

Miss Noreen McAfee Returns to Uganda



The 51st Annual Hebron Missionary Weekend took place in Ballymoney Free Presbyterian Church during the second weekend in January. As in previous years, there was a full programme setting forth the various needs of our Free Presbyterian missionaries. Rev David Brown (Larne) was the guest preacher over the weekend and was greatly helped in the ministry of God's Word.

During the Friday evening meeting, the Mission Board conducted the sending forth service for Miss Noreen McAfee, as she prepared to return to Uganda. This was particularly appropriate as Miss McAfee is a member of the Hebron congregation. Mission Board treasurer, Mr Alastair Hamilton, made a presentation to Noreen on behalf of the Board, wishing her God's blessing in her next term of service. Miss McAfee was able to respond and thank everyone for their support and presence in the service. Rev Harris (Chairman of the Mission Board), invited all the Members of the Mission Board who were present together with the Members of Presbytery to

join him in the pulpit. The congregation was asked to stand, and God was sought in prayer for the work and witness of Miss McAfee in the Emmanuel Christian School. Prayer was also made for Noreen's mother and family members whom she leaves behind as she returns to Uganda. The closing words of the final hymn summarized a tremendous evening together in God's presence;

“ So, send I you, to bear My cross with patience, And then one day with joy to lay it down... ”

So, send I you, to bear My cross with patience, And then one day with joy to lay it down, To hear My voice; Well done, My faithful servant, Come, share My throne, My Kingdom and My crown!

Please remember Miss McAfee in prayer as she settles back into her role as Principal of Emmanuel Christian School, and that in her many duties and responsibilities she will know the help and grace of God. ■

✍ **Rev I Harris,**
Chairman of Mission Board.

Introducing Kenyan Christian Workers: Patrice Akali and Andrew Cheptoo



Patrice Akali was born in the Kakamega area to a Christian family and left there when he completed school and went to Nairobi to find work. While in Nairobi, he received Christ as his Saviour and began to serve the Lord and seek God's will for his life. He trained for the ministry in East Africa Bible College and later came into contact with the Free Presbyterian Missionary Society of Africa through Dr John McKnight, who organises the Pastor's Conferences each year in Kenya. On being appointed by the Mission Board to work as an evangelist in Kakamega based at the Beulah Bookshop, he and his family relocated from Nairobi to an apartment just outside Kakamega. His wife Gladys worked for many years in the Scripture Union Bookshop in Nairobi. He has two sons, Bernard and Gaius. In addition to serving in the bookshop one day a week and teaching in the Bible Study held there on Tuesdays, Patrice also sets up a book-table in a park in the centre of Kakamega. Through this ministry he has had many good contacts, some of which have commenced attending the Bible Study. On Saturdays, he and others from the church go on outreach in the Nyaporo area; and, on Sundays, he preaches either in Nyaporo or Bikeke and takes the prayer meeting in Nyaporo. Recently, he has testified and preached for the LTBS radio broadcasts. ■

Andrew Cheptoo is from a Roman Catholic background; therefore, he did not hear the gospel from an early age. However, he received a gospel tract, and, through other circumstances, he was gloriously brought to Christ. Andrew trained for the ministry at the Bible Christian Faith Church Bible College and served the Lord in the Moi's Bridge Church. He is married to Mercy and they have two sons, Jayden and Timothy. He completed his Masters in Theology degree through the Geneva Reformed Seminary and graduated last summer. He applied to and was accepted by the Mission Board to work as a pastor with Free Presbyterian Missionary Society of Africa. As he lives in the Bikeke/Kitale area, he ministers to the little congregation in Bikeke. He regularly does outreach around the homes of that area and has recently commenced a book-table ministry in Bikeke and Sibanga. He and Patrice have organised conferences for adults, young people and a Vacation Bible School in both Nyaporo and Bikeke. His wife Mercy assisted with the VBS and has helped in translation work of the Discipleship Course. Andrew teaches the Discipleship Course in Bikeke. He also has recorded programmes for LTBS. ■



Please pray for both these men and their families that the Lord would be pleased to bless them and use them both for the extension of God's Kingdom in the land of Kenya.

Report from Angel Alvarez: missionary in Spain



We are about to take a big step as a congregation. We have just purchased a new building for our worship services and church meetings, which is double the size of what we actually have. We hope the refurbishment of the new building will be finished by the end of March. There are four new families attending the morning services on the Lord's Day on a regular basis, and we also have some other new believers who have started attending the services. All this growth is one more confirmation from the Lord that it is time for us to move to a larger site. This year, we have started a seminary in our own congregation. We have already lectured on two subjects – Introduction to Theology and Primitive History (the first eleven chapters in Genesis). We have face-to-face classes and broadcast via

internet at the same time. We will continue with our third subject in January, which will be Introduction to Systematic Theology. I continue to give discipleship studies to all those who want to become members in the congregation and do not have a good doctrinal foundation. I am presently giving classes to a man called Carlos. There is also a lady who has started attending the services and who wants to go through our discipleship studies to become a member of the church.

We have great news to share with you. Some weeks ago, Rev John Hanna told me that my mom talked to him because she wanted to be a member of our congregation, making profession of faith in the church. Thank you for your prayers and support for the work in Alcorcon. ■



Letter from Rev Lyle Boyd



When the Lord transformed my life and filled my heart with the deep joy of sins forgiven forty-two years ago, I knew deep down that I could not just sit at ease in Zion and live for myself. The joy of this salvation was too great and wonderful to keep to myself. The whole world needed to know this. I prayed, “Lord, show the way, and I will follow.” Having been in Kenya, visiting my uncle and aunt who were missionaries working among the Turkana tribe, and seeing the shining faces of the believers who were once enslaved in pagan darkness, I believed that this was what the Lord would want me to do, to spread this same message to needy lost souls. However, after Bible training in the Whitefield College of the Bible, I had no clear leading of the place where the Lord would have me to go. I had not considered Spain. But by the grace of God, He led my wife Heather and I to Spain thirty-three years ago. After all these years, I can truly say what a blessing it was to have been brought up in a God-fearing home, in a once God-fearing country with a strong gospel influence. In contrast, Spain was a darkened land where fear and suspicion were installed deep in the hearts of the people and where mistrust and deception were rife. Many cannot even trust their own family members, much less a Protestant missionary.

In spite of the prejudice against us, we have laboured on, sowing the good seed of the Word of God among the lost by means of the book table in the local markets. Please pray for Emilio who enjoys talking about the things of God, and for his wife who is so indifferent and greatly influenced by the different philosophies of our time.

The radio programs continue from Monday to Friday, reaching a vast area. Pray that the Lord would use these programs to open the hearts and minds of the people. The yearly daily reading books have once again been distributed to family, friends and contacts in the area.

Remember also for our small congregation as we continue to preach the gospel and encourage them to reach out to their family and friends to show them the great and Almighty God that we adore. After all these years, things have not gotten any easier. In spite of having a very encouraging visit from young people, mostly from our Kilkeel congregation, who helped with tract distribution, this past year could be classed as one of the most difficult and trying in our service for the Lord for various reasons. We almost lost José Antonio to a serious illness in April. I believe the Lord graciously spared him, for both our encouragement and benefit in the work. I personally lost two aunts and my younger sister.

On Sunday past, we buried Eusebio, an old faithful founding member who served for many years as a deacon in our church. He will be greatly missed. We have only his wife Pilar, who is 83 years old, and his brother Alfonso, who is 97 years old, left of the original congregation when we first moved from Madrid. In Spain, they bury the deceased the day after they die. Eusebio passed away on Saturday, 12th of January, at six in the evening, and the funeral was held on Sunday at 4.00pm.

However, even though it was difficult, it was a blessing to have the opportunity

to preach to so many who had never heard the message of the gospel before. The room was packed to capacity, and although there was background noise of people chatting in the street outside, a pin could have been heard dropping as the Word was preached from the text: “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord” (Revelation 14:13). Please pray with us that lasting fruit would come from it. Especially pray for a particular man who has been witnessed to on various occasions in the past, and who had many years before confessed to have been emotionally affected after listening to a radio message. At five o’clock on the Sunday morning of the funeral, he was looking for Alfonso, who had passed the night with the grieving family. He had seen in Alfonso a man who had such a security of his eternal destination and wanted to hear him speak of that assurance again.

Please also pray for our upcoming deputation meetings in March and April in Ulster. Spain needs the prayers of God’s people. I fear that because Spain is a European country and a place where many enjoy taking their summer holidays, it does not strike many as a needy mission field. But, alas, it has been cursed by the false religion of Rome for centuries, a religion that stamped out the influence of the Protestant Reformation by the cruel inquisition. Only God can open these blinded eyes and change this situation. Pray also for our congregation that the Lord would keep and guide them during the two months that we will be absent. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have supported us both prayerfully and practically, making it possible for us to be here. May the Lord richly bless and encourage you in 2019.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come”. Matthew 24:14. ■

✉ **Rev Lyle Boyd,**
missionary to Spain.

Report from Australia



✉ **Top:** members of Lock Free Presbyterian Church ministering in a care home.
Above: young people from Port Lincoln Free Presbyterian Church at the prize-giving service.

The spiritual climate in Australia seems to be deteriorating continuously as the nation embraces more and more liberal ideologies. Yet we praise God for His preserving hand upon our congregations and others who are faithful in times of darkness. We look to the Lord to pour out His blessing upon us.

In January, the first 'Vision Australia' quarterly emagazine was published by the 'Australian Commission' and was distributed among the congregations in Australia via email. It is hoped that the magazine will be a vital part of the onward progress in the works in Australia. The first magazine included an article on the work of Richard Johnston, the first preacher of the gospel in Australia, who arrived with the first fleet in January 1788. In January, Rev Ralph Hall travelled to New Zealand to preach at a Bible Conference. This was the first time any of our Australian ministers have preached at this

conference. We pray that the word preached will continue to be a blessing to all that attended. In December, the Perth Church held a three-day youth camp with ten young people connected with the congregation attending. Messages were brought in relation to Christ's incarnation as well as missionary lessons on the life of Mary Slessor, missionary to Calabar (modern day Nigeria). The camp was a time of blessing for all who attended. Lock Free Presbyterian Church engaged in several meetings in the nearby care homes during the week before Christmas. Some of the young people played musical instruments, and Rev Kyle Graham brought messages from God's Word. It was encouraging that some staff heard the messages presented. On the 14th of December, a prize-giving was held in the Port Lincoln church marking the end of the season. After taking part, the children were then rewarded for their hard work with prizes and certificates. ■

Book Appeal

CHRISTIAN BOOKS AND BIBLES ARE REQUIRED FOR THE BOOKSHOPS IN KENYA



All books and Bibles (new and used) can be given to Missionary Council Representatives

Special sending forth service for Miss Christina Logan

HOME MISSIONARY TO CHILDREN



SATURDAY 20 APR 2019, 7.30PM
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