

FREE PRESBYTERIAN VISION



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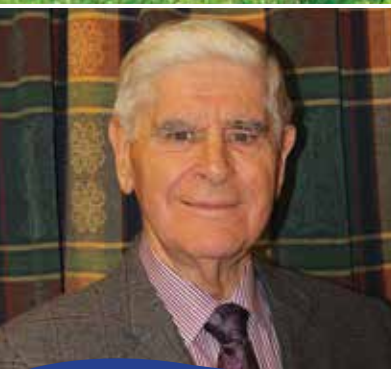
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30TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO KENYA

'...I WILL REMEMBER THE WORKS OF THE LORD...'

Jan - Feb 2014 . Issue 7 . £1



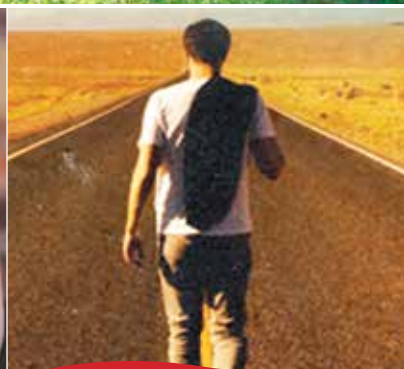
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Editorial

Time is not yours to dispose of as you please; it is a glorious talent that men must be accountable for as well as any other talent' – so said Puritan Thomas Brooks. The godly preacher went on to observe that 'nothing puts a more serious frame into a man's spirit than to know the worth of time.' The longer we live, and the deeper we reflect on life in this world, the more we recognise the truth of these words. Time is precious, and when it is gone, we cannot bring it back.

Well, 2013, with its mix of pleasure and pain, is gone for every one of us, its experiences now confined to that burgeoning store of memories we all possess. Whatever the past year has brought your way, you have, no doubt, proved the sufficiency of the One who has promised never to leave us alone: *"My presence shall go with thee"* (Exodus 33:14)

2014 lies before us, and we are just as much in need of His presence and its associated

provision and protection. Like Solomon, we don't know what tomorrow will bring; because we are ignorant of what the future holds, we must trust the God who holds the future. One thing is sure: He will not let us down. *"The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."* (Psalm 121:8)

And for ourselves, as we step tentatively into this year, the words of Richard Baxter, another old preacher, represent truly awesome advice: 'Spend your time in nothing which you know must be repented of; in nothing in which you might not pray for the blessing of God; in nothing which you could not review with a quiet conscience on your dying bed; in nothing which you might not safely and properly be found doing if death should surprise you in the act.' Challenging words indeed!

Timothy Nelson
editor@fpvision.org



IMMANUEL

"THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL...GOD WITH US" MATTHEW 1:23

A New Year dawns and every traveller on the way to Zion steps out on a new stage of the journey. Already, our Lord has the line of the path marked out and provision made for its every necessity. He has an appropriate and adequate supply available for the needs of every weary traveller. Sufficient grace, sure guidance and surpassing goodness are all to hand at every step. Best of all, there is the promise of His own dear presence – *"Lo, I am with you alway"* (Matthew 28:20). What a comforting truth is the omnipresence of Christ, a presence which is unseen and yet real. It is no surprise that He has this attribute of Deity, as He is *"God with us"* (Matthew 1:23).

At all times, in all places, and in all circumstances, the Lord promises to be with all His people. His promise is *'I am with you'*, not *'I will be with you'*. He is ever ready to manifest Himself for their relief. He drew near and went with two downcast and despairing disciples on their journey to Emmaus. His companionship and fellowship on the way caused their heart to burn. What child of the King would refuse

a journey where Christ will be a companion in travel? For God's saints today, His presence is just as real and heartfelt on their road to eternal rest and glory. How soon that rest will be reached and that glory will appear!

He was present when His three faithful servants were in the fiery furnace. Daniel was not alone in the lions' den, nor was John when in exile at Patmos. They all experienced the nearness and assurance of the Saviour with them. In using the little word "lo" – which means 'behold' – the Saviour stirs up faith to eye His promised presence as the believer's encouragement. As you journey through this year, look to the One who promises, *"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"* (Hebrews 13:5). This is the word of the unchanging Christ. So when there is around you the changeableness of everything earthly, remember He is the same. Feelings fluctuate and friends fail, but God in Christ knows no change. You cannot

have a more faithful, caring and understanding Friend to strengthen, help and uphold you (Isaiah 41:10).

What a comforting truth is the omnipresence of Christ, a presence which is unseen and yet real.

He says literally, *'Lo, I am with you all the days'*. He is there in days of sorrow to comfort you, in days of loneliness to succour you, in days of doubt to guide you, and in days of conflict to deliver you. His mercies are new every morning and

there is no day so dark that the light of His presence cannot shine through. A daily leaning on your Beloved will be testimony to others that He is worthy. It may lead some to say, *"We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you"* (Zechariah 8:23). Live each day availing of His infinite resources, boundless grace, tender love and cheering presence. You have no need to be unbelievably anxious for any day of the year ahead.

∴ **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.

A portrait of Dr. Alan Cairns, an older man with white hair, wearing a grey tweed jacket, a red and white striped shirt, and a dark patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a dark, patterned fabric.

THE INTERVIEW: DR ALAN CAIRNS

FREE PRESBYTERIAN
YOUTH COUNCIL
DELEGATES FIRST MET ON 19TH
FEBRUARY 1974 IN THE SANDOWN
ROAD CHURCH IN BELFAST.
ASSOCIATE EDITOR STEPHEN
POLLOCK TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY
TO MEET WITH THE FOUNDER,
DR ALAN CAIRNS, TO DISCUSS
THOSE EARLY DAYS AND THEIR
IMPLICATIONS FOR TODAY.

SP: Stephen Pollock AC: Dr Alan Cairns

SP: Dr Cairns, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the first Youth Council delegates meeting. Many of our young people will not be familiar with the background to this. Perhaps you could fill in some details.

AC: In 1972 I was commissioned by Presbytery to coordinate the young people's works in our churches, with the aim of establishing a unified Free Presbyterian Youth ministry. The first step I took was to meet with representatives from a number of churches and outline my ideas to them. For a start, we agreed to launch a young people's magazine, 'Truth for Youth'. That was early in 1973. Through the magazine we launched the 'Let the Bible Speak' radio ministry and both these developments really helped to bring young people together with a common purpose.

SP: How was youth work organised prior to these years?

AC: There were a variety of practices among the churches. Some ran Christian Endeavour, others had Youth Fellowships, and some had nothing in place.

SP: Was there an enthusiasm for youth work?

AC: Up until the mid-1960s numbers were small, but there was a real effort to reach children and youth. In some churches there were large numbers of children attending Sabbath School and children's meetings, but actual youth work was limited, though our young people clearly desired something better.

SP: Was the increasing interest in youth work related to the general growth of the church?

AC: The Free Presbyterian Church grew exponentially in the decade into the mid-70s. Families came out of the main-line ecumenical denominations. Other adults were saved and brought their young people with them. Many missions saw numbers of young people coming to faith in Christ.

SP: So it was felt that this increase would benefit from some organisation?

AC: Yes. I used the structure of the Missionary Council as the template for the Youth Council. This meant that delegates from local churches had a vital role in promoting interest and interaction among Youth Fellowships.

SP: Can you give me an insight into the initial vision of the Youth Council?

AC: The initial vision flowed out of the early work of Truth for Youth, through which we organised a highly successful inter-fellowship quiz. Our Youth Fellowships were closely linked with LTBS, which gave them an immediate involvement in missionary evangelism. I strongly believed the Youth Council should carry this into a local witness and plan to reach every part of the province in a series of gospel outreaches. Although that didn't work out at the time the Council has since done a lot in the field of evangelism. Youth Fellowships also played a major role in the work of International Christian Relief, especially by providing wells for drought-ridden areas of India. In all these activities the vision was to encourage Christian growth and fellowship. I believed that young people needed to enjoy life, expend energy, live for God, serve Him and in doing so have a great time in fellowship with other young Christians in a way that the world could never offer. The Castlewellan Weekend, which has been such a blessing to so many, epitomised this vision.

SP: The Youth Council Website mentions the protest against the rock-opera 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. What was the significance of that?

AC: According to the ecumenical churches, the show was good for families and young people and an effective tool for evangelism. So we felt our young people should organise a witness against it. Young people came from all over the province and experienced for themselves the importance and blessing of standing for Christ's honour. That was a very effective protest, a really powerful witness that gained a lot of press coverage and led to a major interview on UTV's prime time news. Our young people conducted themselves with dignity and raised a clear testimony for their Saviour.

SP: What challenges do you see young people facing today?

AC: Every generation is faced with the challenge posed by advancing technology. For us it was TV and radio. Now it is the rise of the internet, smartphones, tablets and social media. These present great opportunities, but also great challenges. However, in every generation the challenge is basically the same: to know Christ and the power of His resurrection in a life separated unto Him.

SP: What advice do you have to help our young people face these challenges?

AC: Our young people need to be grounded theologically, to know and love sound doctrine. The great truths of the gospel will set their hearts on fire and give them a passion to serve the Lord. They need to think how the gospel applies to the peculiar challenges they face. Our behaviour must always be governed by what we believe. If young people rightly understand the gospel they will make wise decisions regarding internet sites and social media, using but not abusing them.

SP: One last question. As the Youth Council marks 40 years what would be your desire for our young people?

AC: I would like them to learn from the past and live for the future. They need to learn our history. What are we as Free Presbyterians? Why are we? They should then ask, "Where are we going?" They need to know the nature and importance of a separated witness that will carry the gospel to the lost and stand boldly for the honour of Christ. Methods may change, but the essentials of faithfulness to the gospel never change. What we believe governs how we behave.

SP: Thanks for your time. I trust the Lord will bless you in your continued service for Him.

INVESTIGATING THE ISSUES:

Should Women be Ordained?

The announcement was made on 20th September 2013: The Church of Ireland had chosen Rev Pat Storey to be Bishop of Meath and Kildare. 'Nothing unusual in that', you might say – except that Pat is not an abbreviation for Patrick but Patricia! Mrs Storey, rector of St Augustine's in Londonderry, thus became the first female Anglican Bishop anywhere in the UK or Ireland. Three months earlier, Rev Dr Heather Morris, Director of Ministry at Edgehill College, was installed as the first female President of the Methodist Conference in Ireland. All this prompted a well-known religious correspondent, a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, to bemoan the fact that his denomination had not yet elected a female Moderator!

These appointments attracted the usual response. Some welcomed them as progressive, an attempt to move with the times – others were less sure, wondering if it was still too soon for women to accede to the highest offices. This, really, is to miss the point. The Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches have ordained women to their respective ministries for some years: why should they be denied these 'promotions'? Logic is against the gainsayers. The real issue is, should women be ordained to ministry? Leaving aside the calls for equality and for the removal of sex discrimination, we must base our decisions on the teaching of Scripture. On this matter, as on every other, "we must surrender ourselves to the authority of Holy Scripture" (Augustine).

We begin at the beginning. Genesis 1:26-28 demonstrates that God made human beings in His own image, that He made them male and female, and that He gave them dominion over the earth and its creatures. From the first, the equality of the sexes is affirmed. However the Fall produced this Divine communication to the woman: "Thy desire shall be to thy husband,

and he shall rule over thee" (Genesis 3:16). This statement of male leadership did not mean women were to be despised or ill-treated – they were an integral part of Jewish religious life (Deuteronomy 31:12), marriage was held in high honour, and godly and successful women were celebrated in the Old Testament age. With the coming of Christ, this pattern was continued and accentuated – study the gospels to see His attitude towards women – to the point where it is clear that people of both sexes, as much as of all races and classes, are equal before Him (Galatians 3:28). But equality is not identity – there are differences.

Genesis 2 focuses not so much on the equality but on what has been called the 'complimentarity' of the sexes (v18-22). "Eve was not taken from the feet of Adam to be his slave, nor from his head to be his lord, but from his side to be his partner" (Peter Lombard, AD 1157). Partnership – if it is to succeed – inevitably means a division of roles and responsibilities. And it is clear that this is evident in the New Testament.

EVE WAS NOT
TAKEN FROM THE
FEET OF ADAM TO BE HIS
SLAVE, NOR FROM HIS
HEAD TO BE HIS LORD,
BUT FROM HIS SIDE TO
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For all His elevation of women, Christ chose twelve men as His apostles, charging them with leadership roles among His followers – a choice made after prayerful consideration (Luke 6:12-13). These apostles followed the example of Christ in making provision for the material needs of the church at Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-3), and in stipulating that those elected to the eldership should not be women (1 Timothy 3:1-2), a pattern that was to continue beyond New Testament times. The qualifications for eldership are found mainly in the writings of Paul. In emphasizing the concept of male headship, Paul goes back to creation, citing its **priority** (1 Timothy 2:13), its **pattern** (1 Corinthians 11:8), and its **purpose** (1 Corinthians 11:9). Man had, therefore, the responsibility of leadership.

The fact that Paul substantiates his premise by appeal to the facts of creation means that we cannot dismiss his view as bound by culture or by specific situations thrown up in certain places at particular times. Paul's assertions are rooted in Divine revelation, not human circumstance or personal opinion!

And so it is on this basis that the apostle limits the roles that may be occupied by women. He prohibits the assumption of positions that will require ministries of teaching and rule (1 Timothy 2:9-14 cf 1 Corinthians 14:34-35) and, by implication, discipline too (Hebrews 13:17). Should the woman undertake these roles, in terms of any kind of ordained or institutional ministry, this will inevitably place her in a position of authority over the man. And this Paul clearly outlaws, thus closing the door on her elevation to the office of ruling or teaching elder.

One Anglican scholar argues strongly for the contribution of women in the ministry – so strongly that he performs virtual contortions in the attempt to find a way for woman's ordination to Biblical office, perhaps as part of a team ministry, while denying her some of the key responsibilities and

duties. He is finally compelled to admit that, in the light of Scripture, he is uncomfortable with her assuming the role of vicar or bishop. He is right, however, in one respect – women may, and do, contribute valuably to the life of the church. The New Testament demonstrates their importance among the followers of Christ. Women spoke for, and served, the Lord (Acts 18:26, 21:9, Romans 16:1ff), and engaged in countless other ministries (Acts 16:15, Romans 16:1-2).

Today, every fellowship I know would be poorer without the dedication and commitment of godly women. In faithfulness to the means of grace, in works of hospitality and care, in teaching children, in ministering to the needy – not to mention those who have taken up the challenge of various

missionary endeavours – in all of these things, women excel.

Ladies, we salute you, and we are thankful for you!

**FOR ALL
HIS ELEVATION
OF WOMEN, CHRIST
CHOSE TWELVE MEN AS
HIS APOSTLES, CHARGING
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FOLLOWERS.**

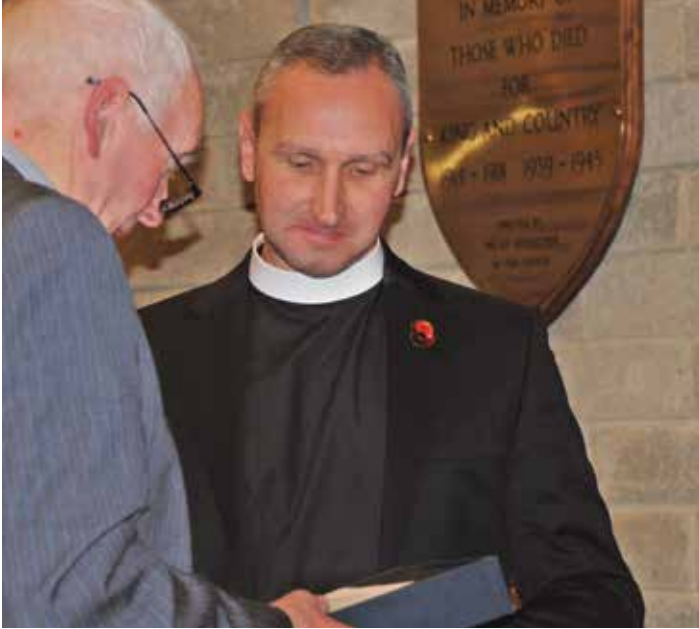
Perhaps the most telling indictment of Bishop Pat's elevation has come from Reform

Ireland, representing the conservative wing of the Church of Ireland. This

development, it concludes, "has not only brought more disharmony and disorder into God's church, but it has side-lined Christ in his own church. If God's Word does not rule His body, the church, then Christ is a mere figure-head and not the captain of his people. By ignoring God's equality agenda and role for man and woman and substituting it with a 'spirit-of-the-age' equality agenda, the Church of Ireland has in effect discriminated against those who hold to a biblical position...one more indication that the Church of Ireland is no longer listening to God's purposes for his church." With these sentiments, it is difficult to disagree.

⋮ **Rev Timothy Nelson**, Editor, is the minister of Sixmilecross Free Presbyterian Church. He also lectures in Biblical Exegesis in the Whitefield College.

SANDOWN ROAD INSTALLATION



The two-year vacancy in the Sandown, Belfast, congregation has ended with the installation of Mr Garth Wilson on Friday 8th November 2013. To accommodate the large numbers, the service was held in Martyrs' Memorial and conducted by

interim-moderator Rev John Armstrong. Others participating included Revs J Creane, T Martin, I Brown, J Morrow, D Creane and R Higginson – together with Moderator Rev J Greer and former Sandown minister Rev D McIlveen. A welcome was extended to Rev and

Mrs Wilson and family by Mr Tom Patterson, Clerk of Session. Suitable presentations were made, and supper served in the Jubilee Complex. Mr Wilson commenced his ministry on the following Lord's Day, when Dr and Mrs Paisley were in attendance.

MAINLAND CONFERENCE



Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church hosted the first Conference organized by the Mainland Commission. Some 150 people heard reports from Rev Patrick Baker on Walthamstow, London, and Lewes in East Sussex, and Rev Nigel Smyth on Merthyr Tydfil and Bryn in Wales. Both outlined

recent developments in these areas and continued efforts in evangelism. A DVD presentation outlined the spiritual decline on the mainland and introduced our churches there. Commission Convenor Rev David Smith preached an encouraging message from Zechariah 4v10, "Who hath despised the day of

small things?" The offering exceeded £1100. Supper was kindly provided by the Lisburn congregation, whose help with all the arrangements was much appreciated. An enhanced version of the DVD shown will be available soon.

∴ Rev David Smith

WHITEFIELD COLLEGE 2013-14



The principal, staff and students of the Whitefield College are pictured with the College building in the background. Some lecturers were unavailable for the photo-call. (Picture courtesy of official College photographer, John Currie, Ballymoney).

242 CAKES!

Anne Davidson, a member of Ardarragh congregation, is grateful to those who helped her raise £3000 for the Christian Academy in Kenya. Much of the money was raised by those who purchased Anne's cakes – others donated books and sent gifts. A big 'thank you' to all!



NEWS FROM TASMANIA

On Sunday 13th October a welcoming service was held for Rev. Ralph Hall and his family in Kingston, Tasmania. Those contributing included elder Noel Clydesdale, Rev Ian Hall (Port Lincoln), who preached from

1 Thessalonians 3:2-3, and Rev Ralph Hall, who testified of God's leading in his life. Flowers were presented to Mrs Hall and gifts to the four Hall children by Mrs Ethel Clydesdale on behalf of Kingston Free Presbyterian Church. Lunch followed, with an opportunity for all to meet and greet the Halls.

Please remember Mr and Mrs Hall and family as they begin a new chapter in their service for the Lord.

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CHILDREN'S CORNER



Lagos

Boys and girls, I'm sure you've all heard of LEGO, but I wonder, have you heard of LAGOS? Lagos is a huge city found in Nigeria, Africa, where over 21,000,000 people live.

The streets of this city are full of houses, shops and small businesses that make, repair and sell all sorts of things. However, there was a big problem in these streets at night. Being situated near to the Equator, it gets dark every night around 6.30pm and as the sun set the 'area boys' appeared.

These gangs of young men roamed the streets at night threatening people and forcing shopkeepers to hand over money or else have their shops attacked and damaged. These gangs remind me of some words written in John 3:19 where it says, '**...men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil...**'

This awful behaviour went on for years, until something remarkable happened. What do you think it might have been? Well, for years, Lagos didn't have any streetlights. The government decided to install new ones all across the city. The 'area boys' with their wicked ways hated the lights and ran away because they knew that they could now be spotted, captured and punished.

Maybe you have done wrong things in secret, under the cover of darkness. Remember, nothing can be hidden from God! Hebrews 4v13 says: '**Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.**' The good news is that Christ wants to turn you from darkness to His marvellous light, and from the power of Satan unto God, so that you may receive forgiveness of sins. (Look up Acts 26v18).

Compiled by Robert McConnell

**...men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.
John 3:19**

Quiz:

Look up the three Bible references. Find a word beginning with the letter 'S' in each of the verses which has a connection with the story.

Lamentations 2:19

S

Acts 9:11

S

Revelation 21:21

S

OOPS! We apologise for an error in the shading of boxes in November's Quiz. Here's an additional clue: 'Jonah preached here.' Entries will now be accepted until the end of January.

PRIZES!

12 or under? To enter, send your answer, name, address, church attended to:

Rev. Stephen Pollock

Email: answer@fpvision.org

51 Old Junction Road, Kilskeery,
Co Tyrone, BT78 3RN.

JULY WINNERS EACH RECEIVE £5!

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| » Adam Gillis
(Tandragee) | » Benjamin Hamilton
(Comber) |
| » Leah Shields
(Markethill) | » Leah Graham
(Antrim) |
| » Matthew Catherwood
(Newtownards) | » Rachel Wilson
(Kilskeery) |
| » Caleb Haffey
(Dromore) | » Matthew Dickey
(Newtownards) |

WHO'S IN CHARGE HERE?



ONE OF THE GREAT JOYS OF YOUTH IS ANTICIPATION OF THE FUTURE – THE EXCITEMENT OF THE UNKNOWN JUST AROUND THE CORNER. Where will I live? Will I marry and who will it be? What job will I do? Yet, for many, with joy come anxiety, dread and fear. Where are we to find help and stability as we face the future? These are found in the character of God!

It is humbling to recognise that we are not in ultimate control of the future. Pride proclaims that we are lords over our own destiny and have no need to acknowledge God. This was the mind-set of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:30: “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom, by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” But God humbled him in a most dramatic fashion. To paraphrase one observation: ‘a man who thought himself a god was made a beast to learn that he was but a man.’ (v33) Being thus humbled, the king came to his senses again, bearing witness to the truth that we all need to know in order to face our unknown tomorrows:

The Lord and not Babylon is the great power over all things (v35). God’s sovereignty marks Him out as the great God. His kingdom is the great Kingdom, altogether different from the kingdoms of earth.

The **realm** of His kingdom is beyond the boundaries of this world, “...he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth...” Angels and men and nations are under His sovereign rule. His Kingdom is divine in origin (Dan. 2:34; 44f) and as Jesus said: “...is not of this world...” (John 18:36)

The **rule** of His kingdom cannot be restrained or questioned. “...He doeth according to His will...” “...But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.” (Psalm 115:3) None can prevent God doing His will and none can question God as to His right to act or as to the rightness of those acts: “...none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” God always does what is right! Our worry about the unknown tomorrow is, ultimately, a worry that God might make a mistake. God’s sovereign will is always best and will always be fulfilled. That is true of the past, the

present and the future for the **reign** of His Kingdom is everlasting: “[His] dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation” (v34).

So face the future boldly – make wise and godly decisions – and do so in the confidence that the good and gracious God is working out “all things after the counsel of his own will” (Ephesians 1:11). Child of God, He is working out all things for your good (Romans 8:28). It’s good to know who’s really in charge here!

FROM THE OLD TO THE YOUNG

“A submissive heart is content to have its concerns ordered, as to much or little, as to dangers or safety, as to sufferings or deliverance, as the Lord sees best and thinks fittest; he refers all to God, and rests quietly in His disposal; but when the heart is careful and troubled, it is because it cannot submit” – From ‘Against anxious carefulness’ in The Works of David Clarkson, Vol.2, pg. 150



What can I do on a Sunday?

Do you have a question about Christian belief or behaviour?

Send your questions to: questions@fpvision.org

This time we asked Rev Ian Kenny (Dromore): What can I do on a Sunday?

The predominant view in society today, and sadly in some Christian circles, is that there should be no restrictions placed upon the Lord's Day, the Christian Sabbath. In a world that is increasingly driven by secular and commercial interests, it is more important than ever for the Christian to preserve this day, and so honour the Lord. But how do we, as Christians, approach this day?

The fourth commandment gives us guidance. Exodus 20:8 tells us to "keep it holy". These words give the thought of honouring, guarding and preserving the day, a day separate from the others, a special day. Sometimes emphasis is placed on what we are not to do on the Lord's Day, but focusing only on the negative may cause us to lose sight of what this day is all about. It is to be spent in a positive way, devoted unto the Lord. Mark 2:28 affirms that the Saviour is "Lord also of the Sabbath". The Sabbath belongs to the Lord and therefore should be wholly given to Him. To take a liberal view of this day is to take away from the Lordship of Christ.

Sometimes emphasis is placed on what we are not to do on the Lord's Day, but focusing only on the negative may cause us to lose sight of what this day is all about.

The Christian should prioritise the first day of the week. For the world, Monday is the first day of the week, and many calendars reflect that. However, for the believer, all other days should be viewed as a build up and preparation for that first day. Preparation involves planning ahead with shopping, having food and fuel in place, and endeavouring to have all other tasks completed by the end of the week. Preparation of heart is also vital, so that like the apostle John, we should seek to be found in "the Spirit on the Lord's Day" (Revelation 1:10). It is necessary to be ready spiritually that we might benefit as much as possible from the day.

The Christian should always be in the house of God on His day unless providentially hindered. The only legitimate hindrances to attendance are those works of necessity and mercy. The general rule is that we are to assemble with God's people (Hebrews 10:25).

As well as being at public worship both morning and evening, time should be spent in personal devotion. This may involve not just reading the Bible but taking the opportunity to study it in more depth. Also, reading Christian literature, such as missionary biographies, is a profitable way to spend any additional time. Isaiah 58:13-15 urges that we do not our "own pleasure" or our "own ways". Rather it is a day for delighting oneself in the Lord, which means that the Christian is engaging in that which is conducive to holiness of life. If we have a doubt about any activity or practice, it would be good to ask ourselves: 'Will this help me to grow in grace?'

The Lord's Day should be special for the whole family. Duties and responsibilities throughout the week may make it difficult to get the family together for devotions, but even families with very young children should find time to use this first day profitably, instilling in little minds the importance of the day.

It is good not to make it a day of drudgery for children, lest they could come to despise the Lord's Day and view it as a chore. A suggestion here would be to do something together that is perhaps not done on the other days. I heard of one family that toasted bread on the open fire at the end of the Lord's Day! A safer option might be a special supper or some food treat. This way, children will be encouraged to look forward to the day.

The Lord's Day presents opportunities for evangelism, not only in meetings, but by tract distribution and personal witness. Giving time to witness for the Lord is time well spent. Remember that our conduct on the Lord's Day sends out a message to the unbelieving world around us. When those in our neighbourhood see us keeping this day special, gathering together and seeking to honour the Lord, it is an invaluable witness. There is perhaps no more regular testimony to the world, showing that we honour the Lord, by keeping this day different.

**ATTENDEES
AT THE
YOUTH CAMP,
AUGUST 2013**



**BALLYMAGERNEY
YOUNG PEOPLE
RAISE £1000**

Young people from the Ballymagnerney congregation raised an amazing £1000 for their church Building Fund. The cheque is presented to treasurer Mr Albert Doherty. Also included are Mr Robert Montgomery and Rev Jim Hartin.



SUCCESS IN OMAGH

Naomi McFarland (left) is presented with a Certificate by Rev John Morrow for answering all 107 questions in the Shorter Catechism. Her teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Dobbin, is included.

Andrew Dobbin (right) is presented with a Certificate for nine years full attendance at Omagh Sunday School.



MISSION BOARD CHILDREN'S CAMP

Greenhill YMCA, Newcastle, 28 July – 1 August
Limited Places – Ages 7-11 years
Led by Children's Evangelists
Cost: £120; Deposit: £20 (non-refundable),
Balance by 31st May
Application Forms at www.fpcmission.org
Closing Date: 31st March



YOUTH LEDERSHIP SEMINAR

Those attending the special Youth leadership seminar in Dungannon, November 2013, are pictured with Youth Council President Dr Lindsay Wilson



MAINLAND OUTREACH

COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GLASGOW

26th July - 4th August

Cost £235

Age: 18+ (18 places)

Please go to fpcyouth.org for further details and to download application forms.

EVENINGS OF PRAYER

GREATER BELFAST Fri 14th Feb

Carryduff FPC 8.00pm, Rev D McLaughlin

Prayer Meeting: 7.30pm; Gospel Service: 8.00pm

NORTH DOWN Fri 21st Feb

Portavogie FPC 8.00pm, Rev D Priestley

MID DOWN Fri 14th Feb

Crossgar FPC 8.00pm, Rev G Dane

SOUTH DOWN Fri 28th Feb

Moneyslane FPC 8.00pm, Rev W McDermott

MID ULSTER Fri 21st Feb

Portadown FPC 8.00pm, Speaker: tbc

SOUTH WEST Fri 7th Feb

Armagh FPC 8.00pm, Rev D McMillan

THE WEST Fri 14th Feb

Kesh FPC 8.00pm, Rev R Robinson

NORTH WEST Fri 24th Feb

Londonderry FPC 8.00pm, Speaker: tbc

NORTH & SOUTH ANTRIM Fri 28th Feb

Ballymena FPC 8.00pm, Rev J Greer

CHILDREN'S OUTREACHES

SOUTH DOWN

29th June - 4th July 2014

Age: 16+ (8 places)

Leader: Miss J Walsh

Cost: £160 each

LARNE

18th - 22nd

+ 24th August 2014

Age: 16+ (8 places)

Leader: Rev D Brown

Cost: £160 each

Please go to fpcyouth.org for further details and to download application forms.

DELEGATES MEETING

Mon 17th February, Magherafelt FPC, 8.00pm

YOUTH COUNCIL EVENTS

2014 SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

SHANNAGH-MORE OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE

NEWCASTLE, CO DOWN

4th July - 8th August 2014

Ages 12-18

Price: £150

TRAINING WEEKEND

28th - 30th March, Faith Mission Centre, Portadown

Cost: £65

SPRING RALLY

Martyrs Memorial FPC,
Fri 21st March, 8.00pm

Preacher: Rev I Brown

Theme: Consider Christ

OTHER EVENTS

MARTYRS' MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP

SCARBOROUGH YOUTH HOSTEL

4th - 8th August

Transport, activities, inclusive: £179

Details: M. Bannatyne

028 9508 9065 or 079 8922 5602

A WORD TO WOMEN

"I WILL NOT FAIL THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE" (JOSHUA 1:5)

God spoke these words to Joshua as he was about to begin a new chapter in his life. He had just become leader of the Israelites in the place of Moses. Joshua was entering into a new work. He was also about to pass into a new land, Canaan. There he would encounter new challenges and conflicts, and receive new blessings. On the threshold of this critical moment, the Lord appeared to His servant and spoke a personal word to his heart, 'I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee'.

As we stand at the entrance of a new year, with all its uncertainties, isn't it good to be able to hold on to this promise and take it with us throughout the days of 2014? No doubt there will be mountain top experiences and valleys for us all. It may be that you will face financial worries this year, or problems in your work-place or in your home and family, or you may be called to go through a period of ill health.

When we look at these words and truly claim them for ourselves, for our own situations, we can face uncertain times knowing that the presence of our unfailing God goes with us. No matter what 2014 holds for us, we may go forward confidently, in the knowledge that He will go with us, and that His grace will be sufficient for every problem and trial!

Our God is an unchanging God. His promise to Joshua began, 'as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee'. Joshua had witnessed God's unfailing grace and mercy to Moses for 40 years. He had experienced first-hand how the Lord had been with His servant in times of difficulty and trouble. That recollection would strengthen Joshua's resolve for the days ahead. And in Heb 13:8 we have this promise, 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today and forever'

– past, present and future. Isn't it good for us to be reminded that our God never changes? Indeed He cannot change. Change infers imperfection. We either change from better to worse or from worse to better, but He is always perfect, He is forever the same. And this is the God who makes a promise to you – He's the One who will be with you in 2014 and beyond.

HOLD ON TO
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UNCHANGABLE
GOD!

Dear friend, remember God's promise in the midst of the trials of life. It has been said that we should never doubt in the darkness what God has shown us in the light. Hold on to the promises you have been given, plead them before the throne of grace – and in the hard times, as much as in the good times of 2014, you will prove the sufficiency of our unchangeable God!

At our Watchnight Service every year in Ballymena, my dad would quote these lines from the poem, 'The Gate of the Year'

*And I said to the man who stood at
the gate of the year,
"Give me a light that I may tread
safely into the unknown"
And he replied,
"Go out into the darkness and put
your hand into the hand of God;
That shall be to you better than a
light and safer than a known way"*

May this be the experience of us all in 2014.

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

DISTINCTIVES

FEATURES OF FREE PRESBYTERIANISM

THE AUTHORISED VERSION

WHY ARE FREE PRESBYTERIANS SO HUNG UP ON THE AUTHORISED VERSION (AV)? IT IS OVER FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OLD. THINGS HAVE MOVED ON. SCHOLARSHIP HAS ADVANCED. AND THE NEW VERSIONS ARE MUCH MORE USER-FRIENDLY.

I suspect this is the kind of comment that has been made to us all at one time or another. Few are they who stand shoulder to shoulder with our denomination in its unwavering commitment to the AV. For many, AV stands for 'Archaic Version', a version long since superseded by numerous modern offerings. So why do Free Presbyterians persist in their refusal to employ these translations? Why is the AV the only version utilized in Free Presbyterian services? Are we stubbornly clinging to a position that is no longer tenable, a position that sets us apart even from those with whom we have much in common doctrinally? Not at all!

Free Presbyterians value the AV because they have a high view of Scripture. The first in our Articles of Faith affirms "the absolute authority and Divine verbal inspiration of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God". Such a view of the Bible demands that it be treated with reverence – a reverence that must impact not only our reading and response, but also our approach to the work of translation. Sadly, while the evidence of history confirms the humility and care demonstrated by the men of 1611, it does not argue so clearly for the integrity of some of their

successors. And so Free Presbyterians have not rushed to embrace modern versions, each one launched, inevitably, amid a fanfare of extravagant claims – and just as inevitably nudged aside by a rival with its own equally striking 'blurb'. The truth is that the Bible is still the world's bestseller. Consequently, commercial interests often set the agenda, rushing out the next 'big thing' in modern translations, knowing that there will be a market for their product. 'Shelf life' is ever decreasing, and one wonders how this rapid turnover of translations impacts the matter of reverence for the Scriptures. Is it really any wonder Free Presbyterians are not part of this 'merry-go-round'?

Meanwhile the AV goes on. Free Presbyterians hold that in this translation, and in the Hebrew and

Greek manuscripts underlying it, the true text of Scripture has been preserved. We believe that, of all English translations available, the AV best safeguards that view of scripture which the theologians call *plenary verbal inspiration*. But what does this mean?

Let's take the words one by one, beginning with the key noun.

Many will recognise the term

inspiration (cf 2 Timothy 3:16) – literally 'God-breathed', or as one writer puts it, "the Bible does not say that its words were inspired by God but that they were expired by Him" (Blanchard). Perhaps our own Dr Cairns gives the best definition: "Inspiration is the work of God, by His Holy Spirit, communicating His Word to the writers of the Bible and enabling them to write that Word without error, addition or deletion." (cf 2 Peter 1:20-21) What we have, then, in the Bible, is God's Word. The Scriptures are authoritative, our final rule of faith and practice. Can we afford to 'play fast and loose' with these writings? Must we not be sure that what we hold in our hands is the work of godly translators, is true to the best texts, and is tested and proved over many generations? On the basis of these criteria, we have no reason to abandon the AV!

This inspiration is **verbal**. It extends to the very words of Scripture (cf Matthew 5:18). Since God gave not just the Word, but the *words*, those words must be translated, and this is what those who worked on the AV sought to do. But it is not the approach adopted by many modern translations. Producers of the popular New International Version (NIV) speak of "fidelity to the thought of the Biblical writers" and of striving for "more than a word-for-word translation" (Preface 1980). This is the so-called 'dynamic

THE SCRIPTURES ARE AUTHORITATIVE, OUR FINAL RULE OF FAITH AND PRACTICE. CAN WE AFFORD TO 'PLAY FAST AND LOOSE' WITH THESE WRITINGS?

equivalence' approach – giving the sense of what is said, without necessarily translating the exact words – which conveys the overall 'message' rather than rendering the actual terms used. The question arises, what right has the translator to deal with Scripture in this way, second guessing the 'thought' of the writer and 'paraphrasing' what is in front of him? We are dealing with God's Word, and every word matters! (Matthew 4:4) Accuracy must never be sacrificed on the altar of alleged readability and relevancy.

This inspiration is **plenary**; that is, the Bible is the Word of God, it does not merely *contain* the Word of God. This book is inspired and infallible in all its parts. How can this position be reconciled with the fact that many modern versions omit significant material found in the AV? Supporters of the contemporary view justify their actions by demeaning the text from which the AV is translated. Thus the NIV's parenthesising of Mark 16:9-20 is based on evidence gleaned from what it calls 'the most reliable early manuscripts'. John 7:53-8:11 and other complete verses or parts of verses are omitted on the same basis. The textual question is complex, but those who adhere to the AV should not allow this complexity to overwhelm them, much less make them feel that they read an inferior translation. Almost 90% of the available manuscripts support the Traditional Text, which underpins the AV. Most modern translators prefer the minority text, historically associated with Alexandria in Egypt, a noted centre of heresy. Examples of this type are defective in many areas, often disagreeing among themselves, and so raising serious questions about the authority of the Biblical text. It is hardly wise to remove words, verses, even substantial paragraphs, on the basis of such dubious authority! We believe that "all scripture" is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16), and that dire consequences will attend the rejection of what He has communicated to us (Revelation 22:18-19).

Free Presbyterians hold to the AV for good reasons. We may be in a minority on this issue, but we must not allow that to prompt the forsaking of a principled position. God has promised to preserve His Word – Psalm 100:5, Isaiah 40:8, and Matthew 24:35 – and He has. This preservation has been effected by a true text, a text maintained in use among His people over many centuries (Isaiah 59:21). That text underlies the AV – not these many modern versions – and has nothing to fear from a few inferior, recently discovered manuscripts!

ALMOST 90% OF THE AVAILABLE MANUSCRIPTS SUPPORT THE TRADITIONAL TEXT, WHICH UNDERPINS THE AV. MOST MODERN TRANSLATORS PREFER THE MINORITY TEXT, HISTORICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ALEXANDRIA IN EGYPT, A NOTED CENTRE OF HERESY.

⋈ Rev Timothy Nelson, Editor, is the minister of Sixmilecross Free Presbyterian Church. He also lectures in Biblical Exegesis in the Whitefield College.

PRESBYTERY EDUCATION BOARD

WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE
PRESBYTERY EDUCATION BOARD IN NOVEMBER 2013

SHARED EDUCATION: ANOTHER AGENDA

For many years there has been a concerted attempt to change the thinking of Northern Ireland children, particularly Protestant children, within the state system of education. As Dr Ed Cairns stated, as far back as 1987, in his book entitled 'Caught in the Crossfire': *If one day the two communities are to live in harmony, something will have to be done to ensure that Northern Ireland does not continue to produce children who tend toward conformity with their parents.*

We believe that the present pursuit of shared education has more behind it than the saving of scarce resources. There is another agenda at work. Shared education in many cases is a front for ecumenism and for the secular lobby to influence, change and direct the thinking of children to suit their agenda.

A number of shared education programmes have been running across Northern Ireland both in the primary and post-primary sectors. These go under various names, such as: 'Shared Education'; 'Sharing in Education'; 'Primary Integrating/Enriching Education' [PIEE]; 'Partnership, Inclusion, Reconciliation, Citizenship and History' [PIRCH]; 'Primary Curriculum Partnership Programme'; 'Welcoming Schools Project', etc.

These programmes involve two or more local schools joining together on a cross-community basis for different activities. They are presently financed by two organisations, namely, *The International Fund for Ireland and Atlantic Philanthropies* and administered by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland. The renowned ecumenical Corrymeela Community is involved with The International

Fund for Ireland in delivering some of these programmes in state schools.

The International Fund for Ireland is presently contributing £17 million of funding with the aim: *"to facilitate reconciliation for a shared future through the medium of education in order to promote shared education by linking schools representative of the two communities..."* [Source: An interim evaluation of the International Fund for Ireland's Sharing in Education Programme, June 2012, page 2]

That form of shared education which promotes ecumenism has the wholehearted support of the four mainline ecumenical denominations. A recent joint statement by the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland Bishops of Clogher, issued in connection with shared education in Fermanagh, highlights this enthusiasm: *"...We owe it to our children to work our way through removing barriers of fear and misunderstanding, most of which now have little substance or foundation...."* [Source: The Fermanagh Trust Shared Education Newsletter, June 2012] The elimination of vital distinctives, relating to salvation, between Bible religion and Romanism, by their own admission, lies at the heart of many of these shared programmes.

In light of the cross-community, ecumenical nature of many of these programmes we desire as a denomination to highlight these issues. We also call upon evangelical Christians to be aware of these ecumenical and secular schemes for the diluting and eliminating of true Bible religion and seek to withstand this evil influence from being brought to bear upon the children of evangelical Christians.

∴ Rev Brian McClung (Convenor)

SENSING GOD'S CALL TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

KILSKEERY INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
TEACHER / TRAINEE TEACHER REQUIRED

Enquiries to:

The Administrator, Kilskeery Independent Christian School, Old Junction Road, Kilskeery BT78 3RN
Tel: 028 6638 8734 / 028 8956 1560 Email: kilskeery@independentchristianschool.org

CONSIDER CHRIST OUTREACH 2014

'GROWING STRONGER - GOING FURTHER'



Nearly two years into the latest phase of the Consider Christ Outreach and still the loyal band of workers continues to grow! From around 15 people in 2012, we now have well over 100 travelling with us every two months – and the zeal and enthusiasm seems to know no limits. At the beginning we were only able to cover areas with a population of 8,000 – 10,000 in a day; recently we have been reaching 26,000 and more.

As we look back over 2013 we rejoice that the Word of God has been placed in tens of thousands of homes, and we have had opportunity to speak to thousands about the Lord – but our greatest joy lies in the promise of God in Isaiah 55 v 11: **“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”** Our confidence is not in our ability to organise outreaches and place literature in the hands of needy people, but rather that God’s Word never fails to accomplish its purpose in the hearts and minds of those who hear it. There is never a situation where a tract offered or a word of witness is pointless or futile. May the Lord increase our confidence in His Word, that it is **“quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword,”** that it is **“like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces;”** that, applied by the Holy Spirit, it can do

Our confidence is not in our ability ... but rather that God’s Word never fails to accomplish its purpose in the hearts and minds of those who hear it.

what we can never do – break into the hardened hearts of sinners, unlock the chains of sin that bind them, and draw them savingly to Christ.

Until now we have been working in areas of Ireland accessible in a day; but there are vast areas where this is physically impossible. To begin to reach these more remote areas, we have organised an overnight event for 9th-10th May 2014 with accommodation in Limerick, a good 4 hour journey for most. We intend to travel a further hour and a half to Tralee, Co. Kerry, early the next morning. Inevitably this will mean added expense for the outreach team, but we have been delighted by the enthusiastic response of members to this new venture.

It would be remiss of me, on behalf of the Consider Christ organisers, not to pay tribute to our faithful band of workers. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work alongside this godly band! They travel for hours to reach the destination, we send them out on the doors, often in the wind and rain, and they invariably return with smiles on their faces! Please continue to pray for this vital outreach, and if you are able, we would be glad to have you join the team.

Dr Lindsay Wilson



30TH ANNIVERSARY TRIP TO KENYA

Psalm 77: 10, 11 declares “I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High ... I will remember the works of the Lord...I will remember thy wonders of old.” These words, quoted by Missionary Officer George McConnell, sum up the purpose of the recent trip to Kenya and the sentiments of all those involved.

“I WILL REMEMBER THE YEARS”

Many of us remember when, thirty years ago, Margaret Russell left her home in Tandragee to go to Kenya. Always held in the highest esteem in our denomination, other workers have joined Margaret in Kenya and the work has grown and enjoyed the Lord’s blessing. From the first, Margaret laboured with the Rev Nathaniel Kendagor and the Bible Christian Faith Church (BCFC). This relationship has been crucial for the building up of the work and for its future vision. We thank God for those who faithfully serve God in BCFC, and for their separated stand for the Gospel of Christ.

Forty-two people from Northern Ireland, representing seventeen

of our churches, left very early on 16th October 2013 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Miss Russell’s work, and the relationship of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster with BCFC, and to give thanks to Almighty God for His blessing over those years. An anniversary service was held on Sunday 20th October at the BCFC School, with many from BCFC churches and the children from the school joining us. Speeches were made by Rev Kendagor, BCFC Moderator Mr Napa, FPC Moderator Rev Greer, Rev McIlveen, Mr G McConnell, Miss Russell and Rev Harris. Gifts were presented, various choirs sang beautifully, and Rev McIlveen brought the closing message – a difficult task at the end of a 4 hour service!

The visitors also “remembered the years” with a meal and an evening of fellowship with the BCFC Ministers, Pastors, elders and their wives. A large cake was cut by Miss Russell

and Mrs Napa, representing the two denominations. Miss Russell’s power point presentation of the history of the work was thoroughly enjoyed, with some pictures producing much laughter.

The next night, we fellowshipped with the missionaries themselves, and this was a real blessing to all. Memories were shared and presentations made,

including one to Rev Austin Allen who, on his first trip to Kenya, celebrated the fortieth anniversary of his ordination to the ministry.

“I WILL REMEMBER THE WORKS”

During the trip, we saw something of the work carried on by our missionaries and the BCFC. We visited Lityei, location of the Christian Academy, where Miss Russell is school manager, Miss Noreen McAfee the school principal, and Miss Kathy Walker its musical director.



600 children attend the school, with 300 boarders. It was truly amazing to witness, first-hand, the challenges of running a boarding school on a day to day basis, organising over sixty staff including teachers, kitchen workers, groundsmen and matrons.

Miss McAfee skilfully oversees the work in the classrooms, and it is testament to her abilities that the school maintains an excellent academic standard. The children were truly a joy to visit, their enthusiasm, good manners and friendliness a wonderful affirmation of the work within the school. Thank God for a team who are so well equipped for this work!

We visited Bendera, home to Miss Russell and Miss Walker and the Bible College. Rev Malcolm and Mrs Alison

Patterson have joined the team. Mr Patterson teaches at the Bible College where the facilities are very good, with boarding accommodation, lecture hall, common room and a well-stocked library. These facilities testify to the labours of Rev Dave DiCanio during his time in Kenya.

We visited Kitale, where Rev Harris and his family lived and served for eight years. It was evident that Rev Harris's ministry had been deeply appreciated by the people, and he encouraged them to press on in the work. It was a happy time for Rev and Mrs Harris and their son Joseph as they renewed friendships and visited the churches. It was also a joy for Mrs Harris to see her sister Margaret, this

time in the company of another sister, Shirley, visiting for the first time. We also found time to visit the Armstrong Evangelical Bookshop in Kitale to purchase gifts and books.

IT WAS EVIDENT THAT REV HARRIS'S MINISTRY HAD BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED BY THE PEOPLE, AND HE ENCOURAGED THEM TO PRESS ON IN THE WORK.

Towards the end of the trip, we travelled down to Kakamega where Miss Gillespie serves. On Sunday 27th we visited Mumias church which, due to heavy rainfall, was inaccessible to the buses. As we walked the final stretch of dirt

track, it was a thrill to look up and see the little building in the midst of maize and sugarcane fields and the people walking out to greet us. What a welcome we received! The Lord truly blessed in the morning service as Rev Greer preached. There were many

children and young people gathered, and these are the 'lambs' with whom Miss Gillespie works.

"I WILL REMEMBER THY WONDERS"

As we travelled many long hours by bus on Kenyan roads, we surveyed the wonder of God's creation – the area around Kitale is mountainous, green and very beautiful. We took in the sights and sounds of Kenyan life as we passed roadside stalls, markets, matatus (small van taxis), children waving and shouting "jambo", and multitudes going about their daily lives. We were in awe of the animals and birds we saw - rhino, monkeys, giraffes, zebra and flamingos.

A greater wonder than this, however, was to meet with fellow believers from a distant land, who welcomed us with

open arms. Various little delegations travelled many miles to reach remote churches in Kacheliba, Mochichi Siyoi and Ortum, every visit finding a welcoming congregation waiting patiently for the arrival of the bus. There is no doubt that those first-time visitors in our group came home changed in their Christian lives as a result of meeting and fellowshiping with these dear people. Their kindness and hospitality was truly humbling as they shared what little they had. My mind was drawn to Rev 5:9, to a future day when we will all join to sing that new song together around the throne, "for thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"

WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE MISSIONARIES WHO WORKED TIRELESSLY BEFORE AND DURING THE TRIP, OPENING UP THEIR HOMES, AND ORGANISING AND ADVISING US.

We are indebted to the missionaries who worked tirelessly before and during the trip, opening up their homes, and organising and advising us. We were also blessed in having with us previous and present Mission Board chairmen, Rev McIlveen and Rev Harris, and previous and present Missionary Council Chairmen, Mr George McConnell and Rev David Park. A special 'thank you' is due to Rev Park for meticulous planning throughout the two weeks, and for getting us all home safely – along with the giraffes and the walking sticks!.

✚ Jenni Hamilton (Ballymena)





HISTORIC SERVICE IN NEPAL

Friday 29th November 2013 saw a 100 strong congregation witness an historic ordination service of twenty two Nepali men to the gospel ministry. The service of ordination was held in the church building in Kathmandu. Representatives of the General Presbytery of Ulster, led by the Moderator Rev John Greer and including Mr G Mc Connell (Presbytery Missionary Officer) and Revs. L. Curran, I. Harris, D. Park, travelled to Nepal for the special occasion.

The service was conducted by Rev Wesley Graham and opened with the hymn 'Have you been to Jesus'. Rev David Park offered the opening prayer. The required questions were then put to the ordinands by Rev Ian Harris (Mission Board Chairman).

After the signing of the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Moderator addressed the men and led in the ordination prayer as they were set apart for the work of the ministry with the laying on of hands of the Ulster Presbytery. Mr Paul Thapa read the Scriptures, after which the Moderator



preached the ordination sermon from 1 Peter 5:2 on the minister's work of feeding and overseeing the flock of God.

Mr Greer continued by asking the newly ordained men the following question: Do you now consent to join in the formation of the Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal and to come under its care and discipline? A Charter setting out the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal as a self-governing denomination and endorsing the special relationship now existing between it and the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster was duly signed. Ordination certificates

were presented to them by the Moderator and Mr George McConnell brought greetings from the Ulster Presbytery.

Rev Leslie Curran offered the closing prayer. The next day the newly constituted Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian Church of Nepal met to elect a Moderator - Paul Thapa - and Office Bearers.

∴ Rev Leslie Curran

MISSION BOARD DETAILS

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Secretary:

Rev David Park,
55 Market Street,
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T. 028 2766 2039
E. hebronfpc@btconnect.com



DATES FOR THE DIARY

JANUARY

31st

SIXMILECROSS, YOUTH RALLY

Speaker: Rev G Dane
Theme: Contemporary Worship: Why Not?
Time: Friday at 8.00pm

MARCH

9th-14th

MARKETHILL, BIBLE WEEK

Speaker: Rev T Nelson
Theme: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
Time: Sunday at 7.00pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm

16th-23rd

TULLYVALLEN, GOSPEL WEEK

Speaker: Rev L Power
Venue: Annyart Hall, Castleblaney
Time: Sunday at 3.30pm
Monday – Friday at 8.00pm

FREE PRESBYTERIAN EASTER CONVENTION

MARTYRS' MEMORIAL FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (KINDLY GRANTED)
18TH & 21ST APRIL 2014

Friday 18th, 8.00pm: Youth & Missionary Rally

SPEAKER: Rev J Hanna (Spain)

Monday 21st, 3.30pm: Afternoon Meeting

SPEAKER: Rev J Greer (Moderator)

Monday 21st, 7.30pm: Evening Meeting

SPEAKER: Rev T Murray (Deputy Moderator)

Special Singing – Reports – Refreshments. Further Details to Follow.



Preliminary Announcement

FREE PRESBYTERIAN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

23rd-27th June 2014

Martyrs' Memorial Church, Belfast

Plan to Attend – Pray for Blessing

