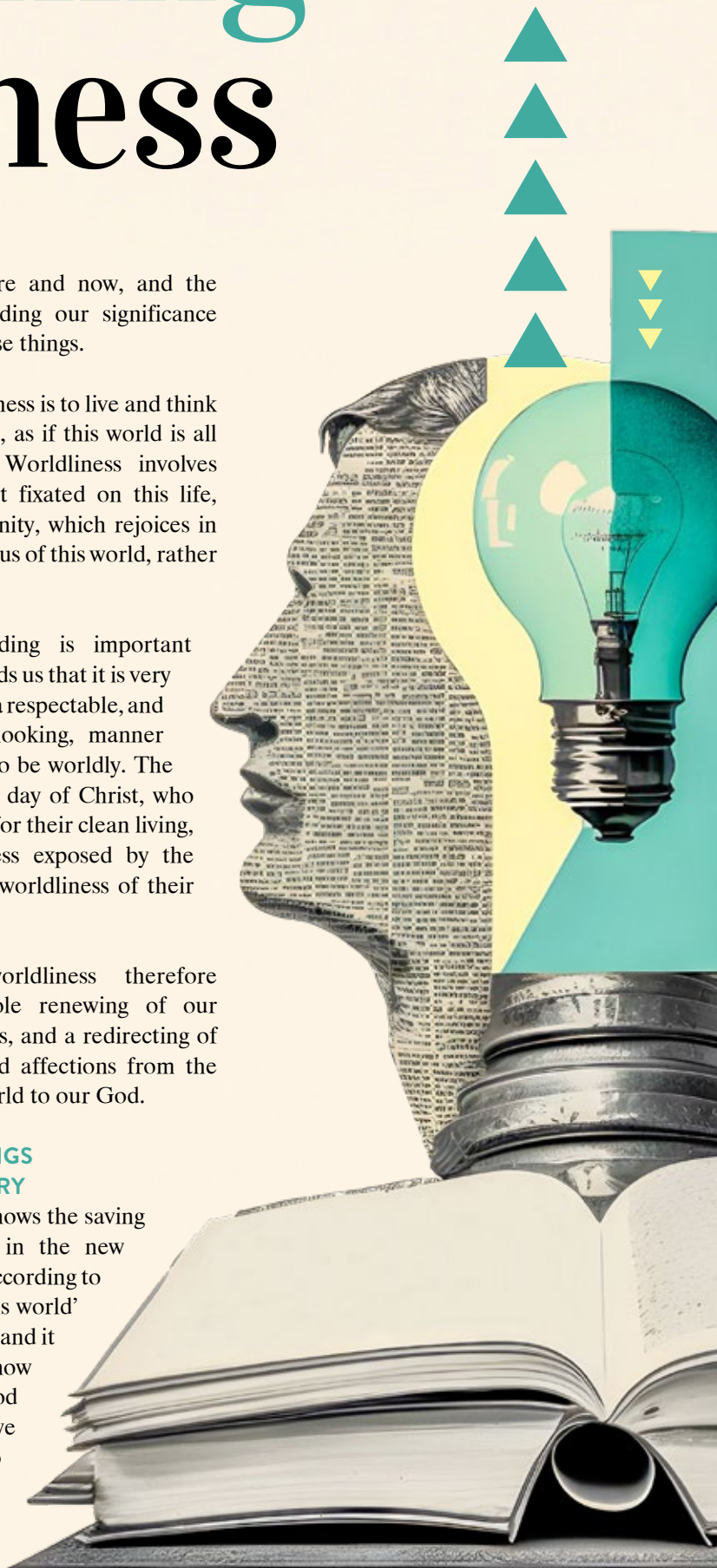
In short, worldliness is to live and think like the unsaved, as if this world is all that we have. Worldliness involves a whole mindset fixated on this life, rather than eternity, which rejoices in the stuff and status of this world, rather than in our God.

This understanding is important because it reminds us that it is very possible to have a respectable, and even Christian-looking, manner of life, and yet to be worldly. The Pharisees in the day of Christ, who were renowned for their clean living, were nevertheless exposed by the Saviour for the worldliness of their hearts.

Overcoming worldliness therefore requires a whole renewing of our hearts and minds, and a redirecting of our thinking and affections from the vanity of this world to our God.

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE VICTORY

Until a sinner knows the saving power of God in the new birth, we walk ‘according to the course of this world’ (Ephesians 2:2), and it is not until we know the grace of God in Christ that we even begin to seek first the kingdom of God.



It is God's saving work that begins and guarantees the victory: 'Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world' (1 John 5:4). There is no overcoming until we are born again and brought to faith in Jesus Christ. No matter what the outer life looks like, until there is true saving faith in Jesus Christ, the heart remains worldly.

This was tragically exposed in the case of Demas, who, after perhaps years of outwardly serving Christ, forsook

“Worldliness involves a whole mindset fixated on this life, rather than eternity, which rejoices in the stuff and status of this world, rather than in our God. This understanding is important because it reminds us that it is very possible to have a respectable, and even Christian-looking, manner of life, and yet to be worldly.”

“It was by beholding his Saviour that Paul was able to die to worldly ambition and to live unto God.”

the Saviour 'having loved this present world' (2 Timothy 4:10). Demas had a life of Christian activity, but he was not born again. His heart was never turned from the world, and worldliness overcame him.

FAITH: THE KEY TO THE VICTORY

John continues by declaring, 'This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.' Faith is not powerful to secure victory in and of itself, but only as it lays hold of Jesus Christ. Faith is an active looking to and leaning upon the Saviour.

We overcome the world as we actively look to Jesus Christ, find our satisfaction in Him, and behold all that He has done for us, all that He has secured for us, and all that He presently is to us. Overcoming worldliness is not primarily accomplished by trying hard not to do or think certain things. Overcoming is through positively looking to Jesus Christ and being taken up with Him.

To use the language of Colossians 3:1-2, 'seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.'

By faith, we daily appreciate our union with Jesus Christ and draw near to Him who is seated on the throne above, and it is this continual sight of Christ that draws our affections away from this world. Just as a husband is safeguarded from adultery by daily cultivating his relationship with his wife, so we guard our hearts from the love of this world by daily exercising faith and beholding the altogether lovely one! It is as we see more of Christ in His glory, His beauty, and His love, and as we see the everlasting hope that He has secured for us, that this temporary world with all its feeble promises becomes so much less important to us.

It was by beholding his Saviour that Paul was able to die to worldly ambition and to live unto God. He wrote in Galatians 6:14 that he would not glory 'save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ', and

said that through Christ, 'the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.'

THE PRACTICALITIES

How should we apply all of this in practical day-to-day life? Since it is the exercise of faith which secures victory, the simple answer is that anything which strengthens our faith and helps us to positively look to Jesus Christ and rejoice in Him will enable us to increasingly overcome the worldly tendencies of our hearts.

We ought to give ourselves to the Word of God since it testifies to Christ. As we read it, hear it preached, meditate upon it, and pray through it, the Holy Spirit will be at work renewing our minds and hearts.

Availing of the Lord's table, where Christ Himself fellowships with us and shows us His Gospel love, is another important instrument in the hand of the Spirit, as He turns our affections from vanity to Christ.

Saturating our day with prayer is an important part of ensuring that even our regular necessary tasks are performed with a heart of devotion to God rather than out of mere worldly duty.

Christian fellowship in general is of significant help, especially as we encourage one another in the Lord. Public worship is a key and vital part of this as we meet together in the presence of our Saviour.

There are many other practical helps. We live in a day where good sermons can be downloaded and listened to as we travel or do the dishes. Good books which draw attention to the Gospel abound. All that sets Christ before our souls and strengthens our faith to lay hold of Him will be of help.

The basic idea is: 'We would see Jesus' (John 12:21). As we lay hold of Christ by faith, 'this is the victory that overcometh the world.' ■

✍ **Rev Kyle Graham,**
*Port Lincoln and Lock Free
Presbyterian Churches, Australia.*

New Missionary Course at the Whitefield College of the Bible

Several years ago, discussions took place between the Principal of the Whitefield College of the Bible and members of the Mission Board with the view of developing the missionary content of the College curriculum. It was envisaged that the new course would take place over one year and would complement the existing two-year 'Missionary Principles' class.

The project received encouraging support from the Academic and Management Committees of the Whitefield College and wholehearted approval by the Presbytery. In 2022 a subcommittee was formed within the Mission Board which was tasked with producing a framework of modules covering a variety of mission-related topics. The topics included subjects such as: the theology of missions; church planting on the mission field; working under the Mission Board; operational structures for overseas work; financial management and reporting; linguistics;

practical, electrical, and vehicle maintenance; basic first aid; mercy missions; and technology. As plans were developed, it was agreed that the additional classes would be held on a Thursday afternoon for three hours and would be mandatory for final year ministerial and missionary students. As several past College students were preparing for the mission field, they were invited to join the class and benefit from the instruction.

The Mission Board sought suitable lecturers for each subject, and we gratefully acknowledge the help of those who willingly agreed to assist us in this new venture. Past and present missionaries provided first-hand accounts of life on the mission field and those with specialised skills in linguistics, electrical, mechanical, medical, and technical subjects dealt with these matters in a practical and engaging way. A certified first-aid course was provided and successfully completed by all the

students. The format of each class provided opportunity for questions and informal discussion, with appropriate notes being supplied for each module.

The new missionary course commenced in September 2023 and concluded in May 2024. Sincere thanks are due to Rev Timothy Nelson (College Principal) for his assistance and encouragement, and to all the lecturers who ably taught the subjects assigned to them. It is the prayer of the Mission Board that, as we continue to see the Free Presbyterian missionary endeavour around the world increase, these classes – along with all the other College classes – will provide a scriptural, solid, and very suitable foundation for the training of young men and women. Readers are asked to remember the vital work of our Bible College and those whom God has called to serve Him whether at home or abroad. ■

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

Encouragement and Prayer for the Home Evangelists



Working alone is not easy and yet for most of our home evangelists a large proportion of their work is done alone without fellow missionaries or workers, be it when they are: studying for meetings; traveling to meetings; doing outreach on the doors; taking school assemblies; holding open airs; or visiting homes – to mention but a few examples. No complaint has ever been heard from our home evangelists regarding this challenging aspect of their ministry but knowing the importance of encouraging

one another in the LORD, set times have been organised so that our home evangelists and members of the Mission Board are able to come together for fellowship and prayer.

As a Mission Board we thank the LORD for the opportunity to not only hear of the many openings God is giving our home missionaries in evangelism and the burdens that are on their hearts for souls, but we also thank the LORD for the opportunity to bring these matters

together before Him in prayer, asking Him to bless every opening and draw souls to Christ.

We also thank the LORD for those who have professed faith in Christ as a result of our home missionaries' labours and we look forward to eternity when we will see first-hand the reality of the abundant fruit that their work will have been used of God to accomplish.

1 Corinthians 15:57-58: '...thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.' ■

✍ **Rev Paul Foster**

Work Teams to Kenya and Uganda

Servants of the LORD come in many shapes and forms and are often seen when a need arise.

With new missionaries being sent to Kenya and Uganda in the coming months, two work teams were sent by the Mission Board to complete important work on the missionary accommodation. Below is a report from the work teams' leader, Kyle Wenlock.

KENYA

At the end of April, the first work team travelled to Kenya to complete upgrades on the two mission houses at Milimani. We arrived at the mission station on Saturday afternoon, and after a welcome rest on the Lord's Day, we commenced work on Monday morning. The plan for the two weeks was as follows:

- Re-wire both mission houses;
- Re-plumb both mission houses, and install water heaters and a pressurising pump complete with control system;
- Upgrade all bathrooms, ensuites, and shower rooms, and fit them with items such as new sanitary ware and showers; and
- Knock down a wall between a shower room and small store to create a new bathroom in the guest house.

We thank the LORD that all work was completed on time, thereby allowing the local contractor to continue with the plastering and tiling. The members of the Kenyan Work Team were: Rev Graham Lucas, Luke Lucas, Caleb Lucas, Sam Snodgrass, Luke Dobbin, Ashley Cotton, Timothy Monteith, Mark Linton, Elaine Wenlock, and Kyle Wenlock. ■

UGANDA



At the end of June, a second work team travelled to Uganda to work on the two new mission houses which are currently under construction at Emmanuel Christian School. The work commenced on the Monday morning and the plan for this trip was as follows:

- Plumb both mission houses, installing all pipework;
- Wire both mission houses, install all cabling, conduit, and boxes;
- Install the supply cables for the new compound and borehole pump; and
- Install a new generator for backup power to the whole site.

Again, we thank the Lord that all the planned work was completed on time,

thereby allowing the local contractor to continue with the plastering and tiling.

The members of the Ugandan Work Team were: Rev Graham Lucas, Luke Lucas, Caleb Lucas, Matthew Bowden, Sam Snodgrass, Andrew Gillespie, Elaine Wenlock, and Kyle Wenlock. On both work teams, Elaine Wenlock had the responsibility of preparing meals and assisting with the work onsite.

All members of the work teams can testify to being richly blessed as they worked together and experienced something of life on the mission field. We would like to thank the Mission Board for the opportunity to serve the Lord in this capacity and for all their help and support.

In the LORD's will, we plan to take teams to Kenya and Uganda at the end of August to complete the second stage of plumbing and electrical work in the missionary accommodation once the local contractors have progressed the work to that stage. Please remember this work in your prayers. ■



MISSIONARY VISION

Welcome Home Service for Rev and Mrs Patterson

On Tuesday 11th June 2024 another milestone was passed in the history of our Mission Board, with a special Welcome Home and Retirement Service for Rev Malcolm and Mrs Alison Patterson. After many years of faithful service in Kenya, a large and representative congregation gathered in Coleraine FPC to give thanks to God for His blessing upon the labours of His servants.

Rev Harris (Chairman of the Kenyan Subcommittee) led the service and the opening praise set the tone for the whole evening: 'To God be the glory! Great things He hath done!' After Rev David Brown opened in prayer, Mr David Aiken informed the congregation of how Rev Patterson started his service for the Lord as a Sunday School Teacher in the Omagh Congregation. One of his pupils was the Rev James Porter. Rev Samuel Murray, our Moderator of Presbytery, brought greetings to Rev and Mrs Patterson, paying tribute to their sacrifice in leaving home and family to lovingly serve the Lord in Kenya.

Mr Alastair Hamilton (Treasurer of the Mission Board) presented a gift to Rev and Mrs Patterson on behalf of the



Board, highlighting Rev Patterson's conscientious service in helping to establish the witness of Glory Bible Church and how Mrs Patterson's life was used to touch the hearts of both young and old.

Rev Patterson thanked God for His goodness to him, to Alison, and to their family over their years of service in Kenya. He thanked the Mission Board for the opportunity which was given to him to go to Kenya and for all who had supported them during their years on the field. Rev Patterson asked for prayer for the Kenyan brethren in Glory Bible Church and Bible Christian Faith Church. He thanked God for raising up Mr and Mrs Glenn Hamilton and family, together with Miss Elizabeth Edwards, whom the Mission Board under the Lord are sending out to the work.

Rev David McMillan (Secretary of the Mission Board) led in a prayer of

thanksgiving for the lives and service of Rev and Mrs Patterson in Kenya and asked for God's continued blessing on their lives.

Rev Colin Mercer (Chairman of the Mission Board) preached from Acts 11:22-26 on the ministry of Barnabas. The Lord gave to his servant much help, and blessed the preaching not only to the lives of the Pattersons but to all who were gathered. The closing hymn very appropriately was:

*O Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend.*

Rev Paul Foster closed in prayer and gave thanks for the supper, which was kindly provided by the Coleraine congregation. ■

✍ **Rev Ian Harris**

Bibles Bought

In November 2023 the Mission Board released its first ever youth devotional entitled *In All Thy Ways*. We have been greatly encouraged at the 1,500 copies which have been bought throughout our own nation and distributed beyond our shores to North America and Africa.

We are also delighted at two consequences which have come as a result of the youth devotional sales. The first is that young people have reported of their encouragement through the book; and the second is that, due to the large quantity of the books sold, material has been able to be bought for our Home Evangelists to use in their outreach. This material includes 300 children's Bibles, 110

outreach Bibles, 30 New Testaments and Psalms, and thousands of Gospel tracts.

Please pray that the LORD will not only bless His Word as it goes forth through the youth devotional, but also that the LORD will bless His Word as it goes forth in the evangelistic material to people of all ages throughout our province. ■

SENDING FORTH

SERVICES FOR NEW MISSIONARY FAMILIES



“Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

HAMILTON FAMILY



FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER,
8PM



Venue: Ballymena FPC
Speaker: Rev C Mercer
Singers: Ballymena Choir

McAULEY FAMILY



THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER,
8PM



Venue: Hebron FPC, Ballymoney
Speaker: Rev D McMillan
Singers: Stephen Greer,
Ethan McKillen, Anna Maternaghan

Please plan to attend these special services as these two families leave home to serve the Lord in Africa.

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Dates For The Diary

SEPTEMBER

5th

LIMAVADY FPC, 60TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Time: 8pm

Speaker: Rev Samuel Murray

8th - 15th

LIMAVADY FPC, 60TH ANNIVERSARY GOSPEL MISSION

Time: Sundays 7pm, Mon - Fri 8pm

Preacher: Rev Matthew Higgins

8th - 22nd

GOSPEL MISSION in BALLYMONEY HIGH SCHOOL (organised by Hebron FPC)

Time: Sundays 7pm, Mon - Fri 8pm

Evangelist: Rev David Park

Singers and testimonies

22nd - 29th

CARRYDUFF FPC, GOSPEL MISSION at Ballymacbrennan Mission Hall

Time: Sundays 3.30pm, Mon - Fri 8pm

Evangelists: Rev David McLaughlin
and Mr Noel Shields

Singers and testimonies

29th Sept - 13th Oct

MOURNE FPC, GOSPEL MISSION at Riverside Farm (kindly granted)

Time: Sundays 3.30pm, Mon - Fri 8pm

Evangelists: Revs R Higginson and T Martin

30th Sept - 4th Oct

MOUNT MERRION FPC, BIBLE CONFERENCE WEEK

Theme: 'Looking Unto Jesus'

Time: Mon - Fri 8pm, Sunday 7pm

Speaker: Rev Gordon Dane

OCTOBER

6th - 7th

MONEYSLANE FPC, HARVEST WEEKEND

Time: Sunday 12 noon and 7pm, Monday 8pm

Speakers: Revs R Robinson, A Stewart,
and J Patterson

8th - 20th

MONEYSLANE FPC, HARVEST GOSPEL MISSION at Annahinchago Orange Hall

Time: Sundays 3.30pm, Mon - Fri 8pm

Evangelist: Rev Daniel Henderson

13th - 18th

ANNALONG FPC, HARVEST GOSPEL MISSION

Visiting preachers and singers each evening

26th

ANNALONG FPC, MEN'S DAY CONFERENCE

Time: 9:30am: Meet and greet with refreshments

10am - 12:15pm: Opening sessions

12:30pm: Lunch

1:15pm: Final session

Subject: The Inspiration, Infallibility &
Interpretation of the Scriptures

Preachers: Revs Patrick Baker, Gregory
McCammon, Simon Anderson

NOVEMBER

17th - 22nd

AGHALEE FPC, 25TH ANNIVERSARY GOSPEL MISSION

Time: Sunday 6.30pm, Mon - Fri 8.00pm

Evangelist: Rev Thomas Martin

Whitefield College of the Bible

Graduation and Commencement Service

BALLYMENA FPC,

MONDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 8PM

Preacher: Rev Samuel Murray (Moderator of Presbytery)

Refreshments afterwards

Free Presbyterian
VISION

