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FIRST

Seek First the Kingdom of God!

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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FAITH MISSION



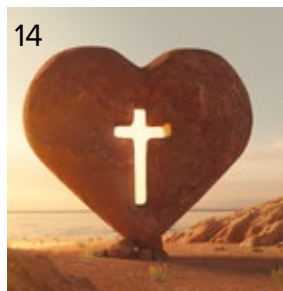
EXAMINING OUR FAITH

» LIVING WELL AMONG THE THORNS

» THE QUESTION OF FORGIVENESS

» LORD, I'M WILLING TO GO

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH MISSION'S DIRECTOR FOR ENGLAND

In Romans 15:30-32 the Apostle Paul is constrained by love to appeal to the Christians in Rome to strive together with him in their prayers. I am often a little taken back when people say to me, "I pray for you and the work of the Faith Mission every day." To know that our names as Mission workers, and sometimes challenging circumstances that we find ourselves in, are spoken of in such frequency in such a place of influence is very humbling. As a Mission, please know that we deeply appreciate all who stand with us side by side in our ministry as we seek to see the gospel advance throughout this nation. Over the 137 years of the Faith Missions' existence, our country has changed beyond recognition! However, the need of the human heart and our commitment to preach Christ and Him crucified remains our primary goal.

HEADQUARTERS

For quite some time now we have been short staffed at our headquarters in Edinburgh, and this has been a major concern and the subject of much prayer. We are delighted that in His time the Lord has brought us the right people. Chris Wood took up the position as the 'Head of Administration' at the end of the summer and Jayne Coleman the position of 'Finance

Manager' in early September. We welcome them to our team and commend them to your prayers as they use the gifts that God has given them to facilitate the smooth running of our Mission.

BIBLE COLLEGE

The Bible College has also undergone significant changes in personnel. After a year of being short staffed, we welcome Angus Moyses to the faculty as a full-time lecturer and Marilyn Burton as a part-time lecturer. Please pray for them both as they settle into their new roles. Russel Newton has also had a change in responsibility as he now officially takes up the position of the 'Academic Dean' and takes a leading role in the life of the college in the absence of a principal. It has also been encouraging to see a rise in the student intake. A few of our students struggle to pay for their tuition fees and if you would like to support with this please get in touch with the College office. Pray for them as they continue to settle into their studies.

May God bless you, and we trust that you will enjoy this edition of the magazine that has particular focus on the Bible College. •

*Stephen Walker,
Director for England.*



Examining our Faith

In Mark 11:22 the Lord Jesus bade His disciples, *'Have faith in God'*. A study of the context in which this remarkable expression occurs, reveals it to be a 'saying faith' – a faith which commands. This faith is in the Father speaking His own Word, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world through His redeeming work. It is faith in the mighty working of the Holy Spirit. If we have this faith in the living God, in His Word and His work, surely it will be a commanding faith, one that commands the blessing from above. In the New Testament

we see faith unfolded in many ways.

A Faith that Sees

A faith that sees the land that is far off, a faith that sees Christ's day, a faith that sees the city which has foundations, a faith that sees the whole church of Christ. Abraham was able to look beyond and over the intervening centuries and see the day of Christ (John 8:56), and seeing it, rejoices. He, *'Looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God'* (Hebrews 11:10). He saw the new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven,

not a city built here on earth. He saw with the eye of faith the whole fabric which has been and is being built all down through the ages – the temple of the living God, the church for which Jesus Christ died.

A Faith that Hears

'Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God' (Romans 10:17). The voice of the Holy Spirit will come to us through the written Word but we need to wait upon God in order to hear His blessed voice. We shall recognise the voice we hear, the impressions we receive, the convictions that

visited our hearts were none other than the utterances of God the Holy Spirit and the faith that hears will believe and rejoice, confess and obey.

A Faith that Knows

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul bases his prayer on the tidings of their faith and their love for the saints. He prays that their faith may be enlightened, *'That your eyes of understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of his calling and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints'* (1:17). A knowledge of what God expects of us when He calls us, an expectation of our sharing with Christ in His intercessory priesthood; the knowledge of the preciousness of His people, and above all the knowledge of the power that makes such intercession both possible and effective. These certainties are only possible as the Holy Spirit enlightens us with a spirit of wisdom and revelation.

A Faith that Speaks

The closing scenes of the Lord's ministry provoked pharisaic ecclesiastics of His day to wrath and indignation. He had ridden into Jerusalem as *King*, He had entered and cleansed the temple as *Priest*, and He had cursed the fruitless fig-tree as *Prophet*. In indignation His enemies gathered round Him and asked

by what authority He had done these things. His own disciples had been exercised in their minds, although in a different direction. They were astonished beyond measure at the rapidity with which the fig-tree had withered away. Their question was how such a thing could be! He makes the matter a personal one and says, *'Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive'* (Matthew 21:21-22). It is deeply important to understand the ground work for such a faith as this. The answer is in one word – Calvary. The faith that apprehends that it has been done, that is the judgement has been executed, the curse has been borne and removed, the devil has been defeated, sin has been dealt with and the old man crucified. This is the faith that can speak with authority.

A Faith that Communicates

Our faith in the Lord needs to be contagious, infectious and effectual. The first miracle wrought by Peter after the day of Pentecost was of this nature, *'Silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee,*

in the name of Jesus Christ rise up and walk' (Acts 3:6). It was by faith in the Name he was enabled to communicate to the poor cripple the same faith, producing perfect soundness in the presence of all the people.

Faith that Hopes

Hope is a gracious and inspiring virtue. Its exact meaning, however, is not fully either appreciated or understood. The expression, for example, "we hope it will be a fine day," is a common expression. The meaning it conveys is nothing more than an eager desire. But hope is much more. It suggests that we have a confidence or assurance, a real solid ground for expecting the fulfilment of that which we desire. This is how it is used in the Bible.

The real source of hope is a faith that brings peace and joy. We have no ground for hoping or expecting that God will bless us tomorrow, unless we are able to believe for today. It is the *'God of hope'* who fills us, *'in order that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'* (Romans 15:13). Hope deals with the future, faith deals with the past and the present, but there can be no real and satisfying hope for the coming days unless faith is an appropriating power in the present. •

Taken from "The Dynamic of Faith" by A Paget Wilkes.

A close-up photograph of two hands, palms up, holding a small, bright yellow flower with a dark center. The background is blurred, showing other people in a crowd, suggesting a public event or gathering. The lighting is soft and natural.

BY PHILLIPPA CISMAS

Hope

— is it a dream or a reality?

“A whole stack of memories never equal one little hope,” wrote Charles M. Schulz of *Peanuts* fame. The world longs for hope. Jeremiah faced troubled times, war, pain, hardship, betrayal and deepest grief as he watched his people turn from truth to lies. He laments:

‘My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what happiness is; so I say, “My endurance has perished; so has my hope from the Lord.”...

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, therefore I will hope in him’
(Lamentations 3:18-24 ESV)

“Hope is a waking dream,” stated Aristotle¹, but is he right? A dream? A thing without substance in the real world? The realm of imagination? Fiction and poetry not fact and prose? No, the Christian hope is based in something solid. There is no vain hope here, no wishful thinking; this is concrete because it is based in the eternal, the steadfast, unceasing love, mercies and faithfulness of the Lord. For the believer, the comfort of hope becomes the solidity of faith, *‘Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things of not seen’* (Hebrews 11:1).

We often read the great faithfulness verse in Lamentations but rarely continue where

Jeremiah writes, *'The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord'* (Lamentations 3:25). Notice we are to quietly wait. There is a patience in hope - quietly waiting for the mighty working of the Lord. *'But if we hope for that we see not then do we with patience wait for it'* (Romans 8:25 KJV).

Hope in the Slough of Despond

The Bible records a story of terrible loss and testing in the life of Job. He cries out in grief, *'My plans are broken off, the desires of my heart, they make night into day... where then is my hope?'* (Job 17:11, 15)

Perhaps circumstances will remain challenging, you may face unkindness and hurt or unjust things be spoken of you. Jeremiah mourned from a literal slough, up to his neck in mud, in sorrow and siege, *'My endurance has perished; so has my hope ... but this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope'* (Lamentations 3:18, 21). Heavenly hope looks up. *'Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act...He will bring forth your justice as the noonday'* (Psalm 37:5-6). Heavenly hope does not seek to right its wrongs. It looks to the Lord and leaves it fully with Him. He is more than able to come to our aid, to change our circumstances, to vanquish our enemies and to stop unkind tongues. But our Master is more concerned with our character, that Christ be formed in us, than in our comfort. *'The Lord is my portion, says my soul therefore I will hope in him'* (Jeremiah 3:24). Be encouraged, have hope!

Hope in the Making of a Gem

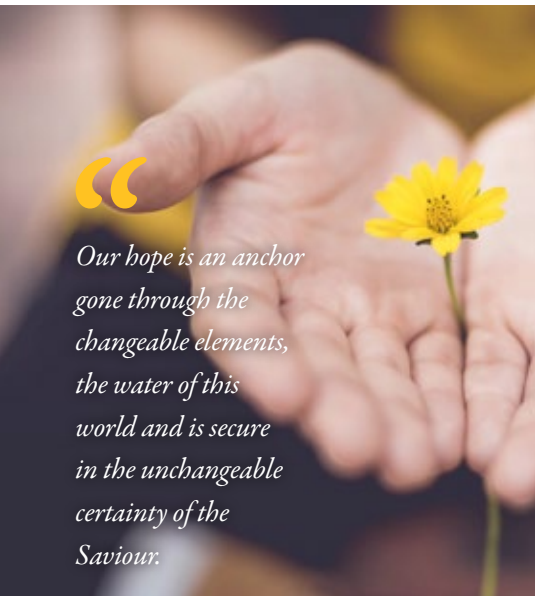
In her book 'Stones of Fire' Isobel Kuhn used the picture of a jewel smith, who takes the rough jewel and uses heat, pressure, water and blasts it with sand particles, all to perfect and reveal the beauty within. The final skill is to split the jewel. What to the outside eye would seem like the destruction of the jewel, to the Master's eye is its perfection. Submit to His working as He uses many things, discomforts, trials and the final stroke that splits, that severs you from earthly reliance and places you in Christ.

There may be a loneliness in the purifying of the Lord. Many Bible characters spent time in the wilderness being tried by the Lord. As the Psalmist wrote, *'I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none'* (Psalm 69:20). Do not lose hope! As all human and earthly support structures fall away the Saviour draws near in a closeness you could otherwise never have imagined.

Hope as an Anchor to the Soul

Outwardly the world looks stormy, the waves are crashing and the boat looks ready to sink but inwardly our anchor holds within the veil. *'We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever'* (Hebrews 6:19). Derek Prince comments that our hope is an anchor gone through the changeable elements, the water of this world and is secure in the unchangeable certainty of the Saviour.

Do not lose hope! As all human and earthly support structures fall away the Saviour draws near in a closeness you could otherwise never have imagined.



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In facing unjust accusations and the strife of tongues, there is a hiding place (see Psalm 31:20). No one else may see it but there you are resting secure. Facing a stormy way, unkindness and trouble, there is a path through this that is beside still waters and in green pastures. No one else may see it but your feet are in the lush green grass. In one season of storms the Lord spoke to me, *'He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters'* (Psalm 23:2). I said to the Lord, "This doesn't look like still waters and green pastures!" but looking back afterwards, He had led me by a still way through a storm and my path was peace. Hope in the Lord!

Jewels for the Master's Crown

Allow the jeweller to perfect the stone, one day it will shine in its setting. *'You, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried'* (Psalm 69:10). The Lord tries and purifies because, *'They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels'* (Malachi 3:17).

Each Sunday morning in a community on the fringes of the Kalahari Desert in Southern Africa, a small church plant meets to worship. We were privileged to live there and to learn the Setswana language and culture with these people. To reach this village you leave the towns and drive across bushveld with its scrubby thorn trees, across salt pans that are stark white in the sun's full blaze and into a grey world, a moonscape where the dust is a fine grey powder like cement dust. In this place little grows but yet here growing you find a few who have found Christ. Like finding green among the grey, like a jewel discovered in a dusty mine. Almost each Sunday morning a young man from the village who loved Christ would ask to sing 'Jaka Naledi Mosong' (Like the stars of the morning). It was an unlikely setting but this man had found an eternal hope. Are you anchored by this same eternal hope?

When He cometh, when He cometh
To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels,
His loved and His own:

Like the stars of the morning,
His bright crown adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty,
Bright gems for His crown.

He will gather, He will gather
The gems for His kingdom;
All the pure ones, all the bright ones,
His loved and His own.
(William Cushing). •

References:

¹ Quote attributed to Aristotle (4th century BC) by Diogenes Laërtius (3rd century AD), in *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, Book 5, Chapter 1, Verse 18

Phillippa is married to Robert, they have four children and they work with The Faith Mission in the south west of Scotland.



Living Well Among the Thorns

BY VANEETHA RISNER

It's easy to romanticise physical suffering — especially when you're not the one experiencing it. Saints like Amy Carmichael, who spent over twenty years bedridden, and Joni Eareckson Tada, a quadriplegic who lives in constant pain, can evoke peaceful images of unbroken communion with God. We may imagine that it's easier for them to endure pain and weakness than it is for the rest of us.

Yet the reality of physical suffering is that it's insistent and intrusive. No one gets used to it. Pain demands our attention. Time slows to a crawl, particularly in the middle of the night, when we're begging God for the relief of sleep. We feel alone and isolated. No one else can enter the prison that our bodies have become.

Pain Accumulates

If that weren't enough, physical pain rarely exists in isolation — it's usually accompanied by loss, weakness, and dependence. Often we require help with basic daily needs, and we worry about the burden we're putting on others. We second-guess every request, not wanting to bother someone one more time. Will people get tired and think we're too much? Do they resent their lack of freedom?

We longingly remember the carefree days before our physical struggles altered our lives when we could do what we wanted. Now we measure our energy in teaspoons rather than buckets. We weigh every decision, every action. Saying yes to one activity means saying no to many others. It is hard not to envy those

with fit bodies, who seem to have no cares. Pain, loneliness, and longing can give way to depression and despair. We cry out to the Lord for relief, but relief doesn't come. The cancer spreads, sleep eludes us, the pain intensifies, the medicine stops working and the side effects multiply. Our caregivers grow weary, our friends stop checking in and our resources run dry.

Doubt Advances

The vibrant faith we once had begins to fade — which is exactly what Satan wants to happen as we suffer. He wants us to doubt and fall away from God, convinced that He is indifferent to our cries. Satan knows that we're susceptible to discouragement when we're physically depleted, so that's when he attacks. As physical needs scream for attention, Satan whispers to us, "Does God even hear you, let alone really care for you? If He does, why isn't He delivering you?" If God's greatest blessing is Himself, then perhaps sustenance is a more precious gift than deliverance.

Insidious doubts slip in, making us question beliefs we once held rock-solid: Are we deeply loved by an all-powerful Father? As soon as we recognise the mental shift, we need to stop and cry out to God, asking Him to meet us in our sorrow, to deliver us from our pain and to show us evidence of His goodness and love. Are we fixating on all that we've lost, on how God hasn't delivered us, on how hopeless we feel or do we recognise that God is with us, working for our good and caring for us each moment? What we think about in the moments of our

deepest pain is critical. Our mind-set will determine how we approach the questions that bombard us. Here are three common questions I've asked myself:

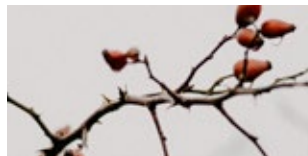
How can God be 'for me' if I'm still suffering?

Sometimes God miraculously delivers us when we plead for relief, like at the parting of the Red Sea. Other times He sustains us as He did with manna in the wilderness. The Red Sea deliverance freed the Israelites but their need for manna kept them dependent on God. In gathering manna, they had a harder time forgetting their reliance on God. And if God's greatest blessing is Himself, then perhaps sustenance is a more precious gift than deliverance, since it can keep us in constant communion with Him.

Take the apostle Paul. He begged God for deliverance from his thorn in the flesh, but instead he received grace — grace to bear the thorn, grace to be content with weakness, grace that would carry him through other trials (See 2 Corinthians 12:7-10). When we realise that we can depend on God in our weakness, we learn to trust Him in everything. Anyone can thank God for quick deliverance from physical suffering, but we often forget Him until the next crisis. Yet when He sustains us in our pain, we're confident that He is with us always.

How can God use my physical weakness for good?

We may think our physical weakness is keeping us from maximum fruitfulness but that's



When we realise that we can depend on God in our weakness, we learn to trust Him in everything.

impossible. Our weaknesses are a part of God's plan for our lives; they are intertwined with our calling. Paul thought his thorn was hampering his ministry, but God knew that it was the key to his strength. It forced Paul to be wholly dependent on God. When we are depleted and exhausted, lacking any resources of our own, it is then that we fully rely on God. And in that reliance, we discover the power of God flowing through us — the same power that raised Jesus from the dead (Ephesians 1:19-20). This power keeps us enduring when we want to give up; it showcases God's glory and brings lasting change. Because Paul relied on God's provision, he accomplished more for the kingdom with his thorn than he could have without it. His greatest strength lay in his submission to Christ.

Even Jesus's greatest strength appeared in His greatest physical weakness. Throughout His ministry, Jesus impacted others by His actions. He calmed the storm with a word. He fed five thousand with a few loaves and fish. He cast out demons, healed the sick and raised the dead. He turned the world upside down. But at the end of His ministry, from the Last Supper on, Jesus allowed others to act upon Him. He was led away, He was whipped and mocked, He was beaten and crucified. When He submitted to His captors, the crowds saw weakness rather than what was really there - Jesus's strength and power. Just before these horrific events, Jesus begged God to take the cup of suffering from Him. But it was through Christ's submission to the will of the Father, to torture and humiliation, to physical abuse and carrying His own cross that God brought about the most astonishing display of His power and grace.

*Perhaps the
sacrifice of praise
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What good can come in moments of overwhelming pain?

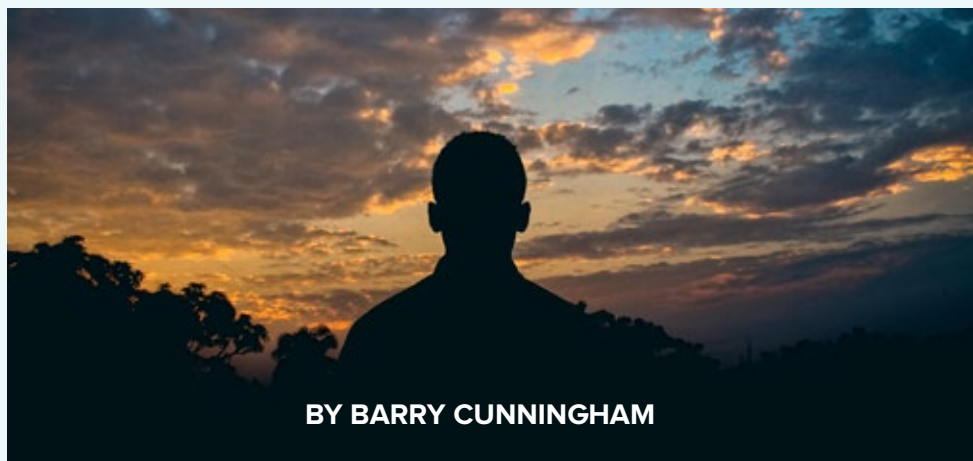
Even when we've experienced God's grace through our suffering, we may wonder how anything good could be happening as pain steamrolls us. Yet in some inexplicable way, this too can be part of our sacred calling. We can submit our pain to God even as we cry out to Him, and we can plead for relief, as Jesus and Paul did, while offering up our pain as a sacrifice to the Lord. Perhaps the sacrifice of praise in our pain is the most exquisite gift we could ever offer him. Few people on earth will see the impact of our worship, and some will say that our physical suffering is a waste. Perhaps it is a waste — just as the woman with the alabaster flask was 'wasteful' (Mark 14:4). She poured out her precious ointment as an extravagant act of worship and its fragrance spread everywhere. There was no utilitarian purpose; nothing tangible was accomplished, but the impact of her seemingly wasteful sacrifice will echo through eternity, as saints recount her story forever.

Perhaps our offering to God, amid our agony and weakness will have the same impact. Perhaps it is just as precious, maybe more so, in the sight of the Lord than all the work we or others do for Him. Perhaps the sacrifice of praise in our pain is the most exquisite gift we could ever offer Him. Of this I am sure, no act of worship to Jesus will be wasted. •



Vaneetha Rendall Risner is the author of Desperate for Hope, a seven week study on suffering. Vaneetha and her husband Joel live in North Carolina, where she writes, encouraging readers to turn to Christ in their pain. ©Vaneetha Risner

Feeling Alone



BY BARRY CUNNINGHAM

In the first book of Kings chapter 19 we have the story of Elijah running away from Jezebel. He won a great victory for the Lord against the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. Jezebel was not pleased. We find Elijah sitting at the bottom of a Juniper tree, having a grumble, *'I have been very zealous for the Lord God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death by the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me'* (verse 19). Elijah felt very alone.

Others in the Bible felt the same way at times. David was one of them, *'I am lonely and afflicted'*

(Psalm 25:16) and Paul, *'Do your best to come to me quickly'* (2 Timothy 4:9). Demas had forsaken him and he felt alone. Do you identify with Elijah? Do you feel lonely?

According to statistics one in every six people does not have a personal friend. Loneliness has a number of causes. Perhaps your job moves you around the country and you never settle long enough to make lasting friends. Students being away from home for the first time can feel lonely. We would all agree there is a loss of community and trust these days which brings about a lack of association with others. There are some who slump in front of the

TV each night, rarely having a conversation with family or go out to socialise. It may be you are shy and have trouble making friends. Old age limits activity and as a result housebound people can feel alone. Loneliness can affect those who are single or those who have lost their spouse. It strikes at different times, maybe through death or the empty nest when children leave home. Loneliness has no regard for age. Albert Einstein once said in his later years, "It is strange to be known so universally and yet be so lonely."

Elijah wanted to die, *'He came to a Juniper tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die'* (1 Kings 19:4). Verse 5 tells

us he, ‘...fell asleep...’ Here we see God’s natural provision, a good night’s sleep. Worry will keep you awake, but sleep refreshes you and helps to put any troubles into perspective. The next day you can approach them with a refreshed and alert mind. God also provided Elijah with food, ‘*Get up and eat. He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals and a jar of water*’ (5-6). Physical nourishment is vital to cope with the challenges we face in life, as loneliness can cause a loss of appetite. Loneliness can sometimes lead to depression. When we are weak we need to work at getting mentally and physically stronger, helping us to cope more ably with the stresses and strains of life.

‘*Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord*’ (verse 11). Here we see God’s presence as an answer to loneliness. Jesus said in John 14:18, ‘*I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you*’. You can only ever experience the reality of this when you have asked Him to forgive your sins and to be your personal Saviour and Lord. From then on we have a living relationship with the risen Saviour. He enters your life, and is with you in all the situations you face, even those times when you feel alone. You may feel lonely and abandoned

in that hospital bed, or in that empty house, or as you stand by the graveside of a loved one. You’re not alone, God is there with you.

We can cope with loneliness when we remember God’s purpose. God still had some work for Elijah to do in His service, ‘*The Lord said to him, anoint Hazeal King over Aram and anoint Jehu King over Israel*’ (15-16). The great antidote for loneliness is active

We can cope with loneliness when we remember God’s purpose. The great antidote for loneliness is active involvement in serving God.

involvement in serving God. A lady known as ‘Aunty Betty’ was a well-loved member of her church. Her children had grown up and left home and her husband had passed away. Her home was empty of the noise and chatter she had become familiar with. She could have sat at home bemoaning her lot, instead she became everyone’s ‘Aunty Betty’! She sang in the choir, taught in the Sunday school,

visited the sick, organised the annual Holiday Bible Club, befriended the children in a nearby children’s home by sending each one a birthday card every year. Active involvement with people and activities will fill your life with a sense of fulfilment whether you’re young or old. Of course, age and infirmity can limit what you’re able to do. If that’s you, why not write to missionaries and pray for them or send a letter of encouragement to someone.

One mistake Elijah made as he fled from Jezebel was to leave his servant in Beersheba. God has provided the local church and His people to give help when facing loneliness. As Christians we ought to look out for those who are lonely in the fellowship and provide encouragement and friendship, ‘*God sets the lonely in families*’ (Psalm 68:6). The church is the family of God. Develop friendships with other believers, and if you are able, have them round for coffee or a meal. Why not visit the elderly of the church. If you’re feeling alone, then try to apply these lessons to your life and with God’s help you will be able to deal with loneliness. •

Barry is now retired having served in pastorates in Cheshire and Manchester. For many years he was also involved in radio ministry.

BY THOMAS ATKINSON

In forgiving those who have wounded us we are showing the forgiveness Christ showed us when we came to the cross.

The Question of Forgiveness

To understand forgiveness we have to look to where forgiveness first began - at the cross. There our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ went through such a painful death that we might be forgiven. On the cross He cried out, *“Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do”* (Luke 23:34).

When we read of the death of Christ it surely tells us that forgiveness is costly. In Mark 11:25 Jesus tells the disciples, *“Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”* The message

throughout the Bible is – in order to be forgiven we are to forgive. The cost of this action will affect us. This can be difficult when we have been deeply hurt especially by someone close to us. However, in conceding forgiveness we are acting in obedience to the words of Jesus. It may not come easy but the Lord will give you the grace to say, “Sorry.”

In the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus makes it very clear how we are to pray, *“Forgive us our sins as those who sin against us...”* In forgiving those who have wounded us we are showing the forgiveness Christ showed us

when we came to the cross. He did not turn away from us, but with open arms offered forgiveness. By experiencing such forgiveness we ought to forgive others. It is only because God has forgiven us that we are able to, ‘... *forgive those who sin against us.*’ Unforgiveness leads to bitterness and resentment which in turn affects the believer in his or her walk with God. It is with His help that we are enabled to feel no malice towards those who have wronged us. Forgiveness is embedded in the character of God and as the children of God we are to portray such an attitude.

Almost every Christian will have heard of Corrie Ten Boom and read her gripping story in ‘The Hiding Place’. She and her family risked their lives during the holocaust by hiding Jews in their home throughout the time of German occupation in Holland. Eventually their plans were discovered and her whole family were captured by the Nazis. Corrie and her sister Betsie were eventually sent to Ravensbruck concentration camp where Betsie died just before Corrie was released on 31 December, 1944. In her book we read of a very palpable moment when she began to travel around speaking about forgiveness and reconciliation. Everything she spoke about was tested when she came face to face with one of her tormentors from Ravensbruck concentration camp after the war ended.

The following is a description of that encounter taken from her book which shows the inward struggle and cost of forgiveness:

‘I travelled all over Holland, to other parts of Europe, to the United States. But the place where the hunger was greatest was Germany. Germany was a land in ruins, cities of ashes and rubble, but more terrifying still minds and hearts of ashes. Just to cross the border was to feel the great weight that hung over that land.

It was at a church service in Munich that I saw him, the former S.S. man who had stood guard at the shower room door in the processing centre at Ravensbruck. He was the first of our actual jailers that I had seen since that time. And suddenly it was all there – the roomful of mocking men, the heaps of clothing, Betsie’s pain-blanching face.

He came up to me as the church was emptying, beaming and bowing, “How grateful I am for your message Fraulein” he said. “To think that, as you say, He has washed my sins away!” His hand was thrust out to shake mine. And I, who had preached so often to the people in Bloemendaal the need to forgive, kept my hand at my side.

Even as the angry, vengeful thoughts boiled through me, I saw the sin of them. Jesus Christ had died for this man; was I going to ask for more? Lord Jesus, I prayed, forgive me and help me to forgive him. I tried to smile, I struggled to raise my hand. I could not. I felt nothing, not the slightest spark of warmth or charity. And so again I breathed a silent prayer. Jesus, I cannot forgive him. Give me Your forgiveness.

As I took his hand the most incredible thing happened. From my shoulder along my arm and through my hand a current seemed to pass from me to him, while into my heart sprang a love for this stranger that almost overwhelmed me. And so I discovered that it is not on our forgiveness any more than on our goodness that the world’s healing hinges, but on His. When He tells us to love our enemies, He gives the love itself, along with the command’.

Speaking about this experience later Corrie said, “I had to do it – I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition, that we forgive those who have injured us.” Forgiveness is painful but in the end it brings peace and blessing. ●

I WANTED JESUS TO BE MY GOD



BY THANA CHANDRAN



Heart Disease. I remembered being plunged into freezing waters to decrease my body temperature. My family was poor and could not afford public hospital's fee and admitted me to a Christian welfare called St. Andrew's Mission Hospital (Anglican). The hospital fees were subsidised by Christian Charities. All poor patients of various religions were accepted at St Andrew's.

The hospital became my Damascus Road. I met Jesus for the first time through the song, 'Jesus loves the little children'. I was very eager to know about this Jesus. A nurse witnessed to me and told me in very simple words that Jesus is God and He loves me. I was a little confused as Hindu gods are portrayed as bloodthirsty. I wanted Jesus to be my God. The nurse told me in order to do so, I have to

I was born on March 24, 1969, in Singapore to a Hindu family. Hinduism is the oldest religion in the world. There are several gods and goddesses. The practices of this religion require self-mutilations and animal sacrifices. As a child, I was overwhelmed with fear whenever my parents took me to Hindu temples.

In my early childhood, I suffered regularly with poor health and constantly had a high body temperature. Back then, Singapore was a developing country and a prognosis for an illness was often a very prolonged affair. At the age of five, I was admitted again to a local hospital and was finally diagnosed with Rheumatic

confess my sins and ask Jesus into my heart. I did not know much about what sinning meant but I really wanted Jesus. I became a child of God at the age of five. When my parents came to visit me I told them about my new God. My mother was not very pleased but my Father just wanted me to get well. I stayed on at St. Andrew's for one year receiving treatments for my heart disease and at the same time I was getting Bible nourishment. Upon my discharge, I attended a Methodist church which was across the road from my home. My early Christian life was such a blessing. I enjoyed going to church and to Bible camps. I was still taking medication for my heart and was an outpatient till the age of twenty one.

Aged ten the deep meaning and realisation as to what it meant to be a Christian occurred when my father died. It was then I learned through my Sunday school teacher that my father was not with God as he died a believing Hindu. This made me very sad to know that I will not see my father again. Around about this period of time, my family (my mother and two brothers) started persecuting me. I was stopped from attending church, but this did not hinder me from sneaking

out. This resulted in beatings when I returned to a violent home. I was forced to worship Hindu gods which I denied. My older sibling was violently abusive beyond penning down the recollections here.

However, miracles never failed to happen. I was posted to a Christian school for my O and A levels where I was able to attend a service and take up Bible knowledge as an examination subject. I still attended Church on Sunday, in spite of the continual beatings when I returned home. At this time I was attending a Baptist church in Singapore and was baptized when I was fifteen. The sound Bible teaching helped me with living a disciplined adult life. However, the abuse did not stop and when I reached twenty two, I obtained a personal protection order for causing grievous head injuries. This attack required stitches and having to shave off part of my long hair. I did all that was needed to remain with my family and accepted the persecution as part of my Christian life, but when the abuse turned unbearable and open wounds were inflicted; I knew I had to leave them for fear of my mental health and my own life.

Without a loving family I found solace in God's creatures and in His creation.

I decided to explore more of His handiwork. My work took me to the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Italy, USA, Canada and Costa Rica. Although I lived and travelled on my own, God has been showering me with blessings of dear friends to help me along the way. There are still times in my life when my cross gets heavier to bear and the hills seems to be harder to climb but I still rely on the Lord's promises, *'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you'* (Hebrews 13:5).

I still cringe whenever I look at the cross where my Saviour bled, suffered, was humiliated and where He cried in anguish in a slow agonising death - just for me. My deep regret is that I do not heed to God sometimes, as much as He wants me to. Despite all my shortcomings, I am safe in God's Hands and by His grace I am forgiven. I long to see His face and know I will be with Him when I complete my race here. Thank you for reading about the love of God for this sinner.

'Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God'
(Hebrews 12:2). •

Lord, I'm willing to go

BY THE
EDITOR

Isobel Kuhn (nee Miller) was well known for her writings along with missionary work in China and Thailand. She was born in 1901 into a loving Christian home in Canada. Her father was a Presbyterian lay preacher and her grandfather a Presbyterian minister.

When at university a Professor asked the class a question, "Is there anyone here who believes in a Heaven and a Hell? Who believes that the story of Genesis is true? Please raise your hand." Isobel tentatively raised her hand and looked around to see only one other person's hand raised. The lecturer responded, "Oh, you just believe that because your mama and papa told you so." On the way home she had many questions, "Why did I believe in Heaven and Hell,



Above: John & Isobel Kuhn

why did I believe the Bible?" She became convinced that it was only superstitious people who believed in the Bible.

Her life now revolved around dancing and the theatre. She felt very happy until she discovered her boyfriend of two years had been cheating on her. She broke up with him and as a result she could not sleep and knew this would have consequences on her studies. One night while she was tossing and turning, her father came in, knelt at her bedside and began to pray for her. Her response was, "Dad, I know you mean well, but it doesn't go beyond the ceiling." She began to contemplate suicide and hearing the groans of her

father while he was asleep stopped her. She went back to bed and the words of Dante, the Italian poet came to mind, "In His will is our peace." These few words lit up the darkness and she whispered, "If there be a God, if you will prove to me that You are and give me peace, I will give You my whole life." She climbed into bed and slept the whole night.

Isobel began her search for God. She set about reading the Bible and even started praying. Stumbling in the dark in her search for God, she found herself attending a Christian conference. However, the other side of her life was very different where she was still fully

amused by worldly pleasures. But one by one these sources of enjoyment made her realise they were a conflict between her and the Lord. She spoke to her friend, Mrs Whittle who was a true believer and prayed for Isobel through all her searching. Her answer was, "You are trying to serve two masters at one time and it always has painful results." She then asked her, "Have you told Mac that you are a Christian?" He was Isobel's latest boyfriend. When he phoned the next day asking her to a dance she replied, "Mac, I have become a Christian and decided to give up dancing." One by one her worldly enjoyments were gone and bowing her head, she declared, "Forgive me Lord, there is no one I want but Thee."

Isobel's gradual search for God led her to a recognition of true worship through Jesus Christ. She discovered the biography of Hudson Taylor which kindled an interest in China. The more she read of the need in China, particularly amongst the women, the more she felt the need to help them find Christ. Her immediate reaction was, "When I was groping my way for a way out, my Bible was on my bookshelf. It was easy for me to find the way, but what about those who have never heard of Christ?"

On hearing J O Fraser, missionary with China Inland Mission, speak of the plight of the Lisu in China, a people who were illiterate and worshipped demons, she said, "Lord, I'm willing to go." In reaching the Lisu, Fraser spoke of the spiritual battle in the heavenlies. Isobel writes, 'As I listened, I saw plainly the Lisu church was born in prayer travail, and I decided I must employ this weapon of 'all prayer'. I received a life pattern at that moment for which I have ever been grateful.

In 1924 Isobel went to Moody Bible Institute with the intention of going to China to work with the Lisu. It was here she met John Kuhn. In 1929 they got married in China and worked amongst the Lisu for twenty five years. Life here was very different where she had to contend with fleas, flies and mosquitoes. The lack of privacy, the constant travelling was all a source of irritation. God had to bring Isobel to a place she describes as, "Where the old 'Adam nature' must be crossed."

In 1934 John, Isobel and their two children arrived at Lisuland. The squalor, poverty and primitive living were as bad, but somehow it was much easier, and

Isobel could see the Lord was preparing her for this very place. They faced many obstacles and frustrations. These every day struggles were viewed from a platform where God manifested Himself. She writes, 'God uses the small trials that prick, sting and weary one. He does not rule out harassments, but He does rule that they shall not overcome us! And they didn't'. As well as victories there were defeats and failures, but instead of fretting over them they confessed and committed the next step unto the Lord. There were many crises and of these she writes, 'If you want to hear His voice in the crises of life you must first seek it in the common places of life.'

The communist revolution in 1950 forced them to leave China and travel to America. In 1952 they decided to work with the Lisu in Thailand because China was still a closed door. Unfortunately, two years later they retired after Isobel was diagnosed with cancer. Isobel died in 1957 with her husband by her side. Like Hudson Taylor they had learned, 'to move man, through God, by prayer alone'. •

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BEING A CHRISTIAN AT UNIVERSITY



As an 18-year-old secondary school student from Northern Ireland and having spent weeks in lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I was filled with excitement and anticipation when I found out that I would be moving to Scotland to study. In September 2020 my family and I travelled to Edinburgh and they took me to the university campus, where I would live and study for the next four years. I knew that as my parents returned home, they would be praying for my safety, the formation of Christian friendships and my faith in God to grow as I began a new chapter of my life away from home for the first time.

At the beginning of first year I was unsure of how my faith in God, that was professed at a young age, would be an influence and how I would live as a fresher among a population of students who did not know or did not want to know anything about God. I was weak in my faith, doubtful of my relationship with God and I had become hardened to God's word and guidance in my life. I was completely reliant on my own strength to get me through my years at university. Many people had told me that the university environment was an extremely challenging place for Christians. I had heard stories of how students got caught up within non-Christian circles, going to bars and

nightclubs, places most students go to socialise. I never thought that I would get pulled into the 'world' by the many temptations on offer to students. Unfortunately, that's what happened! In the first few years of my university life I wasn't living as a Christian ought to. I was going through the motions - going to church on a Sunday and serving on the CU committee. However, I had grown cold to the things of God and I was not being an ambassador for Christ. I didn't see the issue with being in bars and clubs to the early hours of Sunday morning and then sitting in church a few hours later.

By God's grace, at the end of 2022 God softened my heart. He gave me ears to hear and He spoke to me through a church sermon. This particular Sunday morning I had come to church as usual, was greeted by many friendly faces and warm hugs from a loving church family. The sermon was mainly focusing on Psalm 139:23-24, *'Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.'* I remember repeating this verse to myself as the Pastor preached on it. I realised that I had to come to God and surrender my sin. I could not continue living a double life! Living as a Christian at university is hard, but it was far worse being a slave to sin without the peace and joy that only God can give.

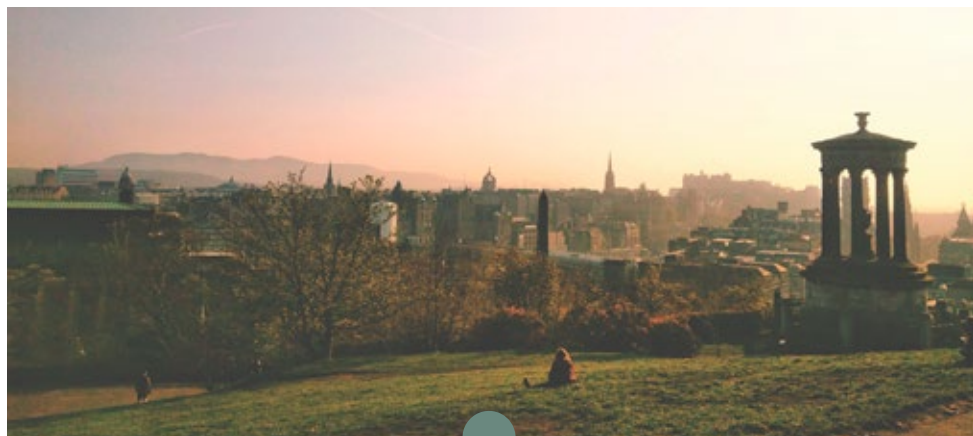
I am extremely thankful to God for His faithfulness in my life. Whenever I ran away from Him and went further into sin, God was still there, being patient and giving me opportunities to hear His voice in church and at Christian Union events. I thank God for His goodness in bringing me from darkness into light. I can now look back and see God's hand in everything, His provision of Christian friends, a church that looks after their young people and His protection during times of difficulty.

Deuteronomy 14: 2 says, *'You have been set apart as holy to the Lord your God.'* As a final year university student, by the grace of God, I can now live boldly for Jesus Christ. With God's strength I am able to live a student life that represents the gospel. By His love, I can help serve the students at the university, by welcoming them to events, providing food

and an opportunity to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ. I only have to look around the university campus to see that students have a desire to feel a sense of belonging, to have hope for the future and a joy that I know cannot come from anything else but through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

If students, far from home attend your church, make them feel welcome and if you are able, invite them for lunch. Students are always looking for free food! Above all, I ask that you would pray for university students to have an open heart and mind to the gospel. Pray too for students who are Christians and who are part of the Christian Union serving together as a mission's team that courage will be given in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. •

| *The author of this article prefers to remain anonymous.*



*When I had forgotten God, yet I then found He had not forgotten me.
Even then He did by His Spirit apply the merits of the great atonement
to my soul, by telling me that Christ died for me.*

Susannah Wesley

Training a New Generation

BY RUSSELL NEWTON



Above: Angus Moyes teaching an Apologetics class

For more than 125 years the Faith Mission Bible College has been training men and women for lives of Christian service. Today, we remain committed to the task of equipping passionate servants of Jesus Christ for evangelism, mission, and ministry. Our prayerful desire is that the College in Edinburgh would become a thriving training hub that sends out a whole new generation of biblically-grounded, practically-equipped, missionally-orientated, Christ-like disciples into today's mission field.

New Students

This September, we were

pleased to welcome twenty three new or returning students to the College (including ten full-time, five part-time, and eight modular students).

For a relatively small cohort of students, they are a

Below: Students exploring Edinburgh



remarkably diverse group! Our residential student body includes those from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Ukraine, and the USA, with part-time students travelling to Edinburgh every Tuesday from as far away as Oban and Cumbria. Our students vary in age, ranging from school-leavers to retirees. We have students who've come straight from university and those who haven't studied in decades. Such diversity makes the Faith Mission Bible College an exciting community to be a part of!

New Staff

We've also been delighted to welcome two new faculty members to the College team: Angus Moyes and Marilyn Burton.

Angus joins us as a Lecturer in Theology and Ministry, having previously served as East Team Leader for SU Scotland, the editor of Daily Bread, as a pastor in Edinburgh, and as the Theology Network Coordinator for UCCF. Marilyn joins us as a part-time Lecturer in Biblical Studies, having previously served as an online tutor at Ridley College in Melbourne and as a lecturer at the universities of St Andrews and Warsaw. Together they bring a wealth of experience and expertise, as well as a shared passion



New Lecturers:
Angus Moyes & Marilyn Burton

for apologetics that we trust will strengthen the training offered at the College in the years ahead.

New Semester

With the new semester now well underway, students are getting into the swing of their classes. Our first years are currently taking modules in Biblical Interpretation, Christian Theology, and Christian Ethics. Second years are exploring Genesis and Job, the doctrines of the Trinity and the Atonement, the theology and practice of Christian Mission, and the art of preaching. And our part-time students are studying

Below: Thursday afternoon evangelism in central Edinburgh



the New Testament. All of the students are also completing modules in Apologetics and Discipleship.

To complement our core programme, and to serve the wider Christian community, we continue to offer Monday Night Lectures that are free of charge and open to all. This semester, we've benefitted from Matt Baines teaching on 'Beholding Our God' and Sandy Roger exploring the incarnation in a series titled 'Incomprehensibly Made Man'.

While lectures, reading, and assignments take up a sizeable wedge of every student's week, our programme is about far more than just head knowledge!

As a residential Bible College, we believe that community is vital for Christian formation and we prioritise time with one another. Times together round the Dining Hall table, over a cuppa or a meal, provide wonderful opportunities not only to build friendships, but also to help one another grapple with big questions and apply what is being learnt at College.

More importantly still, we spend time every day, as a community, worshipping God. From Monday to Thursday, we start our days with College Devotions, normally led by students, and



Sandra and Ella: Our eldest and youngest students

have been working our way through the book of Esther. On Fridays, our College Chaplain, or another member of staff, leads us in an extended time of worship, prayer, and ministry.

Our programme is designed to try and help prepare students for mission and ministry beyond College. Wednesday afternoons are set aside for practical service, providing an opportunity to grow in

Below: Matthew reporting in Great Asby, Cumbria

Bottom: Jonathan sharing his story





Above: Matt Baines teaching on 'Beholding Our God' at the Monday Night Lectures

servant-heartedness. This is ably led by Stewart Megaw, Property Manager and his wife Jill, House Manager. On Thursdays, students head into central Edinburgh, sharing the gospel with others. And at the weekends, students often have opportunities to gain ministry experience by being involved in meetings. This semester, students have already been sharing their testimonies in Cumbria and Edinburgh, with others scheduled to preach, testify, and give children's talks in the coming weeks.

College life is busy, but it's thrilling to see students throwing themselves into the programme and growing in the grace and knowledge of Christ.

Below: Ryan enjoying practical service



New Season

After a few difficult years following the pandemic, it feels like the College is entering a new season. There's so much

to praise God for, but there's still much work to be done.

Please uphold the College's staff and students in prayer. If you know of those who are thinking about Bible College (*or who should be!*), we'd love to welcome them to one of our upcoming Open Days. Please join with us in praying that God would lead new students to the Bible College next September and, in due time, out into His service. ●



Open Days

*Visit the College
Experience Lectures
Meet Faculty & Students*

23 Jan 2024
12 Mar 2024

Register
fmbiblecollege.org.uk/opendays

My Experience as a Student at FMBC

BY DEBS BAILEY

One major thing I didn't expect when coming to the Bible College, is how much you have to unlearn in order to start again. When we were studying modules for Systematic Theology, Church History and Biblical Interpretation your mind and your faith is unquestionably stretched - in a good way. Practical modules in prayer and revival and pastoral care cause you to consider your own personal walk with Christ in a light you've never seen it in before. Having the privilege to learn from experienced and very skilled lecturers was great. However, unlearning what you thought you knew about God and yourself is a painful process, but a really beautiful one. This place really does what it says on the tin when they call the course 'Transformational'.

Challenges

In street evangelism we set up a street café and chat to people about Christianity. This was something very practical that I found a challenge and out of my comfort zone.

After coming to Bible College I realised how little I knew of the Bible and to go and tell other people in a convincing way, left me feeling inadequate.

Also, I wrestled with how to get across

the urgency of the message. Rather than just hiding behind the coffee table, I had to learn how much of an amazing opportunity this is, and that God would want to use us to tell people His good news. In



I learned that God places you exactly where He wants you.

I have learned this is a needy world.

I learned that growth and comfort cannot co-exist.

church history we learned of David Livingstone and his only convert, Sechele. When he came to an understanding of the gospel he cried out, “Why didn’t you tell me sooner? Why didn’t you tell me?” This changed the way I looked at evangelism. May it never be true of us that someone can say, “why didn’t you tell me sooner.”

God has used many situations to show me my reliance needs to be on Him. My summer placement was one of them. This consisted of three weeks in Ireland, from top to bottom and then on the Isle of Lewis. Having the opportunity to speak one to one with different women going through difficulties, teach kids the gospel and sing Psalms in a giant tent with 250 people opened my eyes to the different realms of ministry. This changed me in a way that it needed to because, I’ll be honest, I didn’t go willingly! Sometimes God has to extract us out of our comfort zones and put us right in the middle of our biggest fears. But He really does know what He’s doing. Placement is a great

opportunity to see how much of our reliance is on the things and people around us and not on our God.

Highlights

Practical Service on a Wednesday afternoon is an opportunity to serve others in practical ways. I found this encouraging, to be used by God to make someone’s bed, or cook someone a meal, or even clear up someone’s mess taught me real humility and was a welcome break from the books.

As staff and students we have daily coffee breaks where we connect together and sharing meals together on a Tuesday with the part time students, brings a togetherness as to what it’s all about. We are God’s people, who are here because we love Him, and to be around other people that love God and have a real joy in their hearts was really encouraging. We finish off the busy week by recentering it on Christ at “Friday Fellowship” where our Chaplin, Sandy Roger leads us as a college community in prayer, worship and listening to God’s Word.

Lessons learned

I learned that God places you exactly where He wants you for the right reasons. I have learned this is a needy world. I also learned that growth and comfort cannot co-exist. Pastoral groups were often a place to be encouraged by my lovely mentors, but also a place where I could cry about the hard things and laugh about the good things. Being the only girl student last year made this time of prayer and encouragement with other women at college so special. Learning from other Christians took time for me, but this is something the College encourages. Morning devotions led by staff and students is a time to learn from each other and spur each other on. As you stand at the front (with knees knocking!) looking out at smiling faces, you know they genuinely want the best for you.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Being here is not easy at times, but it is one of the most rewarding and transforming times that God has led me through. •

A person is seen from behind, holding a Canadian flag high in the air. The background is a warm, orange-toned sunset or sunrise over a landscape with trees. The overall mood is patriotic and hopeful.

“OUR TRUE NORTH STRONG AND FREE”

*Report on The Faith Mission (in Canada)
by the General Director, Timothy Condy*

I remember one of the first times I heard and sang the Canadian National Anthem. I had been visiting Canada with my family and there I was, at the age of fifteen, standing in the large baseball stadium in Toronto (now called the Rogers Centre) as we joined with thousands of others repeating the words: ‘God keep our land, glorious and free, O Canada we stand on guard for thee’. Now almost thirty years later, and a permanent resident in Canada, I realise more and more the tremendous needs of this great nation to turn back to God and to be a land, and people that are truly free through the power of the gospel.

The Faith Mission (in Canada) began over 95 years ago when two pilgrims were invited to start evangelistic endeavors in the Greater Toronto Area. Over the years we have seen God work in miraculous ways and many lives have

been touched with the gospel since then. At present we have seventeen workers with the Mission here spread across four provinces with two Camp and Conference Centres in Ontario and British Columbia. But how are The Faith Mission serving God today in Canada?

EVANGELISM

I believe we have never been in a time like this before where the nation of Canada needs to be ‘re-evangelised’. They reckon that less than 13% of Canadians attend a place of worship and this could be anything from a mosque to an evangelical church. The percentage is even lower for those who claim to be Christians! What is the answer? It is the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It changes lives, homes and communities.

In Napanee (Ontario), our worker Laura-Anne Drake is reaching youth and children with the gospel every week in small communities that have little or no ministry. She has seen young people come back to church and have a hunger for God’s Word. Over the past few years, Laura has been involved in a Youth Network bringing youth pastors and leaders together to pray and seek God for the youth in their neighbourhood. This has transformed the way they do



Above: FM staff Canada

ministry as they have become more focused on the real need of the youth. Back in March 2020, Sam and Nicholette Beaulieu joined the Mission and moved to Mount Hope (outside Hamilton, Ontario) to begin FM ministry in Southern Ontario. The pandemic hit two weeks later and everything shut down! But in spite of all this, and after much prayer and thought Sam put together gospel packages to distribute around the homes in Mount Hope and then Hamilton and into smaller communities such as Caledonia and Jarvis. People were hungry to hear of the 'hope' to be found in Christ alone and Sam had opportunity to pray with people at their doors and present the gospel. People told him that it was the first time someone had ever given them a Bible and explained it to them. These are just some of

the opportunities our workers have been given to evangelise, but the needs are tremendous.

PRAYER

Prayer has always been the driving force of The Faith Mission and we can do nothing without it. We are keenly aware of this here in Canada as we endeavour to serve in an increasingly hostile environment to the gospel. But as we have seen God's people come together in humility and brokenness before the Lord, we have witnessed the power there is through prayer. Jeff Goudy, along with his wife Jani, are serving in Red Deer, Alberta for almost ten years now and they have seen God at work through a growing prayer movement. Jeff spends much of his time meeting and praying with pastors and fellow believers in these prayer meetings across Central Alberta. Some of them have

only a handful of people, but they are hungry to know God and to meet with Him. He has often shared how pastors who felt defeated and ready to 'throw in the towel' really met with God and had a fresh touch on their lives and ministries. They have even experienced 'drops' of revival blessing that can only be attributed to God through prayer. Just recently as Jeff and I were sharing and praying over the phone, he shared with me about two Christian men who were 'at odds' with each other and had the potential of causing harm to the prayer meeting. After much prayer for this situation, Jeff shared that the next week both men returned to the meeting in humility and sought forgiveness. It changed everything! Praise God! Our heart here in FM Canada is to see this prayer movement spread across all provinces and God's people hungry for revival.

REVIVAL

Although Canada has seen some 'pockets' of revival in years past this has never been widespread or even across a whole province. On one occasion when Duncan Campbell visited Canada, he shared how God had shown to him the entire dominion of Canada ablaze with revival. What a glorious thought! Sometimes it seems very far from that ever happening, yet we believe in a Sovereign God who, *'...does all that He pleases'* (Psalm 115:3) and *'...sends rain on the just and the unjust'* (Matthew 5:45). The nation of Canada is desperately in need of a genuine move of the Spirit of God that will transform everything! This has been the heart cry of the Mission all these years and we continue to seek God for it and bring churches



Children's camp

*The nation
of Canada is
desperately in need
of a genuine move
of the Spirit of God
that will transform
everything!*

and people together to pray for such an awakening. Is anything too hard for the Lord? Will you join with us in praying for a revival that will sweep from shore to shore across this great nation?

There is so much more we could share from the other workers and what they are involved in, about the camp and conference ministry impacting hundreds each year, or about the small communities still to be reached with the gospel. We covet your prayers as we continue, *'...holding forth the word of life'* (Philippians 2:16) and 'stand on guard' for the people of Canada who are yet to hear of Christ, the One who is mighty to save. •

If you would like to get regular updates on Faith Mission Canada, you can sign up to receive their quarterly 'Partners in Prayer' (four times a year) by mail or email. Go to: www.faithmissioncanada.org



Christmas event

THE MEMBERS IN THE FAITH MISSION DURING 2023

Consulting Director & Treasurer
Principal of Bible College
Director for Scotland
Director for Ireland
Director for England

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

Superintendents

P R CROWE, 1st Oct 1982, and *Mrs Crowe*, East Scottish District
W L HARRISON, 1st Oct 1983, and *Mrs Harrison*, North West Irish District
A B PATTERSON, 1st Oct 1986, and *Mrs Patterson*, North English District*
E A BROWN, 1st Oct 1988, West Irish District (in charge)
A PARK, 1st Oct 1989, and *Mrs Park*, Central English District (rejoined 2016)
N WILSON, 1st Oct 1993, and *Mrs Wilson*, South West English District
(rejoined 2014)
A McCULLOUGH, 1st Oct 1994, and *Mrs McCullough*, North Irish District
M TOMB, 1st Oct 1994, and *Mrs Tomb*, Irish Midlands District
D A MACLEOD, 1st Oct 1996, and *Mrs Macleod*, Highland District†
J SLATER, 1st Oct 1998, and *Mrs Slater*, South West Irish District
S WALSH, 1st Oct 2000, and *Mrs Walsh*, Irish Border District
J P TOWNEND, 1st Oct 2020, and *Mrs Townend*, Highland District
(in charge)

Faith Mission Workers (UK)

L Brush and *Mrs Brush* 1st Oct 1982*
A H Paul 1st Oct 1987
N J Bovenizer and *Mrs Bovenizer* 1st Oct 1993
R Cismas and *Mrs Cismas* 1st Oct 2003 (rejoined 2022)
J Cummings and *Mrs Cummings* 1st Oct 2005
S Megaw and *Mrs Megaw* 1st Oct 2005 (rejoined 2019)
J Lennox and *Mrs Lennox* 1st Oct 2008 (rejoined 2016)*
H Wilson 1st Oct 2009
A Morton and *Mrs Morton* 1st Oct 2010*
J Brown and *Mrs Brown* 1st Oct 2013
G Harrison 1st Oct 2013
R Little 1st Oct 2014
B Parker and *Mrs Parker* 1st Oct 2017
M Roberts 1st Apr 2018
W Brewer 1st Oct 2018
A Maybin and *Mrs Maybin* 1st Oct 2018
S Dundas 1st Apr 2019
C Park 1st Oct 2019
D Brown and *Mrs Brown* 1st Oct 2020

Auxiliary Workers

N Dudgeon 1st Oct 1997 (rejoined 2014)

Ladies' names in italics

* Denotes withdrawal during year

† Denotes retirement during year

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*

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*
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) (deceased Dec 2022)
Mrs Dukelow (1953-2000)
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 (19 69-2015) 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*



DISTRICT CONTACT DETAILS

SCOTLAND

SOUTH SCOTTISH DISTRICT

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BANGOR

Convention

EASTER 2024

Good Friday 29 March -
Easter Tuesday 2 April



Solid
Bible Teaching



Inspiring
Meaningful Worship



Renewed
Spiritual Vision



Refreshing Warm
Fellowship



Speakers expected...



Charles
Price



Jonathan
Currie



Nathan
Purdy

Also check our website and Facebook page...



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**