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# FIRST

Seek First the Kingdom of God!

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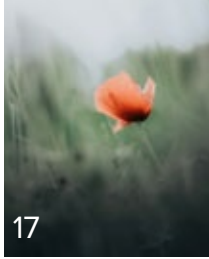
## When God's People Pray, God's Power Falls

» WITNESSING 9 TO 5: KINGDOM  
WORK IN THE WORKPLACE

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» IGNITE US TO PRAY  
(PART 2)

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE FAITH MISSION'S GENERAL DIRECTOR

*'If the iron is blunt, and one does not sharpen the edge,  
he must use more strength.'* Ecclesiastes 10:10

**A**round the Durrow Centre there is lots of grass to be cut. If twigs are lying on the ground, the lawnmower will still cut the grass but will lose its edge in the process. Something has changed, the edge is gone, the finish on the lawn isn't as nice and it requires more effort to mow with a blunt blade.

There are things in life which can cause us to lose our edge. Our interactions with others, exposure to the world and the general routine of life can have an impact upon us. We can keep going, just like the lawnmower, but more effort is needed. Our work for the Lord is not generating good results. We are depending on our own strength for spiritual results, which is bound to fail.

How we need to have a fresh edge, to meet with God afresh for spiritual quickening! FB Meyer states that sometimes we just need a break, "when we are conscious that the edge is going off, it becomes us to seek a fresh whetting. The time is not lost

in the harvest-field when the reapers whet their scythes with musical tinkle. A day in the country or a week by the seaside are very pleasant whetstones." May God grant us the wisdom to know when we need a fresh edge.

### Prayer

Please join us for a day of prayer on Friday 14 November. Prayer points are available from FM workers or on the website. Join with us to praise God for all that has been accomplished and to ask for a fresh outpouring of the Spirit upon Mission members, as well as continued provision of people and resources so that much progress can be made.

The Mission Council meet 6-8 January for prayer and business meetings. Please remember these times in prayer. Pray for clear guidance in the future direction of the Faith Mission and for wisdom in appointing workers to areas where there is significant potential for gospel ministry.

### People

A wide variety of Mission

members and former Bible College staff joined the Moscrop family for a thanksgiving service for Robin Moscrop. To students in the 1990s, Mr Moscrop was bus driver, homiletics and church history lecturer. He was a discerning, godly man and had a significant influence on the life of the College. We extend sympathies and prayers to his wife, Betty, and the family.

In answer to prayer, we are glad to have Daniel Trail join the headquarters team as Operations and Administrative Support Officer. Do remember him in prayer as he settles into his new role.

We are sorry to say farewell to Jayne Coleman, our Head of Finance. We thank her for her service. She has worked hard to bring clarity to the Mission's accounts and has been a steady influence in many aspects of charity compliance. Do pray for a suitable replacement for this important role. •

*Mervyn Tomb,  
General Director*



WHEN GOD'S  
PEOPLE

# Pray GOD'S Power

FALLS

ACTS 4:31-32

BY JACQUES NADEAU

## Colonel Robert E. Lee said,

“Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to the task of prayer. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take the time to pray— to really pray. Let there be prayer at sunup, at noon day, at sundown, and at midnight— all throughout the day. Let us pray for our children, for our youth, for our aged, for our pastors, and for our homes. Let us pray for our Churches, and let us pray for ourselves, that we might never lose the word, “concern,” out of our Christian vocabulary. Let us pray for our nation; let us pray for those who have never known Jesus Christ or His redeeming love; let us pray for moral forces everywhere, and for our national leaders. Let prayer be our passion, and let prayer be our practice.”<sup>1</sup> Amen.

As a whole the church has lost the art of praying. We’ve abandoned *‘the secret place of the Most High’* (Psalm 91:1 NIV), and in doing so, have placed our confidence in what the flesh can accomplish in its own strength. But the Bible clearly teaches us that it’s *‘not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit’* (Zechariah 4:6) that the work of God is accomplished.

### The Example of a Serving Church

In light of this reality, I would like to share a few thoughts from the sample set before us in the early church, specifically Acts 4:31-32, *‘After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions*

*was his own, but they shared everything they had.’* This is an example of a New Testament church in action. They were a vibrant church— alive, compelling and significant. They were not lifeless, cold or stagnant. They were busy **servicing** God and ministering to one another’s needs.

This was a church that was united, unselfish and unrestrained in their service— a church in unity— one in heart and mind, with no strife or division among them, unlike the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:1-4). Their ministry wasn’t about what they could get out of it, but it was about what they could pour into it. They saw themselves as stewards of the gifts and graces God in His mercy had given them.

### The Example of an Unashamed Church

The New Testament church were not ashamed of the gospel. Verse 33 says, *‘With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.’* They didn’t compromise the truth in order to fill their churches. They stood on the Word of God in an ever shifting and ever changing culture. They didn’t move an inch away from the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. And we must remain faithful as well because our only rule of faith and obedience is the scripture, by which Jesus governs His people and preserves us to the end.

### The Example of a Praying Church

They were also a church that was **seeking** God. The text says, *‘After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly’* (Acts 4:31). These early believers were not only talking to men about God, but they were especially talking to God about men. They were a praying church!

If there's a major weakness in the evangelical church today, it's the frailty and poverty of both our private and corporate times of prayer. Prayer might be a part of our ministries, but it certainly isn't a priority. The church of our day can become a beehive of activities, filled with all kinds of different ministries, ministries that are helpful indeed, but where are the people who gather together to pray, to seek the face of the only One who can truly help, to cry out to Him for His Spirit and for His blessing? Where are those people, and where are those churches? *'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and will heal their land'* (2 Chronicles 7:14). The church of Acts 4 was a praying church.

### The Effect of a Praying Church

It's only when the people of God gather together with one another to pray, to plead and to petition that there will be a potent expression of the power of God. *'After they prayed the place where they were meeting was shaken'* (verse 31). No prayer, no power. As Alistair Begg once said, "Prayer is an acknowledgment that God is God, and we are not. To neglect prayer is to live as though the power rests with us rather than with Him."<sup>2</sup>

### The Power of a Spirit-Filled Church

In verse 31 not only do we see this potent expression of God's power, but we also see the personal experience of God's power, *'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.'* It was more than a building that was shaken—the people of God were shaken, right to the core. They were filled with the power of God, ignited, set aflame and overflowing with zeal and passion. They were longing to be the men and women that God had saved them

to be and all as the result of having gathered together to pray. This filling of the Spirit led to public evangelism by the people of God, *'And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly'* (4:31).

Could it be that the lack of passion for the souls of lost men is due to the neglect of, *'.. the secret place of the most High'* (Psalm 91:1)? Could it be that our cold, indifferent and even apathetic hearts are the result of not abiding in the Presence of Him whose zeal for God's House consumed Him? Only God, in mercy, can revive us — only He can breathe upon us afresh, kindling our hearts with His consuming fire, turning us from apathy to passion and igniting deep within us, a holy zeal for the glory of His Name. "O great God of highest Heaven, occupy my lowly heart."<sup>3</sup>

### The Poverty of a Prayerless Church

It has been said that Augustus Caesar found Rome a city of wood and left it a city of marble.<sup>4</sup> Will we find our cities, cities of wood? And more importantly, will we leave them cities of marble? This depends on whether or not we gather together to pray. The pastor who, by grace, succeeds in changing his people from a prayerless people, to a praying people, has done a greater work than Augustus. •

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> Attrib. Col. Robert E. Lee - source unknown

<sup>2</sup> Begg, A., *Made For His Pleasure: The Benchmarks Of Vital Faith*, 2005

<sup>3</sup> 'O Great God', Bob Kauffin, Sovereign Grace Praise © 2006

<sup>4</sup> Suetonius, *The Lives of the Caesars*



*Jacques, a former Durham Regional Police Officer, has been lead pastor at Newcastle Fellowship Baptist Church in Ontario since 2003. He is married to Tatiana, and they have two sons, two daughters-in-law and five grandsons. Jacques is one of the speakers at Bangor Convention 2026.*

BY F.B. MEYER

# He will make obstacles serve His purpose

*'I will make all my mountains a way.'*

Isaiah 49:11

**W**e all have mountains in our lives. There are people and things that threaten to bar our progress in the Divine life. That trying temperament; that large family; those heavy claims; that uncongenial occupation; that thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7); that daily cross. We think that if only these were removed, we might live purer, tenderer, holier lives; and often we pray for their removal. *'O fools, and slow of heart!'* (Luke 24:25). These are the very conditions of achievement; they have been put into our life as the means to the very graces and virtues for which we have been so long praying. You have prayed for patience through long years, but there is something that tries you beyond endurance; you have fled from it, evaded it, accounted it an unsurmountable obstacle to the desired attainment, and supposed that its removal would secure your immediate deliverance and victory. Not so! You would only gain the cessation of temptations to impatience. But this would not be patience. Patience can only be acquired through just such trials as now seem unbearable. Go back, and submit yourself. Claim to be a partaker in the patience

of Jesus. Meet your trials in Him. Thus shall the mountains that stand between you and your promised land become your way to it.

Note the comprehensiveness of this promise. *'I will make all my mountains a way.'* There is nothing in life which harasses and annoys that may not become subservient to the highest ends. No exception can obtain against this great though small word, *'all'*.

Consider also that possessive pronoun. They are His mountains. He put them there. But do not forget that the promise is in the future tense. *'I will make.'* We do not see the pathway from afar; but in the distance only a tumbled mass of rocks. The keenest sight cannot discern the point at which the threading path shall intersect them. But why anticipate? We know that God will not fail His promise. *'God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof; for he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven'* (Job 28:23-24). And when we come to the foot of the mountains, we shall find the way. •

*From Meyer, F.B., Christ in Isaiah, Fleming H. Revell Company, 1895, public domain.*

BY PETER MOORE

# The Shepherd Psalm

**I**n Psalm 23, God is seen as a caring Shepherd and a very dependable guide. It's wise to follow Him and obey His command for He is our only hope for eternal life and real security down here on this planet!

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

The question is, "Can God satisfy?" Yes, this Shepherd will watch over us very sincerely. He will also guide us and meet all our needs. His overriding care for us is wonderful. I can rest in this Shepherd very securely because I shall not be in want. *'As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness'* (Psalm 17:15 ESV).

*He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.*

The question is, "How can I find security?" We can have the same security as sheep receive



from a good shepherd. The challenge is that the Good Shepherd will lead us on safely, but it is our duty to follow. You see, the Good Shepherd loves us so much and that is the reason we must keep in touch with Him, *'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me'* (John 10:27).

*He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

The question is, "How can He refresh my weary life and sad circumstances?" God's great work is to restore and refresh our souls. He grants peace and solid restoration to those who need it, for His great Name's sake. He must lead us aright (See Joel 2:25; John 14:27).



*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

The question is, “How can I find real comfort?” This Good Shepherd can replace fear and anxiety with peace and comfort. You see, the Comforter has come and His name is Jesus. The Bible informs us that God’s love casts out fear and torment. We now know that we can trust in this Good Shepherd with real confidence (See 2 Corinthians 1:3-4; John 14:18-19).

*The Good Shepherd loves us so much and that is the reason we must keep in touch with Him.*

*You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

The question is, “Who provides us with so many blessings?” There is a God who welcomes us every day to be His guests. He showers us with so many blessings and is always thinking about us (See Psalm 40:5; Proverbs 10:22; Isaiah 49:15).

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

The question is, “Can we rely on His goodness, His love and His mercy?” The hymn writer Joseph Addison wrote this:

*When all Your mercies O my God, my rising soul surveys  
Transported by the view, I’m lost in wonder,  
love and praise.*

His goodness can be noted in many verses in the Holy Bible. Also, His mercies are new every morning. We all know His love is never ending towards us (See Nahum 1:7; Psalm 31:19; Lamentations 3:22-26; Jeremiah 31:3).

The Good Shepherd wants to guide us, bless us, lead us and comfort us, then to shower us with His favours. He also wants us to be assured of the fact that He will never leave us or forsake us. We can be assured of His unbroken companionship through all of our lives. ●



*Peter Moore was formerly General Secretary of the Central Asian Mission*



# Witnessing 9.5 to 5

## KINGDOM WORK IN THE WORKPLACE

### Mission is a Lifestyle

When I finished my teacher training and took up my first teaching post, aged 23, I remember clearly the line that I drew mentally between ‘work’ and ‘ministry’. ‘Ministry’ was serving at church on Sundays and at other times during the week; it was outreach, camps and mission trips. It wasn’t really, in my mind, what I did day to day.

That was until a church weekend away when I was challenged to think about our role as Christ’s ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20) in the workplace, and it got me thinking: ‘mission’ or ‘ministry’ is not always about doing the things we traditionally consider to be ‘ministry’ activities, important as they are. Mission is a lifestyle, and that means we

are on mission wherever we are. If we are in secular employment, then our workplace is our primary platform for gospel ministry.

Now I don’t pretend to have mastered this – far from it. But that church weekend taught me that mission begins the moment I get up in the morning. As I walk through the school gates and see hundreds of staff and students, most of whom do not know Jesus, my prayer ought to be “give me one soul today, Lord”. What a privilege to be armed with the greatest gift of all as I go about my daily work for His glory.

### Do All for the Glory of God

We know that as Christians we are to *‘do all for the glory of God’* (1 Corinthians 10:31

ESV). And that includes work. In his letter to the Colossians Paul exhorts believers to ‘... *do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus...*’ (3:17), later adding ‘*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men*’ (3:23). That means that when I’m standing at the photocopier at 8am on a Monday morning, I can take a moment to remember that this day belongs to the Lord, and that all I do in it ought to bring Him glory.

Christian author and speaker Elisabeth Elliot often taught that glorifying God in the everyday means offering up even the most meagre of tasks as acts of worship. When I really stop and think about that, it transforms how I feel about my workplace. Whether I am preparing lessons, marking work or chatting to colleagues in the staff room, my calling in this season is to honour God by exercising the gifts He has given me to use for His glory and to point others to Him as a result (Matthew 5:16).

### Called to be Salt and Light Where God has Placed Us

Secondly, we are called to be salt and light where God has placed us. Jesus’ instruction to His followers in Matthew 5 was to be distinctive - beacons of Christlikeness in a lost world. Paul would later echo the same idea in Colossians 3, where we read that godly words and deeds are to be the hallmarks of new life in Christ.

When it comes to living out our faith in front of others, I love D L Moody’s famous line:

“Out of 100 men, one will read the Bible, the other 99 will read the Christian”.

What a challenge as we prepare for another day or week in our places of work. What do our colleagues see when they look at our lives?

### Be Ready to Give an Answer

Finally, in seeking to be Christ’s ambassadors in the workplace, we are to be ready to give an answer (1 Peter 3:15). 2 Corinthians 5:11 says, ‘*Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.*’ Paul’s goal was to share with others what Christ had done for him. And the same goes for us and our work colleagues.

We live in a world where people need Jesus. And for reasons we may never fully grasp this side of heaven, we are God’s appointed means of telling them (Mark 16:15). God has chosen us - weak though we may be - to proclaim the life-giving message of salvation to those who have never heard. And some of those might share a desk with us in the office, or a staff room, or a building site. Unless we tell them, they will not hear (Romans 10:14). That’s why every week at school we run a student Bible study for students interested in finding out more about the Christian faith - and it is easily the highlight of my week. There is nothing more wonderful than seeing a group of teenagers encounter Jesus, some for the very first time - our prayer is that many young lives would be changed for His glory as a result!

When it comes to gospel conversations with colleagues interested in faith, I’ve found, “Have you ever read the Bible as an adult?” can be a helpful opening question. It’s amazing how willing people often are to share. May I encourage you to pray for an opportunity to ask that question this week and to trust God to help you in response. The good news of Jesus is the best news we will ever hold out to those at work. So, let’s be bold!

May God grant us meekness, wisdom and boldness as we live out our faith. And may we always carry the aroma of Christ (2 Corinthians 2:15) into our workplace, so that others might come to know Him too. •

BY JANI GOUDY

A circular inset image shows a woman with long dark hair, her hands clasped in prayer, looking down. To the left of this circle is a large, stylized graphic of flames in shades of orange and yellow. The background of the entire page is a solid orange color.

# Ignite US TO PRAY

## PART 2

**W**hat does prayer have to do with evangelism? Everything. Prayer and evangelism go hand in hand. Prayer always precedes a move of God. In Matthew 19:25b-26 we are reminded of this truth when the disciples ask, *‘Who then can be saved?’* Jesus looked at them and said, *‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible’* (NIV). There needs to be divine intervention and personal encounters with God.


We can pray for those who God puts on our hearts for prayer. Think of your own testimony and how God used prayer because someone was praying for you. Who are you praying for? One pastor asked this question,

*“If God answered every prayer that you prayed this week, would there be anybody new in the Kingdom?”* God’s programme is prayer and evangelism flowing from a heart of love and devotion for Him and for others. 1 Peter 3:15 says, *‘But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear’* (NKJV).

I would like to encourage you to find a few other people who you can meet with to pray together, other believers who you can be accountable to and who you can pray with for revival. I am so blessed to be part of several prayer groups here in Canada where we gather to pray for God to pour out His Spirit in our

own lives, our families, our communities, our churches, our province, our country and our world. We also pray for the UK. The ladies whom I pray with have also become some of my closest friends. There are many other prayer groups in our area, and we are seeing and hearing of more and more people gathering to pray, encouraging each another and being accountable to one another. These groups are praying for another great revival. Some pray in groups of two or three, some in larger groups of 10-15 and others in even larger groups as part of their church's prayer meeting.

How exciting to think that maybe from this short article that you are reading right now, God may add to that army of prayer warriors. Maybe He has been leading you to join a prayer group at your church or through the Faith Mission. Maybe God has been nudging you to step out by faith and start a prayer group. That's my prayer today, that the Holy Spirit will speak to hearts in this way; that we as His people will take this calling seriously, praying according to God's Word and experience His presence and His power; that we will turn His promises into prayer and watch what He does both in us and around us. In a sermon John Piper said, "When we partner with God in His intention to save sinners, we cannot fail." God's sovereign purpose and power are what guarantee the success of His saving work. Isaiah 46:9-10 says, *'Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me. Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure"'*. Prayer is the means that God has chosen to do His sovereign work.



*When we pray,  
alone or together  
we can expect great  
things from God.*

Acts 2:42 says, *'And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer'* (NIV). Am I, are we, people who are devoted to prayer? It looks to me like this verse says that they prayed devotedly and they prayed together. Prayer is action.

So, if you are willing, ask God to purify your heart and to refine you, then wait on Him with joyful anticipation and in prayer. Make Him absolutely first in your life and get ready to share about the hope that is within you – Jesus, the beautiful gospel. Pray for grace and boldness to share and for a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.

Maybe you are wondering how to pray for the lost, and I will just say again, know God's Word, use God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. He will not let you down. Here are a few examples, Give me a heart for those who don't know you Lord (Romans 10:1), give them a new heart (Ezekiel 11:19), cause them to love you with all of their heart and soul (Deuteronomy 30:6), grant them the gift of repentance and an understanding/knowledge of the truth (2 Timothy 2:25), open hearts to understand the message of the gospel like you did with Lydia (Acts 16:14). It's so great that God gives us words for our prayers. We serve an awesome God, and I believe that when we pray, alone or together we can expect great things from God. Just call on Him, *'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know'* (Jeremiah 33:3 NKJV). Don't lose hope, God is still on the throne! •

*Jeff and Jani Goudy serve the Lord with the Faith Mission in Alberta, Canada.*



# Nicolae Moldoveanu

A ROMANIAN SAINTLY HYMN WRITER

BY DORU RADU

**O**n July 12, 2007, the 85-year-old Nicolae Moldoveanu, prolific hymn writer, died in Sibiu, Romania. For more than 62 years, God enhanced our faith through his music, lyrics and especially his uncompromised Christian testimony during Romania's dark communist era of 45 years. It was a great joy for the Romanian evangelicals living in America to find out that this saint's work and life was presented at the 2016 conference of the Hymn Society of USA and Canada, at the Redlands University, California.

Named "the Bach of Romania"<sup>1</sup>, Moldoveanu could more readily be identified with hymnists Charles Wesley (1707-1788) or Fanny Crosby (1820-1915).<sup>2</sup> This prolific hymn writer wrote more than 6,000 songs, with 361 of them written while being persecuted for the faith in prison. While he was alive, he rarely ventured out of his city, or even his personal residence for that matter, yet he was still present in the lives of at least one million Romanians so that, "we could not believe he could ever die", said M. Cruceru, Dean of Theology, Emanuel University, Oradea.<sup>3</sup>

Born on February 3, 1922, to a very poor family, this extraordinary man lost his father by the age of three and a half, and his only opportunity for education involved enlisting in the military program called the “Army’s Children” at the age of 12. These destitute children lived in garrisons with soldiers, but due to his love for music, Moldoveanu was enrolled in the military’s brass ensemble. There, a conductor recognized his talents and helped him develop his musical ability. Later, he would write, “I am now seeing God’s hand in everything that has happened in my life, good or bad”.

When he would come home for short vacations, Moldoveanu would accompany his mother to a newly-founded church belonging to “*The Lord’s Army*”, a reforming arm of the Greco-Orthodox Church that emphasized the need for repentance and being born-again. Shortly, Moldoveanu met his Saviour and also fell in love with the *Lord’s Army’s* musical tradition, putting its words and music to paper and publishing them, as well as his own original music, in “*Village’s Light*”. Music also likely saved his life during WWII, as his ensemble was stationed far from the war-ravaged front lines. Still young, Moldoveanu wrote very mature music and spiritually deep lyrics during this time of conflict. To buy his first Bible, he sold half of his bread ration and his entire milk ration for an entire month; he would eventually keep this very same Bible until his death. During this and the short post-war period of freedom, before the communist regime’s ascent to power, Moldoveanu was able to publish hundreds of songs.<sup>4</sup>

In 1948, the Communists declared the *Lord’s Army* illegal and threw its leaders in prison. Nicolae continued to worship in secret and in 1959, after refusing to stop attending Christian gatherings and writing songs, he was

arrested and sentenced to 12 years in prison for “conspiring to overthrow the communist regime”, despite his right hand’s infirmity due to an accident. Still, he praised the Lord and in return God “gave” him the optimistic song: *Heaven Bright*. On the day of his arrest, Moldoveanu was able to whisper to his wife. “Lena, look at the skies”. It was “the only thing we could share while separated”, he later said. The comment was to prove prophetic as after months spent in an underground section of the prison, Moldoveanu was finally allowed above ground. The cell he had been moved to had a broken window, and although it was a bitterly cold day, at least he could share the same sky as his wife. (This song is sung in English by ProDeum Choir. See You Tube, Haven Bright - ProDeum Choir @ New Life Romanian Church.)

In prison, he met Traian Dorz, a prolific Christian poet from the *Lord’s Army*, and many well-known Christian brothers, including *Tortured for Christ’s* author and *The Voice of the Martyr’s* founder Richard Wurmbrand. Moldoveanu and Wurmbrand praised each other for their testimonies during persecution. Both considered it an honour and a grace to suffer for the Lord. “Moldoveanu was one of the two greatest saints I have met in my 14 years of prison”, Wurmbrand said in a sermon. “He came smiling from the torture room. His approach was that of a lamb. While I was protesting the guards’ abuses against others or me, he never protested,” continued R.W.<sup>5</sup>

Amnestied five years later, though still under secret police’s surveillance, he continued to meet with his small house church whenever possible. Warrantless home searches, abuses and threats continued for decades, but he always thanked the Lord for them and also prayed for his persecutors. In a time when the communist regime kept a tight grip on

any publication, even owning a typewriter could put you in prison for a couple of years. However, the spread of his songs could not be stopped. Memorized, copied by hand and later recorded, Moldoveanu's songs were used by the Lord to nurture our faith for more than six decades. Because of the surveillance, poverty and poor health, he could not work or travel too far. But he was visited daily by Christians from all of Romania who were welcome in the small apartment he was renting. And a visit to him was quite an experience! In a country of religious divisions, Moldoveanu mended all fences and never asked visitors for anything other than their first names. He was even aware that some "Christians" might be police agents, but "they needed to hear the good news too"!

There was one exception to his presence though: after waking up, for at least two hours, he used to sing songs of praise to the Lord, alone and without any audience. Most of the songs he would write were granted to him during this intimate time. After that, he shared freely with anybody what God "gave" him, whether a song or a meditation. Even in more recent years, when recording artists sold CDs or DVDs with recordings and performances that included his songs, he never asked for copyright royalties. On the contrary, he encouraged musicians to arrange his songs for choirs or orchestras as he always looked upon his hymns as "God's copyright".

At times, his lyrics move one to feel spiritual immaturity; "This is a curse", said Jan Staneschi, former Bucharest Baptist Seminary Principal, when he heard the song 'Break my Will, Even with Heavy Blows'. "It is not a curse", Moldoveanu would reply. "It is my commitment to God's will, as was the Virgin Mary's". A '99 symposium recounted him as saying and adding, "and His will is good and perfect" (Romans 12:2).<sup>6</sup> (This song inspired

the group This Hope, see You Tube 'Break my Plans'.)

It has been God's infinite wisdom to choose a hymn writer and not a preacher to enhance our faith. In a country where translated evangelicals' music was considered a means to westernize Romanians, Moldoveanu's folk style met no resistance. Although many of his songs are more sophisticated and require elevated vocal capability, most of Moldoveanu's songs came naturally for Christians, whether alone or in church, and they went directly to our souls. It is my prayer that these humble words would bring some well-deserved recognition to this miracle of God, Nicolae Moldoveanu. "May the Lord be praised", was the *Lord's Army's* old greeting. And the answer was, "For Ever and Ever, Amen." •

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<sup>5</sup> Richard Wurmbrand, Audio Recordings of Sermons 1987- 1996

<sup>6</sup> Moldoveanu Symposium, 1999 Maranatha Baptist Church, Arad, Romania, Video Recordings.



*Doru Radu is one of the elders at Golgotha Romanian Baptist Church in Warren, Michigan. Radu immigrated from communist Romania and likes to write stories about the good hand of our Lord who protected us during the 45 years of communist persecution.*

'Nicolae Moldoveanu: a Romanian saintly hymn writer', Doru Radu, Baptist Beacon, <https://www.baptistbeacon.net/post/nicolae-moldoveanu-a-romanian-saintly-hymn-writer>, October 4, 2022, reproduced here with kind permission.

BY REV RAYMOND MCLARNIN

# The Righteous will be in Everlasting Remembrance

70 YEARS AGO

**M**issionary history will never forget the names of the five young American missionaries who gave their lives on 8 January 1956 in the jungles of Ecuador. We are not to forget such days, ‘We will remember them.’ *‘The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance’* (Psalm 112:6 NKJV).

## Their Biographies

**Jim Elliot** (29) was from Portland, Oregon. His father was a Scotsman, who faithfully taught his children the truths of the Bible. Young Jim remembered his Creator in the days of his youth (Ecclesiastes 12:1). After having met with some

missionaries who had laboured in Ecuador, he felt the Lord leading him there. He wrote in his diary: “I only hope that He will let me preach to those who have never heard the name of Jesus. What else is worthwhile in this life? I have heard of nothing better. Lord, send me!” In February 1952, he set sail for Ecuador.

**Pete Fleming** (26) was from Seattle, Washington. He was converted to Christ at 13 years of age, exactly half-way through his life. At university, he had gained an MA in English Literature, and his friends expected him to become a college professor. Instead,

he surprised them by announcing that God was calling him to be a missionary in Ecuador. Matthew 10:38-39 especially gripped him: *'he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.'* He accompanied Jim to Ecuador.

**Ed McCully** (27) from Milwaukee, was a close friend of Jim. He had studied business and economics. Like the others, he was converted while a young boy. He wrote to Jim: "I have one desire now – to live a life of reckless abandon to the Lord, putting all my energy and strength into it. Maybe He'll send me someplace where the name of Jesus Christ is unknown." God did.

**Nate Saint** (33) from Philadelphia, was the oldest of the quintet. His intended career as a military pilot with the Air Force was ended by ill-health. However, "man's disappointments are God's appointments", and shortly after VE Day in California, he met the two ex-Navy pilots who had founded the Missionary Aviation Fellowship. Before this, he had been exercised about bringing the light of the gospel to the people who had never heard of Jesus. In the providence of God, he was flying supplies and missionaries into Ecuador from 1948.

**Roger Youderian** (32) born and raised in Montana, overcame childhood polio to arrive in Ecuador in January 1953. He was a war veteran, having survived the Rhine jump of 1944 and was decorated for action in the Battle of the Bulge. A year after his conversion in 1944, he wrote home: "The happiest day of my life was the day I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour for the forgiveness of my sins...I want to be a witness for Him and live following Him every second of my life." He did.

### **Their Burden**

Evangelicals had been working among the

head-shrinking Jivaros, the Quichuos of the high Andes, the red-painted Colorados of the western forest, the Cayapos of the north-western river region and gospel advances were soon to be made into the Cofan tribe of the Colombian border. But there remained a group of tribes that had consistently repelled every advance made: the Aucas (pronounced ow-ka). The word means 'savage'. An isolated, unconquered, semi-nomadic remnant of age-old jungle natives, they had a 100% murder rate towards outsiders and 60% among themselves.

As the five missionaries gathered information about this feared tribe, they knew God was preparing them to bring the message of Christ to them. On 6 October 1955, Nate lowered from his plane a small kettle with coloured streamers attached, containing brightly coloured buttons and a bag of rock salt. Over the course of 13 such drops, return gifts began to be placed in the bucket – a feathered headband, food and a live parrot.

Dayuma was a young Auca woman who had escaped a family feud and fled to a neighbouring tribe. She supplied Jim with the information used on the initial contact. One of the things was: "Never, ever trust them. They may appear friendly and then they will turn around and kill". This did not deter this team of missionaries. Pete wrote: "It comes to me strongly that God is leading me to do something...and a strong idea and impression comes into my mind that I ought to devote the majority of my time to collect linguistic data on the tribe and make some intensive air surveys to look for Auca houses...I know that this may be the most important decision of my life, but I have a quiet peace about it".

### **Their Bereavement**

On 3 January, a landing was made on a strip of riverside beach, four miles from the Auca

village. Materials were unloaded to construct a tree-house. On 5 January, as the plane flew in, Nate spotted footprints on the beach. The five spent the night in the tree-house. The next morning, a young man and two women from the village came out into the open, and the five missionaries shouted the Auca word for welcome. Gifts were given and the young man had a flight in the plane above his village. On the 8 January, a flight over the area revealed a delegation of men on their way to the beach. Nate radioed the news to his wife, and told her he would make contact again at 4.30pm. That contact was never made. Rather, at 3:12pm (according to Nate's smashed wristwatch), the five young servants of God lay dead in the river, martyred by Auca spears. One of the first to find them was missionary Frank Drown, a close friend of Nate and Roger. Their burial ground was under their tree-house, where Frank conducted a short funeral service.

Before leaving on their mission, the five friends had sung one of their favourite hymns, 'We rest on Thee'.

We rest on Thee, our Shield and our  
Defender,  
Thine is the battle, Thine shall be the praise;  
When passing through the gates of pearly  
splendor,  
Victors, we rest with Thee through endless  
days.

On 8 January, they entered those gates. Their deaths left five widows and eight fatherless children (plus one unborn). When news reached them, they met and worshipped God, singing this very hymn.

### Their Bequest

This was not the end of the work but only the beginning. What a fascinating sequel we have because of our amazing God! Frank Drown

writes: "The aftermath of that killing – the Christian forgiveness shown by the widows and relatives – is one of the most inspiring chapters in Christian missionary history". Within two years, Dayuma returned to her village, taking Nate's sister and Jim's widow Elizabeth, and infant daughter Valerie, to live among the Auca people. Rachel Saint made her home among them for 37 years until her death. Nate's teenage son and daughter stood in the river where their father had died and were baptized by two of his killers, now born-again believers! In fact, it is known that seven of the nine killers became believers.

Jerome, one of the early church fathers said: "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." That seed has been continuing to grow now for 70 years.

### Their Benchmark

What an example these five young men are to the church today. At age 20, Jim wrote: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." These five young men, lived for Christ and gained in death (Philippians 1:21). They could have stayed at home and enjoyed comfortable lifestyles, but as Moses, *'choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God...esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches'* (Hebrews 11:25-26).

Reader, have you the same spirit as these men? Will you follow their example? Will you be on fire for God, saying like Jim Elliot, "Saturate me with the oil of the Spirit that I may be a flame. But flame is transient, often short-lived. Can you bear this, my soul – short life? In me there dwells the Spirit of the Great Short-Lived, whose zeal for God's house consumed him. 'Make me thy fuel, flame of God'"<sup>1</sup> •

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Elliot, E., *Through Gates of Splendour*, Harper & Brothers, 1957

# WALKING INTO FREEDOM



*Testimony by Dr Jenny Balmer*


**B**ack in the spring edition of *First*, I had the privilege of sharing my testimony of healing from stage 4 pancreatic cancer. In truth though, this is just one aspect of my healing journey. It was so much more than just physical healing.

Although I grew up in a Christian family, my childhood and teenage years were sadly less than ideal. I had a domineering, controlling and perfectionistic father. During much of my growing up years we lived in a degree of fear and 'treading on eggshells'. My mother lived under his dominating presence and succumbed to bouts of prolonged anxiety and depression much of the time. The result of all this was that I never had the opportunity to develop close relationships with either parent. My own sense of worth was severely distorted. I was a restless orphan with nowhere to call home. I developed a real self-loathing in my teenage years and blamed myself hugely for anything that went wrong. When my parents rowed, I punished myself, truly believing it was my fault. I constantly compared myself to others and always fell short.

I became a Christian as a young teenager after a visiting evangelist came to the school and spoke of the need to respond to the message of what Jesus had done for us on the cross. A few

days later as I lay in bed, in tears, I gave my life to Jesus. I expected all would be made well. But nothing really changed.

In my adulthood as a wife and mum of three wonderful children I walked a distant road with my heavenly Father. The truths of scripture felt far away and theoretical. I longed for that intimate walk with the Lord but had no idea how to change anything. Year after year I cried out to the Lord for better, knowing there was something missing, yet not really knowing what that 'something' was. It was in the late '90s when, after making some poor life choices, I ended up in a bad place, again. Day after day I cried out to the Lord. On just an ordinary day, a few weeks later, I was walking our old labrador through the local woods, a place where I often walked. As I made my way down the path to the lake, weeping and talking to the Lord, suddenly a beam of sunlight shot through the clouds from behind and hit me on the back of my neck, head and shoulders. It was so forceful and unexpected that I stopped in my tracks. I turned around to see what was going on and was immediately flooded top to toe with the warmth of that ray of light. I didn't want to move. I was rooted to the spot. In an instant, all the self-loathing, and self-hatred that I had carried left me and for the first time ever, I could see myself the way my heavenly



*“The truths of scripture felt far away and theoretical. I longed for that intimate walk with the Lord but had no idea how to change anything.”*

Father saw me, as His child. I stood there in absolute wonder at what God had done for me. This revelation brought me great joy.

At the time I did not really understand what God had done but began to experience a measure of release and deliverance. However, there was still work to do. As an adult, I was periodically hit with terrible bouts of anxiety and depression. I was still fearful about so much in life. Those bouts felt strange and overwhelming, hitting me out of the blue with no apparent triggers. I continued to run to God for help.

Fast forward to the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer in 2020. I had been through all the treatment and was subsequently told that the cancer had very quickly and aggressively returned. At this point God used a friend to bring people into my life whom He had gifted to minister to and pray with me. The result was truly transformational. We talked briefly

through my childhood, teenage years, my parents and their struggles, along with my sense that my heavenly Father always felt remote and distant. Through prayerful discernment, they asked about unforgiveness towards my parents. That hit home. They also discerned that there were significant evil influences oppressing me. The Lord brought me to repentance for unforgiveness and gave me complete freedom. What a massive and wonderful difference this made to my everyday walk with the Lord. That longed for intimate walk with my Father became a reality. That was the end of the bouts of anxiety, depression and fear. I am truly amazed, and all the glory goes to Him!

*‘So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed’  
(John 8:36). •*

*Jenny and Niall, both retired GPs, live in Stranraer on the coast in Scotland. They have three children and five grandchildren. For Jenny’s full story go to [www.abundantlifestrategy.co.uk](http://www.abundantlifestrategy.co.uk).*

# SNOW CAMPS & WINTER PROGRAMME

FAITH MISSION CANADA

BY APRIL HARDWICK

**W**hen you think of winter in Canada, camp might not be the first activity that comes to mind, but our Campbellville Camp Center is host to great programs for children and youth year-round!

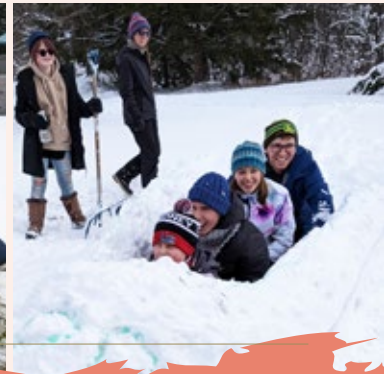
In February every year, for two weekends, children and young teenagers join us for Snow Camp - a weekend of snowy fun and excellent Bible teaching. The large hill outside the main building is the scene for many toboggan races. The thrilling ride down the big hill is well worth the long walk back up! When there is enough snow, there is also the opportunity to host some competitive snow sculpting activities, which showcase the amazing creativity of the kids

attending. As with all Faith Mission camps, the gospel is clearly shared over the weekend through our chapel times and cabin devotions. Though the weekend often feels far too short, great memories are made, and we trust that the Lord works in the hearts of every young person who attends.

Snow Camp is often the first camp that our youngest campers can attend, and it gives them a fun, short camp experience that gets them excited to return in the summer. For many of our young campers, nerves and homesickness are conquered during the short weekend, and come summer, all that's left is the enthusiasm that coming to camp brings.

Just a few weeks later, in early March, we return to the Center to welcome a small group of high school students who have proven to be serious about their faith and display leadership potential in their local church. Youth Leadership Training (YLT) runs for half a week over the Ontario March break. The young people arrive Sunday evening, and we spend some time getting to know one another. Some of them have grown up attending Faith Mission summer camps, but there are always a few who are attending an event at the camp center for the first time.

Although we aim to have a great time during the week, our primary goal is to train the youth to be godly leaders.





Many of them will return during the summer to staff our camps or go on to serve their local churches in various capacities. The bulk of the week is spent in a classroom setting, where typically the Ontario and Quebec staff have collaborated on the teaching. During our time, we will generally have six or seven sessions and cover a wide variety of topics. This past year, we were able to walk with them through Jonathan Griffiths' book, *God Alone*. Students also had a chance to learn 'The Three Circles' method of evangelism and practise sharing the gospel using this tool. Practical lessons during this time have also included how to lead a devotional and how to teach a memory verse.

Every year, we also seek to give the youth a practical opportunity to share the love of Christ out in the community. For the past three years, we have partnered with a unique ministry in Brantford, Ontario, called Friendship House. This

organization comes alongside individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty to provide support in a variety of ways. The students spend the morning there working in their food bank, clothing closet and soup kitchen. For many of the young people who come, this is their first opportunity to serve people in this way, and we have had a lot of positive feedback from this experience. It opens their eyes to the needs of the world around them and helps them to feel more comfortable with a wide variety of people. We close the experience with a time of sharing and prayer, and it's always so encouraging to hear how God has impacted their hearts and their genuine prayers for the ministry, volunteers and staff.

We were able to come alongside a new ministry this year, called Mission to the Margins, in Kitchener, Ontario. The girls who attended YLT went with the female staff to experience a prayer walk through the downtown core, where one

of the chaplains took the time at each stop to explain the ministry that took place there and the needs of the homeless population. It was wonderful to see the young women understand the deep needs of the people this ministry serves and hear them pray on their behalf. Most of them had never been on a prayer walk before, but they all took turns praying aloud at each stop, and in the debrief after, shared that they could see themselves doing something similar in their own communities.

Keeping in mind that this week falls on the students' spring break from school (some have even given up family vacations to come!), we make sure that we fit a lot of fun into the week as well. It is a great time to teach much-loved youth games and enjoy themed meals. We have had local Bible colleges bring in laser tag to play at night and taken the students on a few out-trips.

Overall, although our winter programming does differ from summer, it gives us an opportunity to connect with our campers and staff during the year. We are able to remind them of our care and God's love for them, and we have a lot of fun! ●

# BELIEVE GOD

## FOR THE NORTH WEST OF IRELAND

BY CAROLYN HARRISON

**A**ugust 2022 saw one chapter of our lives and service for the Lord closing and another dawning as we left behind over 30 years of ministry together with the Faith Mission in Scotland to take charge of the work of the Faith Mission in the North West Irish District (NWID). God gave us both a promise when we first embarked on service together, *'This God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death'* (Psalm 48:14 KJV). Once again we were so conscious that we were being clearly led by Him in this new season. The transition wasn't without obstacles... not least covid lockdown and restrictions, followed by the deteriorating health of our profoundly disabled son and his subsequent passing to be with the Lord in December 2021. Through all the delay our hearts were kept at peace as we held onto the words of Exodus 14:13-14, let God fight for you, *'stand still and see the salvation of the Lord'*. God's timing is always perfect.

### Our Mission Field

Our 'mission field' here in the northwest of Ireland stretches from Portstewart on the stunning north coast of N. Ireland right across to the far west of Ireland to include all of Co. Donegal with its rugged, remote landscape and wild Atlantic coastline.

The vision statement of the Faith Mission is, "To reach through passionate evangelism the lost of all age groups, particularly in the villages and rural areas of Great Britain and Ireland, and by biblical teaching to encourage holiness of heart and life in Christian people."

The NWID is certainly rural in nature with its farming communities, countless villages and townlands. We soon became aware that despite the heritage of revival and the fact that in past decades, Ireland (particularly the North) was the land that sent numerous missionaries to foreign shores, it is now a mission field. *'Lift up your eyes and look on the fields:*

*for they are white already to harvest'* (John 4:35).

### Our Work

Our work includes the routine of district work from regular visits to our network of Prayer Unions, annual rallies, Bible weekends, weekend pulpit ministry, ladies' coffee mornings, gospel missions, visitation of individual contacts and administration. Prayer Unions form a large part of this programme and it is a tremendous blessing to us to visit them. How humbling to sit in the presence of dear folk who passionately and consistently cry out to God on our behalf, for the work we represent and for the salvation of souls!

William's passion for conducting and being involved in gospel missions was nurtured and developed in his early years as a single worker missioning across the British Isles and into the South of Ireland, a passion and a burden that has deepened since we moved to the work of FM in this district. From



*Our hearts long to witness the wind of the Spirit blow across this North West region and throughout our needy land.*

‘The Barn’ in Donegal, to the school in Donemana, to the Mart and church in Raphoe, to the marquee on the side of the FM Gospel Truck in Magheramason, we have witnessed God at work challenging and encouraging the believers and convicting and convincing individuals of their need of salvation. Nothing thrills our hearts more than to pray with a dear soul seeking the Lord, to watch the Spirit enlightening a heart as we sit in a home or stand on a doorstep and explain the way of salvation, opening the Word with one who has been ‘blinded’ by a religious system that emphasizes salvation by works not *‘by grace... through faith’* (Ephesians 2:8), to point someone to Jesus who has realized that while they literally had everything this world could offer materially they had no peace, to pray

with a heartbroken soul whose saved loved one had passed away and to experience the thrill of seeing him slowly realizing that death wasn’t the end but that there is hope of eternal life and to witness the ‘scales being taken off his eyes’ (Acts 9:8) and his heart opening and responding to the message of salvation.

### **Our Vision**

“The Faith Mission was born in the fires of revival ... it had known revival down through the years ... nothing would satisfy the pilgrims but a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>1</sup> We have been inspired as we’ve listened to accounts from supporters in this district of how God brought the work of the Mission into Co. Donegal at the end of the 1800s through the faithful ministry of people such as the Garrett sisters who worked independently but in

connection with the Mission. These “dignified, spiritually gifted women... saw a mighty flood-tide of God’s blessing outpoured.”<sup>1</sup>

“During a six year period at the end of the 1920s Faith Mission pilgrims held throughout the whole work 1,712 missions... over 17,000 souls professing salvation!”<sup>1</sup>

We can’t wind the clock back to those days, but we can believe God for such days of outpouring of His Spirit again. Our hearts long to witness the wind of the Spirit blow across this North West region and throughout our needy land. ●

#### *References:*

<sup>1</sup> Quotes from Peckham CN, Heritage of Revival, The Faith Mission, 1986

*William and Carolyn Harrison head up the work in the North West Irish District based in Limavady.*

# MERVYN & RACHEL TOMB

*This autumn Mervyn obeyed the call to take on the role of General Director of the Faith Mission in Edinburgh. We took the opportunity to catch up with Mervyn and Rachel and to find out a bit more about them, their family, their ministry and their heart for the work.*



**FM:** *Mervyn & Rachel, you lead busy lives, when you get some free time, what do you enjoy?*

**Mervyn:** A hobby is sometimes defined as something that you don't have time to do! If I ever get time off, I do like to get away for a spin on the bike. I look forward to exploring some tracks and trails once we settle in Edinburgh, and I am well enough to do so.

**Rachel:** I enjoy baking and the completely brain-dead job of ironing, while listening to a good podcast.

**FM:** *Rachel, tell us about your family.*

**Rachel:** We have one son, Nathan, who has completed an apprenticeship and is now working full time assembling trailers and other agricultural equipment. This is in Northern Ireland, where he is settled and will continue to live following our move to Edinburgh. We also have a daughter, Charis, who is

presently in her second year of a four-year course, studying intellectual disability nursing. She will continue this course in Dublin following our move.

**FM:** *Mervyn & Rachel, prior to accepting the role of General Director, where have you been placed?*

**Mervyn & Rachel:** Working back from our current placement, we have been in the Irish Midlands for about 15 years and with that came the responsibility of the development of the new Faith Mission Centre at Durrow, Co. Laois. With God's help, we were able to scale up the summer camp ministry from two weeks to three, seeing attendances of over 160 campers in the summer and many more booking in for a range of residential events during the winter months. Before this we were in Bandon, Co. Cork, again at the centre in Carhue, 2004-2010. There we oversaw the completion of

the chalet accommodation, the construction of the sports hall and meeting rooms and numerous other works around the site.

Before this we were placed in Co. Durham, in the North-East of England, where we used every opportunity possible to reach children and young people with holiday clubs and regular clubs, as well as connecting with local churches and being involved in their outreach efforts.

Moving back further following our wedding, we had a short spell in the North Irish District, assisting with district work and missions. The two years after college were focused on gospel missions, Rachel was based in the West Irish and North West Districts, while Mervyn was placed in the Central Irish District. All these opportunities have given us valuable experience for the place God has now called us to.



Top left: School assembly in North East of England 2001

Top right: Mervyn using sketchboard in Scarborough 2001

Above left: Cork work week. Mervyn fitting downpipes April 2007

Above middle: Rachel leading a youth Bible study in Esh Winning, Co.Durham 2001

Above right: Nathan checking pipe fittings in sports hall 2006

*FM: Rachel, as you look back at your time in the Irish Midlands and at the Durrow Centre, are there any things which bring you encouragement?*

**Rachel:** Definitely! It has not been “our work”, but God’s, and we look back with thankfulness to Him for allowing us to be involved in what He has been doing. Because we have been here for over 15 years, we have seen many lives impacted with the truth of the gospel and watched eight year olds coming to camp, growing and developing, physically and spiritually, many of them now serving God at camps,

churches, CUs, etc. We have known heartbreaking situations, but have also seen God turn them around and use them for good and His glory. Ongoing contact with families has been key, as we have seen people come to Christ for salvation and also had the privilege of being involved in their discipleship and growth. We have sought to be a blessing to others, and in many situations, God has used others to be a blessing to us.

*FM: Mervyn, how can we be praying for your health?*

**Mervyn:** Just over a year ago,

I was very much aware that something wasn’t quite right with me. I was struggling on a mountain bike course that previously I had completed with ease. Some months later I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation (irregular heartbeat), only to be further diagnosed with severe mitral valve failure. I am anticipating treatment for this, and the hope would be that all invasive surgeries would be completed before we move to Scotland. I will need to have some recovery time following surgery, so we will have to see what that looks like.



Above: Holiday Bible Club, Mountrath 2014



Above: Shane's Castle Steam Rally Outreach 2022

**FM:** *When are you planning to move to Edinburgh?*

**Rachel:** This is dependent on a number of factors, one of them being the timing of Mervyn's surgery and recovery. Another major concern and matter for prayer is the vital need of someone to oversee the day to day running of the Durrow Centre, maintenance, cleaning and preparing it for each visiting group. We also need someone to take on the leadership of the camps and other ministry here in Durrow and throughout the Irish Midlands District. Please pray for God's provision and timing.

**FM:** *How can we pray for you as you anticipate this move?*

**Mervyn & Rachel:** Pray for good health in the midst of a demanding schedule – overseeing matters at the Durrow Centre and Irish Midlands District, getting to grips with the General Director role and also the challenge of packing up everything in what has been our longest posting.

**FM:** *Mervyn, what do you think are the challenges in your new role and how can we be praying for the ministry of the Faith Mission going forward?*

**Mervyn:** In my role as General Director there are a number of challenges facing the Mission including:

- A diminishing support base of committed praying people, who are not being replaced in the same way as in previous years. This impacts the mission practically and spiritually. We need to engage with new people, sharing the vision of the work, and inspiring others to be part of the work through training, praying or giving.
- In our literature ministry we see a significant shift towards online trading, which we are not proficient in yet. This means that we have lost footfall in our shops, and we are not completely fulfilling the intended purpose of the shops. Pray with us as we seek to utilise our retail spaces better for

outreach, ministry and literature purposes.

- At the Faith Mission Bible College, we are not seeing a significant volume of students, therefore the potential intake into Faith Mission work is very small. As a result we are unable to place evangelists and children's workers in areas where they are needed.

**FM:** *Mervyn, what is your vision for the future of the Mission?*

**Mervyn:** My vision is only under God's direction. God still chooses to use people for His work. How we need those called of God to leave all and commit to a life of service. We need to maintain our message of holiness, surrender, living by faith and gospel fervour, but couple it with fresh initiatives which connect to where people are currently at.

*Oh, for the flood on the thirsty land!*

*Oh, for a mighty revival!*

*Oh, for a sanctified, fearless band,*

*Ready to hail its arrival! •*

# Robin Moscrop

1933 - 2025



**R**obin was the youngest of three siblings, born near Carlisle, England. His Cumbrian heritage instilled in him a lifelong love of animals, books and music. He was just six years old when the Second World War began, and the experience left a lasting impression on him. The events of the war sparked a deep and enduring fascination with military history and strategy; an interest he would later draw upon when approaching the subject of spiritual warfare.

In 1959, Robin attended a mission led by the late Willie Doherty of the 'Open Air Mission'. It was through Willie's ministry that Robin came to faith in Christ. At the time, he was working on the family farm, rising each morning at 5 a.m. to milk the cows; a habit of early rising that continued throughout his life, though later it was to seek God in prayer rather than to tend livestock.

Determined to deepen his understanding of scripture, Robin went on to study at the Bible Training Institute in Glasgow. A few years later, he married Betty, and together they joined the Faith Mission, where they served as superintendents of the South Scottish and East Scottish Districts. In 1977, Robin and Betty joined the staff of the Bible College, where Robin took on various responsibilities, including lecturing. His passion for biblical study led him to pursue a four year course which included study of Greek and Hebrew at the Free Church College in Edinburgh.

After spending several years in pastoral ministry, Robin returned to the Faith Mission Bible College when it relocated to its present

campus in Gilmerton. He remained there faithfully until his retirement in 1998.

Robin lived a life of discipline and devotion, gaining an intimate knowledge of God through the careful and consistent study of Scripture. Yet, despite his seriousness of purpose, he had a warm sense of humour; family members would often find him laughing heartily over 'The Broons', the well known Scottish comic strip.

He had a remarkable knowledge and deep respect for the godly men and women who gave their lives for Christ during Scotland's "killing times". Robin frequently led guided tours to historic Covenanter sites, sharing their stories and the lessons of their steadfast faith under persecution.

A man of prayer, Robin spent countless hours interceding for others. Throughout his life, he witnessed lives transformed; souls won to Christ, repentance stirred, storms stilled, marriages preserved, ministries restored and even spiritual oppression broken. In all things, he acted with quiet discretion.

Whether working on the family farm, lecturing at the Bible College or counselling those who sought his wisdom, Robin's life was characterised by faith, discipline and humble service. His thoughtful guidance and godly counsel were cherished by many across the British Isles, Ireland and beyond. Prayer was the foundation of his ministry and the source of his strength.

On 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Robin, a good and faithful servant, entered into the joy of his Lord. ●

# THE MEMBERS IN THE FAITH MISSION DURING 2025

## General Director

Director for Ireland

Director for England

Acting Director for Scotland

Assistant to English Director

Mervyn TOMB, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1994, and *Rachel Tomb*

Andrew McCULLOUGH, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1994, and *Jenny McCullough*

Stephen WALKER, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1996, and *Cynthia Walker*

Mervyn TOMB, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1994, and *Rachel Tomb*

Alistair PARK, 1<sup>st</sup> October 1989, and *Yvette Park*, (rejoined 2016)

## Superintendents

P R CROWE, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1982, and *Elizabeth Crowe*,  
East Scottish District

W L HARRISON, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1983, and *Carolyn Harrison*,  
North West Irish District

Gordon THOMSON, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1987, and *Janice Thomson*,  
South Scottish District (rejoined 2013)

Anne BROWN, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1988, West Irish District (in charge)

Johnathan SLATER, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1998, and *Janet Slater*,  
South West Irish District

Simon WALSH, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2000, and *Rebecca Walsh*,  
Irish Border District (rejoined 2023)

Jeff TOWNEND, 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2020, and *Sarah Townend*,  
Highland District

## Faith Mission Workers (UK)

<i>Arabella Paul</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 1987
James and <i>Linda</i> Bovenizer	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 1993
Nigel and <i>Ruth</i> Wilson	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 1993, (rejoined 2014)
Robert and <i>Phillippa</i> Cismas	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2003 (rejoined 2022)
Justin and <i>Carol</i> Cummings	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2005
Stewart and <i>Jill</i> Megaw	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2005 (rejoined 2019)
<i>Heather</i> Wilson	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2009
James and <i>Katie</i> Brown	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2013
Gavin Harrison	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2013*
Robert Little	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2014
Brian and <i>Hazel</i> Parker	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2017
Reuben and <i>Bethany</i> Lyons	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2017 (rejoined 2024) *
<i>Margaret</i> Roberts	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr 2018
Wesley Brewer	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2018
Andrew and <i>Carolyn</i> Maybin	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2018
Stephen Dundas	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019*
Calvin Park	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2019
Daniel and <i>Emily</i> Brown	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2020
Reuben and <i>Debs</i> Hutchinson	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2022

*Ladies' names in italics*

\* Denotes withdrawal during year

† denotes retirement during year

## Mission-Foi-Evangile

Karl and Patricia LIPP (Oliver near Orléans)  
Louis-Marie and Aurélie LEMOFAK  
(Oliver 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)

## The Faith Mission (in Canada)

Timothy and *Emma* Condy  
Robin and *Debra* Perron  
Kevin and *Janice* Evans  
Jeff and *Jani* Goudy  
*Laura-Anne* Drake  
Mark and *April* Hardwick  
Conan and *Julana* Arndt  
Sam and *Nichollette* Beaulieu  
Matthew and *Susan* Macfarlane

## Retired Workers (Britain & Ireland)

*O Greenaway* (1953-90)  
*M Wright* (1981-1999)  
*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 (1969-2015) and *Mrs McNeilly*  
*I H P Farrell* (1973-2019)  
T Matthews (1972-2019) and *Mrs Matthews*  
D R Bennett (1972-2019)  
S J Matthews (1973-1975; 1986-2021)  
*K I Wood* (1995-2021)  
G Conn (1985-2022) and *Mrs Conn*  
D MacLeod (1996-2023) and *Mrs MacLeod*  
L Brush (1982-2023) and *Mrs Brush*  
J Townend (1975-2025) and *Mrs Townend* †



# DISTRICT CONTACT DETAILS

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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**Good Friday 3 - Easter Tuesday 7 April**

**“Revive us again!”**

**REKINDLING OUR SPIRITUAL FLAME**



*Ministry Team*



**Jacques Nadeau • Derek Maxwell • Andrew Mullan • Tom Shaw**



SCAN FOR FURTHER DETAILS



-  Bangor Easter Convention
-  Bangor Easter Convention
-  [faithmission.org/bangor](http://faithmission.org/bangor)

