

Free Presbyterian VISION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

Why Should
Children
Attend
Church?

Why
Sunday
School
Matters

Silent
Christianity

SEPT
2021
#53
£1.00



Contents

REGULARS

- 8 News
- 9 Kids
- 10 A Word to Women:
Miss Margaret Armstrong
- 18 Christian Schools News

FEATURES

- 4 Why Sunday School Matters
- 6 Why Should Children Attend Church?
- 16 Silent Christianity

YOUTH

- 11 My Favourite Hymn
“O Christ what burdens bowed Thy head!”
- 12 Taking a Stand
- 14 Announcements

MISSIONARY VISION

- 20 International Missionary Prayer Meeting
- 21 Andrew and Hannah Foster planning for the future
- 22 Emergency Aid Distributed in Nepal



4



21



12

“Each of us can play our part to ensure that church is a welcoming place for *“the wriggling and the squirming”*. May our attitude and actions reflect those of the Saviour who said, *“Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven”*. ”

Editorial

Joshua’s declaration, “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,” (Joshua 24:15) is one of the great statements of the Old Testament. He was unwavering in his loyalty to the Lord God of Israel and unashamed to be on His side.

His statement is even more significant because there were many in Israel who thought it “evil” to serve the Lord (v. 15). Joshua was not deterred by them, rather he pledged allegiance to his God. Spiritual apostasy remains rife in our nation. There is an ongoing departure from the law of God and political correctness dictates the actions of many. Tolerance for sin goes hand in hand with a refusal to submit to the Scriptures and social movements decry those who champion the cause of righteousness. It is impossible to ignore the rampant advancement of sodomy and the ongoing demands for the commissioning of abortion services in Northern Ireland. This is indicative of the spiritual apostasy that abounds. There is a great falling away and a turning to fables and falsehoods. In times like this, Joshua’s resolve should be our resolve. When multitudes have no interest in serving, honouring, worshipping, and obeying the Lord; when many want to be conformed to the world; when the general population prefer sinful pleasure to genuine purity; and, when Christ is sinned against, it is right that we declare, “. . . as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua was a leader, a minister, and a father in Israel. He spoke with conviction and courage and was prepared to declare where he stood on the matter.

This kind of resolve comes through the grace of God and is nurtured by communion with God. As the fierce nature of the last days continues to manifest itself around us, let us pray for grace, power, and wisdom to be faithful to God, whatever the cost: remembering that if God be for us, who can be against us? ■

✉ Editor
editor@fpvision.org

Presbytery Publications Committee

Dr R Johnstone (Convenor), Mr I Campbell (Business Manager), Rev D Creane, Rev L Curran (Associate Editor), Rev M Lecky (Secretary), Rev C Mercer (Editor), Rev T Nelson, Rev G Wilson (Associate Editor)
Design and Print by Pepper Collective. T: 07729 526366

Subscriptions

FP Vision is available from your local Free Presbyterian Church, or by contacting Ian Campbell:
Tel: 028 417 62645
Mob: 07709 429271
E: subscribe@fpvision.org

“ Just as there was an odour at the breaking of the box, so, at the breaking of the body of our Lord at the cross, there came a glorious fragrance. ”



Mary Mirroring Her Lord



It is good to get views of the King sitting at His table. At two New Testament dinner tables, Jesus spoke of His own body. In Jerusalem's upper room, He said, “. . .this is my body, which is broken for you” (I Corinthians 11:24). A little before, at the table in Bethany, He said concerning Mary, “. . . she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying” (Mark 14:8).

When Mary took the alabaster box of spikenard from among her precious things that day to bring to Jesus

ungrudgingly, it was never her purpose to give Him the box. She came to break it and to empty the rich contents, lovingly, on her dear Lord and anoint that body which was soon to be broken for her. When once that box was warmly cracked over Jesus' body, no power on earth or in hell could have prevented the costly fragrance filling the whole house.

We know that hell frowned upon the action. The callous heart of Judas could count the value of the spikenard but could not measure the virtue of

pouring it all on Jesus. Christ, however, understands and appreciates the deed. To the Lord, it was “a good work” (Mark 14:6). Judas sees waste but Christ sees love and, in that extravagant love of Mary, He sees His own, pure love mirrored.

In this deed, Mary is mirroring her Lord. Her love is but a reflection of Christ's love for her. Her action is a shadow of what the Lord is on His way to Jerusalem to do for His people. The Saviour is like that alabaster box. Few saw the glory veiled within His flesh. In Him, however, dwells all fullness of sweetest fragrance. Christ, our rare and most precious Saviour, like spikenard, came from a far country. He left Heaven and came into this world – Messiah, filled with the Spirit, filled with all the graces and beauty of holiness. In His glorious person, He is precious and beautiful. His body was broken on the cross and He poured out His soul unto death for us. He gave Himself wholly, emptied Himself completely in the sacrifice of Calvary. All was given in His marvellous love for us.

Just as there was an odour at the breaking of the box, so, at the breaking of the body of our Lord at the cross, there came a glorious fragrance. The Roman soldiers and the unbelieving Jews did not smell it. They could not because the fragrance of Christ's death filled not an earthly house below, but the Father's house above and we, on earth, only appreciate it through faith. He was an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. The sweet savour of our crucified Lord has filled heaven and has reconciled us to God. With that broken body, hell is defeated and Heaven is opened. Because of Christ's broken body, the stench of our sin and depravity can no longer be smelt in Heaven. In Christ's work of love, then, fellow saint, delight your soul this day. Rest in the marvellous acceptance you have through the bruised Rose of Sharon. ■

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



Why Sunday School Matters

When traditional Sunday Schools are being phased out of regular church life, it is important to remember the place they should occupy in the ministry of a congregation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REFLECTS THE SAVIOUR'S ATTITUDE TO LITTLE CHILDREN

When hasty disciples, no doubt trying to safeguard the Saviour's busy schedule and precious time, turned away those who brought little children to Him for His blessing, Jesus called them unto Him, and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God

as a little child shall in no wise enter therein" (Luke 18:16,17). In Mark's gospel, we read of the Saviour taking a little child up into His arms and saying, "Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me" (Mark 9:37). Clearly, little children had a very special place in the ministry of the Lord Jesus, and they should in ours, too.

"SUNDAY SCHOOL SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A REPLACEMENT FOR PARENTAL INSTRUCTION, BUT AS SUPPLEMENTAL TO IT. WISE PARENTS WILL SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LIKE-MINDED TEACHERS TO ENTER THEIR LABOURS, TO ENCOURAGE THEIR CHILDREN ALONG THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS."

WISE PARENTS

The spiritual training of children belongs primarily to their parents. Most notably, fathers are instructed throughout the scriptures to make provision for the spiritual instruction of their children. Consider the following words: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine

house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up” (Deuteronomy 6:6, 7); “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6); “... fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Attendance at Sunday School is to be viewed a tool to help parents fulfil their obligations to bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Sunday School should not be seen as a replacement for parental instruction, but as supplemental to it. Wise parents will seize the opportunity for like-minded teachers to enter their labours, to encourage their children along the paths of righteousness.

BENEFITS

Parents know, all too well, the burden of providing the right example for their children. Involvement in the Sunday School provides children with additional examples of faithfulness in the lives of dedicated teachers (1 Timothy 4:12). The impact of hearing the same truth repeated from different sources cannot be overestimated. There may also be the additional benefit of nudging some parents into a more faithful attendance at church when their children are enrolled at Sunday School. Other benefits of attending Sunday School include age specific lessons and a systematic approach to teaching the whole counsel of God’s Word.

METHOD

Why do schools use the classroom method? It is not just to reach more children, faster. Originally, this method was used because, in a classroom setting, children were more likely to help one another and push each other along in their growth. A community of children worshipping, learning the Bible and discovering God together creates a bond that single study can’t accomplish. Sunday School gears Bible teaching to a specific age group. It means a four-year-old can discover great biblical truth by listening to the historical stories of the Old Testament and the teachings of the Saviour’s parables and miracles in an

age-appropriate way. Young teenagers in the class beside them can continue to learn the great truths of God’s Word in a way that is suitable to them. Children who learn of the six-day creation, the great flood of Noah’s day, etc. in their youth are less likely to fall later into the errors of evolution and humanism as they grow older. Never underestimate the value of spiritual truths buried deep early in childhood.

Class settings also allow the opportunity for questions to be raised and answered in an appropriate way. As children grow older, the lessons can be tailored to meet their specific needs. A Sunday School that follows a curriculum enables a systematic teaching of vital Bible truths. Effective teachers will know in advance what they want their pupils to learn, and, like a wise builder, they will teach the whole message of the Bible in an orderly fashion. The lessons will be connected, building upon one another, adding principle to principle, precept upon precept, and line upon line (Isaiah 28:13).

The use of formal catechisms is also important in the instruction of our children: the Child’s Catechism for little ones, and then the Shorter Catechism for older children. Catechisms are our introduction to Christian Theology, giving us concise statements on the major doctrines of the Christian faith. The Catechism helps us to answer the big questions in life – questions that every young person struggle with. These include: why are we here; how should we live; why are we the way we are; what can and must be done about it, and, most importantly, what is the way of salvation? It teaches us why we must be saved, how we can be saved and how we should live in response to this salvation. These truths learned in youth are not quickly forgotten. How many of our readers can answer, “What is the chief end of man?” though it is many years since they sat in a Sunday School class? I can still recite from memory whole chapters of the Bible that I learned while in Sunday School, and I thank God for each of those faithful teachers who instructed me in the things of God, carefully and patiently.

Sunday Schools help us fulfil the Great Commission given to us by the Saviour: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. . .” (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Not only are we carrying out that command when we instruct the children in the class, but we provide the opportunity for the students to participate in evangelism when we encourage them to invite their friends to come along also. Parents and teachers also have opportunity to invite unchurched families to send their children along to Sunday School. There is no telling where that initial contact might lead. Many parents have been exposed to the gospel message when they came along to church to watch their child take part in some Sunday School activity. From such little acorns, mighty oaks grow.

Perhaps not many have heard the name of Edward Kimball. Kimball was a Sunday School teacher in Detroit, and, one day, he went to visit a 17-year-old boy, who was in his Sunday School class and had little interest in God or religion. During his visit with this young man at his job, he found him in the back stacking shelves. After speaking to him about his soul, he led the boy into a relationship with Christ. That young man was D.L. Moody, who went on to become one of the greatest evangelists in the world, sharing the gospel with an estimated 100 million people. Edward Kimball’s story reminds us to never underestimate the influence for God and for good that Sunday School can have.

As the children of Israel prepared to enter the Promised Land, Moses exhorted them: “Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law” (Deuteronomy 31:12). ■

✍ **Rev R Hall,**
Tasmania Free Presbyterian Church.

Why Should Children Attend Church?



“I remember my parents dutifully bringing us to church and carting us up to the balcony. My grandma would quietly pass out fruit Mentos while we wiggled in our pew. Over the years this pew was where we would doodle on children’s bulletins, sing hymns, and memorise the Lord’s Prayer and the Apostle’s Creed. Slowly, but surely, these words were written on our hearts and the wiggles stopped. My parents’ persistence and regular church attendance wasn’t futile.”

Though this memory was jotted down by an Emily Carrington, it closely approximates to the experience of almost every family that has brought children to church. At various stages along the arduous path of parental persistence, many a parent has felt like giving up and questioned publicly, “What’s the point?” This article is written with a view to finding that point.

THE DIRECTIONS ABOUT CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Pointers from history

The Old Testament provides many wonderful pictures of entire families gathered together to hear the Word of the Lord: “... men, and women, and children ...” (Deuteronomy 31:11-13);

“... all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones ...” (Joshua 8:35).

Evidently, the New Testament continued this practice of children being present in the worship service because it addresses them in letters that were designed to be read during the corporate gathering of the Church: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right” (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20). Significantly, it was from the mouths of “babes and sucklings” that Christ received praise in the Temple (Matthew 21:15-16).

Purpose for assembly

There is, of course, a time for separate, age-appropriate learning,

which is why most churches have Sunday Schools, Children’s Meetings, Youth Fellowships and Bible Classes. These supplement what we do in daily family worship, where we teach our children Bible verses, catechisms, prayer and singing. Yet, nothing else we do replaces church, for this – corporate worship – is an irreplaceable experience through which the Lord uniquely meets with His people by His Word and Spirit (Hebrews 10:25). And the presence of children during it emphasises a vital point – that there is one Church, and this Church is made up of different kinds of people, all of whom belong in the body: married, single, widowed, or divorced; male and female; black and white; old and young.

Proclamation of theology

The “preaching of the cross” is God’s appointed method by which those who are perishing would come to the light, and those who are in the light may be further transformed into the likeness of Christ. To those who argue that a young child is not able to comprehend everything the preacher says and, therefore, should be removed from the worship service, we answer, “Certainly, but every parent who has brought their children to church can tell of their frequent amazement as to how much their children carry from the services, and the wonderful gospel conversations they enjoy together afterwards.”

THE DIFFICULTIES WITH CHILDREN IN CHURCH

No matter how passionately we hold our position that our children should experience all that church means as they sit next to us and share it all with us, there are occasions when ‘the wheels come off’ in spectacular fashion.

Unquestionably, if a child is screaming or causing disorder or confusion in the service, that child should be removed by his/her parents – though past experience has taught us never to underestimate the acutely embarrassing scream, or sentence, that child can leave behind it like a vapour trail.

Distraction

Other, much lesser distractions may attract those infamous ‘dagger looks’ that generate panic in the heart of mum or dad. However, to be overly diverted by a squirm or noise while listening to the Word of God tells us more about ourselves than about the children around us, who are still learning appropriate behaviour and adjusting their growing bodies to sitting for an hour.

Desperation

Parents go through seasons where they just cannot find the strength to sit through church with all the responsibility of disciplining their

children. Many have confessed that when they are feeling weak as parents and go into a church service prayer-less, depending on their own strength, it never goes well. It is, after all, the Lord’s Day, and Satan would love to ruin it for us. Yet, when we are feeling empty on the Sabbath and beg for Him to fill us so that we can shepherd our children through church faithfully, it is then that we find that His grace is sufficient for us, “. . . for my strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Dedication

One set of parents, Chance and Mary Faulkner, passed on advice from their own experience: “Sometimes we have to remove them for a few minutes, or even for the remainder of the sermon. With multiple children, you will likely have all hands on deck No week is perfect. Sometimes, like other aspects of parenting, it can be tiring. But . . . we take encouragement from God’s Word – ‘Let us not grow weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not’ (Galatians 6:9).”

THE DELIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Words spoken by an unsaved parent at one of our services, a couple of years ago, have stayed with me: “It was just lovely to sit together in church as a family.” There are few more choice blessings than this.

Helps

Parents can proactively prepare for a positive church experience. Discuss expectations respecting good behaviour with your children in the car on the way to church; they are much more likely to be better behaved after a recent reminder. Remember,

also, to send up that supplication to heaven for help while you are enroute. And ministers can keep in mind the children – and youth and adults alike – as they craft their sermons, taking care to keep the message a succinct, clear, focused and illustrated exposition of the text that encourages, exhorts, and shows Christ. With this kind of preaching, even children will be able to grasp the message that is being presented.

Hindrances

I recently read an article with the tongue-in-cheek title, ‘How to “Disciple” Your Kids into Church Dropout Status.’ Included among the catalogue of dangers that will result in driving your children from church were: first, attend church sporadically: if you treat church as an option, your children will too; second, complain about your church: you do not want your children to view church as a place that discourages mum and dad; and third, insulate them from the rest of the body: when children know nothing but ‘youth group culture’ and are not integrated into the body of the whole church, it is much easier to drift off elsewhere, in pursuit of better entertainment.

Each of us can play our part to ensure that church is a welcoming place for “the wriggling and the squirming,” recognising the potential for the Word of God to reach those little hearts in outstanding ways. May our attitude and actions reflect those of the Saviour who said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). ■

✍ **Dr I Brown**, *Martyrs Memorial Free Presbyterian Church.*

Londonderry Ordination and Installation

Rev Glenn Wilkinson was ordained and installed as the minister of Londonderry Free Presbyterian Church on Friday 25th June 2021. He is pictured (far right) with: his wife, Deborah; daughter, Emily; and son, Zach. Also included is Rev Leslie Curran, who has served as the interim Moderator during the vacancy. ■



Installation of Rev Thomas Lavery

Rev Thomas Lavery was installed as the minister of Gardenstown Free Presbyterian Church, Scotland, on Tuesday 29th June. (L to R) Revs D McLaughlin, J Greer, T Lavery, I Brown and J Armstrong. ■



Magherafelt Sunday School Presents Gift to Whitefield College of the Bible Student

Magherafelt Sunday School Superintendent, Mr Roy Campbell (left), is pictured presenting a gift to Bible College student, Jonathan Jordan, who spoke at the Children's Day services on 4 July 2021. The gift was accumulated during the 2020/21 year by children and teachers of Magherafelt Free Presbyterian Church's Sunday School. ■



Tullyvallen Free Presbyterian Church Presentation

Leah Oliver is pictured receiving a certificate from Rev Graham Middleton after answering all the questions in the *Child's Catechism* successfully; also included is her teacher, Winnifred Rainey. ■



Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church Presentation

Rev Roger Higginson (left) is pictured after presenting an award to Helen Edwards for reciting the *Child's Catechism* with Scripture proofs. Also included is Mr Daniel Hamilton, Sunday School Superintendent. ■



CHILDREN'S CORNER



"...the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table..."
Matthew 15:17

Having put the idea off for a long time, last year, our family got a yellow Labrador pup called Max. Although he can be hard work at times and has made some alterations to our house and garden, Max is a great dog with a lovely, easy-going nature.

Whenever I take him for a walk, I often think what the Bible says about dogs and the lessons we might learn from them. You see, in Bible times, dogs were not seen in a favourable way; in fact, they were often seen as a picture of the sinner.

THE DOG THAT MAKES A DIN
Psalm 59:6 depicts the sinner like a troublesome stray dog, roaming the streets late into the night, disturbing the peace by barking and howling. A stray dog, of course, seems free to do just as it pleases, but what good is such freedom if there is a constant threat of attack, cold and hunger. They have no one to love or train them up in the way they should go. I wonder if your life is headed in that direction. Are you a nuisance, running wild and getting up to all kinds of things you shouldn't be doing?

THE DANGEROUS DOG

Sometimes you'll see a sign that says, "Beware of the dog." Writing to the church in Philippi, Paul warned the believers there to beware of dogs. What he meant was, watch out for evil doers and trouble-makers, because all such people bring nothing but hurt and harm. Wise counsel indeed.

THE DIRTY DOG

A dog that has no loving master will soon have a coat that is all matted and soiled. It will search through rubbish for scraps of food. Proverbs 26:11 paints a very gruesome picture of the dirty dog that returns to its own vomit. Again, this, too, is a picture of the sinner, who sadly goes back to the same old sins over and over again, even though such things are harmful and destructive to them.

THE DUTIFUL DOG

Think of a guard dog, a guide dog or a sheep dog. The dutiful dog knows, obeys and loves its master. It has purpose and direction in its life. What a world of difference between this type of dog, to that of some of the other ones we looked at earlier - dogs that are a law unto themselves, running wild and making a nuisance of themselves. In closing, let me pose some questions. From all the descriptions given what type of dog matches your life best? Who are you looking to and who is your master and friend? ■

QUIZ

There are many other animals mentioned in the Bible. Complete the word search. You might

have to look up the references for some of the animals in the word search. Then, use the letters left over to find a three-letter word connected with animals.

Matthew 12:40

SWINE
LION
HORSE
FROGS
SWAN

Song of Solomon 2:15

SERPENTS
COLT
CAMELS
APES
PEACOCKS
FISHES
SHEEP

Isaiah 40:31

OX (2)
LAMBS

F	O	X	E	S	P	E	W	H	F
I	L	S	H	E	E	P	H	O	R
S	A	W	C	R	A	E	A	R	O
H	M	I	A	P	C	A	L	S	G
E	B	N	M	E	O	G	E	E	S
S	S	E	E	N	C	L	I	O	N
V	C	O	L	T	K	E	O	X	T
A	P	E	S	S	S	S	W	A	N

ANSWER:

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



My Favourite

Hymn

Hymns
of Faith

**“O CHRIST
WHAT BURDENS
BOWED THY
HEAD!”**

“O Christ what Burdens bowed Thy head” has been my favourite hymn for as long as I can remember. As a child, I enjoyed the tune rather than the words, but, as I have grown older, I appreciate the words and the message they convey.

The hymn was written by Anne Ross Cousins, who was born in 1824 and was married to Rev William Cousins, a minister of the Free Church of Melrose. She wrote around 107 hymns and poems, but her most famous hymns are “The Sands of Time are Sinking”, published in 1857, and “O Christ what burdens bowed Thy head.”

The hymn really is the gospel in a nutshell. It lays out clearly what Christ suffered and endured so that sinners can be saved. In this hymn, Anne Cousins gives thanks and praise to Christ, who bore her weight of sin, and the burden we are all under - sin, death, divine wrath and judgment. You will notice as you look at the first four verses, that each one focuses on a different image—load, cup, rod, and sword. Verse 1 shows that our load of sin was borne by Christ on the cross and He has removed that load from us. Verse 2 reminds us that, because of what Christ did on the cross, our cup no longer has death and the curse in it, but is overflowing with blessings from God. Verse 3 echoes the words found in Isaiah 53:5, “But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities,” and paints a picture of

what Christ endured on the cross. Verse 4 reminds us of the reason that Christ left His heavenly throne, lived on this wicked earth, and suffered and died on the cross. It was “all for my sake, my peace to make.” Christ endured the sword so that “we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Peter

2:24). It should be of great joy to us to know that Christ bore the load, cup, rod, and sword, so that we can come before God and ask for forgiveness through His Son.

“
THE HYMN
REALLY IS THE
GOSPEL IN A NUTSHELL.
IT LAYS OUT CLEARLY
WHAT CHRIST SUFFERED
AND ENDURED SO THAT
SINNERS CAN BE
SAVED.
”

The final verse summarises the first four verses and what that means for us. We see, very powerfully, our union with Christ. Anne Cousins shows that, because of our salvation, we have died to sin and risen again with Christ unto new life. We read of that truth especially in the writings of the Apostle Paul. In 2 Timothy 2:11, we read that, “if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*.” And again, in Galatians 2:20, we read, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” The hymn finishes off in a note of triumph, showing to us the end of the Christian life, that after being “purified, made white and tried, Thy glory then for me!” This is such a comfort to each one of God’s children, to know that glory waits for them and, because of our union with Christ, we shall forever “sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6). ■

✍ Miss Christina Logan, FPC Kids.



TAKING A
STAND

One of the great temptations young Christians face is to compromise their biblical convictions and, thus, become like the world around them. There is intense pressure to conform to the ungodly standards that prevail. From Hollywood to Wall Street, and from Madison Ave. to Rodeo Dr., we are being told what to eat, think, wear, and value. It is a battle for the mind and an attempt to persuade us to put our faith in the ways of man. I call this 'cultural brainwashing'.

Nebuchadnezzar recognised that if he could win the minds and hearts of the young people of Israel, he would have control over them for the rest of their lives. For example, in Daniel 1, he sought to control the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego by changing their language, their understanding of history, their diet, and their names. By changing these, Nebuchadnezzar was attempting to reprogram them and, thus, control their attitudes and actions.

Christians face the same danger in this world today. We are constantly exposed to new ways of thinking and are being told that our way of looking at the world, through the lens of Scripture, is outdated and intolerant. We are told to accept homosexuality, abortion, gender reassignment, evolution, sexual promiscuity, and many other things; however, God has not changed and what He has said in His Word still stands today! It does not matter if the devil and the entire world stand against it, God's Word is the standard of truth - not the sinful ways of culture. Therefore, regardless of how great the pressure may be, we are to dare to be a Daniel. But how? How can we stand like Daniel in this present age?

WE NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT THERE IS A BATTLE FOR OUR MINDS.

Paul tells us that we are not to be conformed to this world (Romans 12:2). In other words, we live in a world that seeks to conform us into its image. The word, "conform" means 'to fashion'. It is a word that can be used in the context of a blacksmith hammering away at a piece of steel so that he can change its shape. Therefore, what Paul is saying is that the world is constantly hammering away at us, whether subtly or overtly, so that it can conform us to its image. We must recognise this.

When Daniel recognised that the world was trying to conform him to its standards, he resolved in his heart to resist it: "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the

prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself" (Daniel 1:8). It is only when we are wise, like Daniel, to the world's intentions to continually conform us to its image and not the image of God, that we will be on our guard – watching and praying, lest we fall into temptation.

WE MUST MAKE UP OUR MINDS, IN ADVANCE, THAT WE WILL BE LOYAL TO GOD.

Some decisions cannot be made on the spur of the moment. There must be a firm resolve not to compromise in the things that matter. For Daniel, that meant not eating the king's food at the king's table. It does not matter that we today may not fully understand his decision; what is important is that Daniel drew a line in the sand and said, "Thus far, and no farther." Our lines must be based upon the teaching of God's Word, what is for God's glory and the honour of His name. Failure here will result in sinful compromise with the world and a damaged Christian testimony.

The Christian must think ahead. We must consider our Christian values and determine that loyalty to God is worth more – far more – than compromise with an ungodly world. It is better to be faithful to your Lord than to slink off in shameful compromise because you did not have any courage.

WE MUST NOT DO WHAT WE KNOW IS WRONG.

Daniel knew his limits. When they enrolled him at "Babylon State University", he didn't object. When they taught him the Babylonian language, he learned it just like everyone else. When they taught him a new culture, he did not rebel. And even when they changed his name, he apparently did not speak out. But when they said, "You have to eat the king's food at the king's table," he said, "I won't do that." And he didn't. He was courteous, and he was creative in the solution he proposed. But make no mistake, by standing his ground, he was risking everything over an issue that made sense to no one but him, his three friends and, most importantly,

God. To the Babylonians, it must have been the strangest response to a meal. But Daniel saw through the food to the bigger issues and he knew that for him to eat that food would be an act of disloyalty to God, and that was a line he would not cross. It might be argued that it was such a small thing – hardly worth standing up for. Yes, it seemed small on the surface, but the outcome of Daniel's act of courage was huge. It changed his whole life. It wasn't small at all.

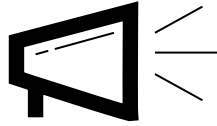
Believer, if our God is the Lord of all, then every square inch of our life must be yielded to Him. We are not our own; we have been bought with Christ's precious blood; therefore, we must yield to him in all things.

Recently, I read about a 400-year-old redwood that suddenly, without warning, toppled to the forest floor. What caused the death of such a majestic giant? Was it fire? Lightning? A strong wind? An examination revealed the startling cause: tiny beetles had crawled under the bark and literally eaten the fibers away from the inside. Although it looked healthy on the outside, on the inside it was virtually hollow and, one day, finally collapsed.

The same thing happens when we refuse to stand for Christ. Every time we compromise with sin our Christian testimony is affected. Eventually, the little decisions add up and we become hollow on the inside, even though we may look great on the outside. As Solomon noted, there are little foxes that spoil the vine.

Pray for grace to withstand worldly pressures and say, "No," to sin. Take your stand for the Lord, leaning upon Him and trusting Him to give you the victory. Christ can strengthen, support and succour us in this world. All the grace that we need to live for Him is ours in Him. His victory is our victory and we are more than conquerors through Him. Dare to be a Daniel, as you trust in Daniel's God. ■

✉ **Rev A Murray,**
Ardaragh Free Presbyterian Church.



YOUTH COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

NATIONAL RALLY

10 SEPTEMBER, 8:00PM

Where? Martyrs Memoria FPC
Who? All Youth Fellowships
What? Rev Paul Foster will be preaching; special singing; reports on past summer work and announcement of plans for the incoming year.

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP NIGHT (BI-MONTHLY)

25 SEPTEMBER, 27 NOVEMBER

Where? To be confirmed
Who? Ages 16-29
Why? Give young people the opportunity to study specific subjects in the Bible together while enjoying fellowship and discussion.

CASTLEWELLAN WEEKEND

Leaders and young people are pictured at Castlewellan Castle. The youth weekend was a time of rich blessing, with young people testifying of the Lord's presence in the meetings. A report will be carried in the next issue.



STAY UP TO DATE AT



FPCYOUTH.ORG



Miss Margaret Armstrong

1934 – 1981

We read in 1 Corinthians 1:26, “...not many noble, *are called.*” In general, but not exclusively, the Lord calls ordinary people to serve Him. Most of the disciples were simple fishermen but there was also a doctor and a taxman. Margaret Armstrong came from a family of note. Her great grandfather was the First Baron Napier of Magdala and was once the highest-ranking British Army officer. Born in Kenya, Margaret spent her early years on the family coffee farm. In 1948, she came to live with relatives in Armagh, before studying social science at Trinity College, Dublin.

One Christian student decided to pray and witness, especially to Margaret and four other students. Margaret was invited to a special meeting in Dublin YMCA, where Rev Sidlow Baxter was preaching. Margaret had never heard preaching like it, having only ever attended Anglican services previously. For a week, Margaret attended the meetings, drinking in the Word of God. When the preacher asked if anyone was willing to enthrone Christ in his/her heart, Margaret responded positively, confessing her sin and making Christ the King of her life.

It was not long until Margaret became interested in missionary work and went to the Bible Training Institute in Glasgow and, afterwards, took courses at the Wycliffe Language School and the Missionary School of Medicine. Margaret had a keen interest in missionary work in the Far East and in South America. Her hope was to serve the Lord in some region untouched by the Gospel. However, the Lord had a different plan and guided Margaret back to Kenya. Margaret was accepted to work under the Africa Inland Mission (AIM) and took up the work in July 1960.

Margaret’s first station was at Kapsowar. There, she had the task of caring for about forty teenage girls while learning their language! After two and a half years, Margaret moved to Kessup, where she was engaged in training Sunday School



teachers, youth work, literature work in schools and markets, teaching R.E. in schools and visiting in hospitals and schools.

In 1965, Margaret was on furlough in Armagh. Once again, she was invited to attend a mission. This time, the preacher was Dr Ian Paisley. The mission led to the formation of Armagh Free Presbyterian Church and Margaret decided this was the church for her. It was a decision that would bring criticism from many quarters, but she stood firm against the ecumenical apostasy of the church in which she had grown up. As she continued to work in Kenya, Margaret became increasingly concerned that AIM had connections with ecumenical churches. She spoke with the leaders of the mission and felt compelled to resign all association with AIM when her concerns went unheeded. This was

in 1976 and coincided with her father needing her help due to failing health. Living in a beautiful, old, rambling house in Southampton, Margaret remained active in her local church and opened her home and garden to children from less advantaged backgrounds.

Margaret continued to have a keen interest in Kenya. She had formed a friendship with some Kenyan nationals who also saw the need for separation from ecumenism. Suffering opposition for their stand, Margaret did all she could to help and encourage, including linking these brethren to our Mission Board. Sadly, Margaret Armstrong did not live to see the Free Presbyterian Church missionaries in the beloved land of her birth. She passed away at the early age of forty-seven and is buried in Southampton. In 1983, Miss Margaret Russell would be the first missionary to go out under our Board to serve alongside the Kenyan church. ■

✍ Olive Maxwell

lived and worked as a missionary in Cork for over twenty years. She is married to Colin who serves with the Mission Board, mostly in the Republic of Ireland.



SILENT CHRISTIANITY

“ THE IDEA OF BEING QUIET ABOUT OUR FAITH IS NEITHER ENDORSED NOR PROMOTED BY SCRIPTURE. RATHER, A SILENT CHRISTIANITY IS IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH WHAT THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES. ”

There is mounting pressure upon the Christian community to privatise our faith – that is, believe what you want, but keep it to yourself! The idea of being quiet about our faith is neither endorsed nor promoted by Scripture. Rather, a silent Christianity is in direct conflict with what the Word of God teaches. After healing the demoniac of Gadara, the Lord instructed him to, “Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him” (Luke 8:39). This, of course, is the absolute opposite of privatising one’s beliefs.

The same principle of publicly declaring and sharing personal faith is found in the great commission – Matthew 28:19. When Christ confirmed that all power belonged to Him in heaven and earth, He exhorted His disciples: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19, 20). Christ’s word of commission clearly implies that the ongoing work of declaring the gospel extends far beyond the apostles’ lifetime, and right to the end of the world. These verses along with the rest of Scripture make it clear that a private faith was never the Lord’s intent for His followers.

Both courage and wisdom are needed to bring our faith into the public arena of neighbours, family, friends and society at large. Publicly witnessing for Christ can be a difficult and intimidating prospect but a consideration of evangelism will assist any believer in breaking the silence.

The Greek word for **evangelise** is *euaggelizo* which means ‘to announce, or to declare the good news’. In 2 Timothy 4:5, Paul said to Timothy, “[D]o the work of an evangelist.” Although this was written to Timothy, a preacher of God’s word, it is, nevertheless, incumbent upon every believer to do the work of an evangelist. Surely, we have this gospel work to fulfil; otherwise, the Lord would have taken us to heaven the moment He saved us. The believer is responsible for spreading this extraordinarily good news which is life-giving and life-transforming, with eternal ramifications.

We are good at leaving this work for someone else to do but we are required by the Word of God to accept personal responsibility for this work. Luke reminds us of the service of the Jerusalem believers during times of persecution, “[T]hey that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). The pronoun, ‘they’, does not refer to the apostles because they remained in Jerusalem, rather it refers to individuals and families who simply spoke the gospel, wherever they travelled.

The question then arises: how do we evangelise?

Witnessing is one aspect of evangelism. A witness is a person who testifies of what he/she has seen or experienced. In the case of the believer, we testify verbally of what God has done in us and for us, by way of the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Furthermore, we witness by practically demonstrating that we are followers of Christ by our actions, such as, attending God’s house, living morally before God, and loving our neighbour.

Our witnessing and evangelism must explain the way of salvation. We may demonstrate what salvation looks like and proclaim what Christ has done, but we must go further and explain how a person must and can be saved and enjoy a personal relationship with Christ. Presenting the truth about faith in Christ and repentance from



“ THE BELIEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPREADING THIS EXTRAORDINARILY GOOD NEWS WHICH IS LIFE-GIVING AND LIFE-TRANSFORMING, WITH ETERNAL RAMIFICATIONS. WE ARE GOOD AT LEAVING THIS WORK FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO DO BUT WE ARE REQUIRED BY THE WORD OF GOD TO ACCEPT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS WORK. ”

sin is necessary for anyone to truly come to Christ. Being a friendly and kind neighbour is good; however, it is important to press the words of Christ upon our friends, “[R]epent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

Readiness to defend the gospel or answer questions about the gospel is an essential part of our evangelism. In 1 Peter 3:15, Peter urged, “...*be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” This text emphasises the readiness to respond to any question about your faith so as not to miss any opportunity to speak of Christ. We may not always be able to give an answer to every question, but we should be prepared to do whatever possible to get answers to enquirers.

Furthermore, since conversation is such an important part of our evangelism, we would be wise to encourage conversation on spiritual matters. Many a believer can speak freely on social issues, politics, sport and entertainment, but is silent on matters of salvation. Prayerful attention should be given to daily conversation with those around us, praying for opportunities to speak of

Christ, all the while communicating these holy truths with meekness and fear (1 Peter 3:15). Meekness is a humble approach, realising we do not know it all. Fear does not refer to a fear of man but a fear and reverence for God before whom all will one day stand.

We will not influence the world if we are only playing at Christianity. It is imperative that Christians give sufficient time to studying the word of God, praying that our hearts are filled with love for Christ. In the Song of Solomon, the beloved’s spouse spent so much time admiring him, and then spoke of him in such glowing terms that the other women asked, “[W]hither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee” (Song of Solomon 6:1). Spending time with the Lord will enable you to speak of the Saviour and salvation in the most winsome terms.

Of course, attention must be given to hindrances in evangelism which must be avoided at all costs. A good testimony is essential when seeking to win the lost. Sin and hypocrisy are very repelling. Paul addressed this matter when writing to the Christians at Colosse: “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:5-6).

We cannot be channels of blessing,
If we consciously trifle with sin;
We will barriers be and a hindrance
To those we are trying to win.

The soul-winner must be careful, therefore, not to grieve the Holy Ghost who grants both the opportunity and power to evangelise. Successful fishermen stress the importance of being out of sight; this is good counsel for the Christian servant. John the Baptist stressed that Christ must increase, while he must decrease. Humility and holiness are essential in our desire to win the lost to the Saviour. ■

✉ **Rev D Brown,**
Larne Free Presbyterian Church.

Newtownabbey

Due to guidelines by the Department of Education, singing in school has been curtailed. Not to be deterred, we have taken up singing outdoors. The pupils stand in their family groups and sing some of the old-time favourites. We are thankful for good weather to do this.



Miss Elizabeth Edwards feels the call of God to go to the Whitefield College of the Bible to prepare herself for the mission field. She has taught in Newtownabbey Independent Christian School for five years. During these five years, she has attended the Education Board Training Seminar and completed her academic studies. She will be missed in the Primary School.



David McClung has completed a record 15 years of education in our school. He began with Reception Class in 2005, when he was three years old, and completed his A2 studies in June 2021. He has obtained grades in AS Design and Technology, and A2 grades in Business Studies, Digital Technologies and Geography. He plans to take up his offer to study 'Broadcast Production' at Queen's University. His interest in this field increased greatly when he commenced assisting with the 'Let The Bible Speak' TV recordings.

Portadown

☒ Lower Primary thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Brookvale Farm, Moira, seeing the animals and finishing with a tasty milkshake.



☒ A lovely group of Year 12 pupils enjoyed a delicious cake produced by John Dumigan of Village Cakery, Waringstown. This was their final day in Portadown Independent Christian School. They will be missed greatly. Photo credit: Juanita Cummings photography.



Bangor

Pupils at Bangor Independent Christian School were glad to return to the classroom after the months of online classes using Google Meet. While we were thankful that we could see each other every day and continue with as much normality as possible during the time of restrictions, getting back to face to face interaction in school was greatly welcomed by pupils, parents and teachers. Pictured are two of our pupils who received certificates for writing mini sagas which were selected for publication in the 'Young Writers' A Wander In The Woods' competition.



Kilskeery & Clogher Valley

MR JOHN DANE

June 2021 marked the retirement of Mr John Dane, BSc (Hons), from the teaching post he has occupied in Kilskeery Independent Christian School since September 2008. Mr Dane's support of and involvement in the school were evident long before he took on teaching duties for Maths, Sciences and Technology and Design and the Lord consistently blessed his labours in the results gained by his students. He has left his pupils with happy memories of exciting events in the Science lab. Both by example and exhortation, he encouraged older pupils to be actively engaged in the Lord's work.



BUTTERFLIES

The pupils in Clogher Valley Independent Christian School carefully watched each day as they waited for their caterpillars to form chrysalides before emerging as butterflies. Important spiritual lessons were drawn by the teachers from the experience. There were days when doubts and worries arose as to whether the butterflies would emerge successfully or not. When the first butterfly was spotted all other classwork was set aside, as all recognised the handiwork of our creator God. So, may we see, in the lives of our pupils in the Christian schools, new life and spiritual beauty develop which is His work alone to do.



100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr Colin Maxwell brought an interesting and informative presentation to pupils in Clogher Valley and Kilskeery on the centenary of the formation of Northern Ireland. From the factual historical account, Mr Maxwell drew out central spiritual lessons: namely, that God is sovereign in all affairs; that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people; and, that there is a better kingdom than the kingdoms of men. Pupils at Clogher Valley were inspired to design a celebration cake to mark the 100th Anniversary.



Ballymoney



None of us could have predicted all the changes that we would have to make to school life, but through all of it the Lord gave grace. Practically, we were able to make use of larger rooms and additional facilities in our Hebron FPC Complex which meant our pupils could spread out safely. We had other happy events in school, too. Mrs Moore and her husband, Ryan, welcomed a little daughter, Martha-Joy, into their family in January and we rejoice with them! We also rejoice in spiritual new births in school as little ones have come to know the Lord as their Saviour.



Mourne

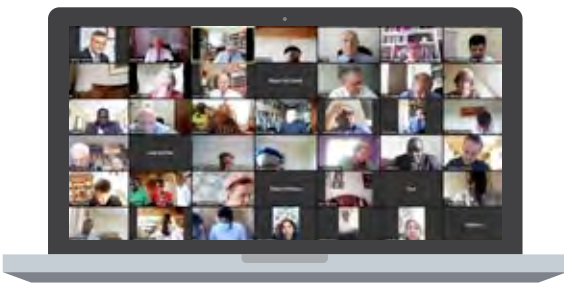
We are thankful to the Lord for His gracious hand upon Mourne Independent Christian School throughout the period of remote teaching and learning. We commend our pupils for their diligence, effort and excellent work, ensuring progression in learning, and thank parents for their patience and support. Every teacher can testify of the Lord's tremendous help, grace and blessing as they taught via Google Classroom and Google Meets.

Some of our pupils are participating in the Cycling Proficiency Scheme during this final term. New bike racks were purchased for the school by a kind donor.

Our Primary pupils had the new experience of a 'virtual visit' to the Ulster Museum. They engaged in interactive, varied activities with a curator through Microsoft Teams, explored a topic box of items from 100 years ago at school, baked soda bread and conducted research.



International Missionary Prayer Meeting



A special missionary prayer meeting – the first of its kind – was held on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 by Zoom. All our missionaries, Mission Board members and contacts from around the world were invited to join us. There were 45 screens online, 50 participants and 11 countries represented (U.K., Ireland, Spain, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Australia).

Rev David Park, Mission Board secretary, brought a word from Revelation 7:9–17. Rev Ian Harris, Mission Board chairman, guided the prayer season through the many requests, and a blessed time of prayer was enjoyed as intercessions were made for the various mission fields represented.

One of the requests, highlighted by the chairman, was to pray earnestly for five new missionaries to be raised up by the Lord in the near future. This is something that you could remember before the throne of grace. Already, one young man, who joined us for prayer, has said, “Praying that the Lord will enable me to be one of those five missionaries that the Board is praying for.” ■

Hundreds die in India

Some parts of India are witnessing torrential rains that have triggered the worst landslides and floods in decades. A total of 180 lives have been lost, nearly 1000 homes damaged, more than 50 people have been reported injured, a little over 1800 people are stranded and hundreds of them remain missing.

Thousands of cattle have also died, as a result of the rains. Over 135,000 people have been evacuated from flood-hit areas and moved to safer places. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Indian Army and Indian Air Force have been deployed for rescue operations.

The administration and various agencies have scrambled to provide shelter to the people affected. Drinking water and electricity supply are being restored. Food and medicines are being arranged.

In another saddening development, the health officials have reported that eight Covid patients have died at a Covid hospital after water entered the premises due to incessant rains.

Last week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning that a circulation in the Bay of Bengal is likely to cause low-pressure area that will trigger more very heavy rainfall. ■

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for the victims of this disaster that the Lord would comfort the lives that were spared.
2. Pray that the Lord would have mercy on all those working to rescue the stranded and to feed the hungry.
3. Pray that the Lord would keep at bay the spread of disease after the floods recede.
4. Pray that these things will serve as a reminder for the people to turn to their Creator and their Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Andrew and Hannah Foster planning for the future

Last year presented many new challenges for the work of the Mission Board and the Missionaries on the field. Amid all of the Covid-19 related challenges, we were also faced with a Brexit related one. Andrew and Hannah Foster returned to Northern Ireland in September 2020 for their first period of furlough since commencing work in Uganda. The timing of this furlough was also aligned to allow Hannah to give birth to their baby in a hospital here. We give thanks to God for the safe arrival of little Rachel in November 2020 and for her health and development since then.

Due to the new UK rules following Brexit, it became clear to Andrew and Hannah while here on furlough, that Hannah, who was born in the Netherlands, would need to go through an application process, known as 'Settled Status'. This was required to give her the right to continue living in the UK after June 2021. This 'Settled Status' would also be necessary for access to healthcare, to allow visa-free travel back into the UK after any term on the field and was a pre-requisite for some travel insurance policies.

Initial enquiries were followed by specific legal advice from an immigration lawyer and then, the scale of the process and the potential impact became clear. The application process has two steps: first to apply for pre-settled status, which is basically a confirmation that an applicant is eligible for this scheme. In order to qualify for this, Hannah had to be resident in the UK on or before the 31st December 2020. In the providence



✉ Above: Mr and Mrs Foster and their daughter Rachel, are pictured with (L to R) Revs D McMillan, T Martin and Mr A Hamilton

of God, Andrew and Hannah met this requirement, as they were home on furlough, even though they knew nothing about it when it was planned. We are delighted to report that Hannah has now received official confirmation of her pre-settled status.

The second step is more challenging, as it will limit the time that the Foster family can spend in Uganda over the next few years. Specifically, Hannah will need to be resident in the UK for at least six months in every year for five years, before the final 'Settled Status' will be granted.

Having explored all the options to resolve this issue, the Mission Board approved this course of action, with the family spending six months in Uganda and six months in the UK. At this stage, there are another four years to run with this arrangement as we can count from September 2020 when they arrived on furlough. We now have plans in place to ensure that the key work in Uganda

can continue to be covered until 'Settled Status' is granted. Andrew is able to plan a lot of his work from home in advance and then prioritise his time on the field to deliver the projects.

We thank God for providential leading, for answered prayer for the initial application, and for the clarity of advice we were given in this complicated matter. We would ask that you would continue to pray for Andrew and Hannah, as this has been an unsettling time. Pray that the work plans will go smoothly and that the full 'Settled Status' will be granted in due course. ■



Literature for Uganda

Forty-six boxes of Gospel literature arrived safely at the Emmanuel Mission Station with the help of Every Home Crusade. Included in this consignment in the Luganda language is: all five of the Mission Board's children's tracts; a new adult tract; Dr Alan Cairns' booklet, *A New Beginning*; and, the *Gospel of John*. In addition, there are some English tracts and CEF material. Please pray that the Lord will use this literature in the winning of souls as it is distributed in the community by our missionaries. ■



Emergency Aid Distributed in Nepal

“Over 900 families are receiving aid. We are in the villages sharing God's grace to His people.”

Rev Paul Thapa (Moderator of the Nepal Free Presbyterian Church) and fellow workers have distributed emergency aid to over nine hundred families in Nepal. The recently purchased four-wheel drive vehicle has been a great help in reaching remote areas. Following a recent trip to distribute aid, Rev Thapa said, “People are greatly thankful and encouraged by the aid, realising that there are some who take care of them. There are many people with no food. Over 900 families are receiving aid. We are in the villages

sharing God's grace to His people. On behalf of Nepal Free Presbyterian Church, I would like to pass on our gratitude to the Mission Board.”

Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to support the Emergency Aid Fund as there are many needs. “But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:17, 18). ■



Drive-in Missionary Rally

Rev Ian Harris (Mission Board chairman) is pictured giving a report at the Drive-In Missionary Rally that was held on Haffey's farm, Magheralin on Friday 6th August. Sincere appreciation is extended to all who participated and attended. ■



Book Appeal

CHRISTIAN BOOKS AND BIBLES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE BOOKSHOPS IN KENYA

All books and Bibles (new and used) can be given to
Missionary Council Representatives

**Office:**

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

Chairman:

Rev Ian Harris,
23a Moneydaragh Road,
Annalong, BT34 4TY
T: 028 4376 8040
rev.harris@fpcmission.org

Secretary:

Rev David Park,
55 Market Street,
Ballymoney, BT53 6ED
T: 028 2766 2039
hebronfpc@btconnect.com

Treasurer:

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

STAY UP TO DATE AT



FPCMISSION.ORG

Whitefield College of the Bible

Graduation and Commencement Service

Monday 20th September 2021 at 8.00pm
Bethany Free Presbyterian Church, Portadown

Preacher:

Rev John Armstrong (Moderator)

Everyone Welcome

Free Presbyterian Church Mission Board



Official Retirement Service for Miss Margaret Russell

After 38 Years of Service for the Lord in Kenya

Tuesday 21st September 2021 at 8.00pm
Tandragee Free Presbyterian Church

Preacher:

Rev John Greer (Clerk of Presbytery)

Please come and join us for this historic meeting.

All Welcome

Free Presbyterian
VISION

