

Free Presbyterian VISION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

"What must I do
to be saved"
Acts 16:30

"Believe on the
Lord Jesus Christ"
Acts 16:31

Serving
God in
Retirement

Living for
the Lord
in 2022

Planted Under
The Tree:
Clogher Valley Free
Presbyterian Church

JAN
2022
#55
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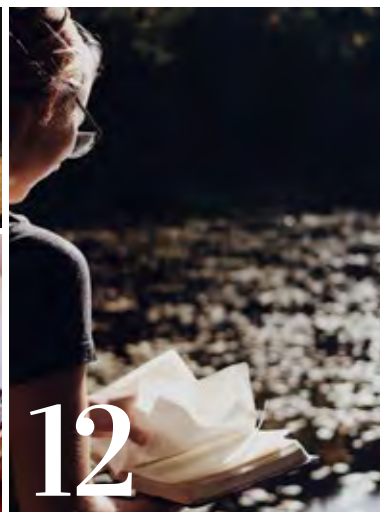
I remember hearing a dear Christian ask: 'How long is eternity?'. She was a small, physically frail elderly lady but carried with her a full-hearted conviction about the reality of God. I guess she may have felt that she had little to give compared to others who were much younger and fitter. She could not have been more wrong. Unknown to her those words resonated with so many.

With the commencement of a new thing, there is sometimes the tendency to be preoccupied with time. A new year has begun, new ministries have commenced and new buildings have been opened - we are thankful for each and all. Yet, when all of this dust settles we are all still left standing before the threshold of eternity.

Eternity prompts us to look upwards and Godwards. The only time the word 'Eternity' appears in our English Bible is for this very reason, 'thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy...' (Isaiah 57:15). Spending our time in consideration of God's eternal essence is always going to be profitable. Initially, it will confound us but the more we linger in this light, the more we are drawn to rest on Him alone. Let our days be filled with Spirit-filled desires to run to our eternal Saviour, to our Lord Jesus Christ - the same yesterday, today and forever.

Eternity impacts our now. It asks questions of our time and service for God. James urges us to 'so speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty' (James 2:2). We do not know the length of our time and likewise cannot comprehend the endlessness of Eternity and yet we must all, in the words of one hymn, 'live to God before it be too late'. ■

✉ Editor
editor@fpvision.org



“Many start each year with great intentions to live for the Lord, only to find that such intentions go no further. What is the cause of this change? If all were examined, we would see a direct correlation between a waning desire to live for the Lord and a waning in fellowship with Him.”

Presbytery Publications Committee

Dr R Johnstone (Convenor), Rev P Baker (Editor)
Mr I Campbell (Business Manager),
Rev D Creane, Rev L Curran (Associate Editor),
Rev M Lecky (Secretary), Rev C Mercer,
Rev T Nelson, Rev G Wilson (Associate Editor)
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Tel: 028 417 62645
Mob: 07709 429271
E: subscribe@fpvision.org

From the Presbytery Publications Committee

From this issue onwards, *Free Presbyterian Vision* magazine has a new Editor, Rev Patrick Baker. It was ten years ago, in 2012, that Rev Timothy Nelson agreed to serve as editor for a few years to oversee the commencement of *The Free Presbyterian Vision* magazine. Under his editorship, the magazine was successfully launched and established.

Rev Mercer took up the editorship in 2018. Some time ago, Mr Mercer indicated his desire to step aside from his post as Editor and asked the Publications Committee to consider a suitable replacement. That process took longer than expected. Characteristically, he consented to continue in the post until a suitable candidate was found.

Rev Patrick Baker was approached and given time to consider prayerfully the editorship of the magazine. We were delighted that the Lord directed him to accept the post, subject to the consent of Presbytery, which was duly granted. At this time of transition in the editorial team, we ask our readers to pray for the new Editor and all those who work with him.

We thank Rev Mercer for his years as Editor and we pray that God would use him mightily as he continues to labour in various aspects of God's work – not least, as Deputy Moderator. ■

✓ **Rev Ron Johnstone,**
Convenor.

“*At this time of transition in the editorial team, we ask our readers to pray for the new Editor and all those who work with him.*”

A Word from the Former Editor



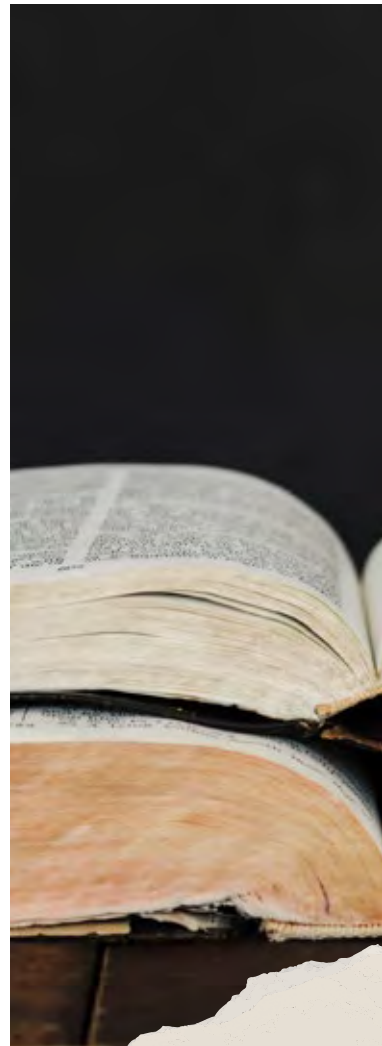
It has been my privilege for the past four years to serve as the editor of the *Free Presbyterian Vision* magazine. When I was appointed by Presbytery, in January 2018, to replace Rev Timothy Nelson, who had served as the first editor, I viewed the work with fear and trepidation. It was a new challenge and I felt inadequate. In the providence of God, a solid foundation had already been laid and I discovered quickly that there was a band of behind-the-scenes workers who offered assistance willingly. The ongoing encouragement from the Publications and Media Committee, and especially its chairman Rev Ron Johnstone, has been a rich blessing. The assistant editors and proofreaders have made invaluable contributions and those who have willingly agreed to write articles have made my work so much easier. To all, I offer sincere thanks. Appreciation is extended to our publisher, Pepper Collective. Their attention to detail and professionalism, under my point of contact, Mr Geoff Sloss, has been second to none. My deepest thanks are reserved for the Lord Who, as always, provided needed grace and help.

The Preacher said, “To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3:1). These wise words confirm that life is full of changes – changes that are under the superintendence of God. After prayerful consideration, last year, I believed the time had come to hand the editorial baton over to another. I am thrilled that Presbytery approved the appointment of Rev Patrick Baker recently to serve as the third editor of the magazine. I have no doubt he will be blessed and be a blessing in this new role. The magazine is a vital part of the Free Presbyterian Church and I pray its circulation and influence will continue to grow in 2022 and beyond. ■

✓ **Rev C Mercer,**
Omagh Free Presbyterian Church.



The Puritans



Like many titles that finally stuck, the term, “Puritan”, was originally a pejorative. Somewhat like “Bible bashers” or “Dinosaurs” or whatever the latest put-down happens to be.

THE HISTORY OF THE PURITANS

This Protestant movement dates back to the mid to late 1500s and continued as a movement largely to the end of the 1600s. They were called such because they insisted on further reforming (“purifying”) the Church of England. The Puritans rejoiced that the Pope’s heretical doctrines had been abandoned by the early Reformers, but they lamented that some fragments of the old ways were still to be found, particularly in the Prayer Book. Queen Elizabeth I (“Good Queen

Bess”) had her glorious moments on a national scale, but she was a politician and was content to have a broad church. The Puritans, however, saw the Reformation as a work in progress and wanted complete conformity to the Word of God. The 17th century, under the Stuart dynasty, was a difficult time to be a Puritan; many were imprisoned, forced into exile and even martyred for their faith. In 1662, many were forced out of the Church of England through the infamous Test Act – something they could not support in their God-enlightened consciences. This gave rise to the various Free Churches who were further persecuted until the Glorious Revolution removed the Stuart dynasty in 1688-89 and placed William III on the throne.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE PURITANS

With few exceptions, they held to Calvinist theology. They believed in the supreme majesty of God and held to a balanced view of the Sovereignty of God, which did not neglect the responsibility of man. They placed great emphasis on the work of the Holy Spirit, both in converting the sinner and enabling the saint to persevere to the end in the faith. Their gospel preaching was thorough but warm. They used all the tools in the evangelist's tool box with great effect. The Puritans used the most winsome of language to woo the sinner to Christ (e.g. Samuel Rutherford's oft-expressed raptures of love) or vividly describe the dangers of delay (e.g. Jonathan Edwards in "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God") and the terrors of Hell (e.g. John Bunyan in "Sighs from Hell, or The Groans of a Damned Soul..."). It was the Puritans who gave us our *Westminster Confession of Faith* and its various daughter confessions. This most thorough document, still in use today, was produced during the years of Cromwell when Puritanism enjoyed some relief from the marauding Stuarts.

THE PIETY OF THE PURITANS

They were not cold, formalist doctrinaires. From the pastor in the pulpit right through to the congregation, which was made up of artisans, farmers and house servants etc., they saw the necessity of living out these great truths in their everyday lives. Their Calvinism produced that spirit of indebtedness to the sovereign grace of God. They gave themselves to prayer and the study of the Word. Their congregations included a covenant of membership that pledged them to vital and practical godliness. One has only to read the *Shorter Catechism* – originally compiled for those of a weaker ability to read theology – on the various commandments. The child is asked first of all to state the commandment itself. This is then followed up by enquiring what is positively required by the commandment and then concluded by warning what is forbidden in the same commandment. The catechism was seen as part of the worship of God. Unfortunately, the word, "Puritan", has become synonymous with black clothing and a severe, joyless spirit. Yet, they preached sermons on being happy, not only in the future state of glory, but in the present state of conflict. The first question in the *Shorter Catechism* reminded them that man's chief end is not only to glorify God, but also to enjoy Him forever. The first naturally leads to the other.

THE LEGACY OF THE PURITANS

Truly, we can say of them, that "[they] being dead yet speaketh" (Hebrews 11:4). It was the Puritans who gave us our Authorised Version in 1611 – which has shaped our English language. They have left us a whole library of rich literary and spiritual works, many of which are freely available for download today on the internet. Some, indeed, are exhaustive tomes (John Owen) through to pithy and easily read productions from the likes of Thomas Watson

and John Flavel. You probably have benefitted greatly already from Matthew Henry's Puritan *Bible Commentary* or enjoyed the vivid and Biblical imagination of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

I am struggling to think of any direct hymns which flowed from a Puritan pen. Two come to mind which are at least based on their writings: "He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster..." is taken from Bunyan's allegory above, and "The sands of time are sinking...", which Mrs Cousins compiled from the letters of Samuel Rutherford, is another. The Puritans would have been largely Psalm singers.

One legacy of the Puritans which may serve us well to emulate was their readiness to suffer for their convictions when they refused to bow to the interference of Caesar in the affairs of the church. The Scottish Puritans – our covenanting Presbyterian forefathers – perished in their hundreds rather than surrender up "the crown rights of King Jesus." Others were tortured and exiled or sold into slavery because they defied the law and met to worship God scripturally, even if this meant in the lonely glens or bleak lowland moors of Scotland. None were spared because of age or sex; the Two Margarets drowned at Wigtown being the glowing example.

The English Puritans – who also carry the name of "Non-Conformists" – had sufficient reason to fear the state-sponsored cruelty of the Tower of London. Bunyan wrote his allegory in Bedford Jail, where he was incarcerated for the sole crime of conducting meetings outside the auspices of the Anglican church. He was free to walk away from the prison at any time

if he would only agree not to preach without the Bishop's permission. He refused and spent 12 years deprived of his freedom.

The sufferings of the Puritans largely came to an end upon the reign of William III. Some minor issues concerning freedom for the Non-Conformists remained to be resolved, but the main battle was won. Although we have enjoyed civil and religious liberty ever since, we would be foolish to think that this will continue unhindered for another 300 plus years. There is no new thing under the sun. Governments, especially when filled with the wicked, will always seek to encroach upon the Church. It is only when the righteous are in authority that the people rejoice. They mourn when the wicked bear rule (Proverbs 29:2). Perhaps the time will come when we will draw our inspiration necessarily, not only from sacred history (Hebrews 11) but from our own national history.

'...whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.' Hebrews 13:7. ■

✉ Mr C Maxwell, *Home Missionary*.

Planted Under The Tree

FOCUS ON CLOGHER VALLEY FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEOGRAPHY

Clogher Valley Free Presbyterian Church has been meeting in a prime location along the A4 trunk road, between Fivemiletown and Clogher in Co. Tyrone, since 1970. In a bygone age, the Clogher Valley narrow gauge steam railway passed by. That more sedate age has been superseded by the thousands of motorists travelling along this arterial route. The Clogher Valley area is one of great natural and unspoilt beauty and includes a section of eastern Fermanagh, as well as the rolling hills of south Tyrone.

GOSPEL HERITAGE

In ancient history, there is a local tradition that Patrick visited, establishing Clogher as an early centre of Christian ministry. In more recent times, the Presbyterians first came to Clogher in 1657 under the auspices of the Synod of Ulster. Further congregations were formed by the Seceders over the following

century. All of these congregations were subsequently united within the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in 1840.


A FREE PRESBYTERIAN WITNESS BORN

In February 1970, Baskin Boyd, a local Fivemiletown businessman, being enthused by the ministry of Rev Ivan Foster in Lisbellaw, secured a local Orange Hall, known locally as Andrews Wood School, for the evangelist to preach Christ. By April, a nucleus of people committed themselves to the formation of a new congregation. Due to opposition within the community the local lodge withdrew permission to use their hall, the first Lord's Day service was, therefore, conducted by Dr Paisley, under a tree in a lay-by. God, however, burdened the heart of local farmer Mr James Irvine to gift a piece of ground, where the congregation continues to meet.

GOING FORWARD


The congregation was constituted by Presbytery in September 1970, with Mr Michael Patrick ordained and installed as the first minister in December. Congregating initially in a wooden building, the first permanent meeting house was officially opened in September 1977. Following him, Revs Austin Allen, Ron Johnstone and David Priestley have occupied the pulpit. The current pastor, Rev Peter McIntyre, has been ministering since April 2002.

Over the decades, the congregation has made progress, both numerically and in outreach activities. With a growing Sabbath School, an active Youth Fellowship, two weekly Children's Meetings, a Holiday Bible Club and annual Teen Challenge, the work

 **Below:** The new meeting house located alongside the A4 Belfast to Enniskillen Road.






 **Above:** Members of the Session and Committee with visiting ministers at the opening ceremony.

amongst the young has ever been a priority. There is also an annual outreach event at the Clogher Valley Show, a weekly radio programme and, in more recent times, an internet ministry through webcasts and articles posted on a blog site. One of the most tangible proofs of God's blessing upon the work has been the ordination of men, who were brought through the Sabbath School, as ruling elders.

THE NEW MEETING HOUSE

Aware of the need for a church hall and enlarged kitchen facilities, the Session and Committee spent years praying over and discussing the development of the congregational property. The office bearers were unanimous in their conviction that it was necessary to step forward in faith – for the glory of God and the furtherance of the gospel in the locality. The congregation have shown absolute commitment through their prayers and giving, with hundreds of




 **Above:** Rev Peter McIntyre; Builder, Lester Weir; and, Free Presbyterian Moderator, Rev John Armstrong, open the doors of the new meeting house.

thousands being added to the building fund over a relatively short time frame.

The sod was cut by Rev Gordon Dane (Moderator) in January 2020, after which construction work got underway. Motorists travelling along the A5 watched with interest the foundations being poured, the steelwork and

walls being erected. The COVID-19 pandemic was the challenge that brought blessings because the lengthening of the project gave time to raise further funds and reduce bank borrowing. With the rapid increase in construction costs post-pandemic, the congregation is acutely aware that the project was timetabled according to God's plan.

On 16th October 2021, Rev John Armstrong (Moderator) received the key from Lester Weir (main contractor) and the new meeting house was officially opened. Preaching from Psalm 87, Rev Armstrong encouraged and challenged the congregation regarding God's love for public worship, "The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." It is the prayer of the congregation that many would be recorded in the annals of eternity, that they were born again, in this house, which is dedicated to the preaching of the gospel of Christ: "The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there" (Psalm 87:6). ■

 **Rev P McIntyre,**
*Clogher Valley Free
Presbyterian Church.*



Ordinations and Installations

Mr Stephen Nelson, Rasharkin



☒ **Above:** Rev Stephen Nelson was ordained and installed as the minister of Rasharkin Free Presbyterian Church on Wednesday 20th October 2021. He is pictured with his wife, Alana, along with church office bearers (L to R): Mr R Logan, Mr G Hanna, Mr W Hanna and Mr J Cameron.

☒ **Above:** Rev Stephen Nelson, pictured with the ministers who took part (L to R): Revs R McKee, J Armstrong, C Mercer, J Greer and T Nelson.

Mr Philip Knowles, South Grove



☒ **Left:** Rev Philip Knowles was ordained and installed as the minister of South Grove Free Presbyterian Church, London, on Thursday 28th October 2021. He is pictured (centre) along with his wife, Valentina, and children (L to R): Joshua, Jessica and Josiah. Also included (L to R) are visiting ministers, along with office bearers from South Grove Free Presbyterian Church: Rev G Wilson, Rev K Paisley, Rev B Lorimer, Rev J Greer, Rev J Armstrong, Mr F Otu-Sarpong and Mr P Cook. Also pictured (back left) is Mr D Graham, an elder at Sandown Free Presbyterian Church.

Mr Simon Anderson, Aughnacloy



☒ Above: Rev Simon Anderson was ordained and installed as the minister of Aughnacloy Free Presbyterian Church on Friday 29th October 2021. Here, he is pictured with church office bearers: (front L to R) Mr K Lockhart and Mr S Hanthorne; (back L to R) Messrs I Finlay, H Cashel and B George.



☒ Above: Rev Simon Anderson pictured with his wife, Linzi, and children (L to R): Naomi, Jemimah and Isaac.

Elders Ordained in Moneyslane

☒ Right: Mr Andrew Megaw (front, second from left) and Mr Uel Harte (front, second from right) were ordained as elders of Moneyslane Free Presbyterian Church on Sunday 7th November 2021. Also pictured: (back L to R) Mr Jim Megaw, Rev Daniel Henderson and Mr Andrew Bell; (front L to R) Messrs Raymond Wright and William Sterritt.



Presentations

Catechism Complete

📖 **Below:** Miss Esther Bell, Ballymena Free Presbyterian Church, is presented with a certificate, cup and Bible, having recited the full *Child's Catechism*. Here, she is pictured with Revs J Greer and A Stewart along with Sunday School Superintendent, Mr J McCosh (centre).



Ballygowan marks a 30th Anniversary

📖 **Below:** Mr Robert Catterson is presented with a Bible from Rev Alan Smylie, marking his 30th anniversary as church organist in Ballygowan Free Presbyterian Church.



Longstanding Church Organist Retires

📖 **Below:** Rev A Patterson presents a copy of the Scriptures and a gift to Mrs Rose Quinn on the occasion of her retirement as organist in Mourne Free Presbyterian Church.



Elder Emeritus in Dunmurry

📖 **Below:** Presbytery has granted Mr Deryck Moore, elder in Dunmurry Free Presbyterian Church, the title of Elder Emeritus. Due to failing health, Mr Moore stepped down as active elder and, in appreciation of his years of faithful service, he was presented with a Bible and hotel voucher by Rev Nathan McVeigh.





Chess is one of those board games that some people enjoy playing. However, because there are so many different pieces and moves involved, others have no interest whatsoever. Non-Chess players can only watch on in bemusement as opponents take turns to move around the board taking piece after piece from each another, as they battle it out. Now, there is one rule in Chess that those who don't play might not know about and it is this: the king is the only piece that cannot be killed or removed from the game.

In real life, there was a time when most countries were ruled by kings. In today's world, most kings are now gone. They have been removed in battle by kings greater than themselves or deposed of by their citizens in political uprisings. At present, including our monarchy, there are only about 25 royal families left in the whole world.

In the Bible, you will find many stories relating to the removal of various kings, especially in the Old Testament. Among these kings, some did right in the eyes of God and others did not. Some kings reigned for decades while others like wicked King Zimri only lasted a few days. All of those kings are now all gone. Some died while others were removed by force. There is however one exception, one king that

has never been nor ever will be removed from His throne. Many attempts were made to take His crown but they all failed. Who is this king? He is the King of Glory, the Lord Jesus Christ.

IN THE CRIB. King Herod, when he called for all the baby boys in the region to be put to death, tried but failed to prevent this newborn king from being raised.

“...behold thy King cometh...”

John 12:5

ON THE CROSS. The soldiers mocked His kingship. He was arrayed in a purple robe. A crown of thorns was placed on His brow. An inscription saying “This is the King of the Jews” was placed on the cross upon which He died. However, on the third day, He rose again.

AT HIS COMING. The Lord Jesus will be returning as the victorious king. Revelation 19:16 says that written upon His thigh are the words “King of kings and Lord of lords.” In Romans 14 the Bible says that on that day, “Every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord.” Just as in Chess, this King cannot be removed or defeated.

I wonder in closing, is the Lord Jesus King of your life today? I hope and trust that He is. ■



There are many kings mentioned by name in the Bible. Complete the word search below. Then using the letters that remain, spell out a word that describes where kings might typically live.



P	H	A	S	L	J	D	A	S	A
J	E	R	O	B	O	A	M	U	B
O	R	J	L	S	A	V	A	Z	A
T	O	E	O	A	S	I	H	Z	A
H	D	H	M	U	H	D	A	I	S
A	A	U	O	L	O	G	B	A	H
M	E	S	N	A	M	O	N	H	A
C	J	E	H	O	I	C	H	I	N

Answer:



DAVID
BAASHA
SOLOMON
HEROD
SAUL
AHAB
JEHU
JOASH



JEROBOAM
UZZIAH
JEHOICIN
JOTHAM
ASA
AMON
OG

PRIZES!

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



LIVING FOR THE LORD IN



Will you live for the Lord in 2022? Some answering this question may hope to, others might give an outright “no”, but I trust the majority would, to one degree or another, answer it in the affirmative.

If this is so, the next question asked is: “how many actually will?” If their actions in the past year were analysed, how do they match up with the

intended actions of 2022? Of all those who say they will live for the Lord in 2022, how many did in 2021?

Some like to live the pipe dream that at the stroke of midnight on 31st December, something magical or even spiritual happens, and things will instantly change. However, experience shows us that this is not the case. This may sound that we are stuck in a rut

that we can never escape, but that is not what I am trying to say. I am trying to make clear from the outset that, if you want to live for the Lord this new year, it is going to take more than good intentions.

Dear Christian, there is no greater goal and desire for you to have than to live for the Lord this year. How can we live for the Lord in 2022?

“
WE CANNOT LIVE FOR
ONE WITH WHOM WE
DO NOT FELLOWSHIP.
WE CANNOT LIVE
FOR ONE WHOM WE
DON'T KNOW. WITH
SUCH A REALITY, THE
BEST ADVICE THAT
CAN BE GIVEN IS A
RETURN TO THE TWO
FUNDAMENTALS OF
FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD:
THE WORD OF GOD
AND PRAYER.
”

LIVING FOR THE LORD REQUIRES FELLOWSHIP

If we are to live for the Lord this year, it is vitally important that we fellowship every day with Him. We cannot live for One with whom we do not fellowship. We cannot live for One whom we don't know. With such a reality, the best advice that can be given is a return to the two fundamentals of fellowship with God: the Word of God and prayer. Many start each year with great intentions to live for the Lord, only to

find that such intentions go no further. What is the cause of this change? If all were examined, we would see a direct correlation between a waning desire to live for the Lord and a waning in fellowship with Him in reading His word and seeking Him in prayer. Where there is no fellowship with the Lord, there will be no living for the Lord. Conversely, where there is fellowship with the Lord, you will find one who is living for the Lord. This may seem like very basic advice, but the great journey of living for the Lord this year will be driven by the small continual steps of Bible reading and prayer.

In addition to these fundamentals of fellowship with God, there is another, and that is fellowship in the House of God. When we meet in the Lord's house, we not only have the opportunity to fellowship with our brethren but to fellowship with and worship our God. How can one claim to want to live for the Lord while being half-hearted about being in the place where we meet with Him? It is vitally important that we do not forsake our assembling together (Hebrews 10:25). Do you want to live for the Lord this year? If so, be consistent in reading your Bible, praying, and attending the public worship of God.

LIVING FOR THE LORD REQUIRES SEEING THE BREVITY OF LIFE

While January 1st is ultimately just another day, it must be noted that it does serve as an annual reminder of the brevity of life. As we get older, the years seem to go by faster and faster. It can often be hard to believe that another year has passed into eternity. What a timely reminder each new year is about how brief our life on this earth is! If we are to live for the Lord, such a reminder needs to remain with us. We often try to impress this reality upon the unsaved, but how it also needs to be impressed upon the child of God. Our time to live for the Lord is quickly hastening on. We have no idea how long we have left to live for Him in this world. With such uncertainty, and with the acceptance of the brevity of life, we have an incentive to live for Him while we can. C.T. Studd is a wonderful example of one who gave up his fame and fortune to live for the Lord. He realised how brief life was, proven in

the words written by his pen, "only one life, 'twill soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last". Our life is but a vapour. Surely if we keep this reality before us we will not become complacent in living for the Lord. Oh, to have the attitude of our Lord and Saviour and say, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4). Let us live and work for the Lord this year, for soon will come the night when that work must cease.

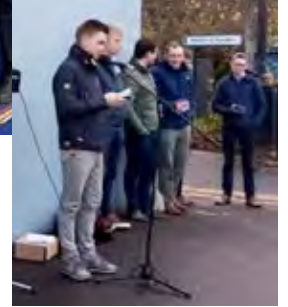
LIVING FOR THE LORD REQUIRES REMEMBERING THE WORK OF CHRIST

In addition, we must continually meditate upon how Christ lived and died for us. The one who spends much time considering what the Saviour has done for them does not need to be forced into living for the Lord. Living for Him will become a delight, not a duty. The one who spends their time dwelling on the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ will not waste the rest of their time on the foolish and frivolous things of this world, but instead will be gripped by the love of Christ. Living for Christ will become as natural as breathing. Living for the Lord becomes our very life.

Oh, may we all be gripped by the love of Christ! Like the Apostle Paul, let us be able to say, "For the love of Christ constraineth us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). Let us daily learn more about who He is and what He has done for us; more about how undeserving we are of His grace and mercy. Each day living in awe and wonder of what Christ bore for us on the cross of Calvary so that we may be reconciled to the Father. The work of Christ is, without doubt, our greatest motivation to live for Him. It can be every Christian's great intention to live for Christ this year, but when difficulties arise, many will count the cost too high and surrender that desire. However, the one who spends more time considering the sacrifice of Christ rather than any personal sacrifice that comes with service, will not so easily give up.

To quote C.T. Studd again, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him". If we are to live for Christ this year, let us continually consider Christ. ■

OUTREACH IN DUNMURRY



For three consecutive Saturdays at the end of October and beginning of November, Dunmurry Free Presbyterian Church was pleased to have young people engage in outreach. This took place in Seymour Hill and Dunmurry itself. The young people met at 10am for devotions from God's Word and a season of prayer. It was very encouraging to hear the young people taking part and seeking God's face earnestly for His blessing upon the outreach endeavours.

After devotions, the young people headed into the Seymour Hill Estate. In pairs, they knocked doors inviting many out to the church services, especially



the special Gospel Rally which was arranged for Sunday 7th November at 7pm. There were also many opportunities to have conversations with the local people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We thank God for those who were receptive to the Gospel message and invitations to the meetings.

After a break for lunch, open-air meetings were held across the estate and in the main street of Dunmurry. Many of the young people took part by giving their testimonies, playing the accordion to accompany the singing of choruses and preaching the Word of God. During the open-air services, invitations were given out and there were opportunities to speak to passers-by about the things of God.

The Gospel Rally was held in Dunmurry FPC on 7th November at 7pm. Many young people attended this service and there were some who took part by testifying, playing the piano and

preaching God's Word. The meeting was a great encouragement to both the minister and those who attended.

I want to commend these young people to you in prayer. I thank God for their faithfulness to the Lord and zeal for His work, and pray that their labours for Him will bring forth much fruit. We thank them, and the Youth Council, for their willingness and commitment to help the outreach endeavours of our congregation.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58). ■

✍ **Rev Nathan McVeigh,**
Dunmurry Free Presbyterian Church.

YOUTH COUNCIL DATES 2022

View further details of each event as they are posted, in due course, on our Facebook page and website. Alternatively, speak to your local YF leader or delegate.

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

22nd January, 7.30pm, Martyrs FPC

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY

29th Jan, 10am-4pm, Magherafelt FPC

DELEGATES' MEETING

7th February, 8pm, Antrim FPC

TRAINING WEEKEND

11th-13th March

Faith Mission Centre, Portadown

INFORMAL BIBLE STUDY

26th March, 7.30pm, Martyrs FPC

CASTLEWELLAN RETREAT

29th April-2nd May

OUTREACH (ages 16+)

4th - 10th July, to Convoy FPC, Co. Donegal

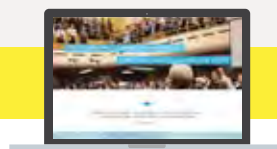
OUTREACH (ages 18+)

25th July - 1st Aug, to Tavistock FPC, England

SUMMER CAMP (ages 12-18)

8th-12th August, Greenhill YMCA

STAY UP TO DATE AT



FPCYOUTH.ORG

My Favourite

Hymn

Hymns
of Faith

It was the youngest of the disciples who, in the Last Supper, leaned on Jesus' bosom (John 13:23). John the apostle, who describes himself as the "one whom Jesus loved", had a very close relationship with His Master. We must remember that every true Christian is called to "draw nigh to God" with the promise given "and He will draw nigh to you". (James 4:8). That is one of the reasons why my favourite hymn is "Nearer, still nearer". It has a special place in my heart, as it was the hymn the Lord used, more than 11 years ago, when He called me to "Preach the Word".

This hymn helps us to pray:.

PRAY:

"nearer, still nearer, close to Thy heart".

The Lord is forever the "friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). He called Abraham his friend. Abraham "drew near" to God in prayer, when he was supplicating for his nephew's family (Genesis 18:23). God spoke to Moses "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend", (Exodus 33:11) and we are told that Moses also "drew near" to his God (Exodus 20:21).

PRAY

"nearer, still nearer, nothing we bring". We cannot bring good works because they are "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6). We cannot bring good heart intentions because even our hearts are "deceitful, above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). So we only bring our "sinful, now contrite heart", knowing that "a broken and a contrite heart, O

God, thou wilt not despise". (Psalm 51:17). We draw near as empty vessels to the Fount of Life. Everything good thing we have comes from our Giver. Our life comes from our Creator, but most importantly our Salvation comes from Him. To Him, we cry, "grant (us) the cleansing Thy blood doth impart", because "in Christ Jesus (we) who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)

“
**WE DRAW NEAR
AS EMPTY VESSELS
TO THE FOUNT OF LIFE.
OUR LIFE COMES FROM
OUR CREATOR, BUT MOST
IMPORTANTLY OUR
SALVATION COMES
FROM HIM.**
”

PRAY

"nearer, still nearer, Lord to be thine".

We know that our iniquities have separated us from our God (Isaiah 59:2). Sin has taken us further from God than we imagine. Thus, we want to strive against sin, and we "gladly resign" anything that has to do with it. We want to "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22) and we want to reject "its pleasures, pomp and pride". We want nothing "but Jesus, (our) Lord crucified".

PRAY

"nearer, still nearer, while life shall last".

We cannot afford to live one minute of our lives far away from Him. As we come to the end of the journey, we know that the final aspect of our salvation is "nearer than when we believed" (Rom 13:11). We long to be "absent from the body, and present with the Lord". (2 Cor 5:8). What a joy it will be to one day say: "Nearer, my Saviour, still nearer to Thee"! ■

☑ **Mr Alejandro Bernabeu, Cortijos Nuevos, Spain..**

Baptisms

“...baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19

Sandown Service

📍 **Right:** Baptismal candidates from Sandown Free Presbyterian Church along with Rev G Wilson and Mr Paul Roberts (Elder).

A special Baptismal Service was held in Hillsborough Free Presbyterian Church (kindly granted) on the 30th September. The church was well filled by the congregation of Sandown, along with friends and families of those being baptised. Rev Ian Kenny (Hillsborough) led the service, and Rev Garth Wilson (Sandown) brought God’s word from Acts 8 vs 26-40.

A total of 12 people from the Sandown congregation, along with 2 from the Hillsborough fellowship, were baptised.



One of the most encouraging things was to see that all those who were baptised represented all generations of our congregation – from teenagers to those in more senior years. Some of these were saved only recently, while others have walked with the Lord for many years. It truly was a most memorable night for

our entire congregation and especially for all those who publicly confessed their faith in Jesus Christ by going through the waters of baptism. To God be the glory! ■

📍 **Rev Garth Wilson,**
Sandown Free Presbyterian Church.

Bangor Service

📍 **Right:** Baptismal candidates from Bangor Free Presbyterian Church along with Rev J Moffatt.

Baptism is one of the most joyous events in the life of any Christian. In essence, baptism is a celebration – not a celebration of man’s merits or accomplishments, but a celebration of the awesome power and might of the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ. Grace that has triumphed in the life of an unworthy sinner.

On Thursday 25th November, the Bangor congregation had the joy of baptising 7 born-again believers from our congregation. The facilities were kindly granted to us by our



Hillsborough church. It was a night of thanksgiving and praise as we saw the candidates testify to the amazing grace of Christ in their lives and go through the waters of baptism.

We read of the Ethiopian in Acts 8:39 that, after his baptism, “He went on his way rejoicing.” Some suggest to us that he went back to his native land of

Ethiopia and there saw many souls won for Christ. We trust and pray that the 7 believers baptised would know great joy in the days ahead and that they too would be the means of reaching countless souls in their native land for the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. ■

📍 **Rev Joshua Moffatt,**
Bangor Free Presbyterian Church.



Thanksgiving Service for the Life and Ministry of Dr Alan Cairns

One year after the home-calling of Dr Alan Cairns, a Service of Thanksgiving was held in Hebron Free Presbyterian Church to give honour to whom honour was due. Some of his closest friends and colleagues participated, as tribute was paid to Mr Theologian of the Free Church.

Rev. James Beggs led in prayer and the Moderator, Rev John Armstrong, brought greetings from Presbytery. His dear friend, Dr Stanley Barnes, brought a personal word of tribute, and Dr John Douglas read the Scriptures and spoke highly of the Lord's servant.

The guest soloist was Rev. Fred Greenfield, and video greetings from North America by Dr Frank McClelland and Dr John Wagner were shown. A beautiful 'Book of Memories' was handed over to Mrs Joan Cairns, which had been sent from the Ladies' Fellowship of Faith Free Presbyterian Church in Greenville.

The items of praise were favourite songs of Dr Cairns and included 'Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven,'



☒ **Left:** Dr F McClelland is pictured as greetings from North America were brought

Rev Simon Anderson, former Student Assistant in Hebron and newly installed minister in Aughnacloy, closed the service in prayer. Rev Park encouraged our churches to continue to remember Mrs Cairns, Frank and Whitney, and their family before the Lord.

In memory of the Lord's dear servant, a new book of daily Bible readings was released by Dr Barnes, entitled 'Through the Year with Alan Cairns.' Dr Barnes says, 'I send forth this book with the sincere prayer that Alan's ministry will continue to bless multitudes of people. Alan, being dead, yet speaks eloquently of the Lord he loved and faithfully served.' ■

☒ **Rev David Park,**
Hebron Free Presbyterian Church.

☒ **Below:** Rev D Park leading the service alongside Rev J Beggs and Rev J Armstrong

sung to the 'Cairns' tune, composed by Mrs Joan J. Pinkston.

The Sermon was preached by Rev David Park, who took for his text, 'Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty' (1 Samuel 20:18). He outlined how the seat of Dr Cairns was empty in a variety of ways – as a husband, father, friend, counsellor, pastor, theologian, preacher, evangelist, soul-winner and visionary.



☒ **Left:** Mrs J Cairns received the 'Book of Memories' from the Ladies' Fellowship in Faith Free Presbyterian Church.

Serving God in Retirement



Retirement comes to us sooner than we can ever imagine. It has been forty-four years since my first day in the Theological Hall as a ministerial student. I joined a band of 30 students, each of whom was at various stages in his theological training. We met in the minor hall at the Martyrs Memorial Free Presbyterian Church in Belfast. At that time, Dr Ian Paisley was a larger-than-life figure as minister in his church and was known throughout Ulster for his fiery gospel preaching and his strong stand for Protestantism.

After completing my first year of study, my pastoral work began when the Ulster Presbytery placed me as a student minister to care for the fledgling congregation in Kesh, Co. Fermanagh. After finishing studies, I was ordained as minister of Garvagh Free Presbyterian Church. Three years later, at the call of God, my wife Beulah and I were off to Canada with two young children, ages three and one. Our ministry in British Columbia began in July 1984. This ministry led to the establishment of Cloverdale Free Presbyterian Church, 40 kilometres east of Vancouver.

I retired from the pulpit ministry in March 2021, and we moved from Surrey, British Columbia, on the west coast, to the lovely city of Barrie, Ontario, which lies at the southern end of lake Simcoe, 100 kilometres north of Toronto. Driving the 4,200

kilometres across Canada was a great experience and we are now enjoying our new home and being part of Barrie Free Presbyterian Church under the ministry of Rev Anthony D'Addurno. We are very thankful for the Lord's goodness to us.

I'm glad that God saved me and called me early in life so I could give my best years to the Lord in His service. He has been gracious, while I have been unworthy of the honour of preaching the glorious gospel in Canada from the pulpit and by radio. Now, that I am retired from the pulpit ministry, I continue to preach by radio on ten stations across Canada. Some air our programs once a week and some five days a week.

When I was a young pastor serving in Garvagh, Northern Ireland, I met a member from the Free Presbyterian

Church in Coleraine. He testified to me that he had been saved by the Lord for sixty years. His joy and enthusiasm in his Saviour and in his own salvation made a lasting impression on me. I recognised in that man the power of the gospel to save, keep and satisfy the believer's soul all our days on earth. Since then, I have often been amazed at the witness of older believers, who demonstrate godly joy and a spirit of thankfulness for the Lord's nearness to them, despite living with the trials that come with declining health and thoughts of death. This is not mere human power. It is the life of God in the soul of men and women who are "well saved".

Our congregations are so much richer for the testimony of elderly believers who, by their steady participation, year in and year out, testify of the unfailing power of the gospel to satisfy their souls. Each one has their own story of salvation to tell, and each one is a living legacy within the church. With this reality in mind, it would be a good thing, from time to time, for ministers to arrange for senior saints to talk with the youth of the church to share their story of God's faithfulness throughout their lives.

“Our congregations are so much richer for the testimony of elderly believers who, by their steady participation, year in and year out, testify of the unfailing power of the gospel to satisfy their souls.”



To serve the Lord in retirement, we need to keep walking in the Spirit. While our physical activities may slow down, the work of the Spirit in our hearts must not. Jude exhorted, “Keep yourselves in the love of God” (Jude 1:21). To do this, we must preach the gospel to ourselves. In the same manner that believers are blessed through plain biblical exposition of the cross-work of Christ in church, so, in the home, we must learn to feed more and more on God’s calvary love.

In retirement, more time may be found for personal devotions, where we can memorise key gospel texts, and learn and sing verses of hymns, that fill our hearts with the sweetness of the gospel. We need to constantly refresh our minds of the Saviour’s love for our souls and to rejoice in His love as it grows sweeter to us every day. Furthermore, be a Bible student. Some never went to Sunday School and never learned the great truths of the Shorter and Larger Catechisms, or the Westminster Confession of Faith. While in our senior years, when we are free from the pressures of full-time work, we should have more time to study these well-tested and tried standards that enable Christians to define and defend their faith in Christ.

Perhaps they have been neglected for too long. I highly recommend G.I. Williamson’s expository notes on the Shorter Catechism.

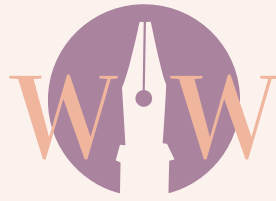
As a senior, be more active in the ministry of prayer, both at home and in the church. You might twin yourself with a missionary of your own choosing and make him/her your ministry of prayer, or you might choose a missionary for each day of the week. This will give you focus to keep abreast with the prayer needs of missionaries, enabling you to pray for their specific needs. You might also begin the habit of turning your Bible reading into a ministry of prayer. As you read a passage of Scripture, whether long or short, jot down the things that you can turn to prayer in your life. Take those notes and use them as a stimulus for private prayer. If you do, you will never run out of things for which to pray.

As seniors in the church, let us be there! Be present at every possible event. Our constant presence will tell its own story of our commitment to God’s house and to God’s people. Remember that church life involves people. In these times of restrictions in physical fellowship, use

the phone, not to gossip about people, but to gossip the gospel. Show an interest in people and don’t forget to let them know of your ongoing joy in the Saviour and all the blessings you have in Him. As I write this, I’m reminded of a man I met in a Vancouver homeless shelter, where I ministered each month for ten years. One dark, winter evening when I asked him, “How are you?” he said, “I’m too blessed to be stressed.” I hope he lived up to his wit, for we know that Christians can be overcomers by focusing on the Lord’s infinite love for our souls.

Let us seek to be exemplary members of the church by our zeal for the ministry of the gospel through all the avenues of church life. Our constancy will speak volumes to back up our testimony of rejoicing in the love of Christ. By doing so, we will honour the Lord’s command to, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). There can be no better life of service for the Lord in our retirement years. ■

✍ **Rev I Goligher,**
retired, Cloverdale Free Presbyterian Church, B.C., Canada.



A Word to Women

Doing What We Can

Having said farewell to the old year that has swiftly passed into eternity, God, in His sovereign will, has preserved us and given us a fresh opportunity in our lives. Facing the months ahead is daunting for many of us in these unprecedented times. Naturally, we ask ourselves what will happen this year and what we will be able to accomplish as individuals, as families, and indeed as the Church of Jesus Christ?

I believe the words of Jesus Christ, in Mark 14:8, are a wonderful source of encouragement and motivation and give us the direction we need. In commendation of Mary of Bethany, He says, "She hath done what she could."

We first find Mary in the home of Martha, her sister. Christ and His disciples had gathered there. Martha was stressed and distracted with serving and frustrated that her sister wasn't helping her. Mary's desire to listen to the words of Christ had taken precedence over the normal duties in the home. Martha complained to the Lord of His lack of concern for her. The Lord's response was to gently rebuke Martha and commend Mary for the better part which she had chosen - which could not be taken away from her. She had chosen to sit at His feet and learn of Him.

The next time we read of Mary, she was in the house of mourning, because her dear brother, Lazarus, had died. Many had come to comfort her; but, when she heard that the Master was calling for her, she immediately went to the greatest Comforter of all. She fell at His feet, pleading for His help, believing that He alone had the power to heal her brother. She was convinced that Christ was the One to help her in such difficult circumstances.

Finally, we find Mary in the house of Simon the leper. Christ

was there, just a few days before His crucifixion. Martha and Lazarus, the disciples, and perhaps some of the neighbours had gathered. During that special time of fellowship, Mary displayed her unreserved devotion for her Saviour. She took an alabaster box of ointment, broke it, and poured the ointment on the head of Christ. Despite the high cost of this ointment, which would have been equivalent to an individual's annual wage, nothing was kept back for herself. Much murmuring arose, expressing great indignation at what she had done and classing her action as waste and extravagance, but Mary remained unmoved and undistracted. She desired to give the very best she had to her Master. Christ responded by praising this sacrificial act, 'Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me ... She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.'

*“ Mary
remained
unmoved and
undistracted.
She desired to
give the very best
she had to her
Master. ”*

What a beautiful aroma must have filled the room on that occasion! However, more rewarding was the enduring effect of this display of love for Christ. Mary had publicly recognised Christ as the Anointed One and had done this in anticipation of His death and resurrection. This wonderful display of devotion is still remembered wherever the gospel is preached today.

In doing what she could, Mary set aside time to listen to the words of Christ. Mary sought and believed in the power of Christ to comfort her in her time of trouble. Mary spared no expense in expressing her devotion and love for the Saviour. This better part and lasting testimony are surely an example to us all and within our reach this year. ■

✍ **Margaret Russell,**
*recently retired from the mission field in Kenya and is
currently residing in Tandragee.*

Missionary Council Weekend

19th - 21st November 2021



The annual Missionary Council Weekend took place in the Magherabuoy House Hotel, Portrush, from 19th to 21st November. Traditionally, the weekend begins on Friday night with a Fellowship Meeting and this year was no exception. Miss Joanne Greer, missionary to Liberia, reported on her burden to start a Christian School. The North American Board has agreed to sponsor a five-year pilot project in this endeavour. The Chairman, Rev Park, presented an overview of missionary work across the world, highlighting the wonderful opportunities given by the Lord to reach out to the nations of the world, including new openings into Asia: Pakistan, India and the Philippines. Rev Park gave a short talk on the words of Christ in John 4:35: “Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

Conference Meetings took place on the Saturday evening. Missionary reports were given by Miss Margaret Russell, recently retired home from

Kenya, and Mr. Noel Shields, Home Missionary. Dr John Douglas was the guest speaker and brought a very powerful and challenging message from 1 Thessalonians 3:11: “Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.” The presence of the Lord was very evident, working in hearts that which was pleasing in His sight.

The third special meeting took place on the Sabbath when those attending the weekend joined the congregation at Hebron Free Presbyterian Church for their Worship Service. Video reports were shown from Miss Noreen McAfee (Uganda) and from our new contacts in Pakistan. The sermon was preached, with the Lord’s anointing, by Rev Ian Harris, Mission Board Chairman, on ‘The Priority of Prayer.’

The Weekend was undoubtedly owned by the Lord, Who was pleased to set before His people those matters relevant to the Great Commission and Gospel work in general. The fellowship was outstanding, and the attendees left with a real sense of knowing the Lord’s presence and blessing, and with a renewed vision for the work of missions. ■

“The Weekend was undoubtedly owned by the Lord, Who was pleased to set before His people those matters relevant to the Great Commission.”



☒ Above: Dr J Douglas preaching during the Conference Meeting.

☒ Left: Margaret Russell bringing a report.

Bring the Books

I am just one link in a long chain of missionary activity. After 'Book George' handed over the reins, I started packing books for Africa. Most of what I do happens in the church's loft, kindly granted by Mourne FPC. Most of the books are donated by God's people throughout our congregations. It is my duty to sift through them and discard any unsuitable material. Each box has to be well packed, taped, strapped, numbered and addressed for their long journey. We are very grateful to Every Home Crusade for transporting them most of the way.



☒ Above: Books packed and ready



☒ Above: Boxes loaded for transit

In more recent days, we have been able to provide good books for pastors in Uganda, some new children's books and over 1500 copies of Scripture, kindly

granted by TBS. God has provided and we certainly value everyone's support. Paul once asked Timothy to "bring... the books" (2 Timothy 4:13). Please

continue to bring the books. God is still using them in Africa. ■

☒ Rev Philip Kyle

Treasurer's Report

As we come to the end of 2021, I want to express thanks to all who have given so generously to the various works of FPC Mission. The past year has been unprecedented for us all, as the pandemic has created many difficulties at home and abroad. However, as always, our many loyal supporters have put the needs of others, who are in difficult situations, before their own needs. I would particularly like to thank those who give in a consistent way month by month, as the assurance of this regular income allows us to plan ahead. We do like to send an annual note to all regular donors, so to that end, can you please let us know if you move house so that we have accurate contact details.

Members of the Board are often amazed at how the missionary needs are met, and our prayer for you all in 2022 is in the words of 2 Corinthians 9:8; "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." ■

MISSION VISION

A special conference to revitalise our missionary vision.

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Acts 16v9

8-12 MAY 2022

each night @ 8pm

Presentations & Challenging Messages

Sat 13 MAY 2022

Interactive Workshops

Put these dates in your diary

More information to follow




Sending Forth Service for

Rev & Mrs Malcolm Patterson

At last, with the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, the Pattersons were able to return to the mission field in Kenya. A special Sending Forth Service was held in their home church, Coleraine, where Rev and Mrs Patterson were officially set aside for their next term of service. Rev Derek Erwin, the Interim Moderator, brought introductory remarks, led the congregational singing of 'To God be the Glory' and opened with prayer.



Rev David Park, Missionary Council Chairman, presided and other Mission Board members and friends took part. Rev McMillan read the Scriptures and special presentations were made by Mr Alastair Hamilton. Rev Patterson responded, thanking the Board for their kindness and setting various prayer requests before the congregation. The Sending Forth and Commissioning Prayer was led by Rev Leslie Curran.

 **Above:** Rev and Mrs Patterson are pictured alongside various Mission Board members

Rev Ian Harris preached a stirring and encouraging sermon, with Rev Wesley McDowell closing the meeting in prayer.

We are glad to report that Malcolm and Alison arrived safely in Kenya on Thursday 21st October and are settling in well. We covet your prayerful

intercessions for them, as they seek to labour for Christ in the many responsibilities of missionary life. They would say with the great missionary, the Apostle Paul: 'Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you' (2 Thessalonians 3:1) ■

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

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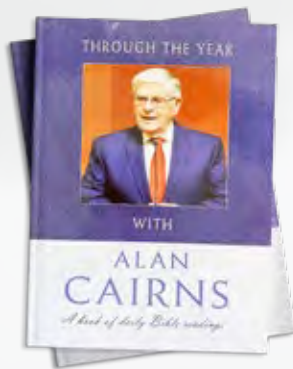


FPCMISSION.ORG

An Unknown Future



**“Ye have not
passed this way
heretofore.”**



✉ From ‘Through the Year with Alan Cairns’,
Available at most evangelical bookshops.

Under Joshua’s leadership, Israel had passed over Jordan into the Promised Land. Every new day was a step of faith in which they faced dangers, opposition, warfare, conquests and possessions of which they had only dreamed before. Although they went forth in faith, they knew nothing of the particulars of entering into the occupation of Canaan. It was unknown territory.

There is an obscurity about our future.

Solomon stated that “*Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth*” (Proverbs 27:1). We are ignorant of what each day may bring or what it may hold for us.

We do not know whether we will be ill or well.

We do not know whether we will live or die.

We do not know whether our plans will flourish or fail.

There will be opportunities in our future.

“*For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries*” (1 Corinthians 16:9). Each new day begins with the assurance of God’s love and His faithfulness. He has a plan for each day; and on that day, there is opportunity to live for Him and serve Him.

There can be discoveries for our future.

We have never trodden the way we are to take but can be confident that it cannot confront us with anything that other believers or we have not faced before.

Here are several discoveries we can make as we step forth:

We can discover the sovereignty of God - Romans 8:28

We can discover the sufficiency of God’s grace - 2 Corinthians 12:9

We can discover the stability of Scripture - Psalm 119:89

We can discover the strength of prayer - Jeremiah 33:3

We can discover the success of the Gospel - Romans 1:16

We can therefore walk on the untrodden path with confidence.

I know who holds tomorrow; and I know He holds my hand. ■

Whitefield College of the Bible Entrance Examinations

Entrance Examinations for prospective candidates for the Theological Course at the Whitefield College for the year beginning September 2022 will take place at the Whitefield College on the following dates:

Monday 21 February, 19.00

English Grammar

Tuesday 22 February, 19.00

English Language & Expression

Wednesday 23 February, 19.00

History

Candidates must report by 18.50 and are expected to provide their own writing paper. All candidates should forward the Entrance Examination Fee of £35 (for each subject) before 7 February 2022 to:

Whitefield College of the Bible, 356 Ravenhill Road, Belfast BT6 8GL

E: whitefieldcollege@icloud.com (*Email for Bank Transfer details*)

Free Presbyterian
VISION

