

# FREE PRESBYTERIAN VISION



THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

## Guarding The Pulpit

May - June 2015 . Issue 15 . £1



The Power of the Cross



Fifty Years Following Christ



New Bus For BCFC Christian Academy

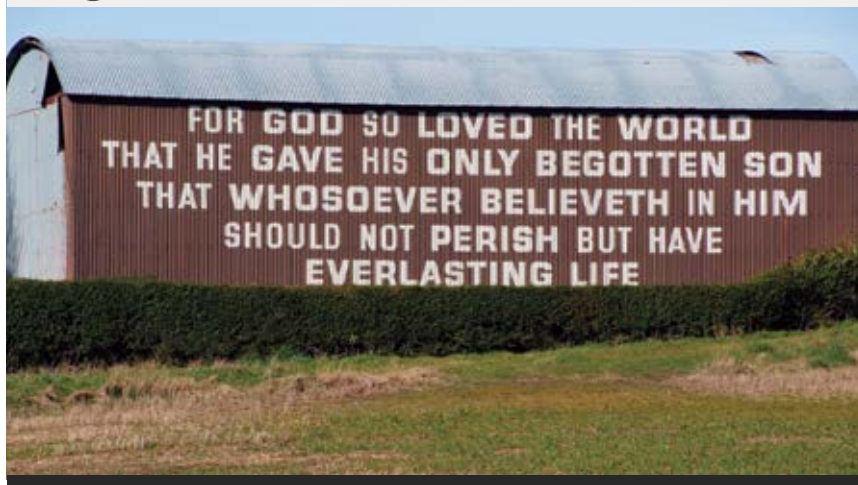


Congregation Call: Hebron

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### Editorial

**O**n the evening of Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March Daniel McArthur stood to address a packed Waterfront Hall in Belfast. He received a standing ovation. Two days later the General Manager of Asher's Baking Company returned to Belfast, to Laganside Court, to defend the decision not to produce a cake promoting 'same-sex marriage'. Dignified and resolute, Mr McArthur maintained the company's commitment to Bible teaching. At the time of writing, the verdict is still pending. In a sense, that is irrelevant. The entire episode is about the spirit of the three young Hebrews: "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us...but if not...we will not serve thy gods..." (Daniel 3:17-18)

Sandwiched between the court case and the reserved judgement, the N Ireland soccer team entertained Finland – the first time a home international was played on the Lord's Day. Many who dared raise a voice of protest were

treated with the usual disdain. The province's leading newspaper branded this new-found 'freedom' "part of the modern, inclusive society we are trying to build in Northern Ireland."

Inclusivity is a modern buzz word. Conformity is another. But Christians, by nature, are non-conformists, compelled to stand apart from much that is readily embraced in an increasingly secular society, knowing that their calling is to obey God rather than men (Acts 4:19, 5:29).

Mr McArthur bears the name of an illustrious example. Another Daniel "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Daniel 1:8), resisting pressure from those in authority and from those who chose an easier way. But he did not lose out. He proved God, and prospered. And we serve the same God!

Timothy Nelson  
[editor@fpvision.org](mailto:editor@fpvision.org)



# FAITH

**"THIS IS HIS COMMANDMENT THAT WE SHOULD  
BELIEVE ON THE NAME OF HIS SON JESUS CHRIST"**

**1 JOHN 3:23**

**R**eceiving necessarily supposes giving. God has given his only begotten Son and whosoever believes on Him *"should not perish but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16). Saving faith believes on Him, as God gifts and offers Him in the gospel. He is offered as the free gift of God "without money and without price" (Isaiah 55:1). The natural propensity in man's heart is to offer something or do something to better himself to receive the Saviour, the thought being that this will 'qualify' him to come to Christ. Faith, in its justifying act, is not a working grace – *"to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness"* (Rom.4:5). Faith can only come with an empty hand to receive Christ. It is like the beggar's hand outstretched and open to take the alms, without working for them.

As Christ is offered freely so He is offered fully. He is not only to be embraced as Priest in fulfilling the law, satisfying justice and appeasing wrath; but also as Prophet to instruct; and as King to exercise His rule. The redeemed soul says: 'I must have Him as my Prophet, my Priest and my King. I must have Him wholly to fully meet the needs of my ignorant, guilty, rebellious heart.' Excellent as the grace of faith is, it embraces a more excellent and precious Christ. While without faith it is impossible to please God, it is the object of our faith, Jesus Christ, which renders us acceptable unto God.

Remember that trusting Christ presupposes knowledge of Him. There is in fact a twofold knowledge that faith implies – knowledge of ourselves and knowledge of Christ. The law must be our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ for without knowledge of our sin we will never believe on Him who is *"the end of the law for righteousness"* (Romans10:4). If we have no knowledge and conviction of our lost condition by the law, then there is no concern of heart about either our sin or the judgement that awaits us. With this knowledge of ourselves we must see in Christ the remedy that God provides for us.

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Faith that is of a saving nature cannot venture on anything other than the authority of God himself. A right knowledge of Christ is only had in the light of the word and Spirit. When the truth of this revelation concerning Him is assented to as the only remedy for the sickness and misery of the soul, faith receives Him in response to the call and offer of the gospel. We are saved by faith alone in Christ alone, but saving faith is never alone. James says: *"I will show thee my faith by my works"* (2:18). In a word, the whole of gospel obedience is the obedience of faith, and the obedience that does not flow from faith is but dead works, which can never be acceptable to God.

∴ **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.

# FIFTY YEARS FOLLOWING CHRIST: REV FRED GREENFIELD



**AT AN EVENING OF PRAISE AND TESTIMONY IN DUNMURRY FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ON SUNDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY, THE MINISTER, REV FRED GREENFIELD,  
TESTIFIED OF FIFTY YEARS SERVING THE LORD.**

During the service, the congregational praise was led by Jackie Moore at the organ and David Moore at the piano. Mr Greenfield, on accordion, led the singing of a selection of well known choruses including, 'Because He lives' and 'Victory in Jesus' and concluded as the children joined him at the front of the church to sing 'Jesus loves me'. Also taking part in the service was the group 'Kingdom Heirs' in which both Fred's son and son-in-law are members. They sang a great selection of well known gospel hymns including, 'Amazing grace', 'The plan of salvation', and 'Jesus saves'.

Reflecting on those fifty years, Mr Greenfield went back to a summer evening when a group of teenage lads were playing

football on a pitch at the Bog Meadows, near his home, off the Donegall Road, Belfast. They were only half-hearted about the game though, for the air seemed to be full of music. It wasn't the blare and blast of fairground music either; no, this was something different. When the introductory music gave way to the sound of singing there seemed to be hundreds, possibly thousands of voices, united in song. "Do you hear that singing?" someone asked. It seemed a silly question, for nobody could miss it, but it was the cue that ended the kick about. The ball was abandoned and the boys stood or sat around to listen. The music was coming from a Gospel Crusade in the nearby Windsor Park. Young Fred had always loved music and this was very good music. He listened along with the others, and





## YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN



then the voice of the preacher declaring the gospel began to waft out across South Belfast. It was possible that some of Fred's mates didn't understand much of what was being said, but they were held spellbound by the compelling voice with its American accent. Fred understood it though. His mum and dad were Christians and as a boy he was sent along to Sunday school and church every week and he knew what the speaker was talking about. That summer evening wasn't the only time that Fred would think about the claims of Christ on his life. A friend asked him to go to hear Pastor William Mullan speak about the second coming of Christ. After hearing that message Fred went home and read through the book of Revelation, trying to learn more about the subject. He wanted to be right with God but something was holding him back.

Fred left school and began to work in a factory in Belfast. There he met with a number of Christians, one of them his cousin Jim Fox. Jim asked Fred to attend a meeting in Ravenhill Free Presbyterian Church to hear Dr Ian Paisley preach the gospel. At first the young apprentice made some excuse, but on the 21st February 1965, Fred and another cousin, Billy Halliday, accompanied Jim to Ravenhill. The surroundings were strange as Dr Paisley preached that evening but the message was familiar. During the service the words of Genesis 6:3 were quoted, "My spirit shall not always strive with man". This text awakened Fred to the danger of further delay, and when an appeal was made at the close of the service, Fred went into

a counselling room. He waited there for a few minutes and into the room came his cousin Billy, and then Dr Paisley, who opened the Bible and explained the way of salvation. Both Fred and Billy received Christ as Saviour.

Immediately after his conversion, Fred became involved in the work of Ravenhill Free Presbyterian Church. Less than two years later, he felt the call of God to the ministry of the Free Presbyterian Church. While training for the ministry and sharing in a gospel mission with the Rev William Beattie in Castlerobin Orange Hall, Fred met a young Christian lady called Jean Richardson. They became friends and that friendship matured into love, and they were married in September of 1971. It was the privilege of the young married couple to embark on a shared life of service for God. Over the decades to follow, Fred has given faithful and committed service to a number of Free Presbyterian congregations in Northern Ireland, as well as ministering for some time in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Fred and Jean were blessed with three children - Anne, Paul and Naomi. Their children were converted early in life. They have always been, and continue to be, a great encouragement to their parents in the work of God. Now having 'flown the nest', and been married and with families of their own, Fred and Jean are the proud grandparents of twelve grandchildren. They continue to serve the Lord in the growing congregation at Dunmurry.



**A few months back, in the aftermath of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's failure to elect a first female Moderator, a prominent Religion Correspondent, himself a Presbyterian, railed against the "male brotherhood" in his denomination.**

He went on to express dismay that "some male ministers are still able to bar women from preaching in their pulpits on grounds of conscience." Leaving aside the question of women in ordained ministry – a practice rejected by the Free Presbyterian Church (see issue 7, Jan – Feb 2014, for a Biblical assessment) – there remains the issue of whether or not sessions have any right to guard their pulpits.

# Guarding the Pulpit

## INVESTIGATING THE ISSUES

The Free Presbyterian Church is a product of the Biblical challenge to separate from the unscriptural trends of the age. As such, it has sought to maintain a position apart from those who seem happy to embrace, or at least tolerate, those practices. Historically, this has meant the refusal to give a platform to individuals who, themselves professedly evangelical, have been willing to enter into associations with compromisers, or who have remained in membership of denominations that have abandoned any real commitment to those articles of faith to which they claim to adhere.

But is this position valid? Does it have Biblical mandate? Is there any room for it in an age where there is ever increasing pressure for churches to cooperate in resisting the relentless march of secularism and atheism? Are we just guilty of 'majoring on minors'?

For some believers, the suggestion of ecclesiastical separation is incompatible with Christian love: to refuse to fellowship with another believer is



unworthy of Christ. But is this true? It is our duty to love fellow-believers (1 Peter 1:22). But if we refuse to enter into organisational fellowship with another believer, have we ceased to love him? Surely not – it is perfectly possible to have love for those with whom we do not have such fellowship because we disagree over doctrine or practice. Faced with the evidence of that which is contrary to God’s Word, is it really an act of love to deny its existence and carry on regardless? Commentator Alfred Plummer observes that “to plead for tenderness, where severity is needed, is not charity, but Laodicean lukewarmness; and mistaken tenderness may easily end up in making us ‘partakers in evil works’”

And this danger is all the more pronounced in respect of denominational fellowship. We may enjoy personal fellowship with some, but stop short of fellowship on a local church level. This is because the church has doctrinal criteria that go beyond what is required in the area of personal fellowship. Your church will have clear creedal positions, Biblically-based and winning your approval, but denied by the body to which your friend belongs. His membership of the said body hinders fellowship at church level.

And there are other circumstances preventing cooperation with genuine believers. The New Testament provides case studies. If, for instance, a believer is propagating falsehood, teachings incompatible with our church’s Biblical doctrines, and refuses to turn from his error, fellowship cannot be offered. Paul’s treatment of Hymanaeus and Alexander is an example of this (2 Timothy 2:18-20). Or if there is immoral behaviour and a refusal to repent, that too requires separation (1 Corinthians 5:1,13). And should there be the danger of becoming ensnared in the sins practiced by others, again, we must stand apart (1 Timothy 5:17-22). Interestingly, this passage, in v22, offers “partaker” as a translation of the Greek term (koinonia) most often rendered ‘fellowship’ in the New Testament: we are not to ‘fellowship’ with another’s sins by endorsing or approving a position he has taken.

Once more, believers must stand apart from those who are disruptive. While brotherly admonition is prescribed for such (2 Thessalonians 3:15), the ultimate sanction for the unrepentant is separation (v6,14). The believer with a concern for his own reputation and testimony will not happily company with those who continue to follow a course condemned by Scripture and harmful to Christians and churches. He will be more careful about his associations, Psalm 119:63, Amos 3:3.

These considerations must impact the matter of fellowship on a denominational and local church level. They will mean that our pulpits and platforms are not thrown open to those not sharing our convictions, much less our commitment to be “separated unto the Gospel” (Romans 1:1).

Perhaps we can quantify a Biblical approach to these issues by presenting the following counsel:

### LOOK UP!

We should determine our practice by the light of heaven. Will this fellowship or association glorify God? (1 Corinthians 10:31) Will He be honoured by our support of those whose beliefs and behaviour flies in the face of His Word? Clearly not – to reverence Him is to have no truck with wrongdoing and its apologists (Proverbs 8:13).

### LOOK BEYOND!

We stand against those who have embraced error, refraining from participation with them. Nevertheless, where possible, we seek their recovery. Just as Paul sought to ‘straighten out’ the erring Peter (Galatians 2:11), so we must, in love, seek to confront and instruct those who have gone astray in this age. But if we readily engage in fellowship with them, maintaining an open door to our pulpits, is not this to suggest that, really, their conduct isn’t a problem after all? In this, we do them no favours. It is not love to condone error! As the apostle put it, “Am I become your enemy because I tell you the truth?”

(Galatians 4:16) No, Paul’s indictment of Galatian wrongdoing proved him their best friend.

### LOOK AROUND!

Believers must be ever aware of the fact that they are part of the family of God. No believer is an island. We have a responsibility to our fellow-believers. This is especially so for those who lead (1 Timothy 4:12). Thus we must be careful not to act in a way that will confuse the minds and weaken the stand of those who travel with us. There may be instances where leaders are well able to read the issue and to make judgements harmless to themselves, but is that so for all who

observe their actions? Is there the danger that we may contribute to the establishment of a principle in the mind of an individual that will only lead him or her along a path to compromise and potential ruin?

### LOOK AHEAD!

One old preacher exhorted, ‘never sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate.’ It is a temptation not always resisted. But we must not allow the desire for popularity or the wish to pull a crowd to so blur the lines of separation that we open the flood-gates to practices that will guarantee a host of long-term problems. What looked appealing – the answer to the challenge of the hour – will, long-term, produce only negative effects.

No one pretends that it is easy to maintain a separated, Christ-exalting position – especially when the clarion call of the age is to abandon that ground, and its arguments seem all too plausible. But then, it never has been easy to “go forth...unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach.” (Hebrews 13:13)

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

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## NEW MINISTER IN BELFAST



Friday 20th February witnessed the ordination of Mr Paul Foster and his installation as minister of William Tyndale Memorial congregation in south Belfast. A well attended service, hosted by Mr Foster's home congregation, Comber, was conducted by interim-moderator Rev B McClung. Other ministers participating included Revs D Stewart, I Brown, T Murray, C Dennison and Moderator Rev J Greer. Clerk of Session Kyle Carrick welcomed Mr Foster, and a special service of welcome was held in the Tyndale church the following Lord's Day evening.

## CARRICKFERGUS INSTALLATION

The vacancy in the Carrickfergus congregation has come to an end with the ordination and installation of Mr Stephen McCrea as minister. Interim-moderator Rev J Woods conducted the service, held in Mr McCrea's home church, Magherafelt, on Thursday 26th March. Among those who participated were Mr McCrea's father Rev W McCrea, Clerk of Presbytery Rev I Brown, and Moderator Rev J Greer.





## SUNDAY SCHOOL SUCCESS



Our photos show Mark Woods (John Knox Memorial) who has received a certificate for answering all the questions in the Child's Catechism from Mr Robert Ferris, and Rev James Porter and Sunday School superintendent Wilbur McMullan (Markethill) congratulating pupils Sarah Linden and Timothy Burke. Both recited the entire Child's Catechism and received certificates to mark their achievement.

## PASTOR GROZA'S CHOIR



The choir from Romania will sing in Lurgan & Magherafelt (2nd August), Coleraine (3rd), Ballymena (4th), Martyrs' (5th), Ballymoney (6th), Omagh (7th), Enniskillen (8th), Tandragee & Hillsborough (9th), Portavogie (10th), and Ballygowan (11th).

## TRIBUTE: JOHNSTON LOGAN

Ballymena elder Johnston Logan passed away last November after a brief illness. Johnston, saved at a Mission in Ballynafie Mission Hall, came into contact with the Ballymena congregation during the 1975 mission in the Town Hall. Shortly afterwards he became a member, was elected to the Committee in 1983, and then in 1986 to the Kirk Session. For many years, Johnston was an exemplary elder – possessing the ability to quietly pass on a verse of scripture or speak an

encouraging word just when needed. His very useful ministry in care homes started in the early 1980's in Moat House and expanded to include many nursing homes in the Ballymena area.

Johnston worked in the building trade and was highly respected by his employers and his fellow employees. He left a clear testimony and was never ashamed to speak a word for the Lord on site, readily sharing his faith with colleagues. One former employer told of

how, each morning, Johnston arrived a half hour early, found a quiet corner, and opened his Bible. Two minutes before he was due to start, he closed his Bible and promptly started his day's work.

Johnston loved the hymn "I stand amazed in the presence", and would echo the words of writer Charles H Gabriel: *"When with the ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see, 'Twill be my joy through the ages To sing of His love for me."*

## OMAGH: OOPS!

Our last issue carried a report of Rev Morrow's retirement in which we identified elder David Aiken as Omagh Clerk of Session. In fact, Mr Ernest Monteith serves in this capacity. We apologise for the error.

## MOURNE INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**TEACHER REQUIRED** (with immediate effect)

**Apply to:** Administrator, Rev A Patterson ,  
5 Carrigenagh Rd, Kilkeel, BT34 4NE **or** apatterson78@hotmail.co.uk

# CHILDREN'S CORNER



**'Goodyear' is a company famous for making tyres.** The founder, Henry Goodyear, lived in London over a hundred years ago at the same time as famous preacher C.H.

Spurgeon. Mr Goodyear lived a lavish, millionaire lifestyle, with no time for God. He didn't read the Bible because he didn't believe it was true. He didn't go to church either – that was a waste of time. However, not all the Goodyears felt this way. Henry's niece was a Christian. She loved the Lord and was glad when her uncle agreed to go and hear Mr Spurgeon preach.

Just as the service was about to start, a man announced that Mr Spurgeon would be unable to preach because he was ill. Unable to get another speaker at such short notice, one of the men in the church took his place. Henry's niece was disappointed because she had wanted her uncle to hear Spurgeon. The speaker began to read Genesis 5 in a

low, trembling voice. This was a strange choice because it is a list of names that reads like this: 'Adam lived for so many years and then died... his son Seth lived for so many years and then he died'... on and on it continued.

The young girl's heart sank. After persuading her uncle to come, it seemed as if he wasn't even going to hear about his need of the Saviour. Afterwards her uncle was quiet. The words, '...he lived and then he died... he lived and then he died...' from the reading were on his mind. All night long they continued '...he lived and then he died...' Surely there was more to life than this.

The following day the young girl decided to visit her uncle. She found him very upset. She was able to point out that there was more to life than just living and then dying. There was eternal life for all who trusted in the Lord Jesus, the One who died to save men from their sins. Henry Goodyear bowed his head, confessed his sins to God, and was wonderfully saved.

Compiled by Robert McConnell

For what is your  
life? It is even  
a vapour that  
appeareth for a  
little time  
James 4:14

## Quiz:

**Tyres are made of rubber. There are many different types of materials mentioned in the Bible. Look up each of the following reference, find the materials, and put your answers in the grid provided**

"He shall cover thee with his F....."  
(Psalm 91v4)

F							
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

"And Moses made a serpent of B....."  
(Numbers 21v9)

B				
---	--	--	--	--

"And the street of the city was pure G....."  
(Revelation 22v21)

G				
---	--	--	--	--

"I also am formed out of C....."  
(Job 33v6)

C				
---	--	--	--	--

"He stooping down and looking in saw the L... clothes" (John 20v5)

L				
---	--	--	--	--

Now re-arrange the five letters that are in the boxes marked with a crisscross. These letters spell the name of a Book in the Bible.

**Answer:**

The Book of the Bible is

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

## PRIZES!

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

Rev. Stephen Pollock

Email: [answer@fpvision.org](mailto:answer@fpvision.org)

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## £5 WINNERS LAST TIME:

- |                                 |                                   |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| » Aaron Johnston<br>(Hebron)    | » David McKeown<br>(Ballymena)    |
| » Madison Lecky<br>(Cookstown)  | » Amy Rutherford<br>(Londonderry) |
| » Chloe Beattie<br>(Tandragee)  | » Mary Dickey<br>(Newtownards)    |
| » Rebecca Irvine<br>(Banbridge) | » Ruth Douglas<br>(Aghalee)       |





# THE POWER OF THE CROSS

**I**f we want to see souls saved we must proclaim the work of Christ on the cross – that was the mind-set of the Apostle Paul. His love for souls ensured that he did all he could to see those souls come to a saving knowledge of God. Thus, in his ministry, he preached the message that souls needed to hear. *“For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”* (1 Corinthians 2:2) While there are many facets to such a message there is a marked simplicity in the apostle’s cry: Preach Christ crucified! The underlying reason behind this is that the cross-work of Christ addresses the deepest needs of humanity. His death, sealed by His glorious resurrection, secures salvation for a multitude that no man can number.

In our sinful state we live under the curse, guilt and condemnation of a broken law (Romans 3:19; Galatians

3:10). Does Christ’s death deal with this legal guilt? Yes! The just died for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18). The blessed One became a curse for the cursed (Galatians 3:13), so that forgiveness is offered through the nailing of our sinful guilt to Christ’s cross, thus *“blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us”* (Colossians 2:14).

In our sinful state we live under the present weight of the wrath of God. *“He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”* (John 3:36) What fear there ought to be when we contemplate the coming ‘Day of Wrath’! In the hardness and impenitence of our hearts we treasure *“up unto [ourselves] wrath against the day of wrath”* (Romans 2:5). But Christ’s death as our sin-bearing substitute propitiates, appeases and

turns away God’s wrath. *“And he is the propitiation for our sins”* (1 John 2:2).

In our sinful state we are at enmity with God. *“The carnal mind is enmity against God”* (Romans 8:7). We are, by nature, ‘far off’ from fellowship with God. *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh”* How? Again it is through the work of Christ on the cross for it is *“by the blood of Christ.”* (Ephesians 2:13)

Oh that sinners would see the power of the cross and that believers would live in the light of these truths! Space does not permit a fuller discussion of how Christ’s cross secures redemption, cleansing, victory over sin and Satan, and much more. Simply rejoice in the grand simplicity of the truth that *“Christ died for our sins”* (1 Corinthians 15:3).

THE CROSS-  
WORK OF CHRIST  
ADDRESSES THE  
DEEPEST NEEDS OF  
HUMANITY

## FROM THE OLD TO THE YOUNG

*“Christ upon the cross stood in our place, and bare our persons, and whatsoever He suffered we suffered, and when He died all died with Him- all the faithful died in Him, and, as He is risen again, so the faithful are risen in Him.”*

- John Boys, quoted in ‘A Puritan Golden Treasury’, I.D.E. Thomas



# FOUNDATIONS

THINGS YOUNG PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW

## HOW TO KNOW ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

**We need to build our lives on the foundation of God's Word. Previously we saw our need to know the truth that is found in Christ, and also how we can be saved. This time Rev Ron Johnstone (Newtownards) shows us: **How To Know Assurance of Salvation.****

**W**hile it is wonderful to know that we can be saved, it is even more wonderful to be saved and know it! Many are confused as to how to obtain and maintain such an assurance. The Scriptures warn of a false assurance based on a spurious faith (Matthew 7:21-27). Pride and self-righteousness accompany this false assurance. Satan, the arch-deceiver, loves to keep those on the way to hell deluded into thinking they are on the way to heaven! But he also loves it when true believers are unsure of their salvation. He knows that in such a state the believer will never experience the freedom, joy, and contentment that God wants him to have.

Believers, therefore, may sometimes share the experience of the hymn writer:

*O how well do I remember how I doubted day by day,  
For I did not know for certain that my sins were washed away.  
When the truth came close and searching,  
all my joy would disappear  
For I did not have the witness of the Spirit bright and clear.*

The Holy Spirit dwells within true believers (Romans 8:9) and one of His ministries is to witness with their spirit that they are the sons of God (Romans 8:16). The important question is, how does the Spirit of Truth witness?

This is not by some physical, spectacular sign, as some would wrongly teach. Puritan theologian John Owen helpfully suggested: 'to understand the text you must picture yourself in a courtroom.' Imagine a believer boldly making the claim that he is a son of God, an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17). Suddenly, Satan, the adversary and accuser, steps forward to contest that claim. 'Look at your past sins. Look inward at those secret thoughts no one else knows about. Look around at others who have given up their Christian profession. You could not be a genuine Christian.' Many a believer has been in just such a place. His mind and conscience are troubled. However, into the court of the believer's mind, comes the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. He, being God, sees all and knows all.



## HE BRINGS THE WORD OF GOD TO THE CHRISTIAN

He shows Christ's promise, "Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Spurgeon wrote, *'If Gabriel the Archangel were to appear in my room and say, I have come to tell you that you are a child of God.' I would say, Thank you for your trouble but you need not have bothered for I have a more sure witness, the Word of God.'* As the Spirit begins to quote the Word, the devil slinks away and a smile comes to the believer's face.

## HE POINTS TO CHRIST'S WORK ON BEHALF OF THE CHRISTIAN

He focuses attention upon the sufferings of Christ in His atoning work. He reveals that while it is true that the one standing accused in the dock deserves hell for all eternity, Christ paid the debt of that man's sin at Calvary. The answer to the accusation of the devil, and the doubts that arise in the believer's heart is to be taught, by the Spirit, the meaning of the atoning work of Christ.

Romans 8:33, 34 declare "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth [declares the believing sinner righteous] Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, Who is even at the right hand of God, Who also maketh intercession for us." Genuine assurance is based not on our tears of repentance, nor in the sincerity of our feelings, but on the imputed righteousness of Christ.

## HE POINTS TO THE WORK OF GOD IN THE CHRISTIAN

The Holy Spirit leads the child of God (Romans 8:14). The Holy Spirit renews his mind, stirs his heart, giving confidence in prayer (Romans 8:15). He enables the Christian to die more and more unto sin and live more and more unto righteousness. John's first Epistle has assurance as its theme.

**TO HAVE TRUE ASSURANCE YOU MUST HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD WORKING THROUGH THE WORD REVEALING THE SAVIOUR AND HIS WORK TO YOU.**

It was written to enable those who believed in Christ to know that they have eternal life (1 John 5:13). When a paramedic arrives at the scene of an accident, he checks the patient for vital signs of life. John in his Epistle lists signs or evidences of spiritual life that will be evident in a believer. For example, he will have a desire to obey God's commandments and love the brethren in Christ. Thus the true believer will obey the exhortation to examine himself (2 Corinthians 13:5). He realises he is not all he should be, but he is not the man he once was. More and more he loves the Lord and His people and hates sin.

To have true assurance you must have the Spirit of God working through the Word revealing the Saviour and His work to you and revealing the 'birthmarks' of a believer. This witness is ongoing. The tense employed means the Holy Spirit keeps on bearing witness. If the believer is grieving the Holy Spirit by disobedience then the Spirit will not be making the Scriptures clearer and the Saviour dearer to him. Such a Christian only has a stale testimony! There is nothing fresh. Nowhere in scripture are we told to look back to a past experience for the assurance of salvation. In fact, some believers do not remember the precise time and date they first trusted Christ. Well, it is not the when that is important. What is important is that you have the witness of the Spirit now.

If you want to learn more about assurance, I suggest a study of chapter 18 of the Westminster Confession of Faith. As the Confession states, it is our duty to seek that assurance and to strengthen it, by not neglecting the means of grace, such as worship, the Scriptures and prayer. Neglect of these and other means will cause a diminishing of our assurance and nurture the plague of doubts. But when the Spirit witnesses through the Word, the child of God can know he has eternal life.



# NEW YOUTH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

**I**n March Rev David Brown (Larne) was elected to the Presidency of the Youth Council. Mr Brown explains something of his vision for the task:

In this 41st year of the Youth Council I am delighted to have been elected as President to serve alongside the committee and delegates. I have a personal sense of indebtedness to the Youth Council for training and opportunities for service. It has played a hugely significant role in influencing the young people of our denomination for good. It is my prayer that it will continue to assist our youth in the organization and coordination of events that will evangelise, encourage and equip – all for the glory of God! So I would really encourage young people to consider serving on one of the summer outreach teams.

Our aim is to prepare young people to stand for Christ with godly convictions and a firm grasp of the scriptures. John Calvin, having founded his academy in Geneva, said “Send me raw wood and I will give you back arrows.” In Deuteronomy 6:7 the Lord commands



that the younger generation be taught the truth of God's Word 'diligently'. Interestingly, the Hebrew word rendered 'teach' is 'shanan' which means to sharpen! This verse brings a fresh emphasis to Calvin's vision - our responsibility to sharpen our young people to serve Christ now.

'Can we really expect much from our young people?' May I remind you of some young people who did exploits

for God? Thomas Drowy was 15 and William Hunter 19 when they were burned in 1555 for allegiance to Christ. William Featherston wrote that great hymn "My Jesus I love thee I know thou art mine" when just 16 before going to be with his Saviour at 26. Robert Murray M'Cheyne saw much accomplished through the power of God in his 20's! God is able to do great things in and through our young people. To all I say, 'brethren, pray for us.'

## YOUTH COUNCIL EVENTS

### CHILDREN'S OUTREACHES

**KESH**  
6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
Cost: £160, Age:16+

**LARNE**  
10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> August 2015  
Cost: £160, Age:16+

### MAINLAND OUTREACH

**STRANRAER**  
4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July  
Cost £245  
Age:18+ (10 places)

**BRISTOL**  
18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> July  
Cost £245  
Age:18+ (10 places)

### OTHER EVENTS

#### MARTYRS' MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP

**FAITH MISSION CENTRE,  
DURRAGH, CO LAOIS**  
23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August

Cost: £135 - £145 (inclusive)  
Enquiries/Applications: M. Bannatyne  
028 9508 9065 or 079 8922 5602



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# A WORD TO WOMEN

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## “CAN THAT WHICH IS UNSAVOURY BE EATEN WITHOUT SALT?”

(JOB 6:6)

**S**alt is found in every kitchen. Those who are health conscious may add little salt but plenty is found already in almost every food. We need salt to live and even our tongues have special cells designed to help us taste it. Salt and its properties have been recognised from earliest times. Salt is extracted from sea water or mined from huge deposits found across the globe. But how is it spoken of in the Scriptures?

In Job 6:6, salt is seen as a taste enhancer. The example of using salt to flavour the white of an egg is given. A little pinch in cooking seems to bring out other flavours and greatly improve our dining experience.

In Colossians 4:6 we read, *“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt”*. The speech of a Christian should set him apart. It should add nothing unsavoury to a conversation but should add pleasantness and wholesomeness. The tongue is a small part of our body but has a capability of causing much hurt and harm. Let us guard what we say, seasoning our speech with salt.

In the Old Testament salt accompanied the offerings (Leviticus 2:13). This spoke of the flavour and pleasantness of our Saviour. Psalm 34:8 exhorts us, *“O taste and see that the Lord is good”*. To avail of all the privileges of God’s people, we must first avail of the salvation which He offers freely. Neither leaven nor honey were allowed in the offerings, only salt, as it preserves and speaks of the continuance and effectiveness of the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. Christ not only saves but He keeps His people. He gives eternal life and we shall never perish. A covenant of salt was an everlasting covenant (Numbers 18:19), so the Lord promises never to forget us but has *‘graven us on the palms of his hands’* (Isaiah 49:16).

Salt as a preservative has been well used throughout time. While today we preserve foods by freezing and other methods, salting is still used. It is a natural method of preserving food, but is not the food itself. In the Sermon on the Mount the Lord Jesus compared His disciples and followers to salt – *“Ye are the salt of the earth”*. The phrase has passed into everyday vocabulary. Christians in a country have a preserving effect, praying as they do for the spiritual welfare of the people. Christians act as a brake to the downward moral slide. Salt is made up of many grains, and more grains produce a saltier taste. Likewise the church of Christ is made up of many individuals. Let us endeavour to work together as a preserving influence wherever we are found.

IF WE  
ARE LOSING  
OUR SAVOUR THEN  
WE SHOULD PRAY TO  
BE RESTORED TO  
USEFULNESS.

Generally, salt is a good thing. However, Christ warned of salt which had lost its savour and was *“good for nothing, but to be cast out, and trodden under foot of men”*. Those who are truly saved cannot be lost, but a Christian may grow cold and allow his pleasant and beneficial flavour to be hidden. The unsaved will use such as an excuse for not receiving Christ. If we are losing our savour then we should pray to be restored to usefulness. If we see a Christian stumbling, then reach out to help, remembering that we too can easily fall.

If you are still unsaved, heed the warning, ‘Remember Lot’s wife’. In an instant she was reduced to a pillar of salt – a startling warning to escape from the wrath to come.

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¶ **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.

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# CONGREGATION CALL: BALLYMONEY

**B**allymoney, one of the first congregations in the fledgling work of the Free Presbyterian Church, was born out of a Mission conducted by Rev. Ian Paisley and an all-night Prayer Meeting. The Mission was conducted in the Cabra Schoolhouse in April 1951. Preaching continued for six weeks, and one hundred souls professed faith in Christ. An all-night Prayer Meeting was held in Sandy McAuley's home, and, in the morning, the decision was made. In June 1951 the new congregation was formed.

The Lord gave Sandy a wonderful promise from Job chapter 8 verse 7, 'Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.' Throughout 64 years of faithful Gospel preaching, this promise has seen fulfilment. The congregation has enjoyed the faithful preaching of Rev. Cecil Menary (student minister) and of Rev. John Wylie (first ordained minister). In 1972 the work expanded into Ballymoney town under the ministry of Rev. Alan Cairns and progressed under the leadership of Rev. Leslie Curran until 1995. It continues to flourish to this day. On Saturday 16th September 2006 a new Church building was opened to the glory of God. The auditorium creates a warm, friendly, commodious atmosphere, and is seated in a fan-shaped design to accommodate five hundred persons. The rear foyer is designated as a place for relaxed and informal fellowship. It is adorned with a picture gallery, displaying many 'Heroes of the Faith' who have their names chronicled in church history. With the new church came a new name; it became officially known as 'Hebron.'

The Worship Service on the Sabbath is usually a teaching meeting, when God's people are instructed and edified. The Evening Service has a Gospel emphasis, with the prayer that sinners find grace in the eyes of the Lord. On the first Lord's Day of each month a Family Night is held, giving a special opportunity to bring loved ones to hear the Word. The Sabbath begins with an early morning Prayer Meeting. The Sunday School and Bible Class are also conducted in the morning, with the objective of training youth in the truths of Holy Scripture.

Tuesday night is 'Youth Challenge' when children gather for Gospel instruction. The Junior Meeting sees up to 100 in attendance, with around 25 to 30 at the Senior Meeting. The Midweek Service is on Thursday night as we assemble for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Friday is Youth Fellowship night - we are blessed in seeing our young people growing in grace and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit. An Open Air is conducted fortnightly in the centre of Ballymoney. Seniors meet twice a month for an informal time of fellowship.

The Church is involved in special outreach work. The Home Mission, overseen for 30 years by the late Albert McAuley, is a door-to-door evangelistic mission, presently supervised by Mark Telford. Every year several missions are conducted for adults and children in the endeavour to reach the lost.

Besides the early morning Prayer Meeting on the Lord's Day, and prayer seasons before each service, together with the

Armen's Farewell



Youth Challenge



Youth Fellowship Weekend



weekly Prayer Meeting, the year begins with our Hebron Week of Prayer, held immediately after the Ministers' Week of Prayer. Other special times of prayer are held throughout the year. For 47 years a Missionary Weekend has been organised and conducted with a view to highlighting the missionary endeavour of our denomination. It is undoubtedly one of the highlights in our church calendar. Prayerful and practical support has been raised and many have felt the challenge, and even the call of God, regarding the Mission Field.

A monthly Prayer Meeting is held for Missionary Work and Revival. Finance is raised for the Mission Board, Missionary Council, various missionaries and the ministry of LTBS which was commenced in Ballymoney in 1973. God has been pleased to put His hand upon our members over the years and call them into the work. Rev and Mrs John Hanna have been serving the Lord in Spain for 38 years, Noreen McAfee in Kenya for 15 years, and Pat Mills worked as a missionary to the Jews in Toronto for 20 years. Joy McAuley married a Spanish Pastor and Janice Buick married a Pastor from Scotland. Armen Thomassian has just gone to Canada, with his wife Melanie and family, to take up the ministry in Calgary. Other groups and individuals have been involved in short term missionary service.

Very much part of our church life is the Christian School. Under the leadership of Principal Julie Boyd, and excellent staff, the Lord has been pleased to bless this ministry. The children receive a Christian education in a godly environment – something that we never take for granted.

They say, 'Behind every good man there is a good woman.' Some may venture to say, 'Behind every good man there is an even better woman.' I have found this so in the ministry.

God has gifted to me a true soul mate and help meet who has stood with me in the work of the Gospel for 30 years. It's appropriate to give honour where honour is due, and thank God for a good woman in the manse, and for a family who supports 'dad' in his ministry.

**WE THANK  
GOD FOR OUR  
CONGREGATION:  
GODLY LEADERS,  
FAITHFUL  
WORKERS,  
PRAYER  
WARRIORS,  
MUSICIANS AND  
SINGERS. TO GOD  
BE THE GLORY.**

One might ask, 'How have you been able to continue to this day?' The simple answer is, 'By God's matchless grace!' However, under God, I am very conscious that He has given to our congregation godly leadership in our Session and Committee. Men who love the Lord and desire His glory are the key to good governance and God's blessing. This year our oversight was strengthened with two new elders and three new deacons. This can only be for the good of our people, with spiritual men who have a heart for God, at the helm.

An excellent 15-strong Media team oversees sound and broadcasting. Sermonaudio brings us a potential extended audience of some 250 people, with friends such as the Larrivees (Connecticut, USA) who listen each week. By the beginning of 2015, 290,929 had viewed our sermon title pages, with 92,762 mp3 downloads and 9,100 video downloads. Emails from across the world express appreciation for this ministry.

We thank God for our congregation: godly leaders, faithful workers, prayer warriors, musicians and singers. I can but declare the line of Fanny Crosby's hymn, not as a worn-out cliché, but as a declaration of all that the Lord has been pleased to do, 'To God be the glory! Great things He hath done!'

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✚ Rev David Park

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Youth Fellowship Weekend



Sunday School Outing

## MANX VISIT

REV W MCDOWELL AND MAINLAND COMMISSION CONVENER REV D SMITH RECENTLY VISITED THE CHURCH IN PORT ERIN, ISLE OF MAN. MR SMITH REFLECTS ON THAT VISIT.



The small plane had about seven or eight passengers and a dozen empty seats. This was the CityWing flight to Ronaldsway Airport, Isle of Man. No Boeing 747 or Airbus 330 on this route! Sitting near the front you can reach forward and almost touch the windshield – and you get a bird’s eye view of the propeller blades spinning very close, very fast, and very loudly next to the window – a little bit scary! After a shaky landing in the wind it was comforting to find ourselves taxing toward the terminal building half an hour after take-off.

Our purpose was to spend three days with the small group of God’s people in Port Erin on the southern tip of the island. The Sunday morning meeting had about 8 people present. It was good to renew fellowship and join in worship with the folk there. They have soldiered on now for about 14 years, relying on ministers, students and laymen who are able to travel over for the weekend meetings and, if possible, Monday night prayer meetings. Congregations in Northern Ireland have been very generous in this regard, many of them underwriting the cost of their minister’s travel.

Port Erin, the largest of the towns in the south of the island, together with the neighbouring town of Port St Mary, has a population of over 5,500 people. A drive of about 45 minutes to the east is the capital of the Island, Douglas. Its population is approaching 30,000. The population of the Island in total is now around 80,000.

The church building is located on the edge of Port Erin on a plot of land which includes a car park. The building is well proportioned, and has a small residential annex at the rear. This was built a few years ago by volunteers sponsored by the Forward Movement and subsequently the Mainland Commission. It is used to accommodate visiting speakers over the weekend and so removes the expense of a using a guest house.

A Sunday afternoon meeting was arranged to meet with the congregation and speak with them about future efforts in the area. The number present was similar to the morning meeting. I informed them of the desire of the Commission to have some men come for a longer period of time and engage in evangelistic effort. This was appreciated by those

present and prayer was asked that God would lead.

Subsequent to this meeting arrangements have been made for first-year Whitefield College student, Mr Daniel Henderson, to spend about six weeks of his summer vacation to conduct the meetings on the Lord’s Days and the Prayer Meetings on Monday nights. He will be accommodated in the annex and undertake evangelistic work in the area from the beginning of August through to the middle of September. Daniel will be paid a small salary which will be raised by the Church in Port Erin and the Mainland Commission. Should you feel able to help with this, gifts would be appreciated and can be sent to the UK Fund.

Please pray for the small band that comprises this congregation that it might be encouraged and strengthened. Pray for Daniel Henderson as he spends time in his pulpit and outreach duties. This is an opportunity to get ‘hands on’ experience in the Lord’s work. Pray that Daniel will profit from it.

Pray for new contacts to be made and visitors from the area to frequent the meetings and be brought to saving faith in Christ. Pray for a more regular ministry to be available to the people over a few months during the year ahead rather than just a different preacher every week.

And don’t forget to pray for safe arrivals on that plane that lands in the wind – and for the blades on those propellers to stay attached and keep going! Now there’s a thought for the little fellowship in Port Erin: stay attached and keep going!



## MINISTERS' WEEK OF PRAYER

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**T**he ministers' week of prayer on the mainland will take place in Stranraer from May 18th – 22nd. Pray that the Lord will give blessed times of fellowship and prayer.

## 20P FUND

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**P**lease remember to continue to contribute to the 20p fund. Your regular giving to this fund is much appreciated, and funds are always needed to sustain our witness on the mainland.

## EXAMINATION OF MAINLAND CONGREGATIONS

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**P**resbytery has tasked the commission with the duty of examining the churches. This process will begin with a visitation being made to the churches in Gardenstown, Rutherglen and Stranraer during the later part of the week of prayer in May.

Pray that this will be a constructive time for both the churches and members of the commission.

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### NEWS

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## CALGARY INSTALLATION

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**R**ev Armen Thomassian has been installed as minister of the church in Calgary, BC, Canada. Armen is pictured with participants at the service.

Already the Lord has blessed in the congregation with two young men seeking Christ in the first week. Continue to pray for the Thomassians and the witness in western Canada.

A photograph of a large, weathered barn with a corrugated metal roof. The barn's side is painted with a large, white, serif font sign that reads: "FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE". The barn is situated in a grassy field with a clear blue sky in the background.

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON  
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM  
SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE  
EVERLASTING LIFE

## THE BANGOR BARN

*Readers familiar with the well-known text on the barn at the Graham farm near Bangor will be interested in the testimony of Marceline Garcia Akl, which first appeared in the newsletter of the Bangor congregation...*

**I lived in Belfast from 1983-1990 – first as a student, then a French assistant in schools, then with the European Commission as an Information Officer – but I was born in a small village in central Spain in 1959, the fourth and last child in a peasant family.** When I was four, my family migrated to France. I grew up in the countryside near Lyon. My family was Catholic, and I thought I just had to “be good” to go to Heaven. But I didn’t know God personally. When I was sixteen, my father died. It was Christmas Eve. He was not sick; he just went to sleep and never woke up. I held God responsible and turned away from the little I knew of Him, living an empty life for many years.

When I came to Belfast, I met born-again Christians for the first time. None of them told me about Jesus, but they prayed for me. I can now see how the Lord worked. There were billboard-men, in down town Belfast, when I was shopping, with their verses about the end of the world and the return of Christ. I had this image of a gate slowly closing – I was left outside, and I was

frightened. Another sign was a Gideon Bible I stole from a hotel room. I started to read it but after the first few pages, I didn’t understand very much, so I kept it on my shelves, for show. Finally, there was that board, on a barn wall, on the road to Bangor. I had passed it many times, but I had never really seen it. One day, after another of many discussions with my brother back in France (a Christian), I was driving back from Bangor, and then I saw the sign. What I read brought big tears to my eyes: ‘For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.’ I thought this was fine for my brother, a believer, but not for me. I didn’t deserve it, I was left out. When I got back to Belfast, I reached for the Gideon Bible. And I checked that verse, again and again, in many languages.

Back in France, in 1993, I attended a shadow-play where youngsters depicted Jesus crowned with thorns, spat at, and crucified. When I saw the Roman soldier hammering the nails, I understood that I could have been

that soldier. At the back of the room I cried, saying “O God, what have we done!” One year later, on 29th May 1994, I attended an evangelistic gathering with family members, all of them born-again. Someone prayed for me, and asked me after that: “Do you know Jesus does not reject you?” and “Are you not fed up carrying your life on your own?” And through a flood of tears, I asked Jesus to forgive me and carry my “empty” life instead of me. Four months later, my eldest sister came to Jesus, which means that the five of us are saved.

I am married to Fadi, and we have been blessed with twins, Samuel and Nathan, now 14. In 2004 at the Bible Institute of Geneva, we met Paul Harrison, whose mum knew the “ladies who live in that farm on the Bangor road”. Last summer, as I visited Northern-Ireland with my family after twenty years, I wanted to thank the Graham family for that sign that changed my life. And I want to encourage you to keep it up, through these days of turmoil, because it is a lighthouse that has been put there by the Lord!



# NEW BUS FOR BCFC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



**T**he arrival of the new bus at the Academy in Lityei was a wonderful answer to prayer.

The provision of this new vehicle made me think of those texts: 'This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes' (Psalm 118:23), and of how God 'is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think' (Ephesians 4:20). When the need was first muted by our missionaries, the most the Mission Board could promise them was a special appeal for a deposit. All we could contribute would be as the Lord touched the hearts of His people to give. Last year I got a phone call from a dear man who wished to help with this project. Amazingly, he provided not just the deposit but the funds necessary to purchase the bus!

The money was lodged in our Mission Board account and the bus ordered. The School has now received delivery of this new vehicle. Academy manager, Miss Margaret Russell, and Principal, Miss Noreen McAfee, wish to record their sincere appreciation for the Lord's provision. Particular thanks are due to the anonymous donor for his kindness and generosity. The children have now a safe and reliable bus to convey them to and from school.

Miss McAfee writes: 'Greetings from BCFC Christian Academy, Kapenguria. This is just a short note to say thank you for our lovely new bus. There was much excitement and rejoicing and I'm sure the video camera will hardly do it all justice. One student said, 'Madam Principal, the new bus

is just perfect.' And as for the nursery children; well they all lined up to board the new bus at home time. We found this quite amusing! In their wee minds they just assumed, Well, now it's here, let's ride on it! It was class!'

Rev. Kendagor, General Secretary of BCFC, wrote to me conveying his appreciation: 'I would like, on behalf of BCFC and the School Board, to thank the Mission Board for assisting the school by buying the bus.'

We acknowledge the hand of God in all that He has done for the BCFC Academy, and readily declare, '*The Lord hath done great things for us: whereof we are glad*' (Psalm 126:4).

✚ Rev David Park



## MISSION BOARD EVENING OF MALE VOICE PRAISE

**HILLSBOROUGH FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (Kindly Granted)  
SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015, 7.30PM**

- Choirs from Ballymena, Lisburn, Magherafelt, Mourne & Whitefield College
- Guest Preacher: Rev Gordon Ferguson (Whitefield College Principal)
- Offering in aid of United Children's Camp – Everyone Welcome



## JOANNE GREER IN UGANDA

**I** was excited to have another opportunity to visit Emmanuel Christian School in Nsaalu, Uganda, from February 2 to March 17. For four of the six weeks, I taught CRE (Christian Religious Education), reading, and music from 8am-4pm each day.

Another big project during this trip was the setting up and organising of a library. Some reading books had been donated or purchased in the UK, and we carried these to Uganda to form the

basis of a levelled reading programme for the 136 students in P1-6, each of whom I assessed during my visit to determine their reading level. We also visited three bookshops during the trip and purchased more levelled readers and textbooks. A staff librarian and a student librarian were appointed to oversee and maintain the library after I left, and two solar lights were purchased so that boarders can study in the library at night. The children and teachers were all very enthusiastic about this project; please do pray that it

will be used to the glory of God.

I have been so blessed to be able to make these visits to Uganda, but I am equally looking forward to returning to Liberia. The North American Mission Board has given the go-ahead for our return, and Lord willing, we will be flying back to Monrovia in early May. Please pray for safe travels and good health, for grace and wisdom as we take up the work again, for God's blessing on all aspects of the ministry there, and for a complete end to the Ebola outbreak.

## LETTER FROM TASMANIA



### Praying Friends,

**It's a joy to present our requests and news before you again. Please take them to heart and pray for God's continued blessing here in Tasmania.** The biggest news we have to share is our recent decision to remain in Tasmania beyond the two years initially proposed. We are in the process of applying for a new visa. Please pray that the matter would be quickly resolved. We would like to

thank everyone who has been praying for our family. The children's settling into their new life is nothing short of remarkable. They are enjoying Calvin Christian School and are fully engaged in all aspects of school life. Please pray that their Christian testimony might be bright and shining.

In recent months we have enjoyed the fellowship and ministry of Rev Ryan McKee and Rev and Mrs Ian Brown, and are looking forward to a visit from Rev David McIlveen.

The attendance at the Lord's Day services has been consistently in the 25-30 range, with new families having joined with us in recent months. Pray that the Lord would continue to build up his people in their most holy faith (Jude 20) and that the lost sheep of the Kingston area might hear the voice

of the Good Shepherd and follow Him (John 10:27).

Pray that the 5-day club held for the boys and girls at Easter might become a regular feature, that many children will hear the Gospel message, and contacts be made with families in the area.

As we reflect on the Lord's guidance and grace over these last months, Isaiah 58:11 comes often to mind, "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

Yours in the Master's Service

✠ **Ralph, Tanya, Emma, James, Matthew, and Jack Hall**  
**Romans 12:1-2**



# DAVID DICANIO ON DEPUTATION

**R**ev David DiCanio has expressed appreciation to the Ulster Mission Board for the opportunity to preach in forty-one of the UK Free Presbyterian Churches during February, March, and early April. In his deputation meetings Mr DiCanio showed a 15-minute video, preached, and gave a brief history of Liberia, West Africa, where he has been serving since 2011. The video also highlighted the work of Ulster missionary Joanne Greer, serving on the field since 2012.

Mr DiCanio focused upon the need for wisdom when labouring in developing countries, particularly regarding the giving of aid to the poor. He stressed the importance of defining poverty biblically, rather than following the egalitarian mindset pervading international aid agencies. "Poverty is not defined by developing countries comparing themselves with Ulster or America and claiming that, until they reach our level of wealth they are poor," Mr. DiCanio said. "Poverty is defined biblically by someone who is unable to meet his basic need of food and raiment (1Timothy 6)."

# NEW ELDERS IN ALCORCON



**L**ord's Day 15th February witnessed Pablo Pérez and Jonathan Hanna being added to the session in Alcorcon, Spain. The ordination was conducted by Rev J Hanna, and the Ulster presbytery was represented by Rev D Park, who preached powerfully from 1Peter 5:1-4. Recently there has been increase at both Lord's Day services. Unsaved are attending and some believers have joined in membership. The prayers of God's people are much appreciated, as is the monthly covenant support.

# DRUGS AWARENESS MEETINGS



**S**ince the start of 2015 Chris Killen has conducted drugs awareness meeting in Lurgan, Lisburn and Antrim - 35 unsaved present at the last venue - highlighting the danger of drugs. But the main purpose has been to present Christ: He alone can break the chains of addiction. Portadown church has arranged meetings for 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> May in Brownstown Community Centre. Please pray that the Lord will bless this special effort. In all that we do, may the Lord's great name be glorified - "that in all things He might have the pre-eminence." Colossians 1:18

# SENDING FORTH SERVICE



**MISSION BOARD SENDING FORTH SERVICE FOR MISS GILLIAN GILLESPIE**

**ARMAGH FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015, 8PM**

**Please join with us to encourage the Lord's servant in returning to Kenya**



# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## MAY

**2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> LIVERPOOL,  
ANNUAL BIBLE CONVENTION**  
Speaker: Dr A Cairns  
Details: Rev C Stripp, 0151 5239201

**15<sup>th</sup> LISBURN,  
YOUTH PRAISE SERVICE**  
Time: Friday, 8.00pm  
Speaker: Rev Marcus Lecky  
Singers: The Greer Brothers  
Marcus & Cherith  
Victoria Cahoon

Supper served after the service

**15<sup>th</sup> GARVAGH,  
YOUTH PRAISE SERVICE**  
Time: Friday, 8.00pm  
Speaker: Rev D Linden  
Singers: Ballymoney Youth Choir  
Supper served

**15<sup>th</sup> SIXMILECROSS, ANNIVERSARY  
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
Time: Friday, 8.00pm  
Speaker: Rev R McKee  
Singers: Magherafelt Male Choir  
Supper served

**22<sup>nd</sup> MOURNE,  
YOUTH RALLY**  
Time: Friday, 8.00pm  
Speaker: Rev P Foster  
Special Singing

## JUNE

**27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> ANNALONG,  
ANNIVERSARY SERVICES**  
Time: Saturday, 7.30pm  
Sunday, 12.00 & 7.00pm  
Speakers: Drs J Douglas & F Greenfield

## AUGUST

**1<sup>st</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> ENNISKILLEN,  
FUNDAMENTALIST CONVENTION**  
Time: Sunday, 12.00am & 8.00pm  
Weeknights, 8.00pm  
Speaker: Dr A Cairns  
Dr J Douglas  
Rev J Morrow

## OCTOBER

**19<sup>th</sup> BALLYMENA,  
WHITEFIELD TRAINING ACADEMY**  
Time: Monday, New Term Commences  
Details: Call the College 028 4066 2232

## NOVEMBER

**BALLYMENA,  
ANNUAL BIBLE CONFERENCE**  
Speaker: Rev J Wagner  
Time & Dates to be confirmed