

FREE PRESBYTERIAN VISION



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

Has the Roman Catholic Church really changed?

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Editorial

Another year, another issue – it is difficult to believe that we begin the third year of Free Presbyterian Vision. For those of us ‘at the coal face’ there is no respite, one issue merges into the next; indeed much work had been done on this one before you received the last! That said, we are thankful for the Lord’s help throughout 2014, and for your prayers, support, and kind comments. I pay tribute to my associates, all our contributors, our business manager, our first-class design team, and those who handle printing and packaging: without their dedication and commitment none of this would be possible

And what of 2015? As God enables us, we will keep going. Isn’t that just what He requires of us, whatever road life takes us? It may not be particularly exciting; what we do may never make

headlines – but if it is done in the will of God, and for the glory of God, it is no wasted endeavour. Let not the ordinariness of our labours decry their meaning and value in His sight.

Paul sets the right tone: *“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.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58) We must ensure that what we do is done for Him. ‘Have you time enough to eat, to drink, to sleep, to talk unprofitably, it may be corruptly, in all sorts of unnecessary societies, but have not time to live unto God?’ Let not John Owen’s challenging enquiry find us out – but let us, redeemed ourselves, do our utmost to redeem the time.

Timothy Nelson
editor@fpvision.org



“WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD,
THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP
A STANDARD AGAINST HIM.”

ISAIAH 59:19

The people of God face hostile foes on route to glory. While they attack under many guises, their commander in chief is the god of this world. His storm troops, like a wall of flood waters, threaten all who stand in their way. Just as a flood is violent and swift in its action, strong in its motion and incessant in its flow, so are the floods of ungodliness that break upon those in Christ's Kingdom. Satan casts forth floods of temptation, persecution and corruption that even reach into the heart. The pride, carnality and unbelief so often found there are his accomplices and greatly assist him in achieving his goal.

How may such an onslaught be stemmed? It is only by 'lifting up a standard' (Isaiah 59:19). Christ is that standard or ensign for "there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10). Satan's Kingdom can only be ruined and its strongholds pulled down by the lifting up of Christ. Where there is a full and faithful testimony for Christ in opposition to the works of darkness, there the standard is set forth. In the field of battle the victorious general raised his standard as an evidence of the enemy's defeat. So a risen and glorified Saviour is a signal of His victory over all the powers of Hell. The movement of the standard, going before an army, gave direction to the soldiers when they marched. Christ is given for 'a leader and commander to the people' (Isaiah 55:4) and by seeing Him, the saints of God will know the way to take, the course to follow and the pitfalls to avoid

on their homeward march. Thus Paul exhorts believers to run their race with patience 'looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of their faith' (Hebrews 12:1,2).

This royal standard must have a standard bearer or else it is hidden from view. It is the work of the Spirit to testify of Christ. Only He can reveal Christ to the eye of faith. Where the love of Christ is shed abroad in our hearts by the Spirit, and the glory of Christ revealed, the assaults of the devil cannot prevail. A sight of Christ inspires the soul with courage and strength to oppose the enemy when he comes in like a flood. Satan knows he is no match for Christ. His head bears the mark of Christ's heel which has given him a wound that will never heal. When Christ takes the field, the devil loses heart and gives way. Many dangerous floods are raging today with little or no restraint – worldliness, lukewarmness, apostasy. Have we not grieved and quenched the Spirit by our disobedience? The result is an unclear view of Christ, and so we walk in darkness and have no true light. May we all experience the lifting up of the standard in us and over us in this New

Year, so that when the enemy rallies his forces we have the assurance that He is faithful that promised!

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∴ **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.



THE INTERVIEW: RACHEL HAMILTON

ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EDITOR'S BRIEF BUT BLESSED AUTUMN VISIT TO GREENVILLE WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW FELLOWSHIP WITH FRIENDS NOT SEEN FOR SOME YEARS. AMONG THEM WAS RACHEL HAMILTON.

TN: Rachel, tell us a little about your background

RH: My grandparents, Charlotte and Billy Hamilton, served faithfully in Martyrs' Memorial. Their godliness touched my life immeasurably. I was born to Stephen and June while dad was a second year Whitefield College student. Two years later, Rebekah joined our family, and dad became minister at Mount Merrion where we spent the next five years. I attended Bangor Independent Christian School until our move to Glasgow in 1989. There, I was a pupil at Kirktonholme Primary and Duncanrig Secondary, completing A levels in English, Music, History and Art before moving to the U.S. in 1999. I'm grateful for God's hand upon me during those years as I faced many temptations.

TN: How did you come to Christ?

RH: At age four, during evangelistic services conducted by Rev. Trevor Baxter at Mount Merrion. Though young, I distinctly remember feeling tremendous guilt over sin and fear of hell. After the service, my mother lovingly led me to Christ. Salvation doesn't rest on remembering a day and time, but I am thankful for the precious memory of the night I trusted the Lord.

TN: Timothy Nelson RH: Rachel Hamilton

TN: What were your interests growing up?

RH: My two main interests were music and reading. I began “playing” the piano as a toddler, and as I grew, I enjoyed experimenting by ear much more than reading music! At 10, I took a keen interest in the organ, and I began playing for church while mum played the piano. We also sang together as a family – I can still hear the wonderful four-part harmony filling our living room! An avid reader, I loved Roald Dahl, Enid Blyton, and Charles Dickens. I also enjoyed missionary biographies: John and Margaret Patton, Mary Slessor, and David Livingstone were my favourites. As far back as I can remember, my ambition was to teach. Rebekah and I would play “school” and I, being the older, bossy sister, was always the teacher!

TN: How did you cope with moving around?

RH: Life as a minister’s daughter was both challenging and rewarding. When I was six, we left Ulster to pioneer a church in Rutherglen, Scotland. There, I experienced ups and downs of ministry away from the familiarity of home and family. In Rutherglen, I cut my teeth as a Sunday School/Bible Club teacher. Dad and mum taught us by example how to love and minister to those in the depths of sin. They poured their hearts into the rich, poor, homeless, young, and old. Drug addicts and drunks heard the gospel, and we had the joy of seeing several converted. I have fond memories of traipsing up high rises on Sunday mornings to gather children for Sunday School! These years stand out as my most spiritually rich, largely due to my parents teaching me how to love the unlovely, a powerful reminder of Christ’s love for me.

TN: It must have been quite a challenge moving to USA

RH: Moving to the U.S. at 16 was extremely difficult, leaving behind dear friends, a thriving youth group, and Ulster family from whom we were moving further away. Mum is originally from Iowa, so after yearly visits to our U.S. grandparents, we were familiar with the American lifestyle. We had grown up hearing mum’s accent, eating American dishes, and reading American literature and history. But I had plans – I wanted to return to Ulster and teach in a Christian school. This move destroyed my plans! Now, I realize how much higher are God’s ways. My life verse, Psalm 27:14, emphasizes the importance of waiting upon the Lord, and He has always been faithful as I wait on Him.

TN: What did you find strange at first?

RH: Even though we were familiar with American culture, Pennsylvania was very different from Iowa. The accent, similar to that of a New Yorker, sounded funny. Now, my accent sounds funny having morphed from broad Belfast to broad

Glaswegian to an Ulster-Scots-American mix! We were introduced to hoagies (a type of sandwich) and soft pretzels, and everything (houses, meal portions, shops) was so much bigger. We had to learn new spellings: favorite, catalog, tire, jewelry, to name a few. Weather extremes were challenging: we arrived during bitter cold and snow drifts, yet, that summer, we experienced record high heat and drought, necessitating water conservation – a first for us Brits! We weren’t accustomed to driving an hour one way to church. Also, busy highways and big city hubbub took some getting used to. We were welcomed so warmly by the Greer family and both PA churches that we soon felt right at home.

TN: How did you find yourself in Greenville?

RH: I came to Greenville, SC to attend Bob Jones University. There, I studied English, Education and Creative Writing, graduating in 2005. I received an excellent academic education with a strong Biblical emphasis. BJU factored greatly into my settling in America.

TN: You stayed on in South Carolina

RH: I felt at home, making many new friends, and my sister also came to BJU. While we missed mum and dad, we loved the atmosphere and fellowship at university and church. In senior year, I had an incredible student teaching experience, further solidifying my desire to stay.

TN: And your ambition to teach has materialised

RH: I teach English at Langston Charter Middle School. The U.S. system allows for multiple school choices. Charter schools are public, but each has its own governing Board and a specific focus. Our school’s focus is single-gender classes, teaching boys and girls separately. I teach 8th grade, 13-year-old boys, and I love their energy and humour! They thrive on finding real-world grammar errors and vocabulary in media, menus, billboards, signs, etc. I am passionate about reaching students with innovative, relevant learning tools, particularly multiple media formats. I’ve also had numerous witnessing opportunities with Muslim, Jewish, and Hindu families. God has blessed me, giving me a ministry with hundreds of young people over these ten years.

TN: Now Faith FPC is your spiritual home

RH: Under the ministries of Dr Cairns and Rev Mercer, I’ve grown spiritually. Theology mixed with practical Christianity, and constant emphasis on Christ’s atoning work, are hallmarks of Faith’s ministry. I enjoy working with our young people, helping at denominational summer camp, opening my home for gatherings, and participating in church choirs and other musical endeavours. Faith FPC has been hugely influential in my walk with God, and I am thankful for its impact on my life.



Has the Roman Catholic Church **really** changed?

Protestant stalwart Bishop JC Ryle famously stated: *“Let us have no peace with Rome until Rome adjures her errors, and is at peace with Christ.”* At first glance, this maxim presupposes two things: That Protestants recognize it is possible for the Roman Catholic Church to adjure her errors and be reconciled with Christ; and that only if such truly takes place, can Protestants be at peace with Rome.

The present incumbent of the papacy became Pope in March 2013. In keeping with his adopted name (in honour of Francis of Assisi), he has gained a reputation for humility and concern for the poor. In his short time in the Papal office, he has spoken out against child sex abuse perpetrated by those serving within the Roman Catholic Church, pledging no protection for the guilty. He has expressed interest in dialogue with those from other faiths.

Less than two years in, it is obviously far too early to comment on the papacy of Francis. Rome does not move fast, thinking in terms of centuries, while Protestants think only of their own lifetime. We can only say that there is no evidence of any great doctrinal changes on the horizon. Consider the following:

1. Francis is a Jesuit Pope. By the Jesuit's own declared morality, lying or cheating is permissible if it furthers the

ends of the Roman Catholic Church. To the Jesuit, the end always justifies the means. We may be properly suspicious of any 'rock-the-boat' type statements from Francis until they are backed up with unequivocal and undeniable actions.

2. Despite her claim of "*Semper Eadem*" (always the same), we observe how Rome has constantly changed over the centuries. So much so, that if her ancient adherents could return to earth, they would hardly recognize her. The problem is that Rome has changed for the worse. In his classic book "Roman Catholicism", Lorraine Boettner carefully catalogues when Rome's heresies took root and her apostasy from God began to grow – from prayers for the dead (300) right up to Mary being proclaimed as the 'Mother of the Church' (1965). Rome's involvement in inter-faith relations does not augur well for any hope of her returning to the Biblical fold again.

3. Overall, Rome does not do positive changes too well. We must give credit where it is due, and welcome her practice of encouraging people to read the Bible for themselves. This may well come with restrictions, but God's word cannot be bound. It is no coincidence that Roman Catholics have been saved in greater numbers and have separated from that church since this practice begun. However, other efforts to change have been hampered. The gallant efforts of the sixteenth century Reformers and those who follow their footsteps were met with various anathemas and the murderous horrors of the Inquisition. In more recent times, mystery surrounds the sudden death of Pope John Paul I who occupied the Papal throne for only thirty three days. In his book "*In God's Name*", highly regarded investigative journalist David Yallop produces evidence pointing towards the likelihood that the Pope was murdered. If so, we might never know the reason why, although there was speculation that he intended to

set aside some of the more dubious practices within the Vatican.

4. Many major changes are needed before it can be said that Rome has made her peace with God. Doctrinally, she would need to repent of every heresy, abandoning the denial of the basic Bible doctrine of justification by faith alone, her Mariolatry, her elevation of tradition to equal status with the Scriptures, and so on. The ecumenists tell us that the Second Vatican Council (1965) brought in sweeping changes. When asked why his church needed a Vatican Council, Pope John replied: "I want to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in." Yet what do we see when we look in? Studying the not so fine print in the documents of Vatican II, we discover "the Fathers of this sacred Synod, furthering the work begun by the Council of Trent." What was the work begun by the Council of Trent? *The Catholic Encyclopedia* declares that Trent's main object was to "answer the heresies of Protestants".

5. Positive changes towards all that is pure and pleasing to God would certainly 'buck the trend' in these last days. The secular world hurries to embrace every anti-God stance. The religious world is marked by an alarming slide towards compromising sound doctrine and godly practices, even by those still within the pale. Coupled with this thought is the position of Rome in prophecy. In the "if" of argument, if the Pope is indeed "that Antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalts himself, in the Church, against Christ and all that is called God" (*Westminster Confession of Faith*, 25:6), then we can hardly expect this or any other Pope to bring his flock back into

fellowship with God. The fruit of the man of sin is apostasy from God, not reconciliation to Him (2 Thessalonians 2:3). The Pope's ongoing dialogue with those of other faiths, both within and without Christendom, is with the view of drawing converts to himself. Even the two words "separated brethren", referring to Protestants in John XXIII's Vatican II Council, contain both the bait and the hook.

We ought not, therefore, to read too much into Bishop Ryle's suggestion concerning the Church of Rome. There is no evidence that he himself was prepared to sit back and wait for the grand day of enlightenment to come to the Papacy. Instead, he went vigorously after individual Roman Catholics in gospel evangelism (as, indeed, he did regarding all the unsaved, regardless of their creed). Ryle preached to them regularly in his own services in Liverpool. He was a prolific writer and did not shy away from the controversial. His large tract "*Why were our Reformers burned?*" pulled no punches and was circulated in its thousands. He sought to arrest – albeit unsuccessfully – the alarming slide of his own Church of England towards Rome, warning of the ecumenical threat. He was a friend of all Evangelical Protestant causes.

Individual Roman Catholics have changed attitudes towards their church. Many will listen now to the gospel when only a few years ago, their ears were closed. If we cannot change Rome institutionally, may God help us to be the sanctified means which He uses to change the hearts of individual Roman Catholics!

∴ **Mr Colin Maxwell** has served, under the auspices of the Free Presbyterian Mission Board, amongst the Roman Catholic community in the Republic of Ireland for over twenty years.

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MEMORABLE VISIT TO BRAZIL



The skilful hands of the physician are still at work, helping the poor and afflicted of Brazil. Dr. Bill Woods, now 77, has been serving the Lord as a missionary doctor for 36 years.

Jonathan McAuley and I had the privilege of visiting last November. Walking with Bill is like walking with the giants of the faith so mightily used by God. Bill Woods would undoubtedly be included in our Hebrews 11. We had the opportunity of observing as he treated patients and performed surgery. By the grace of God, he has seen the state of Acre changed from a 98% prevalence of leprosy to a meagre 2% today. His achievements have won world-wide acclaim, the O.B.E from Queen Elizabeth II, and many awards from the Brazilian government.

Another serious disease treated by Dr. Woods and his team is Lobo mycosis, also known as (Jorge) Lobo's disease, a fungal infection of the skin caused by *Lacazia loboi*, and discovered

by Brazilian dermatologist Jorge Lobo. Unfortunately, the lumps caused by the fungus grow back after surgery, but Bill discovered that treatment with three different drugs proves extremely successful in preventing their recurrence. He is presently completing 'a paper' for medical journals, but Bill would want to ascribe all the glory to the Saviour he loves and serves with faithfulness and distinction.

We visited the hospital in the city of Rio Branco, where he lives and works, and travelled to his clinics in Sena Madureira and Placido de Castro. Another highlight of our visit was the School Ministry, where Lucimar labours for Christ among the children of Rio Branco, along with her husband Dr. Tom Geddis (from Lurgan, Co Armagh). We spoke to hundreds of young people, and it was our joy to share the message of the Gospel. The children listened attentively as we proclaimed God's way of salvation using visual aids. One great Gospel text shared with the school classes

was Isaiah 1:18. Children of the Acre, where temperatures remain around 30 degrees Celsius all year round, with 80% humidity, have never seen snow. Much to their amazement, we were able to produce artificial snow, illustrating the cleansing of the blood of Christ.

Our final weekend was spent in the city of Manaus, where the children of Pastor Fred Orr carry on the legacy of Gospel preaching and training young people for the Christian ministry. We stayed with Pastor Herbert, where we were treated royally by his wife and family. We took part in the services at the Hebrom Church (their Hebron) and visited several outreach Sunday schools.

Throughout, we were blessed, challenged and deeply moved by what we saw. May our small contribution be a blessing to those we met, and our great God and Saviour be glorified!

✚ Rev David Park

TRIBUTE: HARRY MCDERMOTT

The Coleraine congregation mourned the passing of Mr Harry McDermott, foundation member and longstanding elder, on Saturday 22nd March 2014. His presence with us was a blessing and challenge and we will miss his warmth of fellowship, wisdom, spiritual insight, friendship and sense of humour. It is not often one has the privilege of meeting someone who has had an unblemished testimony for so long. Within our church and without, many have observed that Harry was 'the perfect gentleman' – a comment we can all endorse.

Only eternity will reveal the worth of Harry's prayers and labours for the Saviour, and we take comfort from the scripture that assures us, "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth...that they may rest from

their labours: and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13). We mourn, but we also rejoice as we know God's servant is now present with the Lord.

During his last illness Harry wrote a short account of his life. Irene, Harry's devoted wife of some 43 years, has had it published. The booklet is available to download from the Coleraine Free Presbyterian Church website (www.colerainefpc.org). Some copies of the book are also available in print format from Rev R Higginson, 15 Avondale Court, Coleraine (028 70320266).

May God be pleased to use the example Harry left to spur us on to a deeper commitment to the Saviour and His work!

Rev R Higginson

MISSION BOARD CHILDREN'S CAMP

After the success of last year's United Children's Camp, Mission Board has decided to repeat the venture, Monday 27th – Friday 31st July 2015. Further details and application forms may be obtained at www.fpcmission.org.

Campers will enjoy a wide range of activities, supervised by qualified instructors, as well as outings, competitions, games and food. Most importantly they will meet around the Word of God, with teaching by the Camp Leaders. Meetings are convened every day and dorm Quiet Times, consisting of leader-led Bible Study and Prayer, are held morning and evening. We look forward to Camp 2015 and a new set of campers. See you there!

Rev R McKee



FREE PRESBYTERIAN EASTER CONVENTION

**3RD + 6TH
APRIL
2015**

Martyrs' Memorial Free Presbyterian Church

Fri 3rd 8:00pm

Focus on Missionary
Work across the World
Supper will be served after this meeting

Easter Monday 6th

3:30pm Afternoon Service
7:00pm Evening Service

Special singing & reports from various parts of the work. Children's Club available during the Monday services.

CONTACT DETAILS

REV DARRYL ABERNETHY

72 Breagh Lodge, Gilford Road, Portadown, BT63 3YN

Tel: 028 3815 4394

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Jean Henry Dunant was born into a Christian home in Switzerland in 1828. He grew up to be very successful in business. Those business interests brought him into contact with many dignitaries and world leaders.



That organization still exists today, and is always on hand to help in whatever way it can.

The flag of the "Red Cross" is very striking – a red cross on a white background. It got me thinking about spiritual matters. First of all, that battlefield with all its carnage and destruction reminds me of the awfulness of sin. Sin pulls us down. Sin wounds, wrecks and destroys lives and as at Solferino, few seem to care. But then, secondly, there was Dunant's compassion for all those injured soldiers. This reminds me of the love and compassion of the Saviour for poor lost sinners languishing in their sin. Then, finally, the flag reminds me of the place called Calvary where the Saviour gave His all for us so that we might be saved, cleansed, healed and raised up to life anew. I hope that you are not still languishing in sin today, but that you are saved by the loving hand of the Lord Jesus Christ!

On one occasion he needed the help of Napoleon III, Emperor of France, with a business venture in Algeria. Dunant had bought up vast areas of land to grow crops, but he needed water and he needed Napoleon's signature to secure those water rights. Failure to do so would mean the loss of his crops and bankruptcy. Unfortunately Napoleon had other things on his mind, being at war with Austria.

Despite the danger, however, Dunant was determined to speak with Napoleon, so off he went to the battlefield at Solferino. He arrived on the evening of 24th June 1859. That day had seen the worst of the fighting. 23,000 soldiers lay wounded and dying with little being done to help them. Henry was greatly shocked. With compassion he and some local volunteers helped all who were injured. He paid for the medical supplies and set up makeshift hospital tents. Upon returning home from this terrible ordeal, Henry formed a worldwide movement known as the "Red Cross".



Compiled by Robert McConnell

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
Romans 5 v 8

Quiz:

I've missed out some letters in typing out this well-known verse found in Isaiah 1. Make a list of those three letters. Then rearrange them and add them into the word that best describes the type of person found in the verse.

"_rom the so_e o_ the _oot even unto the head there _s no soundness _n _t; but wounds, and bru_ses, and putr__y_ng sores: they have not been c_osed, ne__ther bound up, ne__ther mo__ _ _ _ _ _ed w_th o__ntment."

Answer:

The person described in the verse is like a "s _ n _ u _ person"

PRIZES!

Are you 12 or under? Send your answer, name, address and church to:

Rev. Stephen Pollock

Email: answer@fpvision.org

15 Fernagreevagh Road, Loughgall, Armagh, BT61 8PN

WINNERS LAST TIME

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| » Harry Condell (Coleraine) | » Jordan McAuley (Ballymoney) |
| » Jessica Millen (Ballymena) | » Georgia Watson (Mourne) |
| » Marana McLoughlin (Lisburn) | » Nathan Wilson (Omagh) |
| » Rachel Heak (Tandragee) | » Hannah Wilson (Clogher Valley) |



the

MAN

Christ Jesus

AS YOU RESOLVE
TO DEFEND THE
LORD'S DEITY, MAKE
SURE YOU ALSO STAND
FIRM FOR THE LORD'S
TRUE HUMANITY.

OVER THE PAST 150 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS ATTACKS ON THE DEITY OF CHRIST FROM LIBERALS AND CULTS.

The Bible teaches that the Word that was made flesh was very much the Word that was God before being made flesh (John 1:1,14). This has not prevented the unbelieving from stating that He was simply god-like, divine without being truly God. Young person, as you grow in maturity and faith, make it your determined resolution to stand against any attempts to undermine the truth of Christ's deity!

However we must also guard against any attack on the Lord Jesus' true humanity. The Man who had the power to still the storm with a word was also found asleep in the midst of the storm (Mark 4:36-41). The Man who knew the thoughts of men also knew the thirst of a man (Luke 6:8 and John 19:28). In the days of the Apostles there were those suggesting that the Lord Jesus only appeared to be a man – that God came in the appearance of manhood without being truly a man. John emphasises that denying Christ's true humanity is to succumb to the spirit of antichrist for *'every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God'* (1 John 4:1-3, 2 John 7). So as you resolve to defend the Lord's deity, make sure you also stand firm for the Lord's true humanity: that He is God *'manifest in the flesh'* (1 Tim.3:6), the Word *'made flesh'* (John 1:14).

These matters have been debated for centuries. They are vital still. To deny any aspect of the Lord's person – He has two natures, in one person – is to pull apart the gospel. He is neither a divine man, nor a humanised deity. Rather, He is truly God and truly man. As such He alone can reconcile God and man. He alone can represent man and be a substitute for man. He alone can obey fully the law of God as a man, so securing a full righteousness. He alone can die for the sins of others and present a sacrifice of infinite worth. He alone can do what the first Adam didn't and undo what the first Adam did. The answer to the catechism question is true, and it really matters: *"The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever."* Does it matter to you?

FROM THE OLD TO THE YOUNG

"How astonishing is the love of Christ, that would make such a stoop as this to exalt us! Oh, it is ravishing to think, He should pass by a more excellent and noble species of creatures, refusing the angelic nature to take flesh... even to make Himself a subject capable of sorrows, wounds and tears."

- John Flavel, Fountain of Life,
Works Vol.1. Pg.81



FOUNDATIONS

Things Young People Need to Know

It is difficult growing up in this world. Pressures on young people abound in different forms, and you may feel you are being blown in every direction by the storms of life. The world is seeking to bring you into conformity with itself, seeking to squeeze you into its mould. The divine prescription to counteract such pressure is to be transformed by the work of the Spirit as your mind is renewed by grace. (Rom.12:1+2) Thus the battle is on for your mind! The world wants you to think as it does, while grace renews the mind of the child of God. With this backdrop, this year we will consider some things that young people need to know, things that will prompt stability in the changing scenes of life.

First, young people need to know that there is such a thing as truth! This may seem superfluous to some older readers, but young people know that they are living in a day when the very concept of truth is up for grabs. People may not object when you claim truth, but will often dismiss you by stating that this 'truth' may be true for you without being true for them. Thus world religions may be contradictory yet equally true. That is logically absurd! Whatever you may say about other world religions, it is clear that the

Christian faith claims to be exclusive truth: it claims to be the one and only truth. The testimony of the Lord Jesus must be considered.

- **The Lord Jesus describes His Father as 'the only true God'. (John 17:3)** To the sinless mind of Jesus, there is not a multiplicity of gods but only one true God. He echoes the words of the Old Testament: *'But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king'* (Jeremiah 10:10). Thus, those converted in Thessalonica turned from idols to *'serve the living and true God'* (1 Thessalonians 1:9).

- **The Lord Jesus claims that God's word is true in all its parts.** His High Priestly prayer states: *'Thy Word is truth.'* (John 17:17) Again He echoes the Old Testament: *'And now, O Lord GOD, thou art that God, and thy words be true'* (2 Samuel 7:28).

- **The Lord Jesus Christ claims to be truth personified.** (John 14:6, *'I am... the truth'*) The sense of His words in John 14:6 is that He is the only way to God, the only absolute truth and the only source of life. That statement is either true or false. Christ cannot be true and be the only way to God if there are actually other ways to God.

- **Finally the Lord Jesus claims to bear witness to the truth.** Pilate asked the sceptic's question: 'What is truth?' in response to the Lord's assertion: *'for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.'* (John 18:37) In light of these claims we can be encouraged that there is such a thing as truth, and we can know that truth. Jesus Christ asserts that God alone is the source of truth. He claims that truth is found in the Word of God. He claims that He Himself is truth, and reveals truth, so that to trust in Him is the way of salvation.

The question remains, do we believe the testimony of Jesus Christ? Do we believe what He states regarding truth? To be blunt, He is either telling the truth about truth, or He is bearing false witness regarding truth.

There are many things to encourage our confidence. For me the greatest is the empty tomb. That is God's seal upon the person of the Son. The Lord predicted He would be delivered up to wicked man, crucified on a Roman tree, and then be raised again. The resurrection is undeniable, and it seals the testimony of the Lord. All He says about truth is indeed true!



YOUTH MISSIONARY WEEKEND
NOVEMBER 2014



YOUTH COUNCIL CAMP
SHANNAGHMORE, 2014

Applications are now being received for the 2015 Youth Council Camp to Shannaghmore Outdoor Education Centre in Newcastle. Last year 41 young people enjoyed the outward bound activities.

Trained instructors supervise the young people in canoeing, rock climbing, high ropes, mountain biking and more. The camp leaders are Dr Stephen Pollock and Mr Jonathan Smith. The young people sit under the Word of God in morning devotions and in the evening meeting. They also meet and

pray together with a leader in their dorms. Feedback from parents and young people has been encouraging. We pray that spiritual progress will be made and that friendships will be made for years to come.

If you're free from 3rd to 7th August please come along. See the Youth Council website for details and the application form. www.fpcyouth.org/announcements.php

Get the form and deposit in now as spaces are limited!

MAINLAND OUTREACH

BRISTOL

18th - 25th July

Cost £245

Age: 18+ (10 places)

STRANRAER

4th - 10th July

Cost £245

Age: 18+ (10 places)

EVENINGS OF PRAYER

GREATER BELFAST Friday 20th Feb

Sandown FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Wilson

NORTH DOWN

Details to be confirmed

MID DOWN Friday 20th Feb

Dromore FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Kenny

SOUTH DOWN Friday 20th Feb

Ardaragh FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Harris

MID ULSTER Friday 13th Feb

Lurgan FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Creane

SOUTH WEST Friday 27th Feb

Aughnacloy FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Abraham

THE WEST Friday 13th Feb

Clogher Valley FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev McIntyre

NORTH WEST Monday 16th Feb

Limavady FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Baxter

NORTH & SOUTH ANTRIM Friday 20th Feb

Ballymena FPC, 8.00pm, Speaker: Rev Greer

DELEGATES MEETING

Mon 2nd March, Portadown FPC, 8.00pm

CHILDREN'S OUTREACHES

LARNE

10th - 14th

August 2015

Cost: £160

Age: 16+

KESH

6th - 10th

July 2015

Cost: £160

Age: 16+

2014 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

SHANNAGH-MORE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

NEWCASTLE, CO DOWN

Monday 3rd - Friday 7th

August 2015

Ages 12-18

Price: £155 (all inclusive)

YOUTH COUNCIL EVENTS

TRAINING WEEKEND

20th - 22nd March, Faith Mission Centre, Portadown

Cost: £65

SPRING RALLIES

Friday 13th March, 8.00pm

Evangelistic Rallies in Newtownabbey,
Rasharkin, Enniskillen, Portadown
& Moneyslane

A WORD TO WOMEN

**"AND HE THAT SAT UPON THE THRONE SAID,
BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW."**

(REVELATION 21:5)

There is something special about new things: the simple pleasure of writing on the first page of a new notebook, the joy of being the first to leave footprints in freshly fallen snow, or the joy and wonder as we hold a new-born baby. As we enter a New Year, we step into the unknown. We cannot tell what a day may bring forth, much less a year. Many make great plans and resolutions, but few will succeed in their aspirations.

Scripture contains many references to new things. We read in Ezekiel 36:26 of being given a new heart. This is not a new physical heart but a new spiritual heart. Our old sinful nature with its depraved desire is replaced with a new desire to obey the Lord and walk in his ways. No matter how hard people resolve to change their ways, success is limited because only the Lord can regenerate our hearts. *"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away: behold all things are become new"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Has your life been made new by Christ? Are you a new creature?

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Belonging to Christ is a great source of peace and joy. We read in Psalm 96:1 about the new song which we should sing to the Lord. Maybe, like me, you will never be asked to sing a solo or even join a choir. That should not stop us praising God for all His goodness. Perhaps you are feeling down, then try singing some hymns or psalms and you may feel your spirits soar. Life is not always easy but we are encouraged to speak to ourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in our hearts to

the Lord; giving thanks for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (see Ephesians 5:19,20).

In John 13:34 the Lord Jesus spoke of a new commandment. We are to love one another as He loved us. This was to be the mark that demonstrated to the world that Christians were different. How easy to fail in this commandment! It is only as we take time to consider the love of God to us that we will begin to reflect that love to our brethren and sisters in Christ. No other virtue exceeds love. We might give all our possessions to feed the poor but without love it is worthless. Let love for Christ be the driving force in our lives, and we will know His blessing!

In Revelation 21:5, as time comes to an end and eternity dawns, we read of the Lord making all things new. There will be a new heaven and a new earth where the Lord will reign and sin will no longer mar. Sorrow will be over and we shall be forever with the Lord. It is that wonderful prospect that makes the sorrows of this life more bearable. *"For our light affliction, which is for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."* (2 Corinthians 4:17)

*What a day that will be
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace:
When He takes me by the hand
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day, that will be!*

✚ **Olive Maxwell** lived and worked for over twenty years in the city of Cork. She and husband Colin continue to serve with the Mission Board focusing primarily on the Republic of Ireland.

CONGREGATION CALL: TANDRAGEE



Tandragee Free Presbyterian Church was formed as a result of interest generated during a gospel mission conducted by the late Dr. I.R.K. Paisley in the Protestant Temperance Hall in 1967. The hall was packed every evening, and many came to a saving knowledge of Christ. Following the mission, Lord's Day services continued in the hall under the auspices of the Free Presbyterian Church, before moving to Teemore Orange Hall. Soon afterwards the fledgling congregation relocated to its present site on the Portadown Road, erecting a wooden hall in which to conduct its services.

The Lord blessed, souls were saved and numbers increased. The Lord added to the church such as should be saved. Soon afterwards more land was acquired and a new 240-seat building was erected. The growth of the Sunday School necessitated the erection of a new complex to accommodate the instruction of the children.

With adequate facilities in place, the congregation continued to grow. The

emphasis was upon the two New Testament principles outlined in 2 Timothy 4:2 and Acts 1:14 - *"Preach the word"* and *"These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication."* The Lord blessed the preaching of His word and the praying of His people, so much so, that by 2008 the congregation had completely outgrown the building that had been erected in 1973. It had to be demolished to make way for a new £1.7 million suite of buildings, including a 430-seat sanctuary, a large multipurpose hall, a 130-seat prayer room and an 80-seat youth fellowship room, as well as a variety of minor rooms.

The congregation has its own cemetery on site and car parking for 200 vehicles. It recently purchased a 13 acre field that marches its boundary. The result is that the church is situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac on the Portadown Road on a 17 acre site. Last year, five years after the opening of

the new building, all bank borrowing for its construction was repaid. The congregation rejoiced in the amazing goodness and provision of the Lord, feeling as the psalmist in Psalm 118:23 when he said *"This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes."* The congregation constantly gives thanks to the Lord for the advances and growth from the early days in the wooden hall.

The Church has a very busy programme of activities aimed at bringing the good news of the gospel of Christ to all age groups. The children are well catered for with a Parents & Toddlers' group, Children's Church, Sunday School and Children's Meeting. There is a Bible Class for teenagers, a Friday night Youth Fellowship and a monthly Youth Rally. In addition to the various youth meetings, there are various outings and an annual camp for the teenagers. The monthly Senior Citizen's Lunch and Ladies' Fellowship are firm favourites. The Church

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Rev. Samuel Murray

conducts an open air gospel witness in the centre of the town each Saturday night, an outreach that has been ongoing for decades. Other activities include the Sunday School Trip, the Ladies' Outing, the Senior Citizens' Trip and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner.

However, the most important aspect of the life of the congregation is centred on three meetings - the two Lord's Day services and the mid-week prayer time. At the heart of all of our preaching is Christ crucified – the only Saviour of sinful man. As the Lord Jesus said in John 5:39 *"Search the scriptures... they are they which testify of me."*

The preaching is evangelistic. Hearers are constantly exhorted to turn from sin and trust in the finished work of Christ on the cross for the salvation of their souls. The mid-week prayer meeting is a special time for God's people to seek His face in prayer for among many other things – revival, the salvation of the lost, missionaries and their labours for the Lord, the sick, the needy and the downcast.

There has always been a keen interest in missionary work in the congregation. Over the last 17 years, the church has given £678,199 to missionary work – an average of almost £40,000 per annum. Presently, the church is sponsoring a major production of illustrated Bible lessons for children's work in Kenya. The end product will be flashcards (illustrated by local artists) in Swahili that will cover all of the major Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation. These will be of invaluable assistance to Christian missionaries in Kenya. Over the years, a number from the congregation heard the call of God to enter the Whitefield College of the Bible, the Free Presbyterian training college for ministers and missionaries. Today, some are labouring in Canada, Kenya and throughout Northern Ireland. The fact that the Lord has sent forth labourers into His harvest from Tandragee has been a cause of great delight in the congregation.

THE FACT THAT THE LORD HAS SENT FORTH LABOURERS INTO HIS HARVEST FROM TANDRAGEE HAS BEEN A CAUSE OF GREAT DELIGHT IN THE CONGREGATION.

When the new building was being planned, the oversight decided that every verse of scripture to be etched in the windows or painted on the walls would begin with the word "He" – a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. There are ten of these including Isaiah 53:5 *"He was wounded for our transgressions,"* 1 Peter 5:7 *"He careth for you,"* and John 3:30 *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* The idea was that every time people would read these verses, they would be reminded of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, the returning King, and the One who must receive all the glory. The text above the pulpit, under which every sermon is preached and before which every congregation must sit, is 1 Peter 2:7 *"He Is Precious."* To those who have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ in Tandragee and elsewhere, He is indeed precious!

⋮ Rev Samuel Murray

NEW MINISTER FOR GARDENSTOWN



ON WEDNESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER REV CRAIG DENNISON WAS INSTALLED IN THE GARDENSTOWN CONGREGATION IN THE FAR NORTH OF SCOTLAND AFTER BEING ORDAINED IN BANBRIDGE, HIS HOME CHURCH, THE PREVIOUS WEEK. MAINLAND COMMISSION CONVENER REV DAVID SMITH CAUGHT UP WITH HIM FOR SOME INITIAL FEEDBACK.

DS: Craig, tell us how the Lord led you to accept the call to Gardenstown?

CD: From my earliest days as a Christian, the Lord placed a burden upon my heart for the mainland. However, it was only this year that the Lord confirmed to me through the words of Hebrews 11:9 and Genesis 26:22 that it was Gardenstown where he wanted me to serve.

DS: How are you and your family settling in?

CD: Emma, Apphia and I have settled into the congregation and village very well. The local people are very welcoming and we already feel at home in our new surroundings.

DS: How did the installation service go?

CD: It went very well. There were around one hundred people in attendance, people from the local community and others who travelled a considerable distance to be there. Rev Greer preached powerfully from Mark 1:14-28 and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed afterwards.

DS: Give some details of the congregation in Gardenstown.

CD: There is a congregation of around 26 at both services on the Lord's Day. The prayer meeting would see around 16 in attendance. The people are faithful in prayer and longing to see souls saved. Although an older congregation, there is a great desire to see young people brought in.

DS: What is the population? Describe the general area.

CD: Gardenstown is set in a beautiful part of the British Isles. The population of the local village is around 900. The main industry of the village is fishing, with a large farming community outside the village. Sadly, many young people leave to study and seldom return.

DS: How do you hope to develop your ministry and spread gospel truth in the area?

CD: God willing, I plan to share the Gospel in the local schools and nursing homes, on the doorstep, and in the open air. This will be done with prayer, remembering the word of the Apostles; *"we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word"* (Acts 6:4).



PRAYER POINTERS

ENGLAND

Tavistock:

As yet there is no resident minister. The commission and the Lord's people there are in earnest prayer about this matter. Pray that a man will know the call of God and join with the folk there to spread the gospel.

Bridlington:

Some attendances are encouraging, with thirty at the Harvest Thanksgiving service in October, including unsaved folk from the area. Pray they will return and come to know the Saviour. Mr McComb will be retiring next year and returning to NI. Desmond and June are seeking long term affordable rental accommodation in the Banbridge/Craigavon area. Anyone able to help may contact them by telephone: 012 6285 1700 or by email: mccomb777@btinternet.com.

ISLE OF MAN

Preachers continue to travel over each weekend. Pray that there will be additions to the work. The Commission wishes to send a Whitefield College graduate to engage in evangelistic work and preaching, and seeks someone willing to take up this challenge.

WALES

Bryn: The work here continues to be cared for by Revs Monteith and Smyth. Pray that they will know the Lords' leading. A Sunday afternoon service is held and a midweek prayer meeting.

SCOTLAND

Mr Noel Shields continues in Stranraer and Dumfries. One woman attending Stranraer has come into membership. Mr Shields travels seventy miles to Dumfries to conduct a prayer meeting, a Lord's Day afternoon service, and engage in evangelistic outreach. He values your prayers.

MAINLAND RALLY

A special rally was held in Lurgan last November. Rev Gordon Ferguson brought a stirring message to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of George Whitefield, the College choir contributed in song, and Mr Noel Shields reported on his work in Scotland.

In addition, announcement was made of a special outreach to be conducted at the Rugby World Cup in 2015 in England, Scotland and Wales. Outreach dates are Friday 18th - Thurs 24th September (Cardiff) and Friday 2nd - Thursday 8th October (London). Mr Jonathan Smith, working under the Mission Board, will be organising these teams which will also connect with our churches in London, Rwyderwin and Merthyr Tydfil. If you are interested please contact Mr Smith for more information (075 3303 5923).

20P FUND



Churches are asked to continue to support this scheme. It assists many ministers on the mainland with up to 30% of their salary. Treasurers are asked to send donations as early and regularly as possible.

CONSIDER CHRIST UPDATE

A major part of the Consider Christ outreach involves tract distribution and conversations on the doors. In this aspect of the work we need our large team of faithful workers to cover the different towns and cities. But as well as placing the Gospel in homes and witnessing of Christ, we encourage contacts to attend the follow-up meeting on the following Monday in a local venue.

A small group travels down in plenty of time for a time of prayer. A book table with free literature has proved very popular, but what has been remarkable throughout is the desire to have a copy of God's Word. The Bible is easily the most popular title on the table! The meetings are generally well attended. Singing is followed by a short testimony or occasional solo, and then the preaching of the Word. No matter where we have conducted meetings people have appreciated the preaching of the Word. There is a hunger for plain preaching. It appears that many of the meetings around the areas have a lot of music but very little preaching. Some have expressed a preference for teaching over against so-called "happy-clappy" meetings based only on experience and feeling.

The monthly meeting in Athlone is a particular encouragement. It has been running now for over two years and continues to be well attended. Local believers receive around 200 invitation cards every month to pass out to their friends. Two of the young men, Mick and Danny, preach on the streets of Athlone, Tuesday and Friday, from 2 pm to 4 pm. One preaches and the other gives out tracts, then they swap. They would greatly value the prayers of God's people as they seek to evangelise their town.



In September 2014, Trevor Parks, a supporter of the meetings in Athlone listened to a programme on RTE radio which featured the Latin Mass. Trevor contacted the show pointing out that many things reported were unscriptural, that their report was biased, and challenged them to attend, what he described as "the only Free Presbyterian service outside the Province of Ulster."

To our surprise, the challenge was taken up. A reporter attended the next meeting, recorded part of it, and interviewed attendees afterwards. A few days later a very favourable ten minute feature was aired on RTE Radio 1.

Editing was sympathetic. Each of those locals who were interviewed used the opportunity to give a word of testimony, and the result was a very clear Gospel message aired on primetime radio.

**EVERYONE
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CONSIDER
CHRIST REALLY
APPRECIATES
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AND PRACTICAL
SUPPORT OF
GOD'S PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT OUR
CHURCHES.**

At the time of writing we have just been approached by Irish TV with a request to record a meeting for broadcast on Sky on two separate occasions. We rejoice in how the Lord has continued to provide opportunities to spread His Word to a wider audience.

Everyone involved with Consider Christ really appreciates the prayerful and practical support of God's people throughout our churches, without which this outreach could not continue. We are all "labourers together with God."

✠ Dr Lindsay Wilson

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY: APPRECIATION AND APPEAL



Greetings from Bible Christian Faith Church Academy! We praise God for seeing us through to the end of another year. We also acknowledge the generous giving of God's people which has helped maintain the school and finance some special projects. Having a photocopier at the school has been appreciated by all the staff. Our bakery has given us some profit but we hope to expand its market this year. We have ordered a new bus and trust it will be ready this month. It will bring positive changes and increase the number of pupils seeking admission. Upgrading of equipment in

the computer laboratory has increased efficiency there. During this holiday period we aimed to install a solar hot water system in the school kitchen. God has provided!

We are grateful for every opportunity to present God's Word, for interest shown, and for evidence of His grace in hearts and lives. We are also thankful for help given to the 50 Standard Eight and 39 Form Four candidates who sat their national examinations from mid-October to November.

During the coming weeks, the school

complex will host the annual Teens and Youth Camps. It will also be a busy time in the housekeeping and maintenance departments. After travelling on our roads daily for 10 months our vehicles do need attention. We are thankful they ran and kept all our children safe! This is harvest time in Kenya and we want to buy enough maize for the full school year when the price is good. This alone will cost £8000. The financial challenges are great but we look to the Lord to provide. Thank you so much for your prayerful and practical support.

∴ **Margaret Russell**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES WELCOME ANDREW FITTON



Presbytery Licentiate Andrew Fitton arrived in Port Lincoln on 8 October 2014, to be met by the Hall family and elder Lloyd Glover, having offered to minister in South Australia for 12 months under the Mission Board.

Andrew was formally welcomed the following Sunday morning by Rev. Hall (Kingston, Tasmania), who was assisting with pulpit supply for two weeks. Andrew spoke of the Lord's dealing with him and of the privilege and blessing to be in Port Lincoln

for the next twelve months. Rev. Hall based his message on Genesis 2:16-17. Afterwards, the Halls and Andrew travelled 145 kilometres to Lock for the 2.30 pm service, where Andrew was introduced and welcomed, before returning for the 6.00 pm meeting in Port Lincoln. The Lord blessed throughout. The churches are grateful for the assistance of the Mission Board and the prayer support of God's people, and looking forward to Andrew's ministry. Pray that he will know the Lord's help and guidance during his time 'down under'.

∴ **Lloyd Glover (Clerk of Session)**

GOD'S CALL: JONATHAN SMITH



God has directed me to reach out to teenagers. Involvement in youth work in congregations and on mission teams burdened me about the physical and spiritual needs of young people *inside* and *outside* the church. John 15:16 challenged me about the Lord's work: "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you and ordained you that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain."

After attending Whitefield College I was accepted by Mission Board as a probationary missionary in youth outreach. Right now I am conducting deputation meetings to raise the necessary prayer and financial support. Already I have been assisting the Youth Council in local outreach events, evangelistic

training evenings, and giving general support to its committee and delegates. I am also seeking access to local secondary schools. I'm offering to deal with cultural issues from a Biblical perspective as well as demonstrating availability to mentor individual young people. After contact with principals in Dungannon, I have spoken in some schools already.

Grace and I are excited to see how the Lord will lead us in this ministry. Also, with the expected arrival of our baby in May, we have lots to prepare for as a family. Please pray that God will supply our every need, that this ministry will be of God, and that many young souls will come to know the Lord and be built up in the faith.

LIBERIA: THE BATTLE WITH EBOLA

Rev. David DiCanio, a North American missionary-at-large in Liberia, and Ulster missionary Joanne Greer, who is serving a three-year term in the country, have been assessing the situation on the ground in Liberia by phone, email, and Skype, after being evacuated from the country on 5th August because of the rapid spread of the Ebola virus in West Africa.

Recently they coordinated a food and medical relief effort for the churches – two outside Monrovia, the capital, and a third one hundred miles inland. The church also gave assistance to an unaffiliated work on the Liberian border of Guinea and Sierra Leone. This help came from congregations in Ulster and North America, after the latter set up a relief fund on September 27th to aid all overseas works. The Liberian churches sent a letter of thanks on November 3 for thirty large bags of rice and five bags of beans to share with the neediest people in each congregation.

A midwife in the Ballah Creek congregation, just outside Monrovia, died after assisting an expectant mother who had Ebola. Others in the church were quarantined after they had contact with both her and another person who died from the virus. The North American mission board continues to assess the situation. Some have suggested the missionaries may not be able to return until June 2015. However, the missionaries are hopeful, after news reports of an early November lull in the virus, that they may be back sooner.

CHILDREN'S WORKERS' SEMINARS

Since October 2013, special Children's Workers' Seminars have taken place in Omagh, Crossgar, Mullaglass, Ballymoney, Ballymena and Martyrs' Memorial – locations chosen to facilitate a spread of congregations throughout the province. Using booklets and power point presentations, Miss Joyce Walsh, Mr Chris Killen and Mr Robert McConnell conducted all day seminars aimed at building upon the denomination's existing efforts to evangelise boys and girls!

These seminars covered outreach, organization and order. They also dealt with the onus of proper preparation and presentation of a Bible lesson, and concluded with an overview of how to counsel a child biblically.

Attendees went away greatly encouraged and with renewed zeal for the work in their own churches. May something of eternal value be the result!

Special thanks are due to Rev. Ian Harris for his support and guidance as to the structure and direction of the seminars, and to Rev Jonathan Creane for coordinating dates and venues.

MISSION BOARD DETAILS

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E. hebronfpc@btconnect.com

Website

www.fpcmission.org



DATES FOR THE DIARY

JANUARY

9th-14th ARMAGH, ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Speaker: Rev W McCrea

9th-11th BALLYMONEY, ANNUAL MISSIONARY CONVENTION

Time: Friday at 8.00pm
Saturday at 7.30pm
Sunday at 12.00 & 7.00pm
Speakers: Misses J Greer & G Gillespie,
Mr J Smith, Rev T Martin

16th BALLYMONEY, ORDINATION OF MR ARMEN THOMASSIAN

Time: Friday at 8.00pm

17th CONSIDER CHRIST OUTREACH

Details: Contact Dr L Wilson

25th SIXMILECROSS, 40TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Time: Sunday at 3.30pm
Speaker: Rev J Greer

30th SIXMILECROSS, ANNUAL YOUTH RALLY

Time: Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev D DiCanio

FEBRUARY

8th-13th MARKETHILL, YOUTH MISSION (old Gosford Hotel site)

Time: Sunday at 8.30pm,
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Mr T Laverty

13th TULLYVALLEN, PRAISE SERVICE

Time: Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev R Higginson

22nd-27th LISBURN, BIBLE WEEK

Time: Sunday at 7.00pm,
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev J Greer

FEBRUARY

28th MOURNE, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Time: Saturday at 7.30pm
Speaker: Rev G Wilson

MARCH

1st-6th LARNE, BIBLE WEEK

Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00
Speakers: Rev Thompson
Rev Higginson
Rev Pollock

1st-15th PORTGLENONE, GOSPEL MISSION

Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00
Speaker: Rev D Stewart

1st-15th MONEYREAGH ORANGE HALL, GOSPEL MISSION

Time: Sunday at 3.30pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm
Speakers: Revs T Murray & A Smylie

8th-13th MARKETHILL, BIBLE WEEK

Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm
Speakers: Rev D Priestley

8th-13th MOURNE, BIBLE WEEK

Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm
Speaker: Rev R Cranston

13th-15th AGHALEE, BIBLE CONFERENCE

Time: Friday & Saturday at 7.30pm
Sunday at 11.30 & 6.30pm
Speakers: Revs S Pollock, A Patterson,
P Fitzsimmons, G Middleton.

14th-15th NEWTOWNABBEY, SOUL WINNERS' CONVENTION

Time: Saturday at 7.30pm
Sunday at 11.30 & 7.00pm
Speakers: Revs J Creane, R Cranston