

# Free Presbyterian VISION

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULSTER

## Wars and Rumours Of Wars

The  
Sovereignty  
of God

Her Majesty's  
Platinum  
Jubilee

MAY  
2022  
#57  
£1.00



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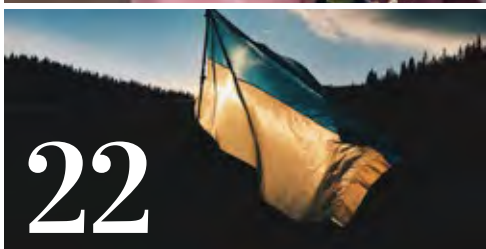
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## Editorial

How's your energy bill lately? I'm guessing not that great! The days of worrying whether or not fuel prices will break the £1.00 per litre barrier are now firmly shelved away in the library of history. This, together with a hike in the cost of living, the aftermath of Covid-19, the unsettled landscape of mainland Europe and a general global instability, has created a degree of consternation many of us have not witnessed for some time. However, none of these things are a surprise to our Sovereign God and there is immeasurable comfort in that one thought alone. Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebrations mark an astonishing 70 years of service. Can you imagine all of the things which she has witnessed during her decorated reign? No doubt, many things she was to some degree powerless to change. The Christian looks to a greater Sovereign - the King of Kings. The Psalmist cried in Psalm 145:14, 'Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations'.

At what time we are afraid and in what times we live we know our Lord Jesus tells us, 'see that ye be not troubled' (Matthew 24:6). There is not one Christian who is immune to feeling troubled or experiencing worry but each Christian must bring the present day, commit the past days and trust the future days to Almighty God, the Judge of all the earth. He will always do that which is right. ■

✉ Editor,  
[editor@fpvision.org](mailto:editor@fpvision.org)



“ *Despite the eruptions of human conflicts, Christ's counsel is that we should not fear as the end of this world will not be determined by man (Matthew 24:6)* ”

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***“If we want to overcome the circumstances of life that can very easily send us into a tailspin, we need to follow the example of Jeremiah and remember God’s promises because they alone will bring us home.”***



**E**xperienced pilots tell us that flying a plane through cloud or fog is extremely disorientating. Once up in a cloud, you don't know whether you're flying the plane horizontally or not and all sense of direction is lost. The only way to fly a plane in such conditions is to keep your eye on the flight control, the instruments of the plane. It is this that will bring you home. Let all Christians learn the same lesson to trust the (instruments) given to us - to trust implicitly the Word of God.

When the fog of grief and sorrow threatens to consume us it can send us into a tailspin. We can lose all sense of direction and begin to question the goodness of God. Indeed we can even question the very validity of His promises. However, just like the pilot when he loses all sense of direction, we are not to trust our feelings. We are not to trust the circumstances that have surrounded us, but we are to trust in the instrument of God's Word. It is the only instrument that will bring us home.

When Jeremiah was found in a dark place sitting upon the rubble of Jerusalem, he felt as if God was not answering his prayer (Lamentations 3:8). In the first 17 verses of Lamentations 3, Jeremiah refuses to mention God by name indicating that he felt God was far away. Then in v18 Jeremiah said that his hope in God was now perished because of his circumstances. It was at that point when Jeremiah felt that his hope in God had perished, he made a very wise decision. He stopped trusting his feelings and circumstances, and he got his eye on the instrument of God's Word. He remembered that God was good. Indeed, in verses 21 and 22, he said: 'This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed'. In other words, getting His mind back on the Word of God gave him a true perspective which in turn strengthened his heart. Indeed, he was able to say next, 'Great is thy faithfulness'.

If we want to overcome the circumstances of life that can very easily send us into a tailspin, we need to follow the example of Jeremiah and remember God's promises because they alone will bring us home.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> July 1999 whilst flying his plane, John Kennedy Junior was caught in a fog and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean killing not only himself but his wife and sister. When the United States' officials launched an official inquiry into the tragedy they soon discovered that although John Kennedy Junior had been visually trained as a pilot, he had not been 'instrument trained' as a pilot. This meant while he could fly a plane in fair weather visualising his surroundings, he was not able to rely on the instruments of the plane to guide him safely home.

So it is with us. As soon as we take our eyes away from God's truth and look to our feelings, we will make a shipwreck. We will think that we are making the right decisions but just like Kennedy, we will crash our plane. Because the only thing that will give us a true perspective is the Word of God. ■

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



# Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee

On 6<sup>th</sup> February this year, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. On that date in 1952, the Queen acceded to the throne on the death of her father, King George VI. A year later, on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 in the Abbey Church of St. Peter, Westminster she was anointed, crowned and enthroned.

A 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary is called a Platinum Jubilee as Platinum is one of the most valuable metals in the world. Platinum is highly precious and rare. Her Majesty has reigned longer than any other British monarch in history.

Events will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four-day UK bank holiday commencing Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June. It is right that we return to God thanks for the grace shown toward her in her 70 years reign and indeed in her long lifespan. The Platinum Jubilee causes us to reflect upon:

## THE SOVEREIGN WE RESPECT

When, as a young married mother of 25 years of age she acceded to the throne, her life from then on has been lived in the bright glare of public gaze. She became probably the most scrutinised and often criticised person in the land. Sadly, some have ignored Peter and Jude's warning, 'not to speak evil of dignities' (2 Peter 2:10; Jude 8), and appear to delight to rush to publicly

*“We thank God for her dignity of life and devotion to duty that has caused her to be loved by her peoples and respected far beyond the realms over which she has reigned.”*

criticise her disparagingly. Their behaviour says more about them than about the Queen. Like all of us, Her Majesty has flaws and failings because, like us, she is human. Our Christian duty is to respect her and pray publicly and privately for her (1 Timothy 2:1,2; 1 Peter 2:17). When Peter commanded Christians to honour the King, he was referring to the Roman emperor. How glad we are that in God's providence we are not living under the reign of such a despot!

At her coronation and in our national anthem the words used in Old Testament times at Israel's coronations are repeated, 'God save the King/Queen.' Concerning those words, John Gill, Bible commentator wrote, 'They

owned and saluted their king, and prayed he might live long to reign over them; let his reign be prosperous and glorious, and let him enjoy all health and happiness, peace and prosperity'. The 4-day commemorations in June should motivate us to a fresh zeal to fulfil our Christian duty to respect our monarch and, as Old Testament believers did for their monarchs, pray 'God save the Queen'.

### THE SERVICE SHE RENDERED

A few years before her accession to the throne, on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, the young Princess Elizabeth broadcasted to the commonwealth these words:

'I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.

The Princess was offering herself to a life of service on the altar of her love for the nation and commonwealth. It is good to note that she recognised that God had laid this mantle of responsibility upon her. Over the past 70 years, The Queen has travelled hundreds of thousands of miles, graciously fulfilling her duties as Head of State. We thank God for her dignity of life and devotion to duty that has caused her to be loved by her peoples and respected far beyond the realms over which she has reigned.

### THE SYMBOLS SHE RECEIVED

The symbols Her Majesty received during her anointing, coronation and enthronement in Westminster Abbey have deep spiritual significance. Along with the words spoken and the scripture read, these symbols draw our attention to the Greater King our Lord and Saviour. The ceremony parallels that of Israel's kings and is taken from Psalm 45 and other scriptures. Undoubtedly, Her Majesty and all present that day were confronted with their need to repent and trust Christ alone for salvation.

A few of the many symbols were:

### *The presenting of the Holy Bible*

As a copy of the Scripture was presented to her the following was declared,

*'Our gracious Queen: to keep your Majesty ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords.'*

The basis of presenting the new queen with a copy of the Bible during the coronation ceremony follows the action of the high priest in 2 Kings 11:12. As he crowned Jehoash, he gave him a copy of the Mosaic Law consistent with what the Law required Deuteronomy 17:18-19.

### *The anointing of the oil*

Queen Elizabeth, as Israel's kings were, was anointed with oil Psalm 45:7, 8. The words were said concerning Her Majesty, *'Bless and sanctify thy chosen servant ELIZABETH. Strengthen her, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the Comforter; the Spirit of wisdom and government, the Spirit of counsel and strength, the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness.'*

### *The putting on of the imperial robe*

As the Robe was put upon the Queen, she and all listening heard the tremendous words,

*'Receive this Imperial Robe, and the Lord God endue you with knowledge and wisdom, with majesty and power from on high; the Lord clothe you with the robe of righteousness and with the garments of salvation. Amen.'*

There is a robe of greater value and importance than the Imperial robe Her Majesty received. It is the robe of righteousness, the garment of salvation Isaiah 61:10. To be accepted before God, Her Majesty and all of us must be clothed with the garments of salvation, Christ's perfect righteousness.

### *The delivery of the Orb*

The Orb with the cross was delivered into the Queen's right hand saying, *'Receive this orb set under the Cross, And remember that the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ our Redeemer.'*

Our Queen and all of us are under the rule of Him Who is King of Kings.

### *The enthroning*

As the Queen went to her Throne, she heard the following prayer, *'Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'*

At this stage, the following clear gospel texts were read in full to her: Matthew 11:28; John 3:16; I Timothy 1:15; 1 John 2:2.

In this Platinum Jubilee year, may these gospel texts not only come back into our Queen's mind but sound out across our

nation and the world. Her Majesty owes her long reign to the goodness, grace, and mercy of God. The Lord has not only been good to our Queen, but God has also been good to our land. The fear is that amid the festivities in June, we forget the goodness of God. May our nation not forget God our Saviour, the true Sovereign of the whole universe, the one King and only Potentate of all mankind. God's goodness to our Queen and country should be leading our nation and ourselves individually to repentance (Romans 2:4, 5). ■

✉ **Rev Ron Johnstone,**  
*(retired) Grace Free Presbyterian Church, Newtownards.*

“  
**To be accepted  
before God, Her  
Majesty and  
all of us must  
be clothed with  
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of salvation,  
Christ's perfect  
righteousness.**  
”



# WARS AND RUMOURS OF WARS

“A Beastly Century” is how novelist Margaret Drabble chose to describe the 20th century. From the Second Boer War that spilled into the start of the century (1899-1902), through two World Wars and multiple major revolutions, to closing out the century with NATO’s attack on the Republic of Serbia in 1999, this span of one hundred years has entered the records as the most barbaric in human history, claiming the lives of approximately 230 million people.

Now that Vladimir Putin has shattered the peace in Europe by unleashing war on Ukraine in this C21st, age-old questions once again confront us: what are we to make of all of these conflicts between nations – these ruinous, wretched wars? And, why does God allow war?

It is a relief to discover that, with the application of a few masterly brushstrokes onto the canvas of the future, our Saviour gives us some answers in Matthew 24:4-8 (similar portraits appear in both Mark 13:7-8 and Luke 21:7-12).

From His words we may determine:

## THE SEASON FOR WAR

This brings us to the bad news first.

Our Lord reminds us in Matthew 24:4-8 that wars will continue until the day of His return. He points to their existence when He says that we shall hear of both “wars” (primarily those that are close) and “rumours [reports] of wars” (conflicts that are further removed). He also makes reference to their escalation: in verse 6 the word “war” appears twice and in both cases it is in the plural, “wars”; in the next verse the involvement of nations and kingdoms is highlighted.

Tragically, there is nothing new about war. From the day in which Cain murdered Abel (Genesis 4:8), men have been killing one another. Though the First World War (1914-18) was billed as, “the war to end all wars,” even after the deaths of at least 10 million military men those involved in that bloodshed knew this would not be the final war. When the Armistice was signed on 11 November 1918, General Foch, the Supreme Allied Commander, said: “This is not peace; this is an armistice for 20 years.” Sadly, he was only too correct. When this 20-year-marker was reached, the carnage unleashed by World War Two (1939-1945) was unprecedented with an average of 27,000 people being killed each day.

The final book of the Bible reverberates under the clash of armies and the conflagration of warfare. Revelation 6:4 introduces us to the Red Horse with power to prosecute war; a further eight references to fighting appear in the rest of Revelation – each furnishing proof that the wickedness of man will rampage through this earth until Christ comes back.

In respect of the question as to why God allows war, the basic truth of the matter is that God has nowhere promised to prevent or prohibit war. He plainly charges man with being the source of war, identifying it as one of the manifestations of sin in this world (James 4:1). It is also evident that He permits it so that men may bear the consequences of their sins as punishment (Galatians 6:7; Genesis 3:17); so that men may see more clearly what sin actually is (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23); this, in turn, leads to a final purpose, to bring us back to God (Psalm 107:6,13,19,23).

That this world should emerge exactly as our Lord warned it would, does not diminish my trust in His Word, worth and wisdom; it rather increases it. As Dr Martyn Lloyd Jones puts it: “If we take the Bible and its records as the supreme revelation of God, the fact of war should not trouble us in the sense that it will shake our faith in God.”

### THE SOVEREIGNTY DESPITE WAR

Despite the eruptions of human conflicts, Christ’s counsel is that we should not fear as the end of this world will not be determined by man; Matthew 24:6: “And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled ... the end is not yet.”

It is most reassuring to reflect on the fact that God has not abdicated; He is still on the throne! As A.W. Tozer famously said: “When it looks like things are out of control, behind the scenes is a God who has not surrendered His authority.”

In dangerous times it is always good to remind ourselves of our own Westminster Confession of Faith



**“WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE OUT OF CONTROL, BEHIND THE SCENES IS A GOD WHO HAS NOT SURRENDERED HIS AUTHORITY.”**

**A.W. TOZER**

(Chapter 5: Of Providence): “God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible fore-knowledge and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the glory of His wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.”

Bigger men than Putin, Biden, Johnston and Zelensky have discovered this – and often to their cost. Nebuchadnezzar is a prime example. No sooner had he boasted about his own might and majesty than God smote him, compelling this Babylonian king to conclude that it is Jehovah’s kingdom alone that is “an everlasting dominion ... and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto him, What doest Thou?” (Daniel 4:30-35).

It is comforting to remember that the Red Horse of War is preceded by a White Horse, which is a splendid picture of Christ. With ultimate authority and unassailable power He goes first, “conquering, and to conquer” (Revelation 6:1-2). In the words of that beautiful hymn, ‘This Is My Father’s World,’ –

O let me ne’er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the Ruler yet.

### THE SUSTENANCE DURING WAR

When war is raging around us, how should we behave?

#### *With Perception*

The order of His words in Matthew 24:4-6 indicates that deception paves the way for devastation: “Take heed

that no man deceive you ... ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars ... .” In a world that is blighted by propaganda and lies, the old adage is often proven, “*The first casualty in war is truth.*” It is therefore vital that we exercise discernment and determine to trust God’s Word as it alone is the one source of news guaranteed never to deceive us.

#### *With Practicality*

Christ’s people are obliged to observe the plight of the widow and the orphan, the destitute and the afflicted (Exodus 22:22, Deuteronomy 10:18; 24:19); to advocate for them, to relieve their suffering and – above everything else – to pray for and support the progress of the Gospel throughout the world. As we witness the violence that has engulfed Ukraine, we need to pray for its people, provide assistance to them where possible (it has been especially encouraging to witness the many aid convoys that have travelled from Northern Ireland to help those in need), and do everything we can to support the preservation of a Gospel testimony in this tortured land.

#### *With Prayer*

Naturally, our motive for peace on earth must be pure: it is not to provide us with more security and space for sin, but to enable us to target more fully the chief reason behind our creation which is to live to the glory of God (Acts 9:31; 1 Timothy 2:1-2). To this end we praise God that He restrains man as much as He does, and long for the day when men turn from sin to salvation, when swords are fashioned into ploughshares (Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3) and when the Prince of Peace may reign supreme. ■

✉ **Rev Ian Brown,**  
*Martyrs Memorial Free Presbyterian Church.*

# Clogher Valley Sunday School Leavers While Retirements Are Marked



☒ Above: (L to R) Esther Wilson, Amy McClung, Annie McMullan, Emily Wilson and Ethan Larner were presented with a copy of God's word to mark the conclusion of their time in Sunday School. Esther, Amy and Ethan were also presented with a certificate to mark their answering of all 107 questions in the Shorter Catechism.

☒ Above: Mrs Ruth Andrews and Miss Roberta Boyd receive a presentation from Rev Peter McIntyre to mark their retirement from the Thursday Bible Club in Clogher Valley Free Presbyterian Church after decades of faithful service.

## 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Ballygowan

☒ Pictured are Rev John Armstrong (Moderator), Rev Alan Smylie (Minister), along with the members of Kirk Session and Committee of Ballygowan Free Presbyterian church at the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the first church building.



## Good News From A Far Country

In March, Dr Stephen Pollock received approval of his and his wife Cherith's, application for permanent residency in the USA. As Dr Pollock's visa was expiring at the end of March this news came just in time. He is thankful that he can continue in his labours and he wants to convey his gratitude to many in the Ulster churches who had been praying for this matter. To God be the glory!







# Larne Marks Minister's 10 Year Anniversary

Larne Free Presbyterian Church kindly made a presentation to Rev D Brown, his wife & family to mark the occasion of their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Psalm 96:9



 **Above:** Pictured is the Brown family receiving their presentation (L to R) Rev David Brown, Josiah, Julia, Micah, Abigail and Mrs Lydia Brown.

 **Above:** The Elders pictured with Rev D and Mrs L Brown.

## Teaching Opportunities Within Christian Education

Some of the Christian Schools are in need of staff for the next school year beginning in September 2022. Applications are welcome for the following posts;

### Portadown

**LOWER PRIMARY TEACHER**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER**

*(preferred subjects French, Spanish, English, Geography)*

**CLASSROOM ASSISTANT**

*Primary / Secondary School*

**Contact:**

School Administrator or Principal for an application form.

**Rev D. Abernethy:** 07821 544625

darrylabernethy@gmail.com

**Mrs D. Haffey:** 07510629500

d.haffey@independentchristianschool.org

### Mourne

**MATHS TEACHER**

**Contact:** School Administrator for application form.

**Mr G. Imrie:** 07714 530607, gordonimrie@yahoo.co.uk

### Newtownabbey

OR

**SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER**

*teaching 1 or more GCSE exam subjects.*

**PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER**

*teaching Key Stage 1 and/or Key Stage 2 classes*

**Contact:** School Administrator or Principal for an application form.

**Rev B. McClung:** 07714 330390, newtownabbeyfpc@gmail.com

**Mrs L. McClung:** lj.mcclung@independentchristianschool.org

COMPILED BY  
ROBERT MCCONNELL



"a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down."

2 Kings 21:13

## Dirty Dishes

Boys and girls, there is a passage in the Bible that tells us that sinners are just like a pile of dirty dishes that need to be washed. This is how God saw wicked king Manasseh and the people in Jerusalem in 2 Kings 21:13. There are three things about dirty dishes that I want to leave with you to prove this to be a very good description of the sinner.

### DIRTY DISHES CANNOT CLEAN THEMSELVES.

This is also the case with the sinner. They can do nothing to take away the stains of the sin in their lives. Cleansing is only found in the precious shed blood of the Saviour (1 John 1:7).

### THE LONGER DIRTY DISHES ARE LEFT, THE HARDER THEY ARE TO CLEAN.

Not impossible, just harder. The longer a person remains in their sin, rejecting God's offer of salvation, the harder their heart will become and

the more entangled in sin they will find themselves (Proverbs 29:1).

### DIRTY DISHES NEED TO BE CLEANED PROPERLY.

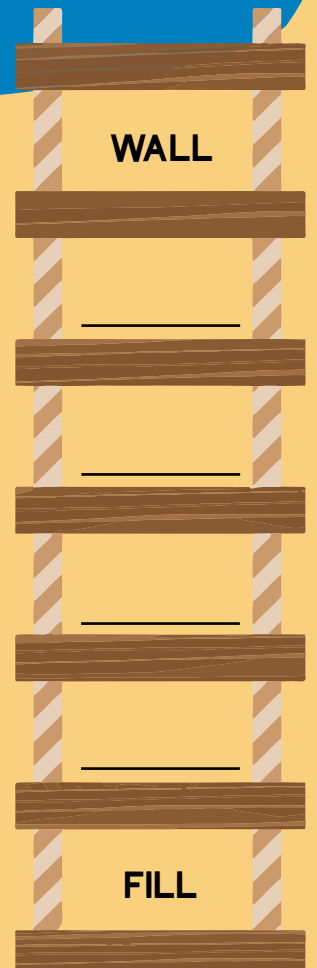
So it is with God's salvation. If ever a person is to be cleansed and made whole, it needs to be done in the manner that God has appointed and that is through the name of his own dear Son the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

### ONE LAST THOUGHT.

God could have chosen to smash and cast these dirty dishes aside. If ever there was a person who should have been dealt with in this way, it was wicked king Manasseh. However, rather than destroy him, God having heard his prayers, in mercy cleansed him from all of his sins. I wonder do you know that same cleansing in your life today?



## WORD LADDER



Using the clues and Bible references provided, starting at the top, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing only one letter at a time. Find all four answers.

1. This was in a field (Genesis 29v2)
2. This was golden (Exodus 28v34)
3. This was found in a net (Isaiah 51v20)
4. The amount of deadly poison in the tongue (James 3v8)

## PRIZES!

Are you 12 or under? Send your **answer, name, address** and **church** to: **Rev Garth Wilson** (e: [answer@fpvision.org](mailto:answer@fpvision.org))

# My Favourite

# Hymn

Hymns  
of Faith



## We Are Never, Never Weary...

The Psalmist says in Psalm 45:15 ‘With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king’s palace’. The hymn I have chosen has this verse listed above it in our hymn book. Choosing a hymn for this article as my favourite hymn was not an easy task.

However, I have settled on one of the many hymns penned by the late Fanny Crosby – *We are never never weary of the grand old song, Glory to God, Hallelujah!* It is a hymn that I love to sing and to hear being sung. Why is this you may ask? Well, it’s a hymn I remember clearly from my latter teenage years not long after I got restored unto the Lord at 18. It’s a hymn that speaks of the joy of being saved for there it says ‘Glory to God, hallelujah!’. A good hymn gives God the glory for who He is, and what He has done. Sometimes in the Christian life, we can become weary due to trials and tribulations. However, we ought not to be weary of the Lord and His so great salvation. For, we could never thank or praise Him enough that He purposed to save sinners out of this world and to give unto them eternal life.

“  
WE ARE GOING TO  
THE GREATEST PALACE  
OF ALL TO WORSHIP HIM  
WHO IS THE KING OF  
KINGS AND LORD OF  
LORDS.  
”

It has been described as ‘A great Fanny Crosby text with vocals to celebrate the Christian life and hope of an eternal glory with Christ’. Fanny Crosby was a very gifted hymn writer because she was close to her Lord and Saviour. Despite her physical impairment she lived a godly life and wrote many hymns which we know and love today. Nehemiah 8:10 contains these words, ‘... for the joy of the LORD is your strength’. What a comfort we as the people of God have, in knowing real joy which is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the joy of being saved that gives us strength for every day.

The chorus says in this hymn, ‘O the children of the Lord have a right to shout and sing’, and we do have a right to do that because we have been redeemed with the blood of Christ, reconciled unto God by the death of His Son, and adopted into His family. This is the real reason why we praise Him because He has saved us by His grace. We long for that day when we will see Christ as He is and we will be in heaven with Him. Fanny Crosby put it like this, ‘We are going by and by to the palace of a King’

It is a palace ‘that is built of gold’. We are going to the greatest palace of all to worship Him who is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In that palace, we will behold the King ‘in all His splendour’. When we reach that palace ‘there we’ll shout redeeming mercy in a glad new song’. There we shall sing the song of how He redeemed us unto Himself by His blood. We will ‘sing the praise of Jesus with the blood-washed throng’. The purpose of our singing will be to give Him the glory for what He has done. What a wonderful Saviour we have, ‘Glory to God, hallelujah!’ ■

✉ Mr Stephen Crawford,  
Student, Whitefield College of the Bible



# Bring the Books

**P**aul said in 2 Timothy 4:13, 'Bring... the books.' Charles Spurgeon said, 'The man who never reads will never be read, and we are quite persuaded that you may get much instruction from books which afterwards, you may use as a true weapon in your Lord and Master's service'. As I meditated on the subject of books, I thought I would suggest a few which, I believe, will be a great benefit to any home.

We begin with 'The Bible', the Word of God. The Bible should be the central book in every home. The Holy Scripture has been given by inspiration

of God and is our only rule of faith and practice. We should read it, meditate on it, and pray over it daily. It is also helpful to read the Bible using a systematic plan of daily readings such as 'The Robert Murray M'Cheyne Bible Reading Calendar'.

This was originally drawn up in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century for the congregation in St Peter's, Dundee. To this day, the plan is very popular among the Lord's people, and it guides the reader through the entire Bible in one year. A good Bible commentary also aids Bible study, meditation and understanding of scripture. Matthew

Henry's six volume Complete Commentary, originally written in 1706, provides an exhaustive look at every verse in the Bible. It is also available in a concise volume. As one said, you will find Matthew Henry, 'sensible, sober, suggestive and trust worthy'. It is the poor man's Commentary, and the old Christian's companion, suitable to everybody and instructive to all. It is spiritual, heavenly and profitable."

While reading systematically through the Old Testament, the book of Leviticus can present a challenge to the reader. Bearing this in mind, the



“  
WITH OUR BIBLES  
IN ONE HAND AND  
OUR CONFESSION IN  
THE OTHER, WE ARE  
WELL EQUIPPED FOR  
THE GREAT SATANIC  
BATTLE NOW FACING  
THE CHURCH!  
”

commentary on Leviticus, written by a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Scottish Presbyterian, Rev. Andrew Bonar, is believed by many to be the best there is. This commentary will enable you to feast on Christ on every page. One of old said about this book, ‘Andrew Bonar was a master in Israel’.

Regarding the study of The Psalms, ‘The Treasury of David’, by Charles Spurgeon, is the best. It is a three-volume set in which the writer gleans from all of the best Reformed and Puritan writers along with his own thoughts. This has resulted in a wonderfully rich commentary on the

Psalms which will enhance and add a blessing to daily meditation.

When reading the book of ‘Proverbs’, there is a great commentary by Rev. Charles Bridges. He explains and expounds the book, as well as paralleling other Scriptures, bringing them to new light also.

The commentaries by Bishop J.C Ryle, the first Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, will be a blessing to anyone who is studying the four Gospels. There is simplicity for the young and depths for the mature to swim in. These books are devotional, heartwarming, and

focused on ‘The Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world’.

Every home should also have a copy of ‘The Westminster Confession of Faith’. It was written in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century by men of God. As well as containing our ‘Confession’, it also contains the following: A Directory for Public Worship; the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. It has been said, The Westminster Confession, like all creeds, is fallible and, like all creedal statements, it is profoundly inferior to The Holy Scripture. But it is still the finest creed in Christendom, the most satisfying in its Biblical endorsement and the instrument, which has proved itself again and again to be the fruit and herald of Reformation revival. With our Bibles in one hand and our Confession in the other, we are well equipped for the great satanic battle now facing the church.

A good quality Bible concordance, such as those written by Strong, Young or Cruden, is also beneficial to do the following: locate a verse; cross-reference bible passages; and find the meaning of a Bible word.

In addition, no list of books would be complete without the classic, ‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ by Rev John Bunyan. Whether for the young or old, it’s a must for the bookshelf of every home.

Finally, the biographies of David Brainerd, Andrew Bonar, and The Memoirs and Remains of Robert Murray M’Cheyne are helpful and challenging in seeing how God worked through the lives of His saints.

This is by no means an exhaustive list but these are just some books that have been a great blessing to the Lord’s Church for many years.

Paul said, ‘Bring... the books.’ ■

✉ **Rev Tom Laverty,**  
*Gardenstown Free Presbyterian Church*

# MESSAGE FROM THE MAINLAND



It is always a privilege to work for our Saviour. We serve the Lord each day in how we live at home and in our words and actions among our friends. There are also times of special service when we can do something different for Christ. If you are a young person, the Youth Council outreach to Tavistock in the South-West corner of England provides a new opportunity for you.

## WHY CONSIDER COMING TO TAVISTOCK?

### 1. Following the Saviour's example

The Lord Jesus Christ travelled from place to place preaching the Gospel. He preached in the town where He grew up, and He also visited other towns where He was not known. After preaching in Capernaum, a town

familiar to Him, the Lord said to His disciples, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth." (Mark 1: 38) Perhaps you have never been to Tavistock or England before. You can follow the Saviour's example in taking the Gospel to new areas.

### 2. Reaching the lost

There are thousands of people in Tavistock who are lost, without Christ, and going down to hell. Many, many people in this part of England have never heard the Gospel. By joining this outreach, you can do something to reach them with the Word of Life. This could be through distributing invitations to church meetings, giving out gospel tracts, or conducting open-air meetings.

### 3. Encouraging the church

If the Lord leads you to this outreach, you will be an encouragement to the congregation of Tavistock. Over the years the members of this fellowship have worked hard to keep the Gospel light shining. Churches in England tend to be relatively small, and this means fewer personnel for evangelism and fewer

opportunities for fellowship. Your visit to Tavistock will provide extra hands to extend the witness, and it will encourage us to see young people serving the Lord.

### 4. Learning and growing

This outreach will allow you to learn about the unique circumstances of the work here. You can spend time with and get to know the people of our fellowship. Learning about this work will help you to understand better how to pray for it. Also, in any service, we learn more about ourselves, our need to depend upon the Lord, and the Lord's unending love and faithfulness as we work for Him. As we work for the Lord in new and unfamiliar ways and places, we grow in faith and in likeness to the Saviour Himself. How amazing if, after visiting Tavistock to serve the Lord, you left being more like the Lord! ■

✍ **Mr Stephen Miller,**  
*Tavistock Free Presbyterian Church.*

🖼 Left: The Millers, before leaving for Tavistock, were presented with a commissioned painting of Cullybackey Bridge by Rev David Stewart, Portlengone Free Presbyterian Church.

🖼 Above: Tavistock congregation



## YOUTH COUNCIL EVENTS

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.

### OUTREACH

**4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July**  
**CONVOY, Co. Donegal**  
*Age: 16+ Price: £70*

Costs are all inclusive (accommodation, food, etc.) and have been subsidised by the Youth Council to help encourage and support young people who attend. Application forms can be downloaded from [fpcyouth.org](http://fpcyouth.org) and should be completed and sent in by the end of May (Convoy) and June (Tavistock).

### OUTREACH

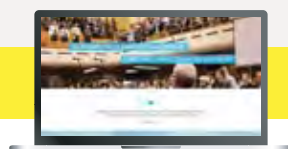
**25<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August**  
**TAVISTOCK, England**  
*Age: 18+ Price: £265*

## NATIONAL RALLY

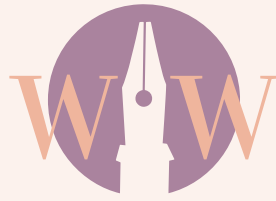


**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**September**  
**8pm**  
*Venue: tbc*

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FPCYOUTH.ORG



A Word to Women

# Waiting

**W**aiting. Admittedly, it's something we all find difficult to do! From the child who finds it difficult to wait for their next birthday, the teenager who can't wait for their studies to end at school, and the adult who is called to wait in traffic and bank queues, life is full of occasions and seasons where we are called upon to wait.

Aware of the frustration that waiting causes, inventors have come up with devices that cut waiting times in an aim to satisfy the modern man who looks for instant gratification. However, when we turn to God's Word, we realise that God, Who works on a much different timescale than our own, directs and calls His people to wait. Examples abound in Scripture of those who had to wait. Sarah, Rachel, and Hannah all had to wait many years for their promised sons to be born. Joseph waited thirteen years for his promise of promotion to be fulfilled. David waited years before he became king of Israel after his anointing by Samuel. Job waited for his suffering to end, while Anna and Simeon waited for many years before seeing the promised Messiah. In Church history, many of God's notable saints had cause to wait in their lives. It was seven years before William Carey saw his first convert in India and before Adoniram Judson won his first disciple in Burmah.

Maybe today you are in a period of life in which God has called you to wait. You are waiting for answers to prayers, for promises to be fulfilled, or for God to intervene in your situation. In Isaiah 30:18, we are reminded "...blessed are all they that wait for him". So, why wait? Well, the adage is true- '*waiting time is never wasted time*' - because our loving Heavenly Father often sends these waiting seasons into our lives to fashion and shape us inwardly as well as outwardly. God works in our waiting times, causing us to increase

our trust in Him. Waiting reminds us that we are at the mercy of God's timing, and we have no power to change when His purposes will be fulfilled. Waiting reminds us of the Sovereignty of God who works when and how He pleases. In waiting times, God wants us to trust in His goodness today and rest in His faithfulness for tomorrow. Waiting humbles us and causes us to develop the grace of patience in our lives. Waiting seasons are also times of renewal in our lives. Isaiah 40:31 reminds

us that "*They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.*" God causes us to wait so that we might be made more like His dear Son, who faithfully waited for the reward of His work for us. We should follow His example when waiting seems so difficult in our lives.

*“ God works in our waiting times, causing us to increase our trust in Him. Waiting reminds us that we are at the mercy of God’s timing, and we have no power to change when His purposes will be fulfilled. ”*

The renowned Christian author Andrew Murray said, "*We may rest assured that He who made us for Himself, that He might give Himself to us and in us, will never disappoint us. In waiting on Him, we will find rest and joy and strength, and the supply of every need.*"

If you're presently in a season of waiting, remember that God cares deeply for you; and, as you wait, take to heart the counsel of Psalm 27:14 "*Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.*" It is very easy to lose heart in a season for waiting but looking back and seeing God's

faithfulness in the past cultivates the grace of faith and enables you to keep believing that He will work for you in the future as He perfects those things that concern you. Like David, let us then wait patiently for the LORD knowing that He will incline unto us and hear our cry. ■

✉ **Andrea Stewart** is married to Rev David Stewart, Portglenone Free Presbyterian Church

# The Sovereignty of God



“...none can stay his hand,  
or say unto him,  
What does thou?”

*Daniel 4: 35*

In his hymn ‘Sovereign Ruler Of The Skies’ John Ryland wrote:

*Sovereign ruler of the skies,  
Ever gracious, ever wise,  
All my times are in Thy hand,  
All events at Thy command.*

That verse expresses the great truth of the Sovereignty of God in all aspects of life. Nebuchadnezzar expressed the same truth in the words of Daniel 4:35,45 - God is an absolute king, and He rules with absolute power over heaven, earth and hell. As we think about the Sovereignty of God, we see:

## **GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD**

At the time when Daniel was writing, the greatest kingdom in the world was the Babylonian Kingdom; but God had already told Nebuchadnezzar

that it would be succeeded by the Medo-Persian, which in turn would be overtaken by the Greek and then the Roman empires. At last, the Kingdom of God would become dominant and rule over all the world.

We know that the British Empire was once such a mighty force that the boast was made that ‘the sun never set’ on it, her colonies stretching from east to west across the globe. No such empire now exists, even though honoured citizens are awarded titles such as ‘Member of the British Empire (MBE)’ and other similar awards.

Today, we are witnessing the aggression of Russia against Ukraine, with the possibility that if they succeed in this war they will continue to expand their control to other countries. But it is clear, without going into any dubious

interpretation of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel and Revelation, that all opposition to the Kingdom of God will ultimately be utterly destroyed. John Ellerton has summed up the situation perfectly in his hymn, ‘The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended’:

*So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth’s proud empires, pass away:  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,  
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.*

## **THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS SEEN IN FULFILLED PROPHECY**

Here we have a vast field of study, and we can only select a couple of passages from the Old Testament to illustrate this great truth.

In Psalm 22, we have a Psalm of the Cross. Its first words are the words spoken by Christ when hanging on the



cross, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' In verse 16, He is heard to say, 'They pierced my hands and my feet' - a clear reference to crucifixion.

Even more compelling is the statement in verse 18, 'They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.' All the Gospel writers note this detail, and both Matthew and John cite it as a fulfilment of prophecy. What is so remarkable is that these were pagan soldiers, unacquainted with the writings of David, yet, acting according to their desires, fulfilling a prophecy uttered 1,000 years earlier.

Isaiah 53 has been described as a 'Mountain Peak' of the Old Testament, and it very particularly deals with scenes enacted at Calvary:

Christ's silence before His accusers - verse 7. His death beside the wicked, being numbered with the transgressors (the two thieves) - verses 9 and 12. His burial in a rich man's tomb - verse 9.

There is much more in this chapter that could be brought out, but sufficient has been given to show that God has absolute knowledge of future events - and that is because everything is under His control. We know that the devil could not have touched Job without God's permission, nor could Judas have betrayed Christ or the Roman soldiers have crucified Him without God allowing these things to fulfil a higher purpose.

## THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS SEEN IN SALVATION

In Ephesians 1 verses 4 and 5, Paul tells us: 'According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.'

Some will say that God chose those whom He knew would repent, but when we turn to the second chapter of Ephesians, we read that God has 'quickened' (or brought to life) those

**“The Sovereignty of God over the affairs of this world, His Sovereignty seen in fulfilled prophecy, and the salvation of the lost is of tremendous comfort to the people of God. A God who is not sovereign might be unable to complete the work He had set His heart upon.”**

who were 'dead in trespasses and sins.' It is hard to see how people with no life in their souls could decide to repent and choose Christ as their Saviour. In Acts 11 verse 18, the church at Jerusalem concluded that God had 'granted' to the Gentiles 'repentance unto life.'

I realise that the doctrines of election and predestination are unpalatable to many sincere Christians - even the great John Wesley could not accept them - but we should not shy away from proclaiming what God has revealed in His Word. It is a source of wonder to those of us who fully believe these teachings. Isaac Watts put it this way:

*Why was I made to hear Thy voice,  
And enter while there's room,  
When thousands make a wretched choice,  
And rather starve than come?*

*'Twas the same love that spread the feast  
That sweetly drew us in;  
Else we had still refused to taste,  
And perished in our sin.*

Many unsaved people hate the thought that God has specially chosen His people but, in any case, they have no interest in being saved themselves and have no time for such invitations as tell them, 'And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.' They remind us of the fable of the dog in the manger. The dog sat on a heap of grain; it didn't want to eat the grain, but it wouldn't allow the horse to eat any either.

This doctrine is also seen in the way that God planned and overruled in every detail to bring about salvation

for His chosen. Acts 2 verse 23 is the classic verse in that regard. There we read of Christ: 'Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.' The Jews were guilty of the slaying of the Messiah, yet all that took place as part of the plan God had devised to save guilty sinners.

The Sovereignty of God over the affairs of this world, His Sovereignty seen in fulfilled prophecy, and the salvation of the lost is of tremendous comfort to the people of God. A God who is not sovereign might be unable to complete the work He had set His heart upon, perhaps through unforeseen circumstances or because those He had chosen decided to turn their backs on Him and renounce Him. World events might be beyond His ability to sort out, allowing the avarice and cruelty of man to destroy all that is worthwhile, with no prospect of blessing in the world to come.

Listen again to Isaac Watts:

*O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home.*

*Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God,  
To endless years the same.*

We give the last word to the psalmist David in Psalm 62 verse 8: 'Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.' ■

✉ **Rev Gordon Ferguson,**  
(retired) South Grove Free Presbyterian Church, London.

# Listening to the Sermon

It has been said that only 10% of a congregation will remember 5% of a sermon. How true that statement is we cannot verify, however, it does beg the question, 'how do we listen to a sermon?'

What is a sermon? Although the word is not used in Scripture there is an abundance of sermons in God's Word, some preached by Old Testament prophets, others by the Apostles and the best-known sermon was preached by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself - the sermon on the mount. A sermon is a message from God's Word, delivered to God's people, through God's servants with the help of God's Holy Spirit.

As such, it is of the utmost importance that we train our ears and minds to derive as much as possible from any sermon.

Assuming the hearer understands that listening to the preaching of God's Word is an act of worship, and has already sought the Lord for help to receive the Word with profit, we move to consider how to listen. Let's use Nehemiah 8 as a template:

In Nehemiah 8:1 we read of the hearer's **expectation**, 'The people gathered themselves together..and they spake unto Ezra the Scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses'. The people had an appetite to hear the Word of the Lord and possessed an expectation that the Lord would speak to them through His Holy Word. Every hearer should listen to a sermon expecting the Lord to reveal something to their heart.

On a practical note, writing down what the Lord has shown is always beneficial. A written record of the discovery will

exist long after the memory of the sermon has vanished. Furthermore, writing down in your own words what you have heard massively increases the ability to remember. That being said, be careful not to impair your ability to listen by too much note-taking. Jotting down a few notes and keeping your attention focused on the sermon is the best method to benefit while remaining in a state of worship and not falling into an academic exercise mode. The ability to listen again afterwards to the sermon online is usually available and profitable.

Once the expectant hearers gathered around Ezra they gave **attention** to what was being said, "And the ears of the people were attentive unto the book of the Law" (Nehemiah 8:3). The wording here is interesting in that the people are said to be attentive to the book not so much as to the preacher! These people did not desire the opinions of a man but the exposition of the authoritative Word of God. As followers of Christ, we are to be students of the word, we are to be discerning like the Bereans who when listened to Paul's preaching, '...received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so' (Acts 17:11).

Every hearer of a sermon must come with a heart of **subjection**, that is, a willingness to submit to whatever

“ The people had an expectation that the Lord would speak to them through His Holy Word. Every hearer should listen to a sermon expecting the Lord to reveal something to their heart. ”

God's Word says. Cultivate a humble submissive mind ready to believe, accept and obey the Word. In Nehemiah 8:9 the people submissively responded by weeping. James 1:21, 22 states that the hearer cannot remain a hearer only but also a doer. It is possible to become a connoisseur of sermons, being skilful at passing critical judgments yet never changed by the truths presented.

As the hearer listens to the preaching of the word they will of course find **satisfaction**, "To make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them"(Nehemiah 8:12). Although hearing God's word will search out the faults and sin of the heart, the end of preaching is not to leave the hearer looking within at personal sin, but looking up at the Saviour who forgives sinners. Here the reader will find satisfaction, 'For the joy of the LORD is your strength' Nehemiah 8:10. ■

✍ Rev David Brown,  
Larne Free Presbyterian Church.

# Renewing our Vision



The word “vision” is used in many different contexts in the Bible. One of which was a supernatural method in which God the Holy Spirit gave fresh direction to his people through dreams and new revelations. Paul and his missionary team in Acts 16 v 6, when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, were forbidden to preach the word in Asia minor. Even when they wanted to divert and go into Bithynia, the Spirit would not allow them to proceed. It was not until they came to Troas that Paul and his team were given a new vision and heard what has become known as the Macedonian Call. God spoke to them afresh and directed them to travel to Greece and into Europe for the first time taking with them the Gospel.

In our Mission Board, after all the shutdowns and restrictions connected with Covid-19 over the past two years, we felt that it was time to renew the mandate that God has given to us in the Great Commission. Whilst we do not need new revelation to renew our commitment to go and teach all nations, we believed that we did need to reconnect with our congregations and recommit to what God has already revealed to us in His Word. Thus, the Board decided it was time to go back to the Word of God and seek to rediscover and reemphasise what the Scriptures teach us concerning “Mission”. The idea was born that we should organise a “mission conference”. Appropriately, we have called this mission conference – “MISSION VISION”.

Our Lisburn Church has kindly agreed to host the conference “MISSION VISION”, which we deeply appreciate. It will open, DV, on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May and will conclude on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May. We ask for your prayerful support for this special week of meetings, that it will be owned and blessed of God and that hearts will be stirred as we investigate what God has revealed to us in His Word about missionary work. We would value your presence with us each night. Local churches might consider sending their Y.P.F.’s along or bringing their prayer meetings to the conference. Please see the advertisement for the schedule of Mission Vision. We look forward to welcoming you along. ■

✉ Rev Ian Harris, *Chairman.*

## MISSION VISION

Conference hosted by  
*Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church*

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30pm** ▶ *Rev. I Harris*

Understanding Consecration in God’s Service  
*Light refreshments served afterwards*

**Lord’s Day 8<sup>th</sup> May, 11:30am** ▶ *Rev. R Higginson*

The Biblical Charter for Missionary Work

**Lord’s Day 8<sup>th</sup> May, 7:00pm** ▶ *Dr J Douglas*

The Importance of the Continual Infilling of  
the Holy Spirit for Missionary Work

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 8:00pm** ▶ *Rev. J Greer*

The Importance of Church Planting on the Mission Field

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 8:00pm** ▶ *Rev. D McMillan*

The Role of the Home Church in Missionary Work

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 8:00pm** ▶ *Rev. J Hanna*

Reaching out and over cultural and national borders  
with the gospel

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 8:00pm** ▶ *Rev. C Mercer*

Christ’s Charter of Success

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 8:00pm** ▶ *Rev. D Park*

How do I know I am called to Missionary Work?

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-2.30pm** ▶ *Workshops*

FPC Mission Strategy and Training  
Opportunities for Mission Teams & Short-term service  
Q.+A. Session with Missionaries

[fpcmission.org](http://fpcmission.org)



## MISSIONARY VISION

# New Church Building in Nepal

Despite the restrictions of Covid-19, the church in Nepal marches forward. The pastors are able to go out again and preach the Gospel to the unreached in remote villages. Recently, in one of these villages, the Lord was pleased to bless the preaching of Christ, and souls were gloriously saved. Rev. Paul Thapa reported: 'God has opened up the door to start a new church in the remote village of the country. There were eight people converted through the preaching of the Gospel by one of our ministers. There are many other families in the village. Pray that the entire villagers may come to know Christ as their Saviour.'



In the background of the Omicron variant spreading rapidly, the testimony of Rev. Thapa is most encouraging: 'It is a time of hardship, but the Lord never stops His working. Please pray for these new babies in the Lord. One of our pastors is looking after them even though they are not so close; he has to make a trip of six hours walking. But the Lord is gracious and enabling him to serve Him, so that the Gospel should be spread.'

An appeal was made for funding to assist in the building of a new church in this village area. The Mission Board responded, and it wasn't long before construction was underway.

Pray that the new converts will continue steadfastly in the faith, and that many others will be added to the Church. ■

✉ **Alastair Hamilton,**  
*Mission Board Treasurer.*

## Thanks to the Fosters



We thank you for your ongoing prayerful and practical support for Andrew, Hannah and Rachel Foster as they have laboured for the Lord in Uganda. It is therefore with great sadness that we report that, after prayerful consideration, Andrew has resigned his position with the Mission Board, as he now feels the Lord is calling them home. As a Mission Board, we express our thanks and deep appreciation to Andrew and Hannah for their service in Uganda over the past four and a half years. During that time, Andrew has worked diligently and skilfully to improve and expand the facilities at Emmanuel Christian School, and Hannah has assisted in the development and management of our Orphans and Vulnerable Children's programme.

We would ask you to pray for Andrew, Hannah and little Rachel at this time, especially that the Lord would lead them for the future. The Mission Board wishes the Fosters God's richest blessing for the days ahead. ■

✉ **Rev Ian Harris**  
*Chairman of the Mission Board*

✉ **Rev David McMillan**  
*Chairman of the Ugandan Subcommittee*

# Mains Electric Project at Emmanuel



A very important project that the Mission Board has been working on for almost three years has been the installation of mains electric at the Emmanuel Mission Station, Uganda. They have relied up until now on solar power and a small generator.

The project has included the complete rewiring of the Mission Station to make it suitable for mains electric, and the manufacturing of an electrical switchboard in Northern Ireland, which was shipped to Uganda over the summer of 2021. The completion of this project has been greatly hindered by the restrictions of the Coronavirus pandemic. The electrical team first visited Emmanuel in February 2020 for the initial phase of the work. But it was only in March of 2022 that they were able to return to Uganda again to complete the project.

Kyle Wenlock very willingly took up the challenge of this massive job, and using all his contacts and experience, he put the team together and organised all the work. He was ably assisted by Richard Foster. The other members of the team were: Luke Dobbin, Paul Lennox, Timothy Monteith, Joel Patterson and Samuel Snodgrass. Elaine Wenlock was also a vital member of team providing hospitality for the workers.

To have the mains electric at Emmanuel has made a very significant difference to the lives of our Missionaries, and all that goes on at the Mission Station.

The Mission Board wishes to express its deepest thanks to all the members of the electrical team for devoting so much of their time and their talents to this vital project. Their ‘labour of love’ has helped the Lord’s work at Emmanuel to take a very significant step forward. The Board also wants to thank all who have given so generously to support this project financially. ■

## New Vehicle. Same Endeavour.

Olive and I returned to Northern Ireland from Cork in 2009 primarily to use the “bus” which Dr Paisley had obtained for evangelistic work. The Mission Board later replaced it with a smaller and more suitable camper van. We had two MOT extensions because of Covid-19 which gave us an extra year on the road, but after 11 years of constant use, the day to retire the bus (as we still call it) has come.

This bus was used in various parts of the country. It became a regular feature just outside the gates of Knock RC Shrine where it hosted a booklet display and a base from which

to reach the many pilgrims. More than one RC priest either sat in the bus or engaged us at its side door. We gave away plenty of gospel literature, CDs etc. Emptying the pockets of the bus showed how sometimes we got holy medals, relics and other trinkets in return. However, “an idol is nothing”, while the Gospel booklet may yet prove to be the power of God unto salvation.

I am grateful to the Mission Board for replacing the older bus with a low mileage 2015 Ford Tourne. A new vehicle, but still the same gospel endeavour. Pray for us. ■

✍ Colin Maxwell, Home Missionary.



# Aid for Ukraine

As we have witnessed the awful scenes in Ukraine over the past weeks, we are again overwhelmed by the generosity of God's people in providing aid support to those in great distress and need. Gifts continue to arrive with the Mission Board, and we have distributed these to our three partner agencies who have direct access on the ground, in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



Faith  
In Action  
Missions



The team at FIAM are sending finances into the churches in the Kharkov region and surrounding areas, to allow them to reach out to their communities and provide vital assistance. Recently they have been able to rescue some elderly and sick people and bring them to the House of Hope. They have been feeding people in subways and rescuing refugees and bringing those who have lost their homes to live in the Christian school.

They have also been working with the families of believers there on a plan to bring Ukrainian refugees to Northern Ireland. ■



✉ **Circle:** A blind woman rescued by Pastor Pavel and his team from bombed Kharkov, she is now safe in the house of hope.

✉ **Far left:** The House of hope, many have been rescued.

✉ **Left:** The church supplying milk for families.

## MISSIONARY VISION



# Slavic Gospel Association

In Ukraine, SGA is providing aid for churches and believers who are taking care of displaced people in the west of the country. Getting aid to those who are in besieged cities and towns is a pressing need. However, believers in the surrounding countries of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia and Poland have already received funds to help provide food, hygiene, medicine, mattresses, bedding and transportation. ■

☒ **Top left:** Accommodation for refugees.

☒ **Left:** People coming to the church for food.

☒ **Circle:** Receiving aid on the border.

## Betania Baptist Church, Romania

Bethany, in Timisoara, was one of the first churches to open their doors to refugees fleeing from Ukraine. They turned part of their church facilities into accommodation to receive several families. Pastor Vali and two of his church officers travelled 500 miles to the Ukrainian border to provide direct support to churches in Odessa. A Ukrainian Pastor, his wife and 4-month-old baby travelled many hundreds of miles to meet up with these men who brought a financial aid package to help those struggling on the front line. ■

☒ **Right:** Ukraine border with supplies.



*Thank you once again for your sacrificial giving.*

*Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless these efforts,  
the needy will be supported, and souls will be physically and spiritually saved.*

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STAY UP TO DATE AT



FPCMISSION.ORG



# Dates For The Diary

## MAY

1<sup>st</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

**JOHN KNOX, GOSPEL MISSION**

*Evangelist:* Mr Noel Shields

15<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>

**GRACE (NEWTOWNARDS), GOSPEL MISSION**

*Theme:* New Life in Christ

*Speakers:* Rev R Higginson, Rev P Baker

15<sup>th</sup>

**SIXMILECROSS, 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
OPENING OF THE CHURCH BUILDING**

*Time:* 3.30pm

*Speaker:* Rev J Greer

## JUNE

12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>

**MAGHERAFELT, SUMMER BIBLE CONFERENCE**

*Time:* Sunday 7pm, Weeknights 8pm

*Speaker:* Rev I Goligher (Canada)

25<sup>th</sup> + 26<sup>th</sup>

**ANNALONG, 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND  
(OPENING OF THE CHURCH BUILDING)**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

*5.30pm:* Family BBQ

*7.30pm:* Thanksgiving Service with Rev J Armstrong

**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

*12noon:* Rev J Greer

*6.00pm:* Rev A Stewart

26<sup>th</sup>

**SIXMILECROSS, SPECIAL DRIVE-IN SERVICE**

*Time:* 3.30pm

## AUGUST

31<sup>st</sup>

**BALLYGOWAN, RETIREMENT DINNER FOR  
REV & MRS ALAN SMYLIE**

*Venue:* La Mon Hotel & Country Club

*Contact:* Mr Robert Catterson

07903 087120, donnarobertcatterson@yahoo.co.uk

A limited number of places remain.

## YOUTH COUNCIL

### OUTREACH

**4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July**

**CONVOY, CO. DONEGAL**

*Age:* 16+

*Price:* £70

### OUTREACH

**25<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**TAVISTOCK, ENGLAND**

*Age:* 18+

*Price:* £265

Costs are all inclusive (accommodation, food, etc...) and have been subsidised by the Youth Council to help encourage and support young people who attend.

## LOUGH ERNE FUNDAMENTALIST CONVENTION

**31<sup>st</sup> July - 7<sup>th</sup> August**

**BETHEL FPC**

*Time:*

Lord's Days, 12noon

Weeknights, 8.00pm

*Speakers:*

Dr John Douglas

Rev Ian Goligher

Rev John Armstrong