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FIRST

Seek First the Kingdom of God!

SUMMER 2025 | ISSUE 1336

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE FAITH MISSION

JONAH

THE RELUCTANT PREACHER

» REFUSING TO BITE: HANDLING TEMPTATION

» OUR RESERVES AND HIS RESOURCES

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH MISSION'S DIRECTOR FOR ENGLAND

*'I have set the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.'*

Psalm 16:8

It is so easy to be distracted with the multitude of things that grapple for our attention every day. In this verse we see the Psalmist deliberately disciplines himself to face the uncertainty of the day ahead with God, His power and person, firmly in view. How this contrasts with the too familiar experience of finding God in our 'rear view mirror.' May we always be those, like the Psalmist who set the Lord before our eyes, daily.

Camps

During the months of July and August we will again welcome hundreds of children and young people to our camps in the UK and Ireland. It is such a privilege to have these young people under our care with the purpose of teaching them the good news of the gospel and to watch many of them grow in their faith year by year. Please pray with us for each location and for those who will teach.

Personnel

At our members meetings in Edinburgh, we presented **John and Linda Townend** with a gift to recognise their many years of selfless service to the Lord through The Faith Mission. John entered the Bible College in 1975 and Linda in 1978, and together they served throughout England, Ireland and latterly in Scotland as John held the position of General Director until stepping down in August 2022. We trust they will know the Lord's blessing as they enter a new season of life.

Bible College

During May and June, the students will be on placement in England, Ireland and Scotland. This is always a formative time when learning is translated into real life ministry settings. We congratulate our students as they graduate from the Bible College on 21st of June and commend them to your prayers as they consider their future. Please do pray with us for a new intake of students for this next academic year. Do remember to pray for our personnel at the college as they carry a heavy load.

Literature Ministry

The last few months has been an incredibly difficult season for those who work in our bookshops. Due to a drop in sales and rising costs we have had to slim down our portfolio of shops in N. Ireland and Scotland. At the time of writing the bookshop in Coleraine is about to go independent under the management of Roger and Abigail Glasgow. This is an exciting venture for them, and we pray that this work will flourish and be a real blessing to the people and churches in this area. Unfortunately, we have had to close Lurgan, Vic Ryn (Lisburn) and Peterhead. Please pray for those shops that remain open that they might see a rise in sales and that we may have a literature ministry that is viable and sustainable. Why not drop in and lend them your support! •

*Stephen Walker,
Director for England.*



BY SANDY ROGER

JONAH

THE RELUCTANT PREACHER

Many of the characters in Scripture whom God called showed reluctance, hesitancy and doubt, but Jonah blankly refused to answer God's call on his life. How God dealt with him and the way the story unfolds makes this one of the most important missionary documents in the whole Bible. We can learn a lot about Jonah and about ourselves by picking out certain aspects of the book. Read the four chapters for yourself. Two questions that struck me from Jonah were: why did he run away from the call to Nineveh and what makes us feel like running away from God's call?

God sometimes calls us to take up tasks we don't warm to

In Jonah's case the call was clear and unmistakable. God called him (Jonah 1:1 AV), *'To arise'* (get up) ... *'To go'* (go out) ... *'To cry'* (speak up). Knowing the brutal reputation of the Assyrians, especially in their capital city of

Nineveh, no wonder Jonah felt like running away. This was a call too far. He felt God was asking too much of him. Yet, nearly everyone God called was asked to do something they wouldn't readily have chosen – but they obeyed in the end!

Is it too harsh to suggest in these days of wishy-washy discipleship, that we only obey when the call is to something that takes our fancy? God's call upon our lives sometimes goes against the grain.

God's call is always shot through with compassion

Wickedly evil or not, God's heart was distressed by the way the Ninevites were living, and He wanted to show them mercy. One writer said, "Jonah could protest that the Ninevites did not care about God, but that didn't make any difference – He cared about them!" Their sinfulness was an offence against His holiness, but it did not alter His mercy.

“ *As preachers and witnesses we must never leave a spiritually ignorant people wondering whether there is such a thing as compassion, mercy and salvation.* ”

Jonah was quite right in his analysis of the Assyrians. They were godless, even though they had hundreds of gods of their own, but they were ignorant of the God of Israel. They were wealthy, far richer than the Israelites, but they were poverty stricken in the things that really mattered most. They were evil through and through; entrenched in barbaric iniquity. What chance was there of them responding to a tongue-tied, reluctant Hebrew preacher? They were cruel in the extreme; far more than the Egyptians, the Babylonians or the Persians. Their reputation was well known across the Middle East.

If you want an idea of their barbarity, it is well displayed in the archaeological finds displayed in the British Museum. There is no doubt Jonah was frightened what they would do to him, but God was working to a bigger plan and wanted to use Jonah to implement it. Are we paralysed into a non-response because our society is godless, wealthy, evil and barbaric?

God's call is unrelenting

Because He knows what is best for us and how we fit into the big picture, God refuses to give up on us. Jonah's attempt to, *'flee from the presence of the Lord'* (1:3) was doomed to failure. God can never be thwarted in His purposes for our lives. He has an uncanny way of intervening in our stubborn refusals. How tragic, that Jonah would rather drown than obey God. Disobedience always brings us to a place where we are floundering and drowning.

God can use our stubborn refusals to bring us to willing obedience

Jonah's prayer from the belly of the fish (2:1-10) gives him a new perspective on the God who is calling him to this difficult task. He is the God who -

- Corrects our wrong thinking (2:3)
- Saves both reluctant believers and sinful Assyrians (2:9)
- Brings a note of thankfulness to our bad experiences (2:9)

Jonah's eventual obedience was crowned with great success (3:1-10), which had always been God's intention. But there is still a lingering personal grievance lodged in his thinking (4:1-11). He turned out to be the preacher God had always known he could be. His preaching style was used by God to win the Ninevites to God's side; he spoke as all preachers should - authoritatively (3:4), simply (3:4), convincingly (3:5).

There was nothing complicated about his message, but we can't help wondering whether he preached too *restrictively*. He certainly spoke of divine judgement (3:4), but he failed to temper it with divine compassion and mercy; the very things God had shown to him.

It leaves the Ninevites asking, *'Who can tell?'* (3:9 AV) or *'Perhaps God will change His mind; perhaps He will stop being angry, and we will not die'* (3:9 GNB). As preachers and witnesses we must never leave a spiritually ignorant people wondering whether there is such a thing as compassion, mercy and salvation. Jonah could have told them but, even after all he had been through, his prejudices got in the way (4:1-11). Do yours? Do mine? •

Sandy is a retired minister and national chaplain for the Scottish Prisons service. He lives in Edinburgh, and is a sessional lecturer at The Faith Mission Bible College.

BY RAYMOND MOORE

Refusing to Bite

HANDLING TEMPTATION

*'Temptation is a person's strong inner desire to participate in an activity or habit that will impact life and perhaps prove destructive in the long run.'*¹

Temptation itself is not sin, but it can lead to sin, and that is what a Christian needs to avoid at all costs (Romans 6:11-12). The question is, how to handle temptation so that it doesn't prove destructive in the long run?

In Genesis 39:1-18 we find a practical answer in the life of Joseph. He has reached a privileged position in the household of Potiphar,

captain of Pharaoh's guard, when he faces temptation during the normal course of his working day, *'It came to pass... that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, lie with me ... Joseph went into the house to do his business, and... she caught him by his garment, saying, lie with me'* (Genesis 39: 7, 11-12 AV).

The suggestive, seductive, alluring temptation of Potiphar's wife was real, direct

and persistent. Day after day it lowered its line, with its hook and its bait into the pool of Joseph's life, with the intention of catching him out.

Joseph was a respected and godly young man, who knew what it was to have the presence of the Lord with him and the Lord's help in all that he did (Genesis 39:3). Surely that sort of temptation couldn't come into the mind

and attempt to enter the heart of such a respectful and godly young man? But it did, and the reason for that is, no one is exempt from temptation, of whatever form it is and whatever face it wears.

What is there to learn from Joseph to help us handle temptation?

Refuse to Listen

'He refused... It came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not (didn't listen) unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her' (Genesis 39:8, 10).

Day after day, Joseph heard the voice planting the suggestive tempting thought in his mind, but he refuses to dwell on it too long! He refuses to think about it too much, and he argues against the suggestion. He doesn't give it the chance to take hold in his head or give it the chance to enter his heart. He refused to listen! *"If you don't want temptation to follow you, don't act as if you're interested."*² Joseph didn't act as if he was interested, he lost his coat, but in doing so he didn't lose something far more valuable, and that is a good conscience and testimony before God and others! "It is better to lose a good coat than a good conscience."³

Reason it out

Joseph questions, *'How then can I do this?'* (Genesis 39:9) and considers his relationship with his boss, Potiphar! He reasons out all that he has done for him, the position he has as head over his house and the trust he has invested in him. He then quickly realizes, there was no way he could give into the lure of this temptation and risk damaging the relationship he has with Potiphar, who has been so good to him! He also reasons, *'How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?'* (Genesis 39:9)

Reason out the privileged relationship you have, not with a man called Potiphar, but with a man called Jesus. Reason out what He has done for you in His death for sins on the cross, how He has taken you out of the 'pit' of sin and brought you into His banqueting house where you're valued, respected and precious! Reason out, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God, who has been so good to me?"

Remove yourself

'He left his garment in her hand, and fled and got him out' (Genesis 39:12). Joseph leaves his coat in the hand of Mrs Potiphar and removes himself out of her presence! Don't play around with temptation or feed it with images or

situations, rather remove yourself from it. Someone has aptly said, "Strength is not merely an ability to resist temptation; true strength is, in refusing to go where you know temptation will be." *'Make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof'* (Romans 13:14:) and, *'Flee also youthful lusts'* (2 Timothy 2:22).

Rely on God

'The LORD was with Joseph' (Genesis 39:2). Above all, Joseph relied on the Lord to help him escape! None of us are a match for 'temptation' in our own strength, but we can rely on God to help us escape and obtain the blessing He has promised when we overcome. *'Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him'* (James 1:12). •

Raymond is from Northern Ireland and is married to Edith. They have 3 children and 4 joyful grandchildren. After nearly 40 years in pastoral ministry, he is still actively serving the Lord. Raymond is one of the speakers at the Edinburgh Convention in July where he will be bringing the morning Bible Readings.

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¹ Wilson, D, 2023, 'How Does the Bible Guide Us When We Face Temptation?', Bible Study Tools, <https://www.biblestudytools.com>, March 2025

² Author unknown

³ *Attrib. Matthew Henry*

BY NIGEL WILSON

Jairus' Daughter

MARK 5:21-43

The story of Jairus' daughter is a tragic tale of a man losing his twelve-year-old daughter and of the glorious conclusion when she is healed. This narrative gives us great assurance that just as Jesus was with this man in his trial, so Jesus will be with us in our trials.

Jesus was with him in the worry

This is the first thing that we notice in the narrative. In verse 23, Jairus falls on his face before Jesus and begs Him to come and heal his daughter, who was at the point of death. This man brought his worrying concern to the Lord. Philippians 4:6 tells us to be, *'anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God'* (NKJV). We must also bring our concerns and worries to the feet of Jesus.



Jesus was with him in his walk

Jesus went with Jairus (verse 24). Jesus has promised never to leave us or forsake us, *'so that we may boldly say the Lord is my helper'* (Hebrews 13:6). It is great to know that as we walk in our journey through life, we have Jesus by our side.

Jesus was with him in the waiting (verses 24 -34)

Jesus was walking with Jairus when their journey was interrupted by a severely ill woman. Here Jairus is forced to wait while his daughter is at death's door, but this waiting is part of God's plan. Sometimes God asks us to wait for His perfect timing.

The "interruption", the lady who needed healing, was all part of God's timing. A secretary of The Faith Mission Bible College



Sometimes we may be perplexed at our circumstances and question why this is happening. We need to remember God knows all about our situation. He is in control, and He cares.

once said, “The interruptions are the work”. What insight! She realised that when a student came into her office it was not an interruption but an opportunity to serve the Lord. There may be “interruptions” in our lives. Things may not always go as we desire, but we need to remember God has a plan because He cares.

Jesus was with him in the wondering

Jairus probably felt like saying to Jesus, “Never mind that woman! My daughter is dying!” He was probably wondering, “Is Jesus going to be on time to save my daughter?” He may also have wondered if Jesus realised how serious the situation was.

Sometimes we may be perplexed at our circumstances and question why this is happening. We need to remember God knows

all about our situation. He is in control, and He cares. We may have many questions, “Why Lord?”, and there may be no answer from heaven. We may never know the reason why this side of eternity. We may doubt what God is doing, but we need to accept that He knows best.

Jesus was with him in the weeping (verses 35-39)

Jairus hears the news he was dreading; his daughter has died (verse 35). We may face times of weeping, but Jesus will be with us. He wept for Lazarus (John 11:35). Psalm 56: 8 tells us, He stores our tears in a bottle, and Psalm 30:5 reminds us that *‘weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning’*. God comforts us in our sorrow with the ultimate hope that one day, *‘God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. For the former things have passed away’* (Revelation 21:4).

Jesus was with him in the wonderful healing (verses 41-43)

Jesus stepped into the room, took Jairus’ daughter by the hand and raised her to life. Jairus’ situation changed from despair to rejoicing. His family received their twelve-year-old back into their arms, alive and well. Jesus knew what He was doing. We too will be as amazed as Jairus was when we see the power of God at work. God is at work, we may not understand how, but He is. Jesus will bring us through the time of worry, He will help us in our walk, in our waiting, in our wondering and in our weeping. Never forget we have a wonderful Saviour who cares. ●

Nigel and Ruth head up the outreach of The Faith Mission in Devon and the southwest of England.



Our Reserves and His Resources

BY DR VANCE HAVNER

'Who is sufficient for these things?'

2 Corinthians 2:16

'Our sufficiency is of God.'

2 Corinthians 3:5

Near the close of his life President Woodrow Wilson, showing signs of great physical weariness, was asked, "Aren't you afraid you'll wreck your constitution?" He replied, "I've already wrecked my constitution, I'm living now on my by-laws!"

In this ulcer and aspirin age the journey is too great for us and millions feel that they have long since used up their reserves. Heart attacks and nervous breakdowns reap a grim harvest. "That tired feeling" is one of our most familiar phrases. Resting doesn't seem to help much,

especially since we try to recover in a week or two the energy we burn up for months. Some whip their jaded nerves with stimulants and others try to relax with sedatives. Christian workers break down in crashes and collapses, then go to psychiatrists who sometimes advise them to “lay up their Bibles and forget religion.”

That advice does not make sense. If our faith does us no good when we need it most, it is no good any time. If the Lord is not available in our darkest hours, what comfort is there in His promise to be with us “all the days?”¹ If we have to rely on the arm of flesh when we are weakest, then the Christian life is not worth living.

But there is a balm in Gilead.²

God has promised to renew our strength,³ to supply all our need,⁴ to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.⁵ He is able to make all grace abound toward us so that we always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work.⁶

We can reign in life⁷ and do all things through Christ.⁸ There is a life of rest for the rest of life! “Entered into Rest” is too often reserved for tombstones; any day we may cease from our own works and enter into His rest here and now.⁹ There is a way to live in the strength of Another, not on human reserves but by heavenly resources.

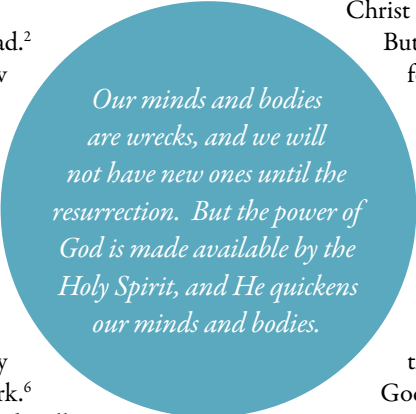
Paul knew how to be strong when he was weak, so that God’s strength was made perfect in his weakness.¹⁰ We are wrecks of what we were and are not sufficient for the demands of life. But we can move out of our boasted efficiency

– which really turns out to be deficiency – into His sufficiency. From the unchanged life of the sinner we may move by grace into the changed life of the saint; but we may move farther still in the exchanged life wherein we say, ‘*To me to live is Christ*’ (Philippians 1:21). ‘*Not I, but Christ*’ (Galatians 2:20). Our Saviour came not merely to take our part but to take our place. He died for us, lives in us and, as we reckon, yield and obey, God works in us to will and do¹¹ so that what we never could do in ourselves we do through Him, for His resurrection power works in us mightily.¹²

Christ is not only our Saviour and Lord, He is our Life.¹³ We were dead in trespasses and sins, and when we were born again Christ became our spiritual life.¹⁴

But there is also life in Him for mind and body. Our minds and bodies are wrecks, and we will not have new ones until the resurrection. But the power of God is made available by the Holy Spirit, and He quickens our minds and bodies so that we are able to do all that God wants done.

Two mistakes are often made here. Some expect too much. We have no guarantee that we shall have no aches and pains in these present bodies, nor that we will make no mistakes with our present minds. Others expect too little and struggle along in their own strength. **There is Divine enabling for all that God wants done.** That does not mean that we can accomplish spectacular things or remarkable feats such as someone else may be enabled to do. It does not mean that we are to disregard the laws of health. Indeed, we may do more by doing less.



Our minds and bodies are wrecks, and we will not have new ones until the resurrection. But the power of God is made available by the Holy Spirit, and He quickens our minds and bodies.



*Will you exchange
your reserves for
His resources? .*

There is a way to rest while we work with a mind at leisure from itself, taking a vacation on the inside instead of always seeking vacation here or yonder.

“Not in event, restriction or release,
Nor in scenes near or far,
But in ourselves are restlessness or peace:
Rest where you are.”¹⁵

If our human machinery is well oiled and without friction, it will run a long time!

We come to Christ and receive rest. We learn of Him and find rest.¹⁶ It is both an obtainment and an attainment. It is not learned in a day. There will be lapses into old fears and failures, but as we practise His rest, the old becomes occasional and the new becomes “natural.” We labour to enter into rest,¹⁷ we diligently give ourselves to meet the conditions, but once we cease from our own works,¹⁸ commit our way unto the Lord, then we trust also in Him,¹⁹ we take the attitude of faith and live by the **invincible affirmation**, ‘*Christ liveth in me*’ (Galatians 2:20). We put on the Lord Jesus,²⁰ His resources instead of our reserves. The Lord

is rich unto all that call upon Him,²¹ and His cupboard is never bare.

The poor woman who pressed through the crowd to touch Jesus had come to the end of her reserves and to the beginning of His resources.²² But the rich young ruler missed his blessing because he ‘*had great possessions*’ (Matthew 19:22); he still had some reserves of his own and still depended on them. The disciples went out to preach with neither purse nor script. When they returned Jesus asked them, “*Lacked ye anything?*” and they said, “*Nothing*” (Luke 22:35). The young ruler had purse and script and Jesus said, ‘*One thing thou lackest*’ (Mark 10:21).

Paul wrote of ‘*having nothing, yet possessing all things*’ (2 Corinthians 6:10). No reserves – but what resources! ‘*All things are yours*,’ (1 Corinthians 3:21) he wrote to the Corinthian Christians. ‘*All things are yours [but you] ... you are Christ’s and Christ is God’s*’ (1 Corinthians 3:21,23). We are not our own, we are bought with a price.²³

Will you exchange your reserves for His resources? Move out of your pitiful **efficiency with all its deficiency into His sufficiency**. ‘*Who is sufficient for these things? Our sufficiency is of God.*’ •

From the Archives: Alliance Weekly, originally published in Bright Words no 754, October 1951

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³ Isa 40:31

⁴ Phil 4:19

⁵ Eph 3:20

⁶ 2 Cor 9:8

⁷ Rom 5:17

⁸ Phil 4:13

⁹ Heb 4:10

¹⁰ 2 Cor 12:9

¹¹ Phil 2:13

¹² Rom 8:11; Eph 3:20

¹³ Col 3:4

¹⁴ Eph 2:1

¹⁵ Author Unknown

¹⁶ Matt 11:29

¹⁷ Heb 4:11

¹⁸ Heb 4:10

¹⁹ Ps 37:5

²⁰ Rom 13:14

²¹ Rom 10:12

²² Luke 8:43-48

Pebbles

The rough waters of the sea smooth and shape the lovely pebbles and stones... because of the process these stones go through, there are many colours, shapes and designs that attract them to us.

As Christians, many of us will have either been through trials or we may know someone who is going through difficult struggles. Trials are burdensome, and yet they can strengthen our faith, causing us to lean more on the Lord.

There are many 'churches' today that are either progressive or prosperity based, and these can cause people to question the goodness of God when difficulties meet us on our pathway. But this is contrary to Scripture and especially to Jesus' own words when He said, '*In this world you will have trouble...*' (John 16:33 NIV). Jesus continues to tell His people to '*take heart*' because He has '*overcome the world.*'

Trials, troubles and times of testing will come upon the Christian. It is wrong to think that because difficulties come, there is no God or that He doesn't care. Times of testing do not come because we have 'displeased the Lord.' Instead, they come because we live in a sinful world.

BY MARGARET ROBERTS

The trials and everyday struggles that we face are used by God to cultivate and refine His people. *‘Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance’* (James 1:2-3). *‘In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed’* (1 Peter 1:6-7).

If we focus mainly on the problem and let it consume us, there will be no spiritual growth in our Christian life. However, if we choose to keep our focus on Jesus and seek what we can learn from the difficult experience, we will find our faith strengthened and the Lord’s presence very near to us. This does not mean that our troubles will be made easy, but we have the assurance from the Lord Himself, we do not go through them alone. Through the stories of faith-filled characters in the Bible, we are taught and encouraged by those who went through periods of trouble, heartache and difficulty to be strong.


Trials will come and the Bible warns that the Christian life will never be easy, but what is important is how we respond to them. I once

read an analogy about how the rough waters of the sea smooth and shape the lovely pebbles and stones that many of us collect on the seashore. Without the grinding, they wouldn’t be much to look at or even collect. However, because of the process these stones go through, there are many colours, shapes and designs that attract them to us. This analogy could be used as a comparison with the Christian life. If everything in our lives was running smoothly, there would not be much depth of character or growth in our faith. We would not learn and develop as much if life was trouble free, compared to what we gain from a time of testing.

Are we thankful that everything that happens is for a reason, for a greater purpose? *‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose’* (Romans 8:28). God does not leave us where we are, but causes us to grow and to be more like Himself.

“Remember, our faith is always at its greatest point when we are in the middle of the trial, and confidence in the flesh will never endure testing. Fair-weathered faith is not faith at all.”
CH Spurgeon •

Margaret worked with The Faith Mission in Canada for 5 years before following the call of God to the work of The Faith Mission in County Wexford in the Midlands of Ireland.



The trials and everyday struggles that we face are used by God to cultivate and refine His people



GOD IS FAITHFUL



Testimony by Margaret Swanton

All I have to write happened through the grace and goodness of my loving Heavenly Father. I say with the chorus, 'Nought have I gotten but what I received, grace hath bestowed it since I have believed, boasting excluded, pride I abase, I'm only a sinner saved by grace.'¹

I was born in 1938, my parents owned a small farm a few miles from Skibbereen in West Cork. They had three children, myself and two brothers. Life was very different then; we had no electricity and no car or tractor. Water had to be got from a well down the road, which supplied nine or ten families.

We grew up in a happy home where we were loved and cared for and never went hungry even through the war years when food was rationed. We walked about a mile to church and school where we were taught portions of the Bible and

hymns for an examination every year. As we grew up, we had to make our own entertainment, we played badminton or danced at local houses. From an early age, I loved dancing.

In 1947 two Faith Mission pilgrims (as they were known then), Walter Stevenson and David Howden came with a portable hall and set up about half a mile from our home. We were sent along to the children's meetings where we heard the message of salvation from the Bible. A good number of people were saved at those meetings, and very soon afterwards a Prayer Union was started. Different missions were held, which we attended, and I was convicted of the fact that I was a sinner and needed to repent for my sins trusting God for salvation if ever I was to get to heaven. *'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God'* (John 3:3 AV). This troubled me, as I wanted to go to heaven when I died, but the things of

the world were getting more attractive. I used to come home at night from a dance and kneel down by my bed to pray, but my prayers didn't get very far as the dance music kept drumming away in my head.

There was a battle going on for my soul, and I'm ashamed to say the enemy was winning. He had a plan that suited me well. I could enjoy all this world could offer while I was young, and when I got older I could get saved. In this frame of mind, I decided I wouldn't go to any more meetings while I was young. However, when two young lady pilgrims (Misses Una Mclean, later Workman, and Annie Cross) called at our house and asked if we would attend a mission they were having about half a mile away I said I would.

I didn't go very often, but they called again and told us the closing meeting was on the Sunday night. I went along intending not to listen to the sermon. I don't remember anything that was said except the closing words of the preacher, "It may be your last chance." God's Holy Spirit brought it home to me. Here I was, with no guarantee of tomorrow, never mind old age. I was rejecting God's great offer of mercy, despising His great love for me by sending His beloved only Son to suffer a cruel death on Calvary's Cross, that my sins might be forgiven and I could spend eternity with Him.

I went home that night, got down on my knees, repented for my sins and asked to be forgiven. I got up from my knees and didn't feel any different, but heard the next day that there was going to be a meeting again that night. I was so glad to attend, I responded that night to the invitation, Una prayed with me and read the verse, '*Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*' (John 6:37). The Holy Spirit witnessed with my spirit that I was born again, and the joy of the Lord filled my soul.

I do thank God for that night, 23 May 1955, and for His mercy and patience with me.

It was a life changer. Instead of the dance it was now the prayer meetings. These were a great help and blessing to me as I grew in my Christian life. I heard the message of sanctification. If the disciples needed the power of the Holy Spirit, surely I did, and I sought God for the filling of His Holy Spirit and power to live daily for Him. I'm not perfect and do fail God at times, but thank God, He is a forgiving God and willing to forgive when we repent.

My husband, Bob, and I got married in 1960. God blessed us with three children, a boy and two girls. We were privileged to have different Christian workers stay in our home from time to time, and they were a big influence in our lives, especially on the children who were saved when they were young. God has been good to us, and it is wonderful to see our two grandchildren trusting in Him. Numbers have gone down in our Prayer Union, but it still goes on weekly, and God still answers prayer.

Like many others, we have had our ups and downs, but God has been so faithful through the years. We have proved Him to be a Healer in times of sickness, a Comforter in times of sorrow, a Provider in times of need and a loving, Heavenly Father who never fails nor forsakes His people.

Bob went home to heaven in 2021, rejoicing in the Saviour who saved him and kept him following Him since that mission in 1947. I miss him, but I thank God that His presence has given me peace and comfort, and we will meet again in the home He has gone to prepare. To Him be all the glory. •

References:
¹ James M Gray

A man wearing a light-colored cap and a button-down shirt stands in a field, pointing towards a line of hay bales in the distance. The background shows a rural landscape with trees and a cloudy sky.

BEING A
CHRISTIAN IN
THE WORKPLACE:

FARMER

BY WESLEY MILLAR

“I often think how as farmers, we are working so much alongside our Heavenly Father. I have to rely on His creative brilliance, and His absolute order and power in order to operate a successful farm.”

I have been involved in farming for as long as I can remember. My parents like to remind me that when I was very small, I used to drive my little pedal tractor and trailer all the way out of our farm lane in Northern Ireland collecting grass, copying my dad in his big tractor! I don't remember

any of that as I was just five years old when we as a family moved to start our new farming life on the beautiful Galloway coast in Scotland.

For myself, that meant getting used to starting school, church life and of course helping my parents whenever I could on the family farm.

That could be milking our dairy cows, feeding calves and especially, driving the tractors. It would be a real treat to be kept off school to help at silage time! I had no objections to this at all. However, I'm not so sure what my teachers had to say on the matter!

I often think how as farmers, we are working so much alongside our Heavenly Father. I have to rely on His creative brilliance, and His absolute order and power in order to operate a successful farm. No-one has ever managed to create a single seed that can germinate and reproduce more seeds when buried in the soil. No-one, by their own intelligence, could ever produce a live calf grown from a single female egg. It stays unseen for nine months, then inhales its first gasping breath and has the instinct to suckle from its mother to receive the first milk, packed full of essential antibodies and vitamins for a healthy lifetime. Even a single drop of rain is a marvel in itself, not to mention the blessing of life sustaining rain and just the right amount of heat and light from the sun. I could go on!

So why is it that not every farmer is truly God fearing and Christ worshipping? Why are there not more Christian farmers than in any other area of work? Why are so many seemingly unaware of the existence of the One who made the soil, the crops and livestock they work with day by day? I don't have all the answers, but the apostle Paul does help to answer these questions when he said, *'the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God'* (2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV).

It can be easy to lose heart and give up and think I could never make a difference in those I work with. How can I or any of us remove the blindness to the truth that exists

in people everywhere? How can I open the eyes of my fellow farmers to see that they are working with God Himself in His amazing creation? I suppose the answer is that none of us can by ourselves, but I do believe in my great God who desires to have a relationship with all men and women. He can remove this spiritual blindness and stubbornness, and He chooses to do that through people like you and me!

In recent years, I personally have been challenged by God to be His ambassador and talk to people I meet asking them what they believe, then deliberately swing the conversation round to the gospel. We as Christians are certainly commanded by Jesus to go and make disciples of all nations. That doesn't mean we personally have to go to all the nations, but it does mean that wherever God has placed us, that is where we should obey His command.

Jesus has promised by His Spirit to be with us always, to the end of the age, therefore, we need to take Him at His word. He has given us all the tools and armour we need to do what He has commanded. It does take courage, but when we are doing it out of genuine love for people, seeking to save them from a lost eternity, be that friends, family or colleagues, then He will give us the courage, and any fear will disappear. It is quite amazing how open many people are to talk. Being ready to chat with normal conversation is a great place to start. With a little practice it becomes easier to sense if a person is open to talk at a deeper level.

You may well ask how someone, who sees a lot more cows than people in an average day can speak to anyone at all on a spiritual level? That is exactly what I would have said just a few short years ago! All I can say is that, when we

surrender ourselves to our Lord and Saviour, it is surprising what He can ask you to do.

I have believed in Jesus as my personal saviour from a very young age, but it wasn't until I finally and truly surrendered my all to Him that I began to see Him working in my life in ways that I would never have imagined. I am really nothing special. I don't have any qualifications to speak of, or training or gifting to mention. I am just an ordinary person who loves being a caretaker on the farm and the family that God has blessed me with, and I have a Saviour who loves me and has saved me. Therefore, my desire is to share His love with the people I work with and meet.

Being a farmer and looking after livestock does come with its challenges, that's for sure! Every day has new problems to fix and sort out. 'Shepherding' is another word I use to describe what I do, even though I don't actually have sheep. Livestock constantly need feeding, managing and caring for, cleaning out housing, trimming overgrown or lame hooves, looking out for sick animals or assisting a difficult calving. The jobs are never ending! Of course, farming features heavily all the way through the Bible, right from the garden of Eden to David the shepherd king, to Jesus' many agricultural related parables like the sower and the seed and His 'I am' sayings like *'I am the good Shepherd'* (John 10:11).

For us as Christ followers, our 'shepherding' responsibilities go further than our workplace. We have our own physical family to 'shepherd' by providing and caring for, by feeding and nourishing them both physically and

spiritually. When family members need help, we of course will be there to help when we can.

Then there's our spiritual family, Christ's body made up of many parts that we fellowship with weekly at church. For all of us, whether we are in leadership or not, there will be numerous opportunities to 'shepherd' the flock, by providing spiritual feeding, serving each other practically, caring for and praying with those in need.

*Where has
Jesus placed
you? In which
workplace, in
which family,
in which
neighbourhood?
He wants you
to be faithful
workers for
Him there.*

In the same way that I as a farmer cannot produce anything without the help of my Heavenly Father, the same is true in my spiritual calling. On the farm, my responsibility is limited to sowing the seed, tending, feeding and looking after the livestock. When it comes to spiritual shepherding, I must recognise my limitations, but also my responsibilities. I, by my own strength and ability cannot save a soul for eternity, but I am given the responsibility to sow the spiritual seed, tend, care and teach those within my responsibility.

Where has Jesus placed you? In which workplace, in which family, in which neighbourhood? He wants you to be faithful workers for Him there. His desire is to work in and through you and me. Our first responsibility is to surrender to the will of God. When you surrender, really surrender to the will of God, He will surprise you with what He has planned for you. Then Jesus Himself, by the power of His Holy Spirit will work through each of us to transform others for all eternity. May it all be for His glory. ●

BEING STILL WITH SEIZURES, SICKNESS AND SUFFERING



My Story by Janet Slater



While being involved with outreach and ministry, some days can be busier than others. Wednesday, 1 December 2021 began as a normal enough day with preparing, cooking and serving the meal for the monthly Oasis@Carhue outreach lunch for approximately thirty people. That afternoon, we went into the Deerpark estate in Bandon, to do our weekly children's club sharing the gospel with boys and girls who were hearing Bible stories for the first time. After coming home, having tea and spending some time with the family, we went to bed as usual.

Around 2am I woke up with a terrible pain in my head, and I felt it was so bad that I needed to get up and get some painkillers if I was to get back

to sleep. As I walked through our kitchen to get some paracetamol, I felt a sudden shooting pain go up the back of my head, and in a very short moment I had to make the decision to keep going for medication or turn around and alert Johnathan that something wasn't right! I chose the latter and very quickly wakened him, telling him about the terrible headache that didn't seem normal before I collapsed onto the bed. For the rest of that night, I was sure I was going to die as I came in and out of consciousness, and I told the Lord I was ready to come home.

Afterwards Johnathan filled in all the blanks of what happened that night. There had been seizures, sickness and suffering. I had had many migraine headaches, but this was by far the worst headache

I'd ever had. The following day was mostly a blur apart from a recurring phrase to 'Be still'. Every time an ambulance or doctor was mentioned I said I just wanted to be still without even realizing what was going on! I remembered that I had a ladies' Cameo@Carhue outreach planned for the Friday night and felt I should cancel it, so in one of my conscious moments I send out word to cancel the event. Otherwise for almost twenty-four hours I just wanted to 'Be still' in a dark room with no noise. My children were amazing and didn't annoy me but let me rest.

On the Friday morning, things were still not right so I decided I should go to see my doctor, and with Johnathan's help I walked into the surgery. I can still remember his face when he saw how high my

“During this entire time, I can honestly say that the ‘peace of God’ was so real, and I felt carried by the prayers of God’s people. If you are one of those who prayed, thank you.”

blood pressure was. He sent me straight to hospital. After a long sit in A&E, I collapsed and fell off my chair. The next thing I remember was waking up in the CT scan. They discovered that I had a cerebral aneurysm and a bleed on the brain. The neurosurgeons were able to insert a stent into my brain and kept me in hospital to monitor things for over three weeks.

I was well looked after in hospital. I wasn’t allowed many visitors due to covid restrictions, but I needed the time to rest and recover. During that time so many things became more precious, including the words of Isaiah 41:10, *‘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’* (NIV). I was so thankful for church family and friends that were the hands and feet of Christ during this time, providing meals for my family at home and just being so kind and supporting us all in prayer. I

was also so thankful to have a few opportunities to share the gospel with others in hospital at the same time as me. During this entire time, I can honestly say that the ‘peace of God’ was so real, and I felt carried by the prayers of God’s people. If you are one of those who prayed, thank you.

My GP told me afterwards that he followed my case with interest and said I must have had someone up above looking after me. I was able to tell him of so many who were praying and of our faithful God who answered those prayers. My consultant told me I was a walking miracle and that not many survive. I am totally convinced that it was God wanting me to *‘Be still’*, and that is why things didn’t end differently.

I get extremely fatigued, and sometimes have to stop and rest. I have learned to pace myself, but God has given me the help and strength to do most things I was doing before (just with less energy!). When I struggle,

I am reminded of what Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:9, *‘but He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.’*

My husband, Johnathan, has been incredible and an amazing help with the things I struggle with day by day, and my children have been so understanding and helpful. I am truly blessed and thankful. My life will never be the same again, but every day I have is a gift from God. I love to sing these words from *‘My heart is filled with thankfulness’*...

*‘For every day I have on earth is given by the King
So, I will give my life, my all,
to love and follow Him.’¹ •*

Janet and Johnathan lead the work of The Faith Mission in the Southwest Irish District based at the Carhue Centre in County Cork.

¹ *Stuart Townend & Keith Getty, ‘My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness’, Copyright © 2004, Thankyou Music*



SPRING MISSIONS

BY ANDREW McCULLOUGH

Solomon reminds us in the book of Ecclesiastes, *'To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven'* (Ecclesiastes 3:1 AV). In His creation God has given us the rhythm and variety of natural seasons, each of which has a sense of beauty and wonder. Spring brings us many signs of new life – flowers begin to bud, and the days start to lengthen. There are newborn lambs in the fields and farmers plough the ground as they prepare to plant crops.

Spring is also an ideal time to sow the seed of the Word evangelistically, with the expectation of a harvest in the spiritual sense. It is the prayer of those who spread the gospel that people in their deadness and darkness of sin will be brought to new life in Christ. We were able to share in two missions in the North Irish District in the early spring and both brought great encouragement.

New Dawn Mission

In February we were glad to partner in a week of mission with New Dawn church, near Broughshane, County Antrim. The location itself was interesting. Once it had been a public house in the rural community, and now after much hard work it is a beautiful building, which was opened in the autumn of 2023 to share the gospel. It sits under the shadow of Slemish mountain, where Patrick as a slave looked after sheep and later in the 5th Century returned to Ireland as the first Christian missionary.

Each night through the week various people shared either in song or testimony, and a clear and simple message focusing on a biblical character was given at the close. Many people remarked on the bright congregational singing, and there was a tremendous sense of God's presence in the meetings. It was a real blessing to be 'partners together' with those in a small fellowship who have a passion for the gospel.

The song reminds us,
*There is one Gospel on which I stand
For all eternity
It is my story, my Father's plan
The Son has rescued me
Oh what a Gospel, Oh what a peace
My highest joy and my deepest need
Now and forever He is my light
I stand in the Gospel of Jesus Christ¹*

Mosside Mission

Mosside is a small village in North Antrim, not far from the famous 'Dark Hedges.' If you've never heard of it don't worry – it's basically two rows of trees that are on either side of a small country road! It became popular through a fictional TV series called Game of Thrones and now tourists flock to the site.

In the month of March, a two-week mission was planned in the recently refurbished Community Centre, where the Prayer Union meets each month. A team of local men shared in the meetings with us as we proclaimed the truth of God's Word each night. We pointed those who came to the Saviour who died on the tree at Calvary for our sins.

There was an average of between fifty and sixty in attendance most weeknights, and a wide spectrum of people came along. It was noted that unsaved individuals were present at most of the meetings – one Christian man remarked, "We pray for folks to come in and then are surprised when they come!" The local churches gave wholehearted support to this outreach and, Lord willing, we plan to have a follow up mission in the autumn.

Some Concluding Thoughts

In both locations where missions were held it was evident that the ground had been well prepared in prayer, and it was a joy to serve with believers who had a real burden for their local community. These could be defined as traditional FM missions, and helpful literature was distributed in the area on visitation and made available to those attending the meetings.

We rejoice in knowing of two people who indicated that they had come to Christ. One was a young boy who asked his parents after the mission meeting how he could become a Christian, and they had the joy of pointing him to the Lord. A man who also had been attending the mission indicated that he too had trusted Jesus personally in his own home. However, the full results of a mission may never be known this side of eternity. The seed of God's Word sown in the hearts of individuals can do its work of conviction and conversion long after the mission has officially finished.

At the time of writing, we are planning for the follow up mission, mentioned previously, in the autumn, and look forward to a harvest mission in Laymore FM Hall, Ballymena in September. We are grateful for all who faithfully remember us in prayer – we are *'labourers together with God'* (1 Corinthians 3:9). ●

Andrew and Jenny McCullough head up The Faith Mission work and outreach in the North Irish District based in Ballymena.

¹ Jonny Robinson & Rich Thompson, *'There is One Gospel,'* ©2022, CityAlight Music.

We rejoice in knowing of two people who indicated that they had come to Christ.





GOSPEL TRUCK

REPORT

BY CAROLYN MAYBIN

What a wonderful privilege it is to tell others the most important message they will ever hear. With the amazing facility of the Gospel Truck, we have so many opportunities to do this with people of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds.

Although we take part in many church services, mission halls, Girl's Brigades, Boy's Brigades, ladies' meetings and school Scripture Unions, our main ministry is doing events with the Gospel Truck. Agricultural shows and street outreach are a big part of our calendar. At these events we serve free hot drinks including 'Ristretto coffee', we have a gift and book shop on board and much to interest children, balloon

modelling, salvation bracelet making and 'Bear shows' (see photo). The 'Bear shows' last for less than 15 minutes and consist of three friendly teddy bears doing actions to children's songs and telling a Bible story with the gospel message included. All these activities give us openings to talk to people and tell them WE ALL NEED JESUS.

We encounter many troubled souls, those who are searching for God, people who think they don't need God and those who believe they will make it to heaven but haven't turned from their life of hurting God and trusted Him with their heart, soul and mind. It is our heart's desire that these people, who are all precious to

God, will take away something from their exposure to the Gospel Truck that the Gospel Truck will be a link in the chain to connect them to their Creator who breathed life into them and loves them with unmeasurable love.

Working alongside churches has proved to be a valuable exercise, especially Family Fun Days. These events introduce local people into the grounds of the church with a barbecue, children enjoy the activities and the church family can befriend those who don't attend services.

During the summer months we hold Holiday Bible Clubs in the marquee which adjoins to the Gospel Truck (see photo). The highest number

of children registered at a club was 165. It is absolutely amazing to have the marquee packed with excited little children singing at the top of their voices to God. "God is for me, who can be against me?" was the favourite song last year! We rejoiced at one of our clubs last year when we heard a little girl had asked Jesus to be her Saviour and Lord.

We also do missions with the Gospel Truck, sometimes these are seated missions in the marquee or drive-in missions in the colder months. It is encouraging to see unsaved people attending - curious about the venue! A lorry driver and his wife came to one of the missions intrigued by the truck, and the following Monday they both arrived at the manse to tell the great news, one of them became a Christian and the other had been restored to faith in God. The Lord uses many things to draw people to Himself.

A favourite part of the ministry is working with schools. The truck is parked in the school playground and each class of up to 30 pupils enter the truck for an engaging presentation of the gospel. This includes action songs, a Bible story, a quiz, and all children leave with a book explaining salvation. A lot of these children never



go to church and come from families who never talk or think about God. Pray that God will impact the children we meet so that they repent and believe in the Lord Jesus.

'Faith on the Farm' is a three-day event we hold in a farmyard. With the Gospel Truck as a stage and source of amplification and equipment, we hold a young people's night, a vintage tractor/car night and a family service to finish. These events attract a huge crowd, and we pray the Lord will continue to use these opportunities for His glory. We heard of a young man coming to faith in the Lord after one of these events. Praise God for the encouragements along the way.

A lovely story to finish off with, at the Auld Lamas fair in Ballycastle, Co Antrim, a young boy stopped with us for a salvation keyring. He listened intently, much better than anyone else that day, as the gospel story was told through the colours of the

beads. He said, "I have never heard this before, and I would like to follow Jesus." As we prayed, he also wanted to pray and took home his first Bible. It is wonderful to witness the Lord working in a person's life. Little children understanding the gospel, young people bravely living it out in a hostile environment, middle-aged holding on to God's promises through stormy days and the aged looking forward to meeting the Master face to face.

Please pray for us, we have many tough days, and we need the Lord's help so much, for wisdom, guidance and the Holy Spirit to fill us with His power to be His servants for the glory of God and salvation of souls.

God bless you all and thank you for your interest and prayers. ●

Andrew and Carolyn, with their daughters Grace and Ruth, lead the ministry of the Faith Mission Gospel Truck based near Garvagh, Co. Londonderry. If you would like the Gospel Truck to do an event in your area please contact andrew.maybin@faithmission.org

MISSION FOI EVANGILE (MFE)

BY KARL LIPP

*A report and encouragement to pray for Mission Foi Evangile,
The Faith Mission's daughter organisation in France.*



Mission Foi Evangile (L to R):
Armel Digbo Bi, Philippe Bernard, Louis-Marie Lemofack, Daniel Schott and Karl Lipp

The founder of MFE, Emile Krémer, was convinced that Jesus would soon return. So, he wanted to redeem the time and proclaim the Good News in the French region with the fewest churches, the centre of France. First, he sent his three children (Jean-Paul, Etienne and Lydie) to the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh, then with other committed brothers he created MFE in 1960, copied from The Faith Mission, a model in evangelism.

Here, in a few lines, are our three main ways of evangelising:

The first was to take Jesus as our model, who travelled all over the towns and villages. This was done in teams of two, travelling with caravans and portable halls, going door to door, holding children's meetings and evangelistic evenings. In our very catholic region (where people are open to occult things for healing, warding off evil etc.) many people have been able to find their Saviour in this way.

The second was when towns would no longer accept our portable halls. We had to concentrate on a few towns and start churches there. In 1975, at the suggestion of Karl Lipp

(a former converted catholic who had arrived from Germany with a calling and a burden for French catholics), the MFE bought a van specially built to display Christian books and Bibles. In this way, as well as with other biblical stands, we were able to make direct contact with people who frequented the markets.

In 1980, the third method began. As the University of Orléans was very close to our meeting room, Karl (the leader of the Olivet church) was keen to witness to the many students who came there from the four corners of the world. It was an opportunity to literally put into practice the Lord's command to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). Several students who returned to their home countries are now serving the Lord full-time. Others, who remained in France, are now church leaders.

Let me share one example for encouragement from this outreach. When Karl began this work in 1980, with a small table covered with Bibles, tracts, etc. at the entrance to a university restaurant, a student from Congo-Brazzaville became interested in the tracts. Exchanges took place for a whole year. The day came when he began to attend worship services and especially an inter-church meeting with our brother Jean-Jacques Rothgerber (an evangelist to the ends of the earth and still faithful in this task to this day with our mission). The student's heart was touched by the Word of God, and he turned away from his idols to serve the living and true God.

He immediately started to bear witness and proclaimed the gospel to other students and to his teachers. Without fear, he too took his place behind the small table. The Lord put in his heart the desire to serve Him in his country. On his return, with a PhD, he was offered a government job. But after a while he decided

to devote himself entirely to the gospel and to the growing house church. Today he and other committed brothers look after six churches in Brazzaville, five churches elsewhere in the country and one in Kinshasa in the neighbouring DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). This is Jacques Makaya, whom MFE supports in this work of evangelisation and church creation.

Fortunately, we no longer work solely for 'export', but for some years now, we have also been benefiting from the fruits of our labour here in France. Here are two examples:

In 2000, a student from Cameroon came to the Olivet church. In his own country, he was already involved in evangelism, in a movement where there is a lot of emphasis on gifts, healing, prophecy and speaking in tongues. He was thirsty for the Word and wanted to be more attached to the Giver than to interpretations of the Bible adapted to the desires of old nature. This is Louis-Marie Lemofack. He continued his work among the students. The time came when the university would no longer provide a hall for students to study the Bible, nor permission to set up a Bible stand. With the help of former students, he continued to witness on campus despite the obstacles and invited them to the GBE (student Bible group), which is now held on our premises. In 2012, the Lord called him to leave his job as a computer scientist to serve full-time; it was the right time, as Karl needed help and to be gradually replaced.

Another former student from Côte d'Ivoire, Armel Digbo Bi, also followed this call to join MFE full-time. In 2022 Armel left his successful career as an engineer to take over the Joué-les-Tours church, founded by Kurt Ruegger (Kurt went to be with the Lord in 2023). He is the one who had begun the



Mission Foi Evangile - The last inter-church meeting in Olivet on the 16 March 2025

huge work of publishing and distributing the Bible and Christian literature in one and then several bookshops in the towns of Tours, Poitiers and Orléans with Walter Streiff). In Joué-les-Tours, the church building needs to be brought up to today's standards, and a dilapidated building needs to be replaced with a suitable house for the pastor. This project is currently underway.

Louis-Marie and Armel take evangelisation very much to heart. God has allowed us to meet all nations in our streets. Through the distribution of literature along with personal testimonies the Word of God can enter homes and sometimes hearts. Our worship service in Olivet is attended by people from ten to fifteen different nations.

How is it possible that many students serve the Lord in this way? Is it because of our experience, strength or wisdom? No, we only do what the Lord has commanded us, *'Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you'* (Matthew 28:20). I remember sitting next to Brother Emile Krémer as a young convert and saying to him: I would like to serve the Lord but I have no training. He replied, "A burning heart for the Lord, that's what you need." And he offered to pay for eight months

of French language training at a language school in Tours. That's how I got involved in this mission.

Serving the Lord is not just a question of knowledge. Above all, it means giving up ourselves to make ourselves available to Jesus, who wants to build His church, and to become useful in God's work. Didn't He promise to give everything necessary to follow Him and bear much fruit? Yes, Jesus has promised to be with us every day until the end of the world. We do not work alone, He is with us, to whom the Father has given all power in heaven and on earth.

God used a simple cobbler to touch the heart of a 15-year-old boy, who was to become England's greatest preacher: Charles Haddon Spurgeon. The Lord still wants to call today. We pray daily to the Lord of the harvest to send workers to our little mission, as Jesus Himself recommended, because His harvest is great in France and His return is drawing near. •

Karl Lipp, president of Mission Foi Evangile (MFE)
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Mission Foi Evangile Missionaries:

- Karl and Patricia LIPP (Olivet near Orléans)
- Louis-Marie and Aurélie LEMOFACK (Olivet near Orléans)
- Daniel and Régula SCHOTT (Amboise)
- Philippe and Paula BÉRNARD (Gien)
- Armel and Katrin DIGBO BI (Tours)
- Walter and Marie-Christine STREIFF (Gien retired)

Derriaghy Prayer Union Centenary

On Saturday 15 February, the Derriaghy Prayer Union celebrated 100 years of existence! The meeting took place in the kindly granted Lisburn CWU Hall, and Rosemary Swain, daughter of the former PU Representative, Hubert Maze, gave a report of her family's memories of the Prayer Union. Andrew Maze, Rosemary's grandfather, was saved in a mission conducted by WP Nicholson in 1922 in the same CWU Hall! His life was transformed that night and he, along with two other men, built the Mission Hall at Derriaghy.

A mission was held in this hall from 2 November to 21 December 1924, conducted by Faith Mission "Pilgrim" Miss Harper and auxiliary Miss Cairns. In the 1925 volume of Bright Words the then FM Superintendent for the area, Mr JB McLean, intimates, 'Sister Harper has been mostly single-handed, but the Lord has stood by her and in the two missions that have been held: Bainstown and Derriaghy, a large number have been won for the Lord.'



He goes on to say that a Mr Grubb had written some thirteen years before, requesting prayer for that area and to see if a mission could be held there. "Though our friend did not live to see his prayers answered, yet we believe that from the other side he rejoiced, as during the past weeks, many have been brought out of darkness into light. A very fine Prayer Union has been formed."

Andrew Maze and other family members were involved from the outset. No matter how busy life became on the farm or at work, Tuesday night's Prayer Union meetings took first place, and when Andrew's son, Hubert, answered God's call to go to the Faith Mission Bible College in 1944, he knew the Prayer Union members were faithfully supporting him. Hubert's National Identity Card shows several journeys between Scotland, where he served as a "Pilgrim" and Lisburn, his home area, when he would no doubt have shared

his experiences and been assured of further prayer.

A faithful band of prayer warriors fulfilled the directions in their little blue Prayer Union membership books: 'being vitally interested in the work of the Mission and undertaking to pray for it.' Rosemary remembers at least fifteen members at a time, and although this number has since declined, the current Prayer Union Representative, Robin McCulla, who took over when Hubert sadly passed away in November 2014, is encouraged that the four members who currently meet together on the second Tuesday night of the month are still fulfilling those directions many years later. The work of The Faith Mission greatly benefits as the Lord answers their prayers. The Centenary Celebration was so encouraging, and the message from George Conn and singing by Andrea Conn were very much appreciated. ●

FAITH MISSION CAMPS 2025

This summer our heart's desire is to see many young people coming to Christ through our camp ministry. We earnestly value your prayers for this. If you are interested in helping or know children who would like to come, we would love to hear from you. See contact details on opposite page.

ENGLAND

Earl Stonham Centre

- 13-17 years, 21-25 July,
- 9-12 years, 28 July – 1 August
Stephen & Cynthia Walker

SCOTLAND

Highland District

FM Bible College, Edinburgh

- 9-12 years, 14-19 July
- 13-16 years, 21-26 July
Jeff & Sarah Townend

South Scottish District

Newton Stewart Centre, Dumfries & Galloway

- 9-12 years, 21-25 July
- 13-16 years, 11-15 August
Robert & Phillippa Cismas
phillippa.cismas@faithmission.org

IRELAND

North Irish District

Portadown Centre, Co Armagh

- 8-11 years, 30 June-4 July,
Andrew & Jenny McCullough

Irish Border District

Portadown Centre

- 8-11 years, 14-18 July
- 12-16 years, 21-25 July
Brian & Hazel Parker
brian.parker@faithmission.org

Central Irish / West Irish District

Portadown Centre

- 8-11 years, 28 July-1 August
- 12-14 years, 4-8 August,
Garry & Alison Tutty

Irish Midlands District

Durrow Centre, Co Laois

- 8-10 years, 21-25 July
- 11-13 years, 28 July-1 August
- 14-18 years, 4-8 August
Mervyn & Rachel Tomb

South West Irish District

Carhue Centre, Co Cork

- 9-12 years, 30 June-4 July
- 13-16 years, 7-11 July
- Outreach Camp
16-20s, 14-18 July
Johnathan & Janet Slater





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EDINBURGH CONVENTION

ec25

29 JUNE - 4 JULY 2025

BIBLE READINGS
REV. RAYMOND
MOORE

EVENING CELEBRATIONS
DR. ROBERT MURDOCK
REV. JONATHAN CURRIE



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