

£1

# FIRST

Seek First the Kingdom of God!

WINTER 2022/23 | ISSUE 1326

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FAITH MISSION



# THE WATCHMAN

- » THE LORD ON HIGH IS MIGHTY
- » LOOKING INTO THE GOSPELS (PART 3)
- » REMAINING FOCUSED

# CONTENTS



26



## BIBLE TEACHING

- 04 The Lord on High is Mighty
- 07 The Watchman
- 10 Looking into the Gospels (Part 3)  
*The Suffering Servant*

## CHRISTIAN LIVING

- 12 Rejoice! Rejoice!
- 14 The Waves may Roll
- 16 Remaining Focused

## LIFE STORIES

- 18 A Life of Service
- 20 Catherine Booth
- 22 Interview: Joe & Juliet Kunjumon
- 24 Where He leads me I will go:  
*A Tribute to Ian Booth*

## MISSION PROFILE

- 26 Volunteering for the Kingdom
- 28 Reaching out: Wexford and Wicklow
- 29 God's Faithfulness

## FAITH MISSION COUNTRY EVANGELISM MINISTRIES

**Faith Mission  
UK Headquarters**  
548 Gilmerton Road  
Edinburgh  
EH17 7JD  
Tel: 0131 664 5814  
hq@faithmission.org

**Director for England  
Stephen Walker**  
Red House Farm, Fen Lane,  
Earl Stonham, Stowmarket,  
IP14 5EG  
Tel: 01904 786289  
hq.England@faithmission.org

**Director for Ireland  
Garry Tutty**  
62 Glenavy Road,  
Lisburn,  
BT28 3UT  
Tel: 028 9262 8286  
hq.ireland@faithmission.org

**Director for Scotland  
Gordon Thomson**  
9 Westerton Farm Lane,  
Bearsden, Glasgow,  
G61 1NF  
Tel: 0141 942 0841  
hq.scotland@faithmission.org

Unless otherwise stated, everything contained in this publication is © The Faith Mission

The Faith Mission is a charity registered in Scotland No SC005119

## BIBLE TRAINING MINISTRIES

**Faith Mission Bible College**  
2 Drum Street, Edinburgh  
EH17 8QG, Scotland  
Tel: +44 (0)131 664 4336  
admin@fmbiblecollege.org.uk

## FAITH MISSION BOOKSHOP MINISTRIES

General Manager: **Stephen Dundas**  
Scottish Bookshops Regional Manager: **Gavin Harrison**

**Ireland**  
5-7 Queen Street  
Belfast, BT1 6EA  
Tel: 028 9023 3733  
ireland@fmbookshops.com

**Scotland**  
548 Gilmerton Road  
Edinburgh, EH17 7JD  
Tel: 0131 672 2152  
scotland@fmbookshops.com

We respect your privacy and will keep your data secure. You may ask us to tell you what information we hold about you and, at any time, ask us to delete that data. Our full privacy notice can be viewed online at [www.faithmission.org](http://www.faithmission.org), or by contacting General Headquarters and requesting that a copy be sent to you.



## A MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH MISSION'S DIRECTOR FOR IRELAND

**A**s a Mission we were shocked and saddened by the sudden home call of fellow member Ian Booth, who faithfully served the Lord within our ranks for the past twenty six years. Please remember his wife Shirley and the family in prayer. Please also remember in prayer one of our first-year Bible College students, Ryan Malone who has had to withdraw from the course due to necessary heart surgery. He plans to recommence in September 2023.

We rejoice in the Lord's provision of Robert and Phillippa Cismas who have rejoined The Faith Mission and commenced ministry at our Newton Stewart Camp Centre. We wish them God's richest blessing as they serve the Lord there.

Can I draw your attention to a word Peter uses in 1 Peter 3:8 *'courteous'* bringing a focus on the Christian characteristic of *'courtesy'*? While you have heard countless sermons on the many great sins, you may have never heard a message on courtesy. The theme of 1 Peter is a Christian response to undeserved suffering based on the example of Jesus. This should be kept in mind as we consider courtesy.

Peter uses the Greek word *'philophron'*, which can be translated as *'courtesy'*. Coming from two words, *'philos'* meaning *'friend'* and *'phren'* meaning *'understanding'*, a simple definition of courtesy can be *'understanding a friend'*. How do you understand another person? By talking with them but, more importantly, listening to them. We might have a broader definition of courtesy as a friendship based on your understanding of a person, resulting in Christ-like behaviour towards that person.

Who would question the lovely characteristic of courtesy we see in the life of Christ? We see it as Jesus asks the woman at the well for a drink, and what an outcome! One feels like praying, "Lord, open my eyes to see."

Notice it is a **requirement** of the gospel, (see 1 Peter 1:14 Amplified Version). This is in contrast to *'...your former ignorance...'* when little thought was given to courtesy. It is to be **sought after**, (1 Peter 3:10-12 Amplified Version, note quotation from Psalm 34). Do you see the connection with verse eight where we encounter the word *'courtesy'*? Consider the benefits it will bring to you and those with whom you rub shoulders! Courtesy is **precious** in God's sight (1 Peter 3:4). Gentleness and courtesy go hand in hand. Observe this is not for the ladies only by the words *'...in like manner...'* in 1 Peter 3:1 (see connection with 1 Peter 2:13, 18 & 21, 1 Peter 3:7). Courtesy is **winsome** (1 Peter 3:15). Meekness and courtesy go hand in hand. Did you spot the connection with verse 14 and the theme of unjust suffering? Courtesy is not to be **stumbled over** (1 Peter 2:4-10). A careful analysis of this reveals behaviour as the cause of stumbling by the use of the word *'disobedient'*.

Just as the Cornerstone is courteous, we should build up courtesy as a spiritual sacrifice to God. *'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, (God's) own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.'* (1 Peter 2:9, Amplified Version). •

| Garry Tutty, Director for Ireland





# The Lord on High is Mighty

BY JOHN MACLEOD

The recent passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II seems to have had a huge impact on our nation. The public expressions of grief have been a testimony to the regard in which the Queen was held.

It has also been interesting to hear people being interviewed and attributing to the Queen attributes that really belong to God alone: “she was our rock”, “she meant everything to me”, “I thought she would be there forever”, “I felt

safe with her on the throne”. These and many other comments bring to light the truth about monarchy spoken of by Professor Ian Bradley of St. Andrew’s University: “Ultimately, monarchy points beyond itself to the majesty of God. It encourages the God-given human faculties of reverence, loyalty and worship. It derives its true sanction and authority from above rather than from below.”

Thankfully the Word of God makes the wonder of God’s reign clear for us. In Psalm 93 we see how the Lord’s monarchical reign gives comfort and solace to the soul that pilgrims through this world. The Psalmist celebrates the assurance that comes from knowing certain truths.

### God is on the Throne

We have been reminded in recent days of how critical the roles of power and authority are to human society. We may be very sophisticated and technologically advanced but the bottom line is; we understand that society operates through rulers and authorities. monarchies, oligarchies or democracies, in whatever the form of rule and government, there must be jurisdiction for society to function lest we end up in anarchy. We recognise that the stability and security of life for the citizens depends on the nature of the ruler who is in control. The stability of the throne determines the stability of the kingdom.

For the people of God living in this world (ultimately it affects everybody), it is a comfort because here is a reminder that whilst we exist in this world and live on this earth we can do so in the knowledge that our God reigns, He is sovereign. This can be hard to accept when circumstances are grim but even in our darkest

days, isn’t it good to know that the God who is love and light is still in control and we have not been abandoned to the dark forces of chaos. We have the wonderful assurance that there is a God in heaven and He does have control over events in time and He is exercising sovereignty over the affairs of the world and will bring all things to a righteous conclusion.

The pageantry of the Queen’s funeral was quite a sight to behold but it will fade in comparison with the majesty that is associated with the reign of God. Twice in the opening verse of Psalm 93 we see reference to God, ‘...  
*being robed in majesty*’.

It is such a wonderful word and when we visit royal palaces we truly understand it as we are astounded by the grandeur, wealth and brilliance; the colour and pageantry of all the royal jewels and crowns that are often of incredible value. All these things are emphasising the authority, power, glory and position of the person. The trappings of the monarchy testify to the glory of the monarch. Our God reigns, our God is Majesty.

**This majestic, powerful ruler is intimately involved in the governing of His world and His Kingdom and His very being brings stability to the world.**

As well as the majesty of God’s reign there is the assurance of the power that accompanies His reign. He is armed with strength. We often hear people ask, “Who is really in control?” when they discuss some of the governments of the world. But when it comes to God’s throne there is no doubt where the strength of the kingdom lies. It is in His might and His eternal strength. God has the power to deliver on every promise His governing voice proclaims.

This majestic, powerful ruler is intimately involved in the governing of His world and His Kingdom and His very being brings stability

to the world. Our God is an unchanging, unfading, unweakened glorious ruler, so we need never fear a day when He is not in control. The Psalmist celebrates this in his affirmation of the establishing of the world and goes on to celebrate that God's rule is unending. There is not a war coming that He will lose or an election that will depose Him. He is eternal in nature and His reign is effective eternally. Knowing this truth can deepen our trust and confidence in God.

### God Reigns over the Turmoil of Life

In Psalm 93 we also see that this kingdom reign is not the stuff of fairy tales but the very heartbeat of life. The fact that God reigns leads many people to think that everything in life should therefore be idyllic. However, in this celebration of His reign, the truth is affirmed against the backdrop of the raging seas and the pounding waves, *'...the seas have lifted up their pounding waves'* (verse 3). Whilst there is order and stability in creation because of God's reign, the people who populate the earth are often anything but orderly and stable. We also know that whilst we live out our lives under the reign of God there is a hunger to be God and have power and control of this world.

History is full of the actions of the waves of people and nations pounding on the shores of human history and whilst there is the noise and rage of human activity going on and on, make no mistake God knows this and God rules. God is stable but the world is as stable as the sea, *'Woe to the many nations that rage, they rage like the raging sea! Woe to the peoples who roar—they roar like the roaring of great waters!'* (Isaiah 17:12). The nations of the world are

unstable and restless and will never know perfect peace until they yield to the reign of God in their lives (see also Jeremiah 6:23 and 50:42).

### God has the Outcome Secure

As the nations rage and show their turmoil we take our lead and find our peace in the knowledge that under God's authority all that rages will be stilled and all that rises against Him and His kingdom will be calmed. As we live in a world of change and concern and as the media constantly proclaims that things are getting worse, how blessed we are if we can find peace in knowing the God who is truly in control and through whom all things will be better for His children.

Through all the turmoil of life and the raging seas of this world, there are two things that keep us and calm us – God's word and God's character. The governments can do and say all they want but God's statutes stand firm (verse 5). His word is dependable, it is abiding and it will not fail. His character is holy and so it shapes the atmosphere and environment of

His house and kingdom. He will never change.

Whilst we may be afraid because we do not know or see how things will pan out, we can find confidence and direction, because of what we discover in God's truth and what we see of His character will never change. This is the One who is the true and eternal monarch. For those who embrace His reign they can enjoy it now and for endless days. ●

*John and his wife Carol are both from the Outer Hebrides, Scotland. John is the pastor of Allander Evangelical Church in Milngavie near Glasgow.*

Through all the  
turmoil of life  
and the raging  
seas of this  
world, there  
are two things  
that keep us  
and calm us  
– God's word  
and God's  
character.

BY ROGER CARSWELL



# THE WATCHMAN

**O**n 30<sup>th</sup> December 2019, Dr Li Wenliang tried to send a message to fellow medics about the outbreak of the coronavirus. He was an ophthalmologist at Wuhan Central Hospital in China. Three days later the Chinese police visited him and told him to stop. Four days later he was summoned to the Public Security Bureau where he was told

to sign a letter in which he was accused of making false comments that had severely disturbed the social order.

“We solemnly warn you: if you keep being stubborn, with such impertinence, and continue this illegal activity, you will be brought to justice – is that understood?” Underneath in Dr Li’s handwriting is written, “Yes, I do”. On 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020,

Dr Li died as a result of contracting coronavirus and the world is shaken, reeling because his words were unheeded.

God spoke to His people through Ezekiel about the office of the watchman. The nation knew their need of a watchman to warn if there was impending danger from an invading army. A watchman’s role was



extremely important because the safety of every individual, the entire population, rested with the watchman. Once they heard him, their responsibility was to act accordingly. If they refused to heed the warning their blood was on their own head. But if the watchman saw the sword coming, yet did not blow the trumpet, the people would suffer but the responsibility was the watchman's.

God had made Ezekiel a watchman for Judah and Jerusalem, "Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel..." (Ezekiel 3:16; 33:7). He would first hear the word of God and then he was to proclaim that word and so warn the people. His was not a pleasant task as he was to raise the cry of danger when none was suspected. He was to break the spell of comfortable secure living to warn of impending danger. It is not easy to say to anyone, "O wicked man, you shall surely die" (3:18), but to do so was to act faithfully and would 'deliver his soul'. Ezekiel was to warn individuals without provocation or passion, but to reflect the compassionate nature of God. He was responsible and accountable as God's watchman. Forty-one times in Ezekiel we read, '...the word of the Lord came

to me ...' Of no other prophet is there a record of such sustained hearing of God's word. But what he heard he was to proclaim to people who did not know the same intimacy with God. 'Say to them: "As I live," says the Lord God, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?"' I love this portrayal of our tender, seeking God. Whereas Habakkuk, Jeremiah and Isaiah proclaimed mainly to the nation, Ezekiel was to speak mainly to individuals.

The watchman was responsible for the warning, not the results. But to be neglectful of his duty is to, in effect, become a manslayer, a murderer. The blood of the un-warned person will be on the watchman. The most famous watchman on the Titanic was Frederick Fleet. The responsibility of that tragedy played on his mind and sadly he took his own life. But if the people are warned, yet refuse to listen, then

the responsibility is theirs alone. This is exactly what Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Isaiah and even the Lord Jesus found.

Of course, God would never ask His people to be anything that He is not. '...The God who sees me...' (Genesis 16:13) is the watchman over His people. He who watches over you '...shall neither slumber nor sleep' (Psalm 121:3). He is present with us; He provides for us; He delivers us, guides, chastens and protects us. How we need Him, 'Unless the Lord guards the city the watchman stays awake in vain' (Psalm 127:1).

The Apostle Paul saw being a watchman not as a duty only for Ezekiel but for himself as a gospel-man. Twice in Acts (18:6; 20:26), he said he was innocent of the blood of men for he had warned them of impending judgement and the need to repent and trust in the living Christ. And in writing to the Colossian Christians he described his ministry as preaching





Christ and ‘...warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom’ (Colossians 1:28). He did not see it as his role to find the elect or simply edify believers, but with Christ-like compassion warn people of their urgent need to be made right with God.

In the large expanse of German fields (they don’t have dry-stone walling there!) I have seen watchtowers built for farmers to watch and to protect their land and animals. Surely every true believer would want to act as a watchman, not to guard land or animals but men and women. Each one of them has an eternal existence. Eternity is eternal! Every person will meet God as either their awesome judge or their welcoming Father. Every individual is accountable to God and will live or die according to their righteousness, which today can be received through the work of Jesus on the cross. The spiritual watchman is to warn people of impending judgement and point them to Jesus. The watchman is to call everyone to repentance and faith so that they can be covered in the righteousness of Jesus. The watchman speaks of the need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

Discussing theological issues with fellow believers is a joy, but that is not acting as a watchman. Writing letters seeking to uphold Christian values in society must be right, but that is not acting as a watchman. Holding to orthodox Christian beliefs and morals is right, but that is not all it means to be a watchman. Giving comfort and help and being involved in community projects is commendable, but even that is not what it means to be a watchman.

With a heart full of gratitude to God, filled with His Holy Spirit the watchman will speak of Jesus. With the compassion of Christ, and the love of God, empowered by God’s Spirit the watchman will point all to Christ crucified. With the eagerness of the prodigal’s father, the urgency of the seeking shepherd and the diligence of the woman seeking her silver coin, the watchman will want to warn and find those who are lost.

We are grateful to those watchmen who warned us. I



*I pray that God would raise up a new generation who fear God more than men.*

pray that God would raise up a new generation who fear God more than men, who scorn the cynicism of sceptics and compromisers, who refuse to bow to popular whims, who ignore the critics, who prefer the smile of God to the smile of others but who with winsome boldness say, ‘Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead’ (Acts 17:30-31). •

*Roger lives in Yorkshire and is passionate about evangelism. Visit [www.reallives.net](http://www.reallives.net) where Roger interviews those whose lives have been changed by Jesus.*

BY HOWELL JONES

# Looking into the Gospels

PART 3

## The Suffering Servant

It is not easy to treat Mark's Gospel on its own because virtually all of the material is covered by Matthew and Luke and some of it by John. What Mark writes is not exceptional but how he presents his material is something worth looking at. Mark sees Jesus through his own eyes, probably those of a servant. He sees Him always at people's beck and call, responding to varied demands with a sense of urgency.

For Mark, the story begins when the work begins. He starts with John the Baptist and follows with fifteen chapters describing the activities of the Lord Jesus. He is interested in the actual work

that Jesus did and how He addresses the needs of the people whom He encountered. So much of that work was in ordinary situations, such as the home or on the street. On several occasions it was the result of someone approaching Jesus, feeling confident to do so even though it was not the accepted protocol. They felt welcomed even if apprehensive and they believed that He could help where others had failed. In this process Mark emphasises the key role of believing. Although coming to Jesus was in itself an act of believing, specific and definite faith was also needed to see the ministry effective. It is Mark who records the story of the despairing father who brings his mute son to Jesus. The father admits his unbelief and cries out: “...*Lord I believe, help my unbelief*” (9:24).

It is no wonder then, that Mark portrays Jesus as an effective servant, acting with urgency as He comes, *‘For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve...’* (10:45). In the process, He generates opposition to the extent that He, the powerful One, becomes the crucified victim – what a paradox.

Yet in addition to this ‘variation on a theme’ and highlighting his own perception on the general ministry of Jesus, Mark does have some material that is uniquely his own. It is in nine little snippets not found in the other gospels. These can be grouped into three sets.

### Use it or Lose it

In chapter 4:21-25 there is an emphasis on not hiding the light offered by a lamp. The thrust here is that what they have is to be used but to do that they had to first take it in. This section finishes with the affirmation that those who have will increase their holding and those who have not are likely to lose what they appear to have. The emphasis here is on using what they have in ministry to others. To do that we must, *‘...take heed what we hear. With the same*

*measure you use it, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given’* (4:24).

### A Warning

Jesus was at the Sea of Galilee with His disciples and disappointed in that they were arguing over bread. He says, *‘Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees...’* (8:15). He warns them against the yeast of the Pharisees. Just like the yeast it starts off small and soon the effect of it has grown, causing offence or misinterpreting the end times. Jesus cautions them about the false doctrine of the Pharisees. They are to adopt an attitude of being alert, watchful and always ready.

### The Message

The third section in chapter 16: 9-20, does not appear in some of the more important manuscripts but is nevertheless included in our Bibles. Part of it contains the commission which is similar to the one offered in Matthew except that the emphasis here is on preaching the good news and *‘...confirming the word through accompanying signs’* (verse 20). They go in obedience and God is at work through them.

Mark is aware of the needs of the people and he presents the Messiah as someone who emerges from that very same context with clear evidence of the ability to respond to the needs around - an ability and power that derives from God. He is the Son of God and is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Through believing in Him His followers are to demonstrate that same spirit of effective servanthood.

*‘Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests but also for the interests of others’* (Philippians 2:3-4) •

| *Howell lives in Glasgow and is a retired pastor and lecturer.*



# *Rejoice! Rejoice!*

**BY THE EDITOR**

**W**hen we listen to the world news each day we hear of some upsetting events. It can be rather depressing and can cause us to feel saddened and low-spirited. Very soon the worldwide church will be celebrating the greatest event in history – the birth of Jesus, Son of God. As Christians, we ought not to be caught up with the world's idea of celebrating this event. For us it should be a time when we are full of joy and thankfulness to our Saviour who was willing to leave Heaven's glory and come to this earth as a helpless baby.



The announcement of the birth of Jesus was surrounded with unutterable joy. An angel visited the shepherds telling them, *'Fear not, for behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord'* (Luke 2:10-11). While the shepherds were taking this all in, *'...suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..."'* (verse 13). When the wise men from the east came in search of this new King they were led by a star to Bethlehem where, *'When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy'* (Matthew 2:10).

There was much rejoicing at the news of the birth of the child Jesus, even a large angelic choir joining in the praise. The news was *'good news'* and not just to Israel but to the whole world, *'...good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people'* (Luke 2:10). At this period of time the people were living in dark days. For four hundred years the nation of Israel had not heard a prophetic word from God and they were ruled by King Herod the Great who was a tyrant, a dictator executing those he became suspicious of. Into this darkness God sends His light who was to become the Light of the world.

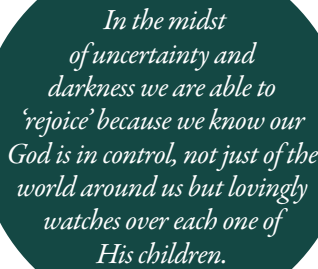
Over the Christmas period we will sing many carols. One of those carols, 'O come, O come Emmanuel' was translated into English by John Mason Neal in 1851 and it encourages the church to -'Rejoice! Rejoice!' When we do this, our hearts are immediately lifted up to God. Perfect delight, gladness and joy are found in Him alone. Earthly things, worries and concerns move to the outer sphere of

our minds because God is at the centre of our thoughts. Feelings of anxiety are calmed while we gaze upon Him. In the midst of uncertainty and darkness we are able to 'rejoice' because we know our God is in control, not just of the world around us but lovingly watches over each one of His children.

Paul's prayer for the church at Rome was, *'... may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him...'* (Romans 15:13). Again in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 he says, *'... rejoice always.'* We cannot manufacture joy, nor can we use joyful occasions to support us in knowing this profound joy. This joy that Paul

speaks about comes from having a deep trust in our God, that in the good and the difficult days He is still in control of everything.

*'Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour'* (Habakkuk 3:17-19).



*In the midst of uncertainty and darkness we are able to 'rejoice' because we know our God is in control, not just of the world around us but lovingly watches over each one of His children.*

Can you imagine what it would be like if we didn't have joy? If we didn't know what it was like to sing about the good news of Jesus coming to this world to be our Saviour? It is unimaginable, because we are able to do so. What about those who have never heard this good news? They cannot rejoice because they sit in darkness and know nothing of the light. The joy of salvation is in knowing Jesus. What about our brothers and sisters held in a dark miserable prison? They are unable to rejoice with other believers. Over this season may God help us to lift our eyes off this messy world and enable us, His people, to be a joyful people. ●

BY RICHARD  
MYRESCOUGH

# THE WAVES MAY ROLL



In Jeremiah 5, the people of Judah are living under God's loving and fatherly chastisement for their waywardness. *Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods...should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this?* (verses 7-9).

They are given two reasons to come to their senses and begin once more to revere the Lord, to offer Him unfeigned worship from their hearts and stand in awe of Him and

tremble at His greatness. *I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail they may roar, but they cannot cross it* (Jeremiah 5:22). The glorious sandy beaches of our dream holidays are not only places of luxuriant beauty but they are a perpetual signpost to the One who has it in His power to set boundaries, to impose restraints on all evil and chaos. The One who marks boundaries and decrees

that shall not pass or prevail.

The people of Judah were facing days of great insecurity, their land devastated by foreign armies and all hope seemingly gone. But through Jeremiah the Lord is assuring them that He holds the keys to their future and He will restrain and limit the harm they were about to face. 'Thus far and no further' would be the assurance given, with strength to hold them in the loving arms of God



*When through the deep waters  
I cause thee to go,  
The rivers of woe shall not thee  
overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy  
troubles to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest  
distress.*

(John Rippon 1787)

Jeremiah gives the second reason for bowing their hearts in renewed and awestruck wonder: ‘...*the LORD our God gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest*’ (Jeremiah 5:24). Not only could they experience true safety from all harm, but genuine fruitfulness awaited them if they would but trust once more the God who had set His love upon them. He is the one who determines the seasons, who directs the rains and draws forth from the earth a harvest of life.

throughout the calamity they were about to experience.

The sure fact is that no storms can sweep away those He loves; no terrors can finally terminate the hopes that are ‘built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness’. His love is the everlasting barrier that will shield us from all ultimate harm and govern our hearts in the grace of the hope that is more certain than we could ever imagine.

The lesson is clear for all, both then and now. The harvest of righteousness and peace, sown into our lives by the saving grace of God, comes from Him. True prosperity and life in all its fullness is found in knowing ‘...*the one true God and Jesus Christ whom [He] sent*’ (John 17:3). There are times and seasons of growth in our lives, through troubles and hardships, that in maturing will yield ‘...*fruit*

*that will last*’ (John 15:16).

We may have an abundance of material goods and all the markers of earthly security but they cannot last and they cannot hold our hope secure. Only the living God, the Lord of the harvest, can do that. And He does for all whose faith is in Him, however much we tremble at the sight of the waves as they rush onto our shores and however hard and unyielding the ground of our hearts appears to be.

*What is our hope in life and death?*

*Christ alone, Christ alone.*

*What is our only confidence?*

*That our souls to Him belong.*

*Who holds our days within His hand?*

*What comes, apart from His command?*

*And what will keep us to the end?*

*The love of Christ, in which we stand.*

*O sing hallelujah!*

*Our hope springs eternal;*

*O sing hallelujah!*

*Now and ever we confess*

*Christ our hope in life and death.*

(Keith & Kristyn Getty) ●

*Richard is the minister of Pontefract Congregational Church in West Yorkshire. You can subscribe for free to receive Richard’s weekly update at [www.thewaitingcountry.substack.com](http://www.thewaitingcountry.substack.com)*





# REMAINING FOCUSED

BY MARGARET ROBERTS

**O**ur world is rapidly changing, from the war in Ukraine to the rise of living costs, coupled with social and economic pressures. It is easy to become weighed down with concerns and questions. Hardships often cause us to stop and evaluate our lives and situations, but they can also cause us to question, to seek answers and sometimes even act. We are living in a world that quickly shifts from one opinion to another on the surge of emotion and it is easy for the Christ follower to be swept up in the tide and lose focus. In these times it is important for us to be even more pressing in prayer which is so vital for the Christian life. As with any relationship, we need to be willing to sit and listen. But this takes a mixture of focus, discipline and patience.

The necessity for the Christian to remain focused can be seen in the story of Peter in Matthew 14: 28-31 when in the middle of a storm he walks to Jesus on the water. Peter had no gadget or article of clothing to help him. Peter's gaze was on the Lord; trusting completely in Jesus with a determination to meet Him. It isn't until his focus shifts from Jesus to the wind that he begins to sink. When the water begins to engulf him, Peter cries out and, *Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"* (verse 31).

Perhaps we can relate to Peter, who started strong but began to sink when his focus moved



to the storm! But even in the panic of fear, Jesus was still there and at Peter's cry, the Lord was faithful to lift him out and bring him to safety. Like Peter, our concerns and hardships can easily weigh us down and distract us from our gracious and mighty Saviour. It's in these days of trial that we need to be mindful of several key truths to help 'buoy' us above the surface and keep our focus on the Lord.

### The Unchanging One

God is '*...the Alpha and Omega...the beginning and the end*' (Revelation 22:13). Jesus was at the beginning of creation and He will still be God at the end. He is the same God from ages past and while our lives and world changes so rapidly, it is a comfort to know the One who is unchanging. Likewise, His Word is unchanging and this includes the many promises God has made to His people. Such as promises of salvation for those who place their faith in Jesus' finished work at the Cross, paying the price for our sin and redemption.

### God is the God who does the impossible

The Bible is filled with stories of this fact. One striking verse is found in Isaiah 41:19-20, '*Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild beasts will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people*'. Making a path when there is no clear way forward, and creating rivers in a dry, hot and barren place is certainly an indication that God can make the impossible, possible. This is a great reminder for when we are feeling hopeless, confused and uncertain of the way ahead.

### God is in control

God is sovereign over every situation and circumstance, '*...that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him*' (Romans 8:28).

No matter what trials and troubles we face, we know that God is at work behind the scenes. We are called to trust Him and hold fast to His promises. We may not see it clearly when we are in the midst of the problem, but like Joseph, we may later see how God took a situation and used it for good (see Genesis 50:20).

### God is with us

We remind ourselves that He won't abandon us nor fail us in His plans. What God brings to us, He will also bring us through it, '*I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*' (Isaiah 41:9-10). The Lord is not like man, He doesn't leave us but is with us throughout all life's circumstances. In Christ we are secure.

### A life of faith

This isn't a faith based on emotions or blindness but on fact. Hebrews 11:1 states, '*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see*'. It is a firm trust in an almighty God who is not limited by a situation nor swayed by man's opinions. What He promises, He fulfils. We can hold fast to His Word, knowing that no matter what trial we walk through, He is faithful and good. While we don't always understand His plans and purposes we can trust the Lord '*with all [our] heart...*' (Proverbs 3:5) and know He is able to do '*...exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*' (Ephesians 3:20).

Let us keep our focus on Jesus who enables us to walk through the storm and cling to these amazing truths day by day. Even if we become weighed down and begin to 'sink', may we be comforted that we can call out to Jesus who is ever close by and faithful to pull us out of the 'watery depth'. •

*Margaret is from Canada and works with The Faith Mission in the Republic of Ireland.*

# A Life of Service

BY IAIN JAMIESON



Photo credit: Joel Rouse/ Ministry of Defence. Open Government License v3.0

**L**ike many, I found the funeral of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II a deeply moving and profound experience. It was a day which will not easily be forgotten.

For me there was also a very personal aspect to the events. From October 2017 until June 2020 I had the privilege of working within the Private Secretary's Office at Buckingham Palace. It was one of the greatest honours of my life and they are years I will never forget. It was wonderful to see past colleagues lined up outside the Palace to pay their respects as the funeral party made their way towards Wellington Arch.

On her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, the young princess made the public promise that: "My whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service." Seldom has a promise been so wholeheartedly and consistently kept. How has she done this? How has she kept going on the seemingly endless round of travelling, engagements and duties? She made no secret of how she endeavoured to do her duty making it clear her reliance was on the Lord. In her Christmas broadcast 2002 she says, "I know just how much I rely on my own faith to guide me through the good times and the bad...I draw strength from the message of

hope in the Christian gospel.” She faithfully and persistently took the opportunity of her Christmas broadcast to draw the attention of the public to Jesus Christ.

For our late Queen, her faith was deeply personal and her statements demonstrated a clear grasp of the simple gospel as she indicated in one of her broadcasts, “God sent into the world a unique person, neither a philosopher nor a general, important though they are, but a Saviour with the power to forgive.”

One of her last acts of witness was to personally select the passages of Scripture that would be read at her funeral. How wonderful it is to know that these incredible, eternal truths were broadcast to many millions of people watching and listening worldwide. As we reflect on the promises that the Queen made and kept during her remarkable reign, we remember the great promises of our Saviour. The second reading at the funeral in Westminster Abbey is a passage that is precious to every believer:

*‘Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also’ (John 14:1-3).*

She was a faithful and conscientious Queen but she was only human. The One who made this promise was both God and Man. He has kept and will keep every promise He has ever made. The funeral of her late Majesty was unsurpassed in its scale and grandeur, but it will pale into insignificance compared to our entrance into glory when He comes to take us home.



Photo credit:  
Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license

*When all my labours and trials are o'er,  
And I am safe on that beautiful shore,  
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore  
Will through the ages be glory for me.*

*O that will be glory for me,  
Glory for me, glory for me;  
When by His grace I shall look on His face,  
That will be glory, be glory for me.*

However, before that day we do have to ask ourselves the question, “Are our lives wholly committed to serving the King of Kings?” Until then, let us be diligent and faithful in His service. It was C T Studd who famously said: “If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” He gave up fame, fortune and a cricketering career to serve His King in reaching the lost with the good news. •

*Iain is married to Rebekah and they live in Fife, Scotland.  
He is a full time evangelist.*



BY  
ANNA  
ANDERSON

# CATHERINE BOOTH

*a life given to  
helping the poor  
and needy*



**C**atherine Mumford Booth, daughter of John and Sarah Mumford was born in Ashbourne, Derbyshire in 1829. Both her parents were strong Christians and instilled into her the importance of their faith. Her father was an itinerant Methodist preacher.

While growing up, Catherine was a quiet, serious girl. In her teens she suffered from curvature of the spine which resulted in her spending a lot of time in bed. She read voraciously, reading the Bible several times along with many other books. At sixteen she found assurance of salvation, writing, “I was so happy that I felt as if I was walking on air.”

Catherine met William Booth who was born in the same village. His family were poor and most days he witnessed poverty and suffering. He was converted at the age of fifteen and joined his local Methodist church where he developed a passion to share his faith, particularly amongst the poor. William and Catherine were married in 1855 and within weeks of their marriage they went to teach and pray with the poor and lowly.

One day her husband came home and announced, “Kate, I have found my destiny.” Their work was to be amongst the poverty stricken residents of London’s East End and she knew their lack of daily income would



present a problem. How would they live? Her response to his decision was resolute and with confidence she proclaimed, “We have trusted the Lord once for our support and we can trust Him again.” She encouraged her husband to know that all things are possible with God even in the midst of impracticability. This was the seed that eventually grew into the formation of the Salvation Army.

At this time, life in Victorian Britain was not easy for the poor. Disease was rampant and many suffered from starvation and destitution. Catherine along with her husband saw the need and realised they could not preach to them if they were starving and homeless. They recognised that physical and spiritual needs went hand in hand and so set up soup kitchens, shelters for the homeless and refuges for sex workers. Catherine was horrified by the sex trade and immediately organised a petition that played a part in raising the age of consent from thirteen to sixteen. She wrote a letter to Queen Victoria appealing for the protection of these young girls.

The Booths had eight children and yet Catherine was as much involved in the work as her husband. It was no easy task to rear her family as they went from place to place in their self-sacrificing service but she never neglected the welfare of her children. She watched over their education, their spiritual development and taught them what it was to love the downtrodden. She showed practical sympathy to all she met. One day she visited a poor woman and her new born twins lying on a bundle of rags. By her side was a crust of bread.

Catherine bent down and bathed the twins in a broken dish and later said, “The gratitude of those large eyes that gazed upon me, can never fade from my memory.”

She dedicated each of her children from infancy to the service of God. All her children were involved in the work of the Salvation Army apart from Marian, who was unwell most of her life. Seeing her children embracing the challenge to help the broken she said, “My soul doth magnify the Lord for His grace and truth shown to my children. He has given me the desire of my heart.” Catherine and William Booth never accepted profits for themselves and passed this practice on to their children. They encouraged their children to ‘...lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven’ (Matthew 6:19). She taught her family to prize the contribution women could make to Christian work. As her sons went forth she tried to impress on them that their sisters were as intelligent and capable as they were.

*“We have trusted the Lord once for our support and we can trust Him again.” This was the seed that eventually grew into the formation of the Salvation Army.*

In 1888 it was discovered Catherine had cancer and was told she had only two years to live. The news was accepted with an undisturbed rest in knowing the Lord was in control. On October 4, 1890 she went to be with her Lord. Her husband said she was “a flower in his garden, his shadow from the burning sun.” He described her as one who “understood the rise and fall of his feelings.” She lay in state in London’s Congress Hall and for five days, 50,000 people passed by to pay their respects. Catherine Booth was someone who put the term ‘practical’ into her daily Christian walk. ●

## JOE & JULIET KUNJUMON

*Recently Joe Kunjumon joined the finance team at Faith Mission Headquarters. We are delighted to have him on board with his lovely quiet, respectful manner in the way he carries out this role. We are also grateful to have Juliet, his wife, helping in our college library. We thought you would like to know a little more about them and ask you to pray for them both.*

**FM:** *Tell us a little about your background, where you grew up etc.?*

**Joe:** I was born as a pastor's son in the southern part of India which is called Kerala. Later in my early childhood we moved to Northern India where my father pastored a church (and still does). All of my schooling took place in Delhi, over 20 miles from my home. We lived in a state called Uttar Pradesh, which is a Hindu majority state of India. It is a part of India where persecutions are happening even today.



**Juliet:** I was born in a traditional Orthodox Christian family in South India. I grew up in Kerala and did my schooling and college education from there. On the academic side I did my Bachelor's in Computer and my Master's in Human Resources Management. I went to work in Dubai as a Chief Business Analyst for a

Travel Technology company before moving to Scotland. I also completed a Diploma in Theology from the Mission India Bible Seminary.

**FM:** *When and where did you first hear the good news of the gospel?*

**Joe:** I gave my heart to Christ in my early childhood. Learning the Bible from an early age



helped me to live a Christian life and from childhood I was very conscious about my identity and behaviour. The aim of my life was to obey the Great Commission and hence I started being part of missionary work in my early years.

**Juliet:** Although my parents lived as Christians by name, their priorities were the recognition of episcopal and priesthood traditions within the family along with status in society. This all changed the day my mother gave her life to Christ and became a born again Christian. Later my dad and I attended the prayer meeting with her when both of us were drawn to Christ. At the age of twelve I accepted Christ as my Saviour and Redeemer and in obedience to the scriptures I got baptized again even though I had had an infant baptism.

**FM:** *What was it like growing up in your country as a born again Christian?*

**Joe:** South India has more Christian churches and a typical Christian life is smooth. However, the North Indian villages have not even heard about Jesus and they live in an environment in which they follow their rituals and traditions blindly and the darkness of those beliefs spreads across the land with an adverse effect. Growing up

there as a Christian is painful and very difficult.

**Juliet:** Growing up as a born again Christian is not so challenging in South India, specifically in Kerala. The only challenge we faced after being born again was from the local Orthodox Church community and from relatives on my paternal side, who considered it as degrading the family status.

**FM:** *Tell us a little about your work experience before coming to work with The Faith Mission?*

**Joe:** I worked with my previous organisation for eleven years. It's a US based Telecom company, having their operations in the US, UK (they closed the UK operation two years ago), Singapore, India and Dubai. I joined the company in a junior profile and my leaving role was a Finance Analyst.

**FM:** *As an accountant you could probably have got a job in many places, why did you feel it was right to come and work in a Christian organisation?*

**Joe:** I feel called and burdened to fulfil the Lord's Great Commission. However, quitting my job and going to the mission field on a full time basis is not possible for me at the moment as I support

family and ministry back in India. This is more than a burden, within our culture it's a responsibility. We have undertaken to support missionary families and have adopted three children. To undertake all of this I need paid employment. Working with The Faith Mission means I can be involved in a ministry here in the UK and fulfil my responsibilities back in India.

**FM:** *Juliet, you have been volunteering in our Bible College library and you clearly enjoy books. Apart from the Bible what is your favourite book?*

**Juliet:** It's hard to identify one book but I am passionate towards individual biographies. I love most of the writings about George Whitefield, John Hus, George Muller, etc. I also enjoy books on Christian history and theology. In my case the more I read, the more my favourite list grows.

**FM:** *What are some of the things you miss most about India?*

**Joe:** Family and church.

**Juliet:** Our adopted children are with grandparents back in India because we are trying to obtain a visa for them. We do miss them but thanks to modern technology we are able to be in touch very regularly. ●





## WHERE HE LEADS ME I WILL GO



### *A Tribute to Ian Booth*

BY ANDREW McCULLOUGH

**I**an Booth was born on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1957, in the small Moravian village of Gracefield, a few miles from Magherafelt in County Londonderry. By his own admission, attending school wasn't a pleasant experience and when a little older, unknown to his parents, Ian frequently missed days at his place of education. He found a butcher in Magherafelt who was glad to give him a job, and this provided Ian with some cash to buy Woodbine cigarettes. One day when Ian should have been at school, he was busy making sausages in the back of the shop when he heard a voice that sounded familiar. Imagine the shock he got when on peering out the door he saw his mother standing there!

After leaving school Ian trained as a lorry mechanic and was employed locally. He met Shirley who lived in Cookstown, and they were married in July 1979. Ian and Shirley set up home a short distance from the local church, although Ian rarely attended.

A local Christian man, Mr Jim Jamieson faithfully visited the homes in the village with an invitation to a local gospel meeting, which was held each month in the mission hall. Although Ian and Shirley lived a few doors down from it, they had no interest in attending these meetings. Jim was a kind elderly gentleman and Ian usually gave him a promise that he would be there or said he would "send the wife"!

In January 1992 Faith Mission workers, Trevor and Esther Gillanders began a gospel outreach in the mission hall. This warm-hearted young couple went around the community inviting people to come, and along with local Christians prayed for salvation blessing. The physical distance from Ian and Shirley's home to the mission was only a few steps but it was much further spiritually in terms of their desire to go along. Yet God was at work and soon Ian and Shirley began to attend the meetings. Jim Jamieson was delighted that after years of inviting them to the hall they had finally made an appearance and he intensified his prayers for them both.

A new working week began for Ian and Shirley on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January and with it a deep dissatisfaction in their lives. That evening however, was to be life changing for them both. They decided to attend the local meeting. Trevor Matthews, the local Faith Mission Superintendent at that time preached on the somber story of Abner in 2 Samuel 3 and how he died as a fool yet being so close to the city of refuge. The application was clear – Ian and Shirley recognised their need of salvation and didn't want to miss it! Both were pointed to the Saviour after the meeting in their own home.

Salvation is not simply turning over a new leaf but having a new life.

For Ian that was evident for everyone to see and especially in his workplace.

Prior to his conversion Ian had an explosive temper and it was common for a spanner to have been flung across the garage! Ian was now a real miracle of God's grace. Soon after his conversion Ian joined the local Prayer Union, and he was keen to attend Christian meetings. He had a real hunger to learn more about God's Word and through time testified at missions as to how God had changed his life.

A few years later he was to take the biggest step of his life. In his daily devotions there was a growing conviction that he should leave his employment and study at The Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh. That meant leaving Shirley at home with their three children, Michelle, Alexander and Keipher. After much prayer, Ian and Shirley both came to accept that this was the Lord's will. In September 1994 Ian left the family behind

and for the next two years returned home for an odd weekend. After his graduation in 1996 he joined the work of The Faith Mission and began to have missions in the Mid Ulster area. He was always ready to share the gospel when visiting in an area. Many of those he met were known to him and although naturally quiet and shy, he developed into an able preacher.

Ian truly lived out the motto of The Faith Mission: *'Seek first the Kingdom of God...'* (Matthew 6:33). Whether he was driving the camp bus for many weeks over the summer, helping to build the new Portadown Camp Centre, or speaking at a meeting he gladly gave of his best. In recent years both he and Shirley faced many health challenges but Ian still helped as much as possible.

*Salvation is not simply turning over a new leaf but having a new life. For Ian that was evident for everyone to see. God had changed his life.*

The Faith Mission family was shocked and saddened to learn of his sudden home call on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2022. He was a friend to so many and encouraged everyone with his gentleness and warm smile.

We commend Shirley and the family to your prayers and are thankful for the clear testimony which Ian has left behind. One of the hymns sung at the service of thanksgiving sums up Ian's experience in life:

*Where He may lead me, I will go,  
For I have learned to trust Him so,  
And I remember 'twas for me,  
That He was slain on Calvary.*

*Jesus shall lead me night and day,  
Jesus shall lead me all the way,  
He is the truest Friend to me,  
For I remember Calvary.*

W C Martin •



“

*We are humbled and blessed as we watch God use each of the team individually in bringing the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ into the darkness of this world and as we seek to glorify and lift high His Name.*

## VOLUNTEERING FOR THE KINGDOM

BY DEAN AND ALISON McCLELLAND

**I**n the spring of this year we joined the Gospel Truck outreach team for a couple of days in Bangor, Northern Ireland at the Easter Convention. And so began an exciting journey of outreach and fellowship with the Faith Mission Gospel Truck team. This journey led us to different areas of Ireland, from the Balmoral Agricultural Show in Lisburn, the Ould

Lammas Fair in Ballycastle, County Antrim, to the Ploughing Championships at Portlaoise, Republic of Ireland, and various outdoor shows at Shane's Castle near Randalstown. We have also been involved in different church outreach events.

Experience has taught us there are many different ways to do outreach but the most effective is how we live for



our Lord each day in front of a world that does not know Him. Over the years we have given out tracts, walked and cycled many miles, organised missions, knocked doors, but always enjoyed the work and the co-workers God joins us with. Through this we have found engaging in conversation on a one to one with the lost to be a very important and effective part of outreach. We think of Paul in Acts: *'So he was addressing the Jews and the God-fearing Gentiles in the synagogue and in the marketplace every day those who happened to be there'* (Acts 17:17 NET).

The bookshop area on the Gospel Truck offers many occasions to give a word of encouragement or a word in season, and to share the gospel with those who would come to buy books or gifts, or just to have a cup of tea. It is thrilling to engage in conversation with people of all ages and to tell them the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to see the reaction of some as they hear this good news for the first time or have it explained in a way they had never heard before. One elderly gentleman, who when approached said, "I go to church sometimes but if you can explain war, pain, hurt and death, I might believe in God". After spending some

time explaining why our Lord had to die on the cross he looked up with tears in his eyes and thanked us for taking the time to explain it to him.

It was reported that 115,000 people attended the ploughing match in Portlaoise on a very busy Wednesday. A young lady came into the marquee in the morning to get some balloons for her children. Later she came back alone and when invited she took a cup of coffee as we chatted. She said, "I came back because I have never seen such joy or passion as I have seen here on this stand; can you tell me what is different about you folk?" What a joy to tell her we were all born again and she could be too.

We are humbled and blessed as we watch God use each of the team individually in bringing the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ into the darkness of this world and as we seek to glorify and lift high His Name. When we stand in many of these outreach venues where thousands of people pass by every hour, we are overjoyed, but humbled, to serve our Lord and to have many conversations telling people the way of salvation. However, at the same time we are saddened that thousands pass by every hour who we

simply cannot reach. Truly the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few.

We would encourage you to get involved in outreach in your area, to your family, friends, neighbours and in your church, so that together we would see many people coming to Christ for salvation.

This has been a year of growth and fellowship for us both spiritually and personally with much joy and excitement as we tell others of Jesus. To be part of the team can be full of fun but also hard work. There have been tears as we shared in the pain of those who are hurting. We can only wait with excitement to see where God leads each of us individually, and the Faith Mission Gospel Truck team. Our prayer is that many more opportunities will come and doors will open to share the gospel! *'As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!'* (Romans 10:15 KJV). ●

*If you would like to volunteer to work alongside FM members then please get in touch with those who are nearest to you in your area (see contact list on the inside of back page). They will guide you through a process and references will be required. You can volunteer helping at a camp, with practical jobs at our camp centres, our Bible College, or door to door visitation etc.*

# REACHING OUT TO THE VILLAGES IN WEXFORD AND WICKLOW



BY MARGARET ROBERTS

There are many villages across the Republic of Ireland, especially around the eastern coastal regions that have been left with little or no church input. Many people are hurt from past conflict, and this can make the area hard to reach. When I moved to County Wexford in 2018, the Lord placed a burden on my heart for these villages, specifically the small coastal towns in the east of the county. One of the symbols for County Wexford is a lighthouse, an emblem of light, guidance and safety. Yet parts of this county are in contrast with this symbol.

Just before the pandemic I was handing out a tract about hope, with several making the comments about the desire for hope and how little there is of it today. We don't always realise the impact one tract can have on a life. On another occasion I was invited to help with outreach in a town in Wexford and we handed out a tract entitled 'No Longer Hoping'. After the holidays I received a phone call from a man's son who told me his father was so thrilled with the tract, he had laminated it! This conversation led to several visits and a copy of the New Testament was sent to his father and was so overjoyed to receive it. A



month later, I was told the shocking news that he had suddenly passed away. The need for outreach is ever pressing because we do not know what a day will bring in the life of an individual!

Recently I had been involved with door-to-door work, handing out the gospel of John in different villages in Counties Wexford and Wicklow. The challenge is for people to read the gospel themselves and then we follow it up with them after a few weeks. One man in a village in the southeast of Wexford read the gospel through twice with a hunger for the Word of God. They are a people who sit in darkness and know nothing of the light and only God can open their blinded eyes.

Please pray for:

- the growing need for outreach among the villages
- for discernment as we endeavour to reach many more with the gospel
- for open doors as we seek to 'press on' in bringing the good news
- for more workers to join us. •

# GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

BY ANDREW McCULLOUGH

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 the members of Corby Prayer Union gathered in Cloughwater Presbyterian Church Hall to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Corby is a country district about five miles from Ballymena and it was here in 1922 that Mr G Dunlop and Mr Scott, two Faith Mission workers (Pilgrims) came for a mission. It commenced on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October and continued for four weeks resulting in local people seeking the Lord for salvation. Soon afterwards the Prayer Union was formed with the purpose being to edify the new converts and encourage them to pray for the work of The Faith Mission.

In researching the history of the Prayer Union an article giving details of the Jubilee re-joining in 1972 was discovered and it gave some interesting information concerning some of those who had been members. Many entered



Christian service while others remained at home and were faithful in 'holding the ropes' through their prayers.

In 1 Samuel 30 there is a record of David recovering all that the Amalekites, ancient enemies of Israel, had taken. Through prayer God guided David to pursue them. Two hundred soldiers remained behind to guard, '...the supplies' (verse 24). It was upon returning that the importance of both groups was recognised, and David made a new law that all would be treated equally in

sharing the spoils of war. There are many men and women in Prayer Unions who faithfully pray for Faith Mission personnel in spiritual battles today and they will receive an equal if not a greater reward for their commitment.

Today the Corby Prayer Union meets each Thursday afternoon in the home of Mr and Mrs Eddie Montgomery. All who were present were thankful to God for His goodness in the Prayer Union reaching this significant milestone and rejoicing in a faithful God who still answers prayer. •

*'Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them,  
outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world'*

*EM Bounds*



# THE MEMBERS IN THE FAITH MISSION DURING 2022

*Administrative Director & Treasurer*  
*Principal of Bible College*  
*Director for Scotland*  
*Director for Ireland*  
*Director for England*

J TOWNEND, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1975, and *Mrs Townend*  
R J W MURDOCK\*, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1989, and *Mrs Murdock* (rejoined 2013)  
G THOMSON, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1987, and *Mrs Thomson* (rejoined 2013)  
G TUTTLY, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1990, and *Mrs Tutty*  
G S S WALKER, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1996, and *Mrs Walker*

## Superintendents

P R CROWE, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1982, and *Mrs Crowe*, East Scottish District  
W L HARRISON, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1983, and *Mrs Harrison*, North West Irish District  
A B PATTERSON, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1986, and *Mrs Patterson*, North English District  
E A BROWN, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1988, *West Irish District* (in charge)  
A PARK, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1989, and *Mrs Park*, Central English District (rejoined 2016)  
N WILSON, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1993, and *Mrs Wilson*, South West English District (rejoined 2014)  
A McCULLOUGH, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1994, and *Mrs McCullough*, North Irish District  
M TOMB, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1994, and *Mrs Tomb*, Irish Midlands District  
D A MACLEOD, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1996, and *Mrs Macleod*, Highland District  
J SLATER, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1998, and *Mrs Slater*, South West Irish District

## Mission-Foi-Evangile

K Ruegger  
W Streiff & *Mme Streiff*  
K Lipp & *Mme Lipp*  
D Schott & *Mme Schott*  
P Crosnier  
L-M Lemofack & *Mme Lemofack*  
J Makaya & *Mme Makaya*  
B Drevon & *Mme Drevon*  
P Benard & *Mme Benard*

## Faith Mission Workers (UK)

L Brush and *Mrs Brush* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1992  
*A H Paul* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1987  
N J Bovenizer and *Mrs Bovenizer* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1993  
R Cismas and *Mrs Cismas* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2003 (rejoined 2022)  
J Cummings and *Mrs Cummings* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2005  
J McCartney\* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2005  
S Megaw and *Mrs Megaw* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2005 (rejoined 2019)  
J Lennox and *Mrs Lennox* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2008 (rejoined 2016)  
*H Wilson* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2009  
A Morton and *Mrs Morton* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2010  
J Brown and *Mrs Brown* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2013  
G Harrison 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2013  
R Little 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2014  
G Clayton and *Mrs Clayton*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2015  
R Lyons\* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017  
L MacDonald\* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017  
B Parker and *Mrs Parker* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2017  
*M Roberts* 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2018  
W Brewer 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2018  
A Maybin and *Mrs Maybin* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2018  
S Dundas 1<sup>st</sup> Apr 2019  
C Park 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2019  
D Brown 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020  
*E O'Connell* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020  
J Townend and *Mrs Townend* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020

## Associate Workers

S Walsh and *Mrs Walsh* 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2000  
I Booth 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1994 (deceased 2022)

## Auxiliary Workers

N Dudgeon 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1997 (rejoined 2014)

## The Faith Mission (in Canada)

T E A Condy and *Mrs Condy*  
R Perron and *Mrs Perron*  
K Evans and *Mrs Evans*  
J Goudy and *Mrs Goudy*  
*L-A Drake*  
M Hardwick and *Mrs Hardwick*  
C Arndt and *Mrs Arndt*  
S Beaulieu and *Mrs Beaulieu*  
*J Welbourne*  
M Macfarlane and *Mrs Macfarlane*

## Retired Workers (Britain & Ireland)

*O Greenaway* (1953-90)  
*M Thompson* (1955-97)  
*M Wright* (1981-99)  
*I Porter* (1956-2000)  
R C Dukelow (1953-2000) (deceased 2022)  
and *Mrs Dukelow*  
*C Slight* (1968-2002)  
*J McDonald* (1966-71; 1990-2003)  
K H Percival (1961-2004) and *Mrs Percival*  
J Macdonald (1989-2013) and *Mrs Macdonald*  
*L F J Pearson* (1972-2013)  
D Chambers (1983-2015) and *Mrs Chambers*  
J McNeilly (1969-2015) and *Mrs McNeilly*  
*I H P Farrell* (1973-2019)  
T Matthews (1972-2019) and *Mrs Matthews*  
D R Bennett (1972-2019)  
S J Matthews (1973-1975; 1986-2021)  
*K I Wood* (1995-2021)  
G Conn (1985-2022) and *Mrs Conn*

*Ladies' names in italics*

\* denotes withdrawal during year

† denotes individual withdrawal during year

## SCOTLAND

### SOUTH SCOTTISH DISTRICT

**Gordon & Janice Thomson** (*Superintendent*)  
9 Westerton Farm Lane, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 1NF  
0141 942 0841 [hq.scotland@faithmission.org](mailto:hq.scotland@faithmission.org)

### HIGHLAND DISTRICT

**Donnie & Catherine Macleod** (*Superintendent*)  
1 Lodge Park, Inverness, IV2 4YR  
01463 238160 [highland.scottish@faithmission.org](mailto:highland.scottish@faithmission.org)

### EAST SCOTTISH DISTRICT

**Paul & Elizabeth Crowe** (*Superintendent*)  
43 Great Southern Road, Aberdeen, AB11 7XY  
01224 587112 [east.scottish@faithmission.org](mailto:east.scottish@faithmission.org)

### ANGLO SCOTTISH BORDER DISTRICT

c/o **Gordon & Janice Thomson**  
9 Westerton Farm Lane, Bearsden, Glasgow, G61 1NF  
0141 942 0841 [anglo.scottish@faithmission.org](mailto:anglo.scottish@faithmission.org)

## ENGLAND

### SOUTH EAST ENGLISH DISTRICT

**Stephen & Cynthia Walker** (*Superintendent*)  
Red House Farm, Fen Lane, Earl Stonham,  
Stowmarket, IP14 5EG  
01449 711877 [hq.England@faithmission.org](mailto:hq.England@faithmission.org)

### NORTH ENGLISH DISTRICT

**Alistair & Sharon Patterson** (*Superintendent*)  
10 Millgates, York, YO26 6AT  
01904 786289 [north.english@faithmission.org](mailto:north.english@faithmission.org)

### CENTRAL ENGLISH DISTRICT

**Alistair & Yvette Park** (*Superintendent*)  
Glebe Farm, Langar Lane, Harby,  
Melton Mowbray, LE14 4BL  
01949 860313 [central.english@faithmission.org](mailto:central.english@faithmission.org)

### SOUTH WEST ENGLISH DISTRICT

**Nigel & Ruth Wilson** (*Superintendent*)  
Henerys Garden, Lewdown, Okehampton, EX20 4BS  
01566 783512 [southwest.english@faithmission.org](mailto:southwest.english@faithmission.org)

## IRELAND

### CENTRAL IRISH DISTRICT

**Garry & Alison Tutty** (*Superintendent*)  
62 Glenavy Road, Lisburn, BT28 3UT  
028 9262 8286  
[hq.ireland@faithmission.org](mailto:hq.ireland@faithmission.org)

### IRISH BORDER DISTRICT

c/o **Garry & Alison Tutty**  
62 Glenavy Road, Lisburn, BT28 3UT  
028 9262 8286  
[border.irish@faithmission.org](mailto:border.irish@faithmission.org)

### NORTH IRISH DISTRICT

**Andrew & Jenny McCullough** (*Superintendent*)  
3 Grange Avenue, Ballymena, BT42 2DX  
028 2565 6494  
[north.irish@faithmission.org](mailto:north.irish@faithmission.org)

### WEST IRISH DISTRICT

**Anne Brown** (*in charge*)  
15 Derry Road, Omagh, BT78 5DY  
028 8224 2286  
[west.irish@faithmission.org](mailto:west.irish@faithmission.org)

### NORTH WEST IRISH DISTRICT

**William & Carolyn Harrison** (*Superintendent*)  
Sheephill House, 74 Tully Road,  
Limavady, BT49 9HW  
028 7776 8871  
[northwest.irish@faithmission.org](mailto:northwest.irish@faithmission.org)

### IRISH MIDLANDS DISTRICT

**Mervyn & Rachel Tomb** (*Superintendent*)  
Knocknagrally, Durrow, Portlaoise,  
Co. Laois, R32 HX23. 057 874 0770  
[midlands.irish@faithmission.org](mailto:midlands.irish@faithmission.org)

### SOUTH WEST IRISH DISTRICT

**Johnathan & Janet Slater** (*Superintendent*)  
Carhue, Bandon, Co. Cork, P72 YW67  
023 884 4153  
[southwest.irish@faithmission.org](mailto:southwest.irish@faithmission.org)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

*First* is published quarterly and costs £1 per copy plus postage. The annual subscription is £6.40. If you would like to receive *First* regularly, or buy a subscription for a friend, please send the details to *First* Subscriptions, The Faith Mission, 548 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, EH17 7JD. Alternatively you can email [hq@faithmission.org](mailto:hq@faithmission.org) or telephone 0131 664 5814. Payment can be made by cheque, credit/debit card, or bank transfer.



# BANGOR

## *Convention*

EASTER 2023

**Good Friday 7 -  
Easter Tuesday 11 April**



**Solid  
Bible Teaching**



**Inspiring  
Meaningful Worship**



**Renewed  
Spiritual Vision**



**Refreshing Warm  
Fellowship**



### Speakers expected...



Henry Montgomery



Andrew Mullan



Graeme Orr

Also check our website and Facebook page...

 [www.faithmission.org/bangor](http://www.faithmission.org/bangor)

 facebook "Bangor Easter Convention"

The Faith Mission is a charity registered in Scotland No SCO05119 and Ireland No CHY6622

*Further*  
**DETAILS TO  
FOLLOW**



30013803