

FREE PRESBYTERIAN VISION



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

'The Chariot of Israel and the Horsemen'

A Personal Acknowledgement of Dr Paisley

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Portadown Installation



How can I benefit from the Old Testament?



New Elders in Omagh



Changes in Australia



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Missionary Vision

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Editorial

Rejoice with them that do rejoice,
and weep with them that weep."

(Romans 12:15) Paul's counsel to believers at Rome is just one of a series of very practical exhortations found in this part of the letter. Sometimes, it is easier to recall the words than to put them into practice.

The frailties of human nature mean that we do not, in every case, rejoice with the happy and weep with the sad. But, says the apostle, this is not just about instincts, it is about what we must strive to do as those who belong to Christ: *"So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another."* (Romans 12:5) The challenges of this chapter are built on the fact that we are organically and inextricably joined to our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ!

Dr Paisley's passing has called forth page upon page of information and analysis.

Whatever our response to popular verdicts, let us remember that there are those who weep, who have suffered a great loss, and we must identify with them and seek to uphold them in our prayers. *"Whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it"* (1 Corinthians 12:26).

And, of course, across our congregations there are so many others who have been led into the valley of tears and who are contending with real heartache. Such sorrow is not dispelled in a moment, and we must remember them with sympathy and care. Through it all, we have the fellowship of a Saviour who is touched *"with the feeling of our infirmities"* (Hebrews 4:15), and the unfailing love of Him who is *"the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort"* (2 Corinthians 1:3).

✉ Timothy Nelson
editor@fpvision.org

FROM EVERLASTING

“I WAS SET UP FROM EVERLASTING,
FROM THE BEGINNING,
OR EVER THE EARTH WAS”

PROVERBS 8:23

From all eternity and in keeping with the divine will of Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Christ was foreordained to the great work of man's redemption. The One who is the glorious Immanuel, the faithful and true witness, has declared, "I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was" (Proverbs 8:23).

If He were not the everlasting God, He could never have been set up (appointed) from everlasting, nor could He have told us what was enacted in the divine mind and council. As "The everlasting Father" (Isaiah 9:6), "His goings forth were from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2). Peter affirms, "He was verily foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by Him do believe in God" (1Peter 1:20,21). As his Father's Elect (Isaiah 42:1), He voluntarily consented to redeem all who were chosen in Him and the Father promised to prepare Him a human nature to be personally united to His divine nature (Hebrews 10:5).

He was set up as a second Adam, the Head of a new covenant of grace and

promise. This covenant was transacted with Him from everlasting and derives all its stability and strength from Him (Psalm 89:3,28). This is what makes it a sure covenant to us. "For as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee. For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee" (Isaiah 54: 9,10).

Christ is our peace and our salvation – the Salvation of God. Old Simeon who held the child Jesus in his arms said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people" (Luke 2:29-31). He is our salvation from sin (Matthew 1:22), Satan (Hebrews 2:14) and the sting of death (1Corinthians 15:55).

**HIS GOINGS
FORTH WERE
FROM OF
OLD, FROM
EVERLASTING.**

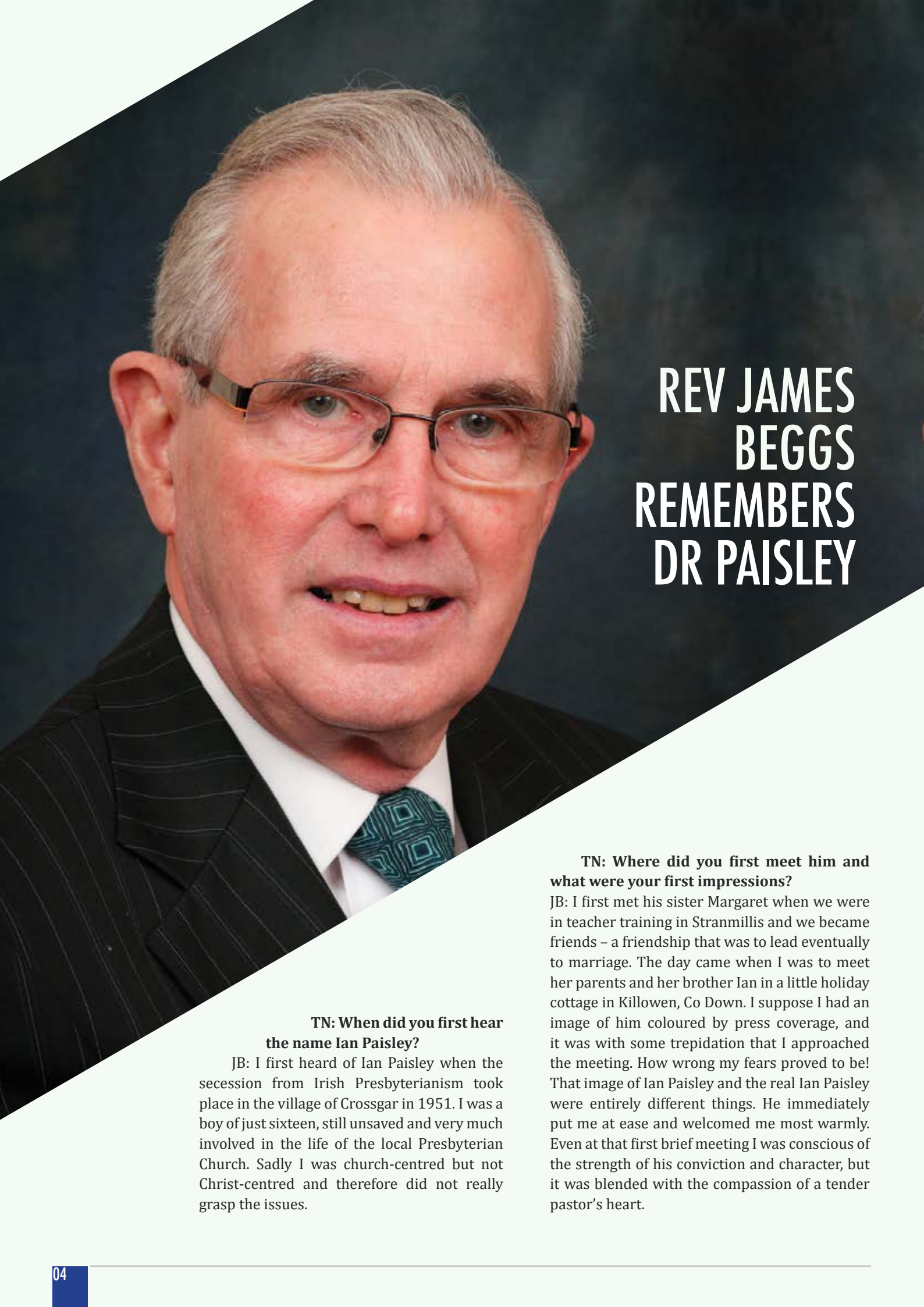
He was set up: as our Saviour and Redeemer to pay the ransom price justice demanded, as our Surety to

pay the debts of bankrupt sinners when He was 'made a surety of a better testament (covenant)' (Hebrews 7:22), and as our Shepherd to gather His Father's flock (Isaiah 40:11). Christ is worthy to be exalted by all who bear testimony for the cause of the gospel. He that set Him up from everlasting will have His cause maintained throughout time, despite

the powers of Hell and the unbelief in hearts that seeks to counteract the work of God from eternity. So then the language and life of faith in Christ cannot but be pleasing unto God who set Him up from everlasting. Even faith itself is the very work of God. "This is the work of God that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (John 6:29).

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THE POWERS
OF HELL.**

∴ **Rev Leslie Curran**, Associate Editor, is the Director of Let the Bible Speak radio ministry in N Ireland, and a regular preacher on its worldwide network of broadcasts.



REV JAMES BEGGS REMEMBERS DR PAISLEY

TN: When did you first hear the name Ian Paisley?

JB: I first heard of Ian Paisley when the secession from Irish Presbyterianism took place in the village of Crossgar in 1951. I was a boy of just sixteen, still unsaved and very much involved in the life of the local Presbyterian Church. Sadly I was church-centred but not Christ-centred and therefore did not really grasp the issues.

TN: Where did you first meet him and what were your first impressions?

JB: I first met his sister Margaret when we were in teacher training in Stranmillis and we became friends – a friendship that was to lead eventually to marriage. The day came when I was to meet her parents and her brother Ian in a little holiday cottage in Killowen, Co Down. I suppose I had an image of him coloured by press coverage, and it was with some trepidation that I approached the meeting. How wrong my fears proved to be! That image of Ian Paisley and the real Ian Paisley were entirely different things. He immediately put me at ease and welcomed me most warmly. Even at that first brief meeting I was conscious of the strength of his conviction and character, but it was blended with the compassion of a tender pastor's heart.

TN: **Would you have had sympathy then with his religious outlook?**

JB: At first I was probably neutral. I was not conversant with the challenges that impacted the faith and the Scriptures at that time. That was all to change. I was introduced to the faithful preaching of the Word of God particularly that of Dr Paisley. This was preaching I had never experienced before. It was Scriptural, Spirit-anointed preaching. God enabled him to preach with power. He had power with God and with men – preaching in which the Lord Jesus Christ was greatly exalted. The apostasy and departure from the faith was also scripturally exposed and the call to ecclesiastical separation sounded forth. My heart was challenged and convicted. I concluded that I could no longer support a system with leaders who denied many of the fundamentals of the Gospel and remain faithful to my great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

TN: **How did you come to be associated with the work in Ballymena?**

JB: When Margaret and I were married in 1961 there was not a single Free Church in Co Tyrone. We determined to commence life together under a Christ-centred, Biblical ministry. So I resigned my teaching position in Dungannon for one in Ballymoney, and we set up home in Ballymena. That brought me under the ministry of Dr Paisley's father, Pastor James Kyle Paisley, in the Gospel Tabernacle. Pastor Paisley was a gracious and Godly man and I was greatly blessed under his spiritual and powerful ministry. He introduced me to preaching. When his health deteriorated I found myself more and more in the pulpit. At the same time the Lord was speaking to me about serving Him in the ministry. After wrestling with the call for over two years, I surrendered to His will and was preparing to apply to the Free Presbyterian Church. However, on the resignation of Pastor Paisley, the congregation in the Gospel Tabernacle called me to succeed him. I was led to accept the call. Then the congregation made application to the Presbytery to be accepted as a constituent congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery confirmed the application and I commenced a period of studies in the Theological Hall. I was licensed as a Gospel preacher and the new congregation officially constituted on the 4th November 1966, two days after Dr Paisley was released from his first imprisonment.

TN: **Could you tell us something of Dr Paisley's evangelistic campaigns in Ballymena?**

JB: Dr Paisley had a number of campaigns in Ballymena, all of which were wonderfully blessed of God, but the one which stands out was in 1975 in the Town Hall with Rev William McCrea as the song leader. A remarkable spirit of earnest, fervent prayer preceded the Mission, while expectancy increased as the meetings commenced.

The first Sunday afternoon the hall was well filled. Dr Paisley preached with great power. When the appeal was made souls numbering in the teens indicated their need of salvation. I must confess that our unbelief was exposed for we had made no practical preparation to deal with such numbers. Frantically we opened up rooms and found counsellors to speak to sinners. God sometimes blesses us in spite of ourselves! Instrumental in the blessing, I believe, were the three messages Dr Paisley preached to God's people in the first week. I can remember looking down at the congregation as Ian preached and seeing so many of God's people openly weeping and getting right with God.

Every evening many professed faith in Christ and a mission planned for two weeks was extended to five. What a blessing the ministry of Dr Paisley and the singing of Rev McCrea was to us during those weeks of visitation! In all over 350 souls were dealt with in the campaign. To God be the glory!

TN: **How would you assess his contribution to Gospel ministry?**

JB: His contribution to the work of God and to the Gospel ministry was massive. I believe that when the history of the church in the second half of the twentieth century is written, the ministry of Dr Ian Paisley, under God, will occupy a major place.

TN: **What do you think were his particular qualities?**

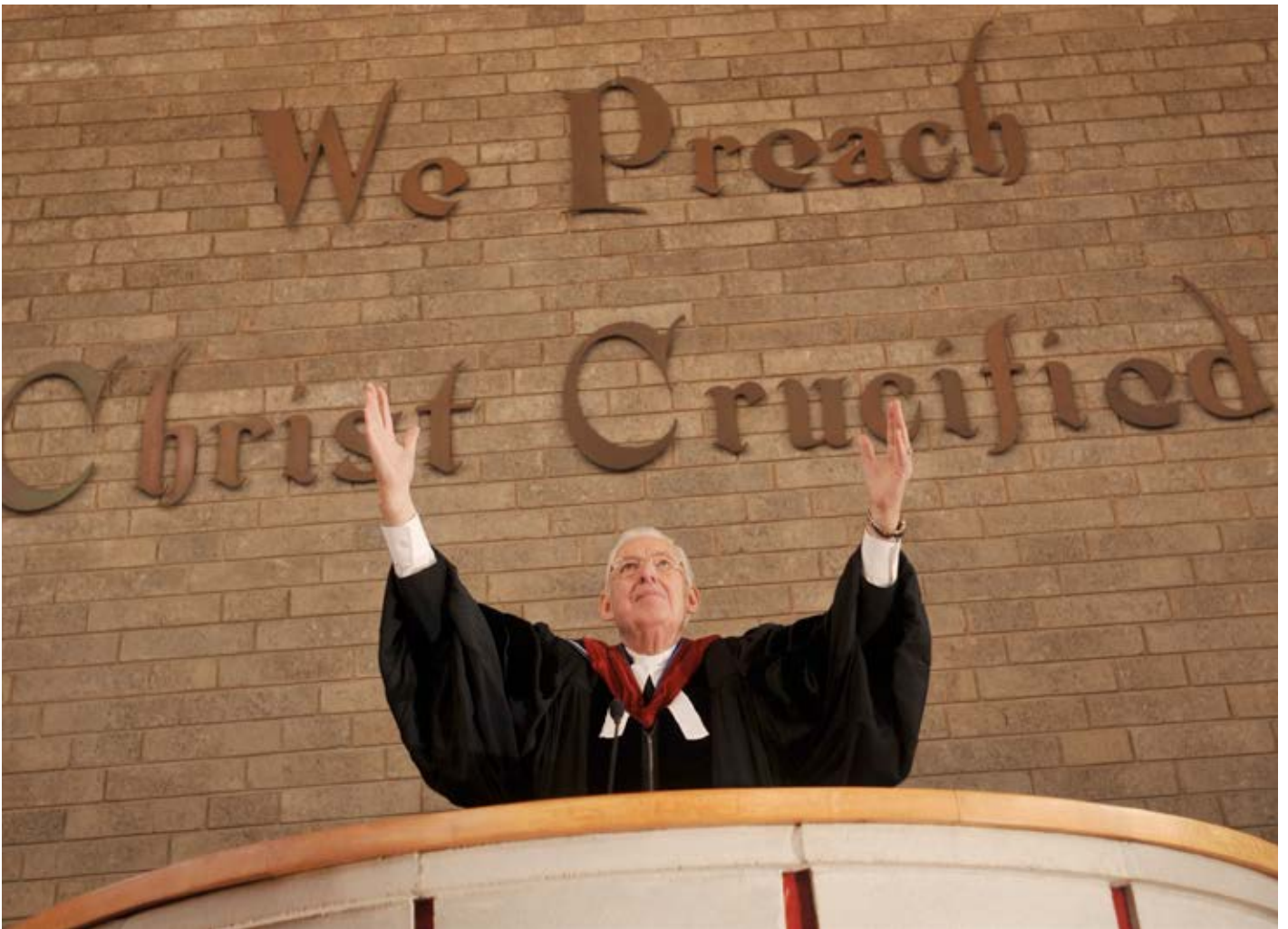
JB: Dr Paisley was preeminently a soul winner. He had a deep love for the Saviour and had an enduring passion for the lost. A multitude of souls have already met him in glory, and many others will follow, all brought to Christ by his faithful ministry.

TN: **Have you a particular personal memory of him as you look back on his life?**

JB: His love and devotion to his wife Eileen, and to his family, always greatly impressed me. In the home setting you really get to know an individual, and it is in sharing with the family that I have some of my happiest memories of Ian Paisley.

‘The Chariot of Israel and the Horsemen’

A Personal Acknowledgement of Dr Paisley



Ido not know of a more appropriate statement in the entire Bible by which to describe my feelings about the death of Dr. Paisley than these words uttered by Elisha in tribute to Elijah: *“My Father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof”* (2 Kings 2:12). Here is evidence of three things.

SADNESS

No more could Elisha fellowship with

Elijah. No more would he hear his voice. And he is devastated. “He took hold of his own clothes and rent them in two pieces” (v12) – a sign of deep distress and extreme sorrow. But Elisha was sad not on account of Elijah’s circumstances; he knew that Elijah was now in a most happy and glorious state. Dr Paisley, speaking at an Easter convention, once said, *‘One day the Belfast Telegraph will report that Ian Paisley is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it!! I will be more alive*

than ever in the glory’. And it is true!

No, Elisha was lamenting his own loss. Can you not feel the pain? Do you hear the agony as he cries, *“My father, my father”*, not his literal father, but his spiritual father, his father in the ministry, the one to whom he owed so much. Now he has lost that fellowship and guidance. Elijah has gone to heaven. We feel the loss of Dr Paisley, and that loss is many times compounded for his family.

WITNESS

This expression, *'the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof'*, is Elisha's witness to the influence Elijah had upon him and upon the whole nation. Normally, chariots were referred to in the plural. Here it is singular and is used to describe Elijah, Elisha's witness to this one man. He is saying that Elijah was worth more to the nation than all the chariots of Israel and all of its horsemen! Dr Paisley was the Elijah of our day. What an influence he had upon the church – and upon my own life and that of my family!

I first attended the Ravenhill church in my mid teens. God blessed the ministry of Dr Paisley mightily. The church grew. The building became too small. The Ulster Hall was taken on Sunday nights, then later for both services. I am sorry that our younger members did not hear the Dr Paisley of those days. That building was used for all kinds of activities during the week but on Sundays the atmosphere was sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit upon His servant. Those were 'red hot' gospel meetings!

Then at school we were to write about the person who had most influenced our lives. I chose Dr Paisley. I received a dressing down: "Ron, you will ruin your life if you associate with that man and his church. He will just get you into trouble!" Well, such trouble has been an honour.

What a store of memories there are! I think of the missions when scores were converted, the Sunday morning when 200 were received into membership – yes, 200! – the amazing love for souls Dr Paisley manifested. And, of course he had such an interest in missionary work.

When we were in Papua New Guinea it was mentioned in Martyrs that we needed a two way radio because we were located in such a remote area. It would cost hundreds. I am told Dr Paisley stood up and announced, 'We have to raise this money. Let's give!' That's the big heart he had! Only eternity will reveal his generosity.

Then, in 1980, he gave me opportunity to preach in Carrickfergus – he was my senior minister for over 4 years. I had

the honour to be Presbytery Minute Secretary for 16 years. I sat with him and observed, first-hand, his retentive memory, quick mind and tremendous sense of humour.

Elijah was noted for his confrontation with the false prophets of Baal. Hundreds were against him yet he faced them with courage on Mt Carmel. In the 1950's and 60's Dr Paisley had many confrontations, motivated, as were Elijah's, by a love for God's honour. I remember crowding around a TV in the 1960s to watch the Oxford Union debate. He was so effective, so courageous. We were so proud of our minister!

He battled against English Methodists Donald Soper, who denied the deity of Christ, and Leslie Weatherhead, who said that Christ's virgin birth was only a myth. Many will remember his brave stand against the Pope years later in the European Parliament.

Think of how the Bible, Old and New Testament, witnesses to Elijah as a man of prayer. What communion Dr Paisley had with his God! He would just talk to the Lord in such intimate terms — as friend with friend. With the sorrowing and hurting he drew the comfort of heaven as he prayed. What an experience to be in a prayer meeting and hear his soul-searching calls to the throne of grace! He had power in prayer.

GLADNESS

Elijah went to glory. Dr Paisley is absent from the body, present with the Lord. We are glad that he is at home with the Lord he loved. Yet just as we still read about Elijah and learn from him, so we are thankful for Dr Paisley's legacy. Hundreds of sermons are available on Sermon Audio. There are video clips. I watched a 30-minute compilation of his preaching made by an Australian. And his books will be useful for generations to come. *'He being dead yet speaketh'*.

Note that Elisha continued the work and witness. Dr Paisley often said, *'God buries his workmen but the work of God goes on'*. The Free Presbyterian Churches

marching on, here and overseas, are his legacy. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr Paisley for his sacrificial labours in the commencement and consolidation of the Free Presbyterian witness. As Moderator, I had the privilege of presenting a framed Presbytery resolution to Dr Paisley. It reads:

With thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus Christ, the great King and only Head of the Church, we, the ministers and elders of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster, commend you in the Name of Christ for your years of faithful leadership as Moderator of the General Presbytery of the Church.

We give praise to God for the singular and numerous gifts with which He has blessed you and for the diligence with which you have sought to employ those gifts in the establishment and advancement of the work of our various congregations, not only in Ulster but also across the world. Your

evangelistic zeal, your passion for souls, your vision to establish a Presbyterian Church that would stand for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ against the attacks of ecumenical apostasy, and your dedication to the glory of God will ever be an inspiration to us all.

On completion of your years of faithful labours as Moderator we commend you to God and to the word of His grace and commit ourselves to be faithful in pursuing the vision that the Lord, through you, has set before us.

"Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" (v14) Well, Elijah's God still lives today! But another question should follow, a question that every believer needs to answer: *Where are God's Elijahs?* The memory and example of Dr Paisley is a challenge and inspiration to us all. May God enable us to be zealous for the Lord in our own generation!

∴ This article is an adapted and much abbreviated version of a message preached by **Dr Ron Johnstone** in Newtownards on Sunday 21st September – *Editor*

Presbytery Statement on the Death of **Dr. Ian. R. K. Paisley**

*Former Moderator of the General Presbytery of the
Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster*



It is with deep sadness and regret that we have learned of the passing of **Dr. Paisley, retired minister of our denomination and former Moderator of the General Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster.**

We pay tribute to the many, many years of faithful Gospel ministry that Dr. Paisley exercised both in Northern Ireland and also farther afield. Under the hand of God, Dr. Paisley was mightily used of the Lord in the conversion of many to Jesus Christ. Throughout the Free Presbyterian Church at home and abroad and in various other Christian churches there are large numbers of people who recognise Dr. Paisley as the instrument God used to bring them to the Saviour.

We remember also the huge contribution that Dr. Paisley made to the foundation and formation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster; and we salute his gifted leadership in his role as Moderator of Presbytery over many decades.

We are grateful that through Dr. Paisley's faithful and anointed preaching of God's Word and the stand he took for Christ's cause, the Spirit of God raised a Biblical witness against apostasy from Christ. And we thank the Lord that this witness for truth continues under the blessing of God to this day.

We publicly extend to his wife and family our sincere Christian sympathy on the home-going of their dear loved one. In their time of deepest loss, when their hearts are broken and grief-stricken, we assure them of our prayerful support.

"...Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee." Isaiah 43:1-2

On behalf of the General Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster:

Rev. John Greer *Moderator*
Rev. Thomas Murray
Deputy-Moderator
Rev. Ian Brown *Clerk*

Martyrs' Memorial Remembers

Fulsome tributes were paid to Dr Paisley in the church where he had ministered for so long on the Lord's Day following his passing. Rev Ian Brown, who succeeded the former Moderator in the summer of 2013, spoke warmly of Dr Paisley's ability as a preacher and observed that it was

not surprising that his ministry had attracted vast congregations.

Clerk of Session Maurice Bannatyne identified with the minister's tribute and acknowledged that Dr Paisley would be missed. Many in Martyrs' shared fond memories of a long and fruitful ministry.



Top: With Rev George Stears and office-bearers of Crossgar, 1951

Middle Left: Farewell Service, Lord Bannside 2012

Middle Right: 60th Anniversary at Martyrs Memorial with Rev. Gordon Dane

Bottom Right: 60th Anniversary at Martyrs Memorial with Rev. and Mrs Ron Johnstone



NOBODY'S PERFECT



It is ironic that the words 'Nobody's perfect' are often used to comfort when they actually condemn. The phrase is often used to excuse some indiscretion in word or deed: 'Sure, nobody's perfect!' And it expresses a solemn truth stated in Scripture: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). As such, the admission of universal imperfection, is an admission of universal sin. If we are to walk with God we must first reckon with the consequences of sin.

Sin has a solemn Legal Consequence.

The Bible gives God the title 'Judge of all the earth.' His judgments are fair and just, and are based on His holy law. Sin renders us legally guilty before the Judge of all the earth for sin is transgression of the law of God (1 John 3:4). The law is given, in part, to bring guilt upon all the earth (Romans 3:19). As guilty sinners we are under the condemnation and sentence of the law. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die", for "the wages of sin is death" (Ezekiel 18:4, Romans 6:23). In our guilt we are worthy and deserving of the justice of God in hell. Do you see what it means to say 'Nobody's perfect?'

WHAT HOPE IS THERE? ONLY IN GOD WHO THROUGH THE CROSS HAS PROVIDED THE WAY FOR THE GUILT OF SIN TO BE REMOVED.

seeketh after God" (Romans 3:11). The unsaved do not come to Christ because they do not want to! By nature, our emotions are corrupted so that we love the pleasures of sin more than the pursuit of God (2 Timothy 3:2-4). How awful that 'nobody's perfect'!

What hope is there? Only in God who through the cross has provided the way for the guilt of sin to be removed (Colossians 2:14); only in God who through His Spirit is able to make us new creatures in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Thankfully Christ died for and God justifies the ungodly (Romans 5:6 and 4:5). For, don't forget: 'Nobody's perfect!'

Sin has Profound Moral Consequences

Sin affects the entirety of our being. "The heart of the sons of men is full of evil" (Ecclesiastes 9:3). Sin and depravity affect the whole man. Naturally, our minds are darkened to truth. "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" (Ephesians 4:18). Our wills and choices are enslaved to sin. "There is none that understandeth there is none that

FROM THE OLD TO THE YOUNG

"Man was once a companion for God Himself, but sin has separated between God and him, and has robbed man of his primitive existence. From being a lord, he is become a servant, indeed, a slave to creatures, to devils and lusts of all sorts... It is not any one faculty only that sin has defiled, but, like a strong poison, it soaks and eats through them all... so that whereas all was holy, and holiness to the Lord, it is now evil and evil against the Lord."

- Ralph Venning, The Plague of Plagues 1669

How can I Benefit from the Old Testament?

This month, Rev. Philip Gardiner (Perth, Australia) was asked:

How can I benefit from the Old Testament?

Paul, writing to Timothy, said *“And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 3:15).* Paul was referring to the Old Testament scriptures. The Lord had taken those scriptures and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, had made them effectual to Timothy’s salvation.

It is sad that those same Old Testament scriptures are so neglected by many of God’s people today, since, like the New Testament, they are given by inspiration to furnish us as Christians (2 Timothy 3:16-17). By this neglect they miss out on much blessing and the equipping that the Lord gives through His Word. How may we benefit from this priceless resource?

ALWAYS LOOK FOR CHRIST

The key to reading the Old Testament is to look for our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the theme of every book of the Old Testament. The Lord Jesus Himself set the example for us to search for Him in the Old Testament (Luke 24:27).

- Look for the **person** of Christ. Sometimes the Lord Jesus Christ is seen appearing as the Angel of the Lord.

- Look for **pictures** of Christ. Sometimes He appears in type, i.e. in some picture form. So the lamp stand in the tabernacle is a type of Jesus Christ as the Light of the World. Boaz purchasing Ruth is a type of Jesus Christ purchasing His people to be His own.

- Look for the **prophecies** of Christ. There are many wonderful prophecies of Christ through the Old Testament. These are not limited to the prophetic books (see for example Deuteronomy 18:18.)


There are some who are reticent to see Christ set forth in types, pictures and parallels. They claim that a passage only has a single meaning and sense. However, they miss the fact that the New Testament itself continuously shows that literal historical events in the Old Testament contain redemptive parallels. (See Matthew 12:40; 2 Corinthians 4:6, and Galatians 4:21-26). The Old Testament is to be read in light of the New, and vice versa.

READ THE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES IN LIGHT OF THEIR HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To benefit most from the study of the Old Testament, keep the historical context in mind. When reading a psalm, pay attention to any background details given in the title. When reading the prophets, keep in mind in which period they were ministering.

UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF GOD’S LAW

One of the reasons so many Christians ignore the Old Testament is



because they do not believe it is relevant for today. Some have misinterpreted the words “ye are not under the law, but under grace” to mean the law has no relevance for the Christian. That is the very opposite of what the scriptures actually teach. The Christian, set free from the condemnation of the law, now delights in the law (Romans 7:22).

The Old Testament law is usually divided into three divisions: the moral law; the ceremonial law, and the civil law. The moral law of God is summarised in the Ten Commandments. The moral law is relevant for every age, from creation through to the Lord’s return. Therefore, every one of the Ten Commandments is emphasised and taught in the New Testament. The ceremonial law relates to the sacrifices and worship that was to be carried out in connection with the Levitical priesthood, the tabernacle and Jerusalem temple. That law pointed forward to Christ and has been fulfilled in the finished work of Christ (Hebrews 9:11-14). The civil law or judicial law related to Israel as a nation living in the Promised Land. While that law contains abiding principles, its actual enactment is not for the Christian today. By way of example we see that the civil law taught that idolatry was to be punished by stoning to death (Deuteronomy 17:5). While that law is not to be administered by the church today, it is still a sin to

engage in idolatry. Keeping these distinctions in mind will help you avoid confusion and glean great blessing.

HAVE A SEARCHING EYE

The Old Testament is full of teaching that is vital for every age. When reading the Old Testament, ask yourself various questions about the passage. For example, ask what it has taught you about God and His attributes and actions. As you read the Old Testament look for the great doctrines of the New Testament that are taught in the catechism such as justification, sanctification, adoption and so on.

that is to be applied. As you read the Old Testament look for lessons for your daily life. Speaking of Old Testament accounts Paul said, “all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition.” (1 Corinthians 10:11). Give time to ponder over the passage you have read and search for practical lessons that you can benefit from.

**THE KEY TO
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FOR OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST. HE IS THE THEME
OF EVERY BOOK OF THE
OLD TESTAMENT..**

MAKE NOTES AND ANNOTATIONS

Some find it helpful when they are reading the scriptures to make notes in a notebook or write brief annotations in their Bible. This might include writing relevant New Testament references beside a passage or verse.

You could record what you believe are the key words, phrases or verses in a passage.

SEARCH FOR APPLICATION

The Word of God is not merely a book to be studied and learned – it is a book

MAKE USE OF STUDY AIDS

Make use of the margin in your Bible and Bible maps. Some books of the Old Testament are hard to study without help from commentaries. The commentaries of Matthew Poole and Matthew Henry are always full of helpful suggestions. While a commentary should never take the place of the scriptures it can be useful in your study of the Bible.

I trust that like the two on the Emmaus Road your heart will burn as you read the Old Testament scriptures! (Luke 24:32).



Top: Youth Council 40th Anniversary Rally
Middle: Youth Council Summer Outreach, Larne Team
Left: Youth Council Summer Outreach, Glasgow Team
Above: Dromore Youth Fellowship Achievement Award
 Jordan Kenny is pictured receiving the Achievement Award for 2013-14. Also in the picture are Mr R Poots, Youth Worker, and Rev I Kenny.

A WORD TO WOMEN

“BELOVED, THINK IT NOT STRANGE CONCERNING THE FIERY TRIAL WHICH IS TO TRY YOU.”

(1 PETER 4:12)

Earlier this year, as part of our holiday, we visited the beautiful city of Rome. One of the highlights was seeing the impressive Colosseum, where many early Christians were martyred for their faith. I gazed in awe and wonder at its sheer size and the magnificent architecture that remains even today. I thought of the thousands who had suffered brutality and death at the hands of the Roman authorities, and I asked myself, “Would I be prepared to take my stand and sacrifice all like those early Christians? Would I so willingly lay down my life for His cause?” I’m not sure that I could answer with an emphatic “Yes”. What courage and integrity those early believers showed, those “of whom the world was not worthy” (Hebrews 11:38)

As we strolled through the narrow streets of Rome, I wondered had Paul perhaps walked in those same streets? And so my thoughts were led to the book of Romans itself, to learn a little more about the real people mentioned there, the ordinary citizens who had walked those streets, and who, in many cases, had laid down their lives for their Lord and Saviour.

Romans 16 lists some who had a profound influence on the life of Paul. When he greeted the Christians in Rome, many ladies were included, ladies who are not well known to us, who appear but fleetingly on the pages of Scripture. And yet these ladies were important to the apostle; ladies like Mary (v6) “*who bestowed much labour on us*”, Tryphena and Tryphosa (v12) “*who labour in the Lord and Persis (12) who “laboured much in the Lord”*”.

These ladies all laboured with intensity and vigour for the cause of Christ. Yet they were largely unknown. We know their names but little else, but the apostle recognised their work. More importantly, the Lord knew their efforts. Perhaps you are feeling discouraged in your efforts for the Lord, your name is not known and you receive little recognition, but remember you are known to the Lord. Your name is written in the Lamb’s book of life (Revelation 21:27). Paul doesn’t mention

great gifts, wealth or outgoing personalities. No, these were ordinary people but they worked hard, serving the Lord however they could. Is this our testimony? Are we like those in Nehemiah’s day who “*had a mind to work*” (Nehemiah 4:6)?

Reading Rom 16, it is clear that women were involved in the missionary work of the early church. Priscilla opened her home to the church in Ephesus and later in Rome. She was a great encouragement to Apollos (Acts 18:26). Priscilla and Aquila had, at some point, intervened to save the Paul’s life, for he wrote, “*greet Priscilla and Aquila..... who have for my life laid down their own necks*” (Romans 16:3-4).

The Bible teaches that God’s people are to expect a certain amount of suffering. If we are trying to live a godly life in this dark, evil world we can expect opposition and persecution. 2 Timothy 2:12 affirms that “*all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*”. Perhaps Christian, you are feeling the heat of persecution at this moment in your life. It may be within your own family or in your workplace, because you have taken a stand for the Lord. Well, remember 1 Peter 4:12-13, “*Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy*”. While physical persecution may not threaten our lives, we must pray often for the saints around the world who are in constant danger.

There is a reward for those who suffer for righteousness sake. Those who have suffered on earth will share in His glory in Heaven. What a wonderful prospect lies before us! Let us then “*press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God*” (Philippians 3:14).

∴ **Alison Armstrong** lives in Portavogie, N Ireland. She is the wife of the Free Presbyterian minister there, active in the life of the congregation, and works as a primary school teacher.

READING ROM 16, IT IS CLEAR THAT WOMEN WERE INVOLVED IN THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE EARLY CHURCH.

DISTINCTIVES

FEATURES OF FREE PRESBYTERIANISM

A COMMITTED MEMBERSHIP

To survey the religious scene in the area where I minister is to be struck by the fact that many congregations in the mainline denominations are no longer single charges, that is, they share a minister with one or more sister churches. Were we to apply the criteria employed in these denominations, most of our own congregations would not be considered viable. That such congregations are sustained throughout our province and elsewhere is testimony, under God, to the faithfulness and sacrifice of our ministers and members.

Communicant membership in the Free Presbyterian Church is for those with a personal, saving interest in the Lord Jesus Christ. No man is born to such membership, nor does he attain it because he has reached a certain age, or because he contributes to its activities. Membership in the local church requires membership, first of all, in the body of Christ, when the individual is joined to Him in faith and brought to acknowledge Him as Saviour and Lord. However it is clear that God's purpose is not that such individuals maintain an independent spirit or drift along aimlessly, but that they are joined to the local fellowship. *"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* (Acts 2:47) – as there were new converts, so the natural thing was for them to be added to the congregation at Jerusalem, and for them to play a full part in its

COMMUNICANT MEMBERSHIP IN THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS FOR THOSE WITH A PERSONAL, SAVING INTEREST IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

life and witness, something of which is detailed in the previous verses. Over the years the Free Presbyterian Church has been blessed with a committed membership: without such dedicated men and women this denomination would not have advanced in N Ireland and far beyond!

WORSHIPPING

Unlike many other fellowships, Free Presbyterian congregations have maintained a commitment to regular worship services. This means meeting morning and evening on the Lord's Day. Such gatherings represent a means of honouring this special day. They are testimony to the reality of our faith in the community where God has placed us. They provide teaching and evangelistic opportunities. And, not least, they promote fellowship and foster mutual encouragement among believers (Hebrews 10:24-25). Is it any wonder that we are so wedded to these weekly assemblies? Historically, Free Presbyterians have demonstrated a willingness to attend regularly – in an age of diminishing church attendance, we must see to it that this sad trend finds no acceptance among us!

GIVING

This year witnessed the launch of our new denominational web site.

Just a glance at that resource will remind you of the many wonderful buildings erected throughout our province, often by relatively small congregations, and of the wide range of ministries pursued

by those congregations and by the church as a whole. This is indicative of the Lord's goodness to us! But it is also a tribute to the practice of good stewardship. Free Presbyterians have been generous in their giving, responding with an open hand to every fresh challenge, remembering that regular support of the Lord's work is worship (1 Corinthians 16:1-2) and that God promises to bless those who faithfully bring their tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:10 cf Philippians 4:15-19).

A recent survey proved that 'Christians' – I suspect the term was used rather loosely – were best at contributing to 'worthy causes'. There is no cause more worthy than the propagation of the Gospel, and many in our denomination have gone the second mile in providing for the establishment and extension of evangelistic endeavours.

MINISTERING

Have you ever heard the expression 'one man ministry'? It is sometimes used to indict those in the Presbyterian constituency – because, I suppose, we usually have one teaching elder, the minister (1 Timothy 5:17). Not only does this charge betray a pitiful misunderstanding of Presbyterian offices, which are plural and eminently Biblical, it also demonstrates a woeful ignorance of what actually goes on in Free Presbyterian churches! We have ever so many men, women, young people, who give of their time and talents to serve in a multitude of ministries. Pulpit supply, Bible classes, Sunday Schools, weekly children's clubs, music, activities for senior citizens, video and audio recording,

secretarial work, building and grounds maintenance, finance, hospitality – these are just some of the areas that need to be staffed ‘week in week out’, and without the faithfulness of church members it would be quite impossible!

Peter reminds us that we all have responsibility to serve: *“As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”* (1 Peter 4:10) Church members are not to be spectators but participants, willingly employing what God has given them for the good of the church as a whole (Romans 12:4-8). And we can be thankful that God has blessed, and is blessing, our denomination with those who, without fanfare or fuss, continue to serve, and to serve well. Believer, don’t be content to leave the work to others, look to God for indication of how He has gifted you, then humbly present that gift for the benefit of your congregation and for His glory!

SHARING

People have often remarked on the fellowship in the Free Presbyterian Church. If that fellowship is warm it is further testimony to the character of our members. However, in an age where there little understanding of what fellowship is, I offer this definition recently discovered: ‘Fellowship is participating together in the life and truth made possible by the Holy Spirit through our union with Christ.’ Fellowship, then, is about our common experience of God Himself – and in the context of the church, it is about members belonging to each other; it is about shared life. At our best, this is what we have had, and have, in our denomination, realising that we are intimately related and practically connected as members of Christ. Thus, *“whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it”* (1 Corinthians 12:26). We readily identify with brothers and sisters, remembering that, whatever divides us, in the most important matter of all, we are brothers and sisters! For a summary of how this is worked out in practice you might consider the many times the New Testament uses the words “one another” – loving, honouring, rejoicing, serving, forgiving, encouraging, praying – all are there, and many more, the essence of true fellowship among the members of His church.

I am personally thankful for the many committed members of the Free Presbyterian Church who have enriched my life and whose dedication makes our denomination what it is. May God bless every one of you! And may He continue to raise up others to shoulder the burden, and to ensure that the testimony of this church we all love will thrive for many years to come!

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∴ **Rev Timothy Nelson**, Editor, is the minister of Sixmilecross Free Presbyterian Church, N Ireland. He lectures in Biblical Exegesis in the denomination’s Theological Hall.

PORTADOWN INSTALLATION



Rev Darryl Abernethy has been installed as Co Minister of the Portadown congregation. Rev Kenneth Elliot led the installation service at which Rev P Fitzsimons preached the gospel and Moderator Rev Greer brought a powerful charge to the new minister and congregation from 1st Samuel 3:21. Other ministers participated and a gracious sense of the Lord's presence was known. Please pray for Rev Abernethy as he commences his new ministry.

NEW ELDERS FOR OMAGH



Messrs Raymond Little, George Brown and Andrew Dobbin are pictured with their minister Rev J Morrow, Moderator Rev J Greer and Rev T Nelson (acting Clerk) after their ordination and installation in the Omagh congregation. They join existing session members Messrs D Aiken, W McCormick, H McFarland and E Monteith.

FULL ATTENDANCE



Omagh pupil Lauren Kee receives recognition of eight years full attendance at Sunday School from minister Rev J Morrow.

BALLYMAGERNEY STONE LAYING



Dr Stephen Pollock conducted a special stone laying service at Ballymagerney on 13th September. Also contributing were former ministers Revs J Gray and T Nelson and former interim moderator Rev J Hartin. Moderator Rev Greer preached and unveiled a stone alongside Mr R Linden (Clerk of Session), Rev Hartin and Mr Kyle Preston, in memory of his late grandfather, Alex, who provided the site.

'REACH' ROMANIA SUMMER MISSION TEAM

Thirty-one people from "REACH", Portadown, travelled to Romania for a 5 day Children's Bible Camp at Alpinis and a visit to Deborah House. In Bucharest we were greeted by Emil Toader (Youth Leader) and arrived in Sinai at lunchtime. We then travelled through the Carpathian Mountains, taking in the beautiful scenery of many towns and villages.

At lunchtime on Monday 7th July, 45 Romanian children/teens arrived and all our preparations were about to unfold... we were very excited! Our theme was "Exploring Life" and Psalm 139: 14 & Romans 6:23 were the memory verses.

Morning & Evening meetings included choruses, recital of scripture, sharing testimonies & favourite verses, bible stories & quizzes. There were various workshops during the day. The children and young people all had a fantastic time.

We are thankful for the opportunity to get to know the girls from Deborah Homes and to have taken part as a team in the Romanian churches. We trust we have shown God's love to the Romanian people and left a lasting impact through Jesus Christ our LORD. Thanks are due to Rev & Mrs. Barnes and Pastor Groza for all their assistance throughout the trip.

∴ Alison Chittick



New Contact Details

Rev R McLernon
3 Castlehill Close
Ballymoney
BT 53 6RP

M: 07933 232 535

MOURNE INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

FULL TIME TEACHER REQUIRED. PRIMARY LEVEL.

Applications in writing to:

The Administrator, 5 Carrigenagh Rd, Kilkeel. BT34 4NE



NEW STUDENTS

Five new students commenced in the September term. Pictured are Sarah Stewart (Armagh), Andrew Simpson (Magherafelt), Daniel Henderson (Bridlington), Aaron Fitzsimons (Hillsborough) and Timothy Ormerod (Cloghmills).

GRADUATION & COMMENCEMENT SERVICE

Rev Alan Smylie (Academic Committee Convener) presided at the Whitefield College's annual Graduation and Commencement Service held in Ballygowan on Tuesday 9th September.

A capacity congregation heard a pleasing report from College Principal Rev Gordon Ferguson and witnessed the graduation of seven students: Grace Beattie, Luke Barker, Robert Little, Stephen McCrea, Armen Thomassian, Paul Foster and Craig Dennison – the last four of whom were also licensed for the ministry. Moderator Rev Greer preached powerfully from John 4.



MISSIONARY VISION

CHANGES IN AUSTRALIA

The General Presbytery, at its September meeting, received the resignation of Rev. Ian Hall from the ministry in Port Lincoln and Lock congregations on the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia as of 16th July 2014. Rev. Hall had received and accepted a call from Launceston Southern Presbyterian Church in Tasmania. The churches in Port Lincoln and Lock expressed their sincere appreciation for his ministry and their sadness at his departure, and reaffirmed their determination to press on with the witness of the Gospel in the Free Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery approved the placement of licentiate Mr Andrew Fitton for one year to help cover the pulpit ministry. Mission

Board expressed its deep appreciation of Mr Fitton's willingness to go and minister in the vacant congregations.

A 'Sending Forth' service for Mr Fitton, held in Dungannon Free Presbyterian Church on Tuesday 16th September, was conducted by Mission Board Chairman, Rev Ian Harris. Also participating were Revs A Smylie, G Wilson, J Hartin and Mr George McConnell who brought greetings and presented a gift to Mr Fitton on behalf of the Mission Board.

Rev John Greer, Moderator of Presbytery, preached on the sending forth of Saul and Barnabas by the early church, encouraging those in attendance to pray that we would know the separating work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of young men for the work of God.



Mr Greer then led the congregation in prayer as the ministers and elders present laid hands on Mr Fitton. Rev D Stewart closed in prayer and gave thanks for the supper kindly provided by the ladies of the Dungannon congregation.

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISER



On Saturday 13th September Judith Crow and Naomi Hanna held a coffee morning and sale fundraiser for the Nepal Orphanage Building Appeal. Naomi reports, "We would like to thank Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church for the use of the Douglas Suite, and all those who kindly helped us in various ways. We were greatly encouraged by the attendance and the amount raised - £2930. Earlier this summer we visited the orphanage. Seeing the work first hand and experiencing the day to day routine was a real blessing. We were overwhelmed by the generosity shown at the fundraiser and we know the money raised is going to a very worthy cause."

DR PAISLEY

MISSION BOARD STATEMENT



On behalf of the Mission Board and Missionary Council of the Free Presbyterian Church we would like to tender our Christian sympathy to Baroness Paisley on the death and home call of her husband, the late Lord Bannside, our dear brother Dr Paisley. We want to assure Mrs Paisley, and her family, Sharon, Rhonda, Cherith, Ian and Kyle, and all their respective families of our prayerful support. To the wider family circle we also want to express our sincere sorrow and pray that the God of all comfort would draw very close at this time of grieving and mourning.

We want to record our gratitude to God for the missionary zeal and vision which Dr Paisley manifested and exemplified throughout his ministry. His long years of service in the Martyrs' Memorial Church was greatly used of God to raise up a whole generation of missionaries who took with them the Good News of the Gospel to the uttermost parts. Many of those have finished their service and gained their

OUR MISSIONARY ENDEAVOUR TODAY IN THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OWES MUCH TO THE VISION AND BURDEN WHICH DR PAISLEY HAD FOR THE FIELDS THAT WERE WHITE ALREADY UNTO HARVEST.

eternal reward, others faithfully labour on to this present day.

A vast number of first and second generation Free Presbyterians grew up in the atmosphere of the great missionary rallies which were held in the Martyrs' Memorial Church each Easter. In those meetings God the Holy Spirit was pleased to

work and call young men and women into the Master's Service. When the



consecration hymn was sung – “Where he may lead me, I will go,” many responded in the heart and said, “Here am I Lord, send me.”

As Moderator his many visits also to the various mission fields in which our church has laboured also proved to be the means of great encouragement, not just to those missionaries whom he visited, but also to the national churches in which they worked. In West and East Africa, in Spain, in Australia, in Canada and USA, to name a few places in which he visited, the Lord’s servant left his mark for God.

His personal enthusiasm and support for missionary causes was often the ‘pump primer’ which helped to get many projects off the ground. At home and abroad he had the spirit of a Barnabas and was an encourager of many tired and weary servants in the work of God.

Our missionary endeavour today in the Free Presbyterian Church owes much to the vision and burden which Dr Paisley had for the fields that were white already unto harvest. His work is over but those early seeds which he helped to plant are still growing and

producing eternal gospel fruit which remains unto this day.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them”(Revelation 14:13)

On behalf of the Mission Board and Missionary Council.

∴ **Rev. Ian Harris** Chairman, Mission Board
 ∴ **Rev. David Park** Chairman, Missionary Council

MISSION BOARD DETAILS	Office: Mr George McConnell, 3 Carrigenagh Road, Kilkeel, BT34 4NE, NI T. 44 (0) 28 4176 5574 E. gmckilkeel@aol.com	Chairman: Rev Ian Harris, 23a Moneydaragh Road, Annalong, BT34 4TY T. 028 4376 8040 E. ian.harris960@btinternet.com	Secretary: Rev David Park, 55 Market Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6ED T. 028 2766 2039 E. hebronfpc@btconnect.com
Website	www.fpcmission.org		



DATES FOR THE DIARY

NOVEMBER

9th-14th BALLYMENA, BIBLE WEEK
Time: Sunday at 11.30am & 6.30pm
Monday - Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev J Wagner

9th-14th BANGOR, BIBLE WEEK
Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Monday - Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev G Ferguson
Theme: Holy & Happy Christians

9th-21st MACOSQUIN, GOSPEL MISSION
Time: Sunday at 3.30pm
Monday - Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev R Higginson

16th-30th AGHALEE, GOSPEL MISSION
Time: Sunday at 6.30pm
Monday - Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev I Kenny

29th MOURNE, REOPENING SERVICE
Time: Saturday at 3:30pm
Speaker: Rev J Greer

YOUTH COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH COUNCIL DELEGATES MEETING (Election)
When: 17th November at 8.00pm
Where: Portadown

BIENNIAL YOUTH MISSIONARY WEEKEND
When: 21st to 23rd November 2014
Where: Mullartown House
Annalong
Speakers: Miss J Greer
Revs. P. Fitzsimons
I. Harris, A. Patterson
D. McMillan
Mr G. McConnell

Applications to be received by 9th November, 2014.
See www.fpcyouth.org for details and application form.

SUMMER CAMP
When: 3rd-7th August 2015
Details and booking forms at fpcyouth.org

