

HARVEST TIMES



THE MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER OF THE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • Spring 2007

NEW MISSION WORK COMMENCES IN NEPAL

BY CAROL GRAHAM

The Nepal Mission to the Un-reached commenced in March 2003 when a young man in Kathmandu called Paul Thapa caught the vision

of our Bristol Church, visited Nepal, he met Paul Thapa who informed him of the need for training for these men. Later the Rev. Wesley Graham was invited to a five day conference in March 2006 and again in April

This year eighty-five pastors, leaders, workers and their wives attended. It was thrilling to see their thirst for God and the desire to sit for hours under the preaching of the Word. About ninety people in Nepal are also doing the Whitefield College Biblical Doctrine correspondence course, which has been translated into Nepali. The intention is to extend the training programme to include other subjects.

Another aspect of the work is the twice-weekly broadcast of L.T.B.S. This first went out in English, but is now being broadcast in Nepali. It is hoped to gain access to other stations in the near future.

A further project has been the setting up of an orphanage. Through the generosity of some of our Churches we have been able to purchase property which provides suitable accommodation for fifteen homeless children, cared for by Paul's wife and sister.

Please pray for wisdom as we seek to give advice and help to these people and that God would continue to increase their witness in the land of Nepal.



The Pastors & their wives who attended the conference

to take the gospel to the mountain villages of Nepal. He and his wife sought God for direction. Within days people came to know the Lord and this great work was launched. To date in excess of fifteen hundred have come to faith in Christ and thirty churches have been established.

Each church has a pastor who is instructing the people in the Word of God, and reaching out to neighbouring villages. Most of these pastors have been converted from Hinduism or Buddhism in the last four years. When Dr. Timothy Graham the son of the Rev Wesley Graham, minister

2007, to instruct the people in the fundamentals of the Christian faith.





“Requests..with thanksgiving”

BY NOREEN MCAFFEE

As a school, the Lord has given us many reasons to praise and thank Him over the past few months:



- Last year’s examination class performed well and once again three of our students were selected to join top National Schools in Kenya with many more being called to Provincial Schools.
- Having received local government approval, our own secondary department opened its doors to Form One and Two students in January and the Lord graciously provided four teachers and eighty students.
- In the providence of God, some of our 2005 class were able to re-join us in Form Two and we have received correspondence from others requesting Bible Study aids for use in their new schools.
- Six of our new secondary stu-

dents sought counselling for salvation after a Lord’s Day Service during the first term and we pray the Lord will do a lasting work in these and other hearts.

- The new girls’ dormitory block was ready for use just in time and the remaining exterior finishes have since been completed.
 - A new on-site borehole is now supplying water to the main storage tank which feeds the school’s water system.
- We realise that the Lord has really done great things for us and we are rejoicing in Him. We also thank you for

your prayers and financial support. At present, we are continuing to look to Him for these further blessings:

- Greater evidence of His working and grace in the lives of our students.

- Enablement for our parents who struggle to pay school fees and who also need to hear His truth.
- Health and safety for our students, especially Joshua, a Standard Eight student, who is recovering from cerebral malaria.
- Direction and provision for the next stage of the building programme which includes additional boys’ dormitories required for January 2008!

Please remember to pray for Mrs. Rosemary Osuru, a member of our BCFC Namanjalala congregation in Kitale, Kenya. In early March, Rosemary was admitted with a leg wound to Kitale District Hospital where she was also discovered to be a diabetic. Complications set in and unfortunately her lower left limb had to be amputated on 21st April.

Rosemary has borne this trial admirably, her only complaint being that she has really missed attending the meetings. Please pray for her and her family as she recovers from surgery, adapts to her new situation and learns to manage her diabetes.

May the Lord continue to hear and answer our cries!



Sunday School 1,300 strong

BY MARGARET RUSSELL

The Lord has undertaken for the Sunday School work over the past weeks. In March we had our annual Sunday School examinations and are distributing prizes to over 1300 children. We are also in the middle of a series of special parent's meetings and are thankful for the response thus far. We would value your prayers that God will work in the hearts of the children and parents who have been reached during this period and also remember our teachers as they embark on another year in our Sabbath Programme. We do need a renewing of strength, an increased vision and reviving in the work amongst the boys and girls.

We are about to commence the

second term of the year in our Bible College. We are still much in prayer for God to raise up a man to help in the Bible College. Pray for our four full-time and five part-time students who are attending the classes that God will burden their hearts for the souls of the lost and that He will raise up others to be trained. The labourers are still so very very few!

The Kenyan weather, like that of most countries, knows the effects of global warming. The forecast for the planting season is drought followed by heavy rains and floods. We don't know how this will affect the harvest this year. Pray much that it will be good as so much depends upon it.

This being election year in Kenya we ask for prayer that peace will prevail. Over the last few weeks clashes

have erupted in different areas in the country. The cause of these is unclear but lives have been lost and many people displaced.

We do rejoice in the good hand of the Lord which has been upon us all



as His servants. Do pray for continued good health, good security in the areas where we live and journeying mercies on the roads where accidents claim the lives of many every month. 'Except the Lord keep the city the watchmen waketh but in vain.'

"Singers with instruments of musick"

BY KATHY WALKER

I would once again like to express my thanks for all who continue to pray for us here in Kenya. The enabling strength day by day to serve, the little tokens for good along the way amongst the people are all results of your presence at the throne of grace on our behalf. Next week will mark the 1st anniversary of my arrival. I rejoice in all that the Lord has done in this past year and look forward to His continued hand of



guidance and provision.

Piano lessons will be resuming the beginning of May for term two. The interest is still good and the attendance for the most part quite faithful, but it is slow going. Those that have access to a keyboard to practice on are able to make better progress. Again, the goal is for them to be able to assist in the worship services in their individual churches. Please continue to pray to this end.

The school choirs and high school melody chime choir were able to sing and play at the closing assembly for the Term one. It was their "rehearsal" for the Parent's day in May. The melody chimes were the special attraction and enjoyed by all (see photo). I am very grateful for the shipment of music which arrived in very good condition and has already been put to use. May the Lord bless each one that

had a part in providing this for us.

The women's meetings continue to be a blessing. The ladies in Emboghat are faithful in attendance and desirous to learn the word of God. During the past two weeks, some of the ladies from Emboghat have scheduled meetings with the ladies in Korosi on Fridays. As school is on break this month and I do not have lessons, we have been able to take this extra day to meet with them. The last time we met we had 17 in total. The women from all the churches had a joint meeting last Saturday. There was a good spirit in the meeting and many were in attendance. Pray that the Lord would encourage their hearts and draw them closer to Himself. Pray for those who are yet unsaved or who have husbands and children not saved, that they would come to know the Lord.

Continue to pray for Gillian as she finishes up her meetings in Northern Ireland and prepares to return to her ministry here in Kenya. She has been greatly missed. It will be good to have her back with us again.



Wedding bells to ring

BY REV. ANGEL ALVAREZ

This is the first issue for the *Harvest Times* this year, and there is some very good news I would like to share with you all, for which I am very thankful to the Lord.

At the beginning of this year 2007, my mother showed the desire to attend the morning services, and she has been coming very regularly nearly every Sabbath morning. When she is unable to come to church she even apologises for not coming, and from what I can gather, she has the

determination to come to church on a regular basis. So, the Lord is working in her heart, and she is now listening to the gospel every Lord's Day



morning. Pray the Lord will save her. It seems the word 'bachelor' is not meant for me, as I will be getting married, God willing, on August

11th. My fiancé's name is Kelley White, and she is from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina which is just a few hours drive from our sisters churches in Greenville and Columbia. My apologies to those who asked me to spend our honeymoon in Ulster. On these matters, she has the pick!

We will be living in a small town called Barciencia, near Toledo. Three more families from the church are living there, so it might be, in the will of the Lord, a good place in a future time for a new mission field.

I want to thank the Mission Board for all the help they have given us as we wed and to each of you for all your prayers and support over the years. May the Lord bless you all.

"Call unto me and I will answer thee"

BY LYLE BOYD

We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued prayers for us here in this hard, pagan, idolatrous part of God's vineyard. The San Marcos fiestas have just finished when more than a hundred bulls are let



lose through the streets. Every garage and available space is converted into bars where drinking clubs meet for three days. Hundreds come from neighbouring towns and districts

and further afield to experience days when animal passions are let loose. To the majority this is the highlight of the year, which shows the spiritual climate of this town. Pray that the Lord would come down in Holy Ghost power and strike the fear of the judgement to come in the hearts of these drunken merry-makers.

We have been encouraged lately with the midweek Prayer and Bible Study meeting where up to twenty-five people have congregated in one of our member's home. This has included some unsaved folk. Pray that we will see lasting fruit from these meetings.

I have been asked to go to Tasmania for the month of May to help out in our church there as the minister, Rev. Mark Peden, is off ill. Please continue to pray for Mark and for travelling mercies as I travel to and from Australia. It is my desire that the Lord would accompany us in blessing God's

people there and sinners coming to know Him as Saviour.

In my absence, two young men from our Alcorcón church will preach during the first two weeks. Then Sergio, a young preacher from Málaga, along with his fiancée, Evelien (see photo below), will be staying with my wife Heather and Daniel for a fortnight. During this time Sergio will be preparing programmes for the LTBS radio work as well preaching in all the meetings.

Please continue to pray for the unsaved who gather into the service each Lord's Day and for the contacts we make in the market and on visitation outreach.

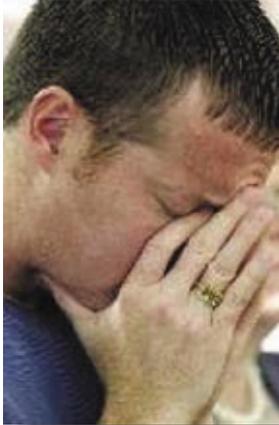


Is a heart about to be opened by prayer?

BY REV. JOHN HANNA

As winter gives way to spring, it is a timely reminder that we are to be busy sowing the seeds of the Gospel of God's saving grace. It also serves to remind us that the labourers are so few. Let us then pray to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth labourers into His harvest. In Psalm 126:6, the psalmist encourages us by reminding us that one day we shall come with rejoicing, bringing our sheaves with us.

We are very grateful to the Lord for all of you who stand with us in prayer and for those who support us with your covenants. We thank you



all in the name of our great King, Jesus Christ. We here in Alcorcón have much cause to praise the Lord for

His continual faithfulness to us in the work.

We have been much blessed and encouraged with the visit of Dr. and Mrs. Alan Cairns. Mr. Cairns preached for us with much power on Easter Sabbath morning. However quite a number of the folks were away due to the Easter holiday and the

young people were at their annual camp. But Jonathan returned on the Lord's Day morning to translate for Mr. Cairns. With the help of our audio equipment he was able to do a simultaneous translation, for which

the preacher was very relieved (seeing he didn't have to be interrupted by the interpreter!). Dr. Cairns also preached the following Sabbath morning to a fuller congregation as everyone was back from their rest.

Please continue to pray with us for the unsaved who continue to attend our Sabbath Day services; pray in particular for Alejandro, Angel (pronounced AN'hel), Gioconda, José and his wife Patricia. In the last three weeks Cynthia, a Roman Catholic lady from Peru, has been attending our services. She is now showing much interest and is asking important questions about the Gospel. Pray that the Lord will open her heart "to attend unto the things which are spoken".

Pray too for a gracious harvest from a special conference that we had at the end of April in the local Community Centre. It presented a great opportunity to preach the Gospel to many who do not attend church.

Changes and challenges

BY JORDI RUIZ

Life for the Ruiz family has certainly changed since the birth of Nathanael in September. In November, we decided that the very best option concerning the education of our children was to begin to home-school. We had been considering this for a long time, but the state of things in the public school system moved us to take the decision to begin as soon as possible.

We thank God for His help during this great time of change for our family. It is a great responsibility to take to ourselves the education of our children, but uppermost, it is a great blessing

and joy to do it. The very first thing that we discovered was our own need to be taught by the Lord. We trust that God will give us the needed skills and grace as we embark on this new venture.

Some in our little church have had health problems. Two months ago an elderly lady in our church, Aurora (72), was given a very bad prognosis by the doctors. But the Lord truly does hear the prayers of His children. She has since recovered marvellously and on May the 13th she and her husband will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. We ask you to pray that her recovery will be a great testimony to all the unbelieving members of her family and friends of how God has touched her.

Otherwise, the rest of the believers (Elena, Ángel, Mari and Alberto) faithfully attend the three services per week. An unbeliever by the

name of Manuel started to meet with us in the Sunday evening services. We had not seen him for two months but now he has started to attend again, for which we thank the Lord.

Some weeks ago, an elderly lady who is a neighbour of ours attended a Sunday evening service. It was a nice surprise, which shows that we are well accepted by people in our area. We are a small work but we pray for a revival amongst us that would reach this city.

We continue in the market with our booktable and at this moment, it is our most important testimony to the people of the city. Every week we have opportunity to talk with a few people, invite them to the church or simply give them a tract. Over the course of a year this number becomes significant. Please pray that God would open a "wide and effectual door" for us through this ministry.



Church constituted in Tasmania

BY REV. MICHAEL PATRICK

I am happy to report that brother Armen Thomassian and his wife Melanie have settled in well and are enjoying the work in South Australia. Armen reports that his wife is a great help, playing the piano when necessary and serving as his chauffeur! This young couple travels up to 1000 km (600 miles) a week in covering the various services.

The annual Polda camp attracted some 30 to 35 children and young people this year. Armen is thankful to the Lord for all His help and for the warmth of the people. He states that much prayer is needed to reach new people for Christ on the Eyre Peninsula.

The work in Tasmania took a major step forward on Sunday, March 11th when the constitution service was held. Rev. David McIlveen, who chaired the meeting, informed the congregation that the church building had been purchased and was now theirs free of debt! Subsequently office-bearers were elected and a unanimous call was issued to the Rev. Mark Peden.

The inaugural meeting of the committee of Kingston Free Presbyterian Church was held on Wednesday March 14th. Pray much for the spiritual prosperity of this newly constituted congregation. There is also urgent need for fervent prayer for the Rev. Peden who still struggles

greatly with his health. He needs the touch of the Master's hand that he may be able once again to resume his full ministry.

The work in Perth continues steady. Unfortunately, we are once again without music in our services. This increases the burden for the preacher, not known for his fine singing voice! Recently a man from Croatia, with limited English and a young teenager, Joshua, have been attending the services each week, pray for them. Events in Tasmania have encouraged the congregation here to look afresh to the Lord for a building of our own. So vital to the future of the work here. *"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified"* here in Australia.

New Christian bookstore opens in Liberia

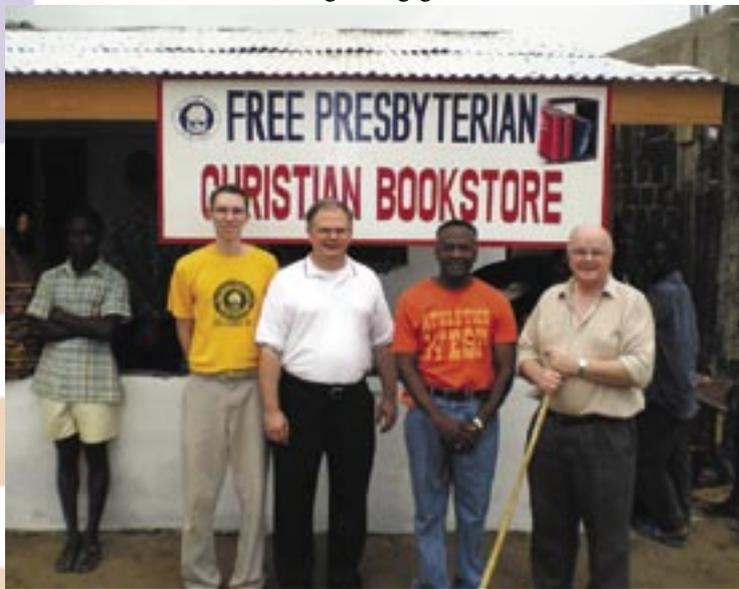
Thanks to the generosity of some friends in our churches in the UK we were able to purchase several hundred books and Bibles and have them shipped to Liberia in January 2007. During a visit to Liberia in March Dr. Mark Allison, Mr. Paulcy Cangé, Mr. Dyke Habegger from our North American Mission Board, were joined by Mr. George McConnell.

They were able to rent premises along the main road in the Red Light township of Monrovia in which to open a Christian bookshop.

This is the first Bookshop of its kind to be opened in Liberia following the civil war and we trust it will be the means of getting good literature

into the hands of many in Liberia and beyond.

Most of the ministers we talked with do not have any Christian books to help them in their studies; we are trying to supply twenty of them with a Thompson Chain Reference Bible and a set of Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible. This will cost around £80 per minister, including shipping; anyone willing to help with this project should contact the Mission Board Office. All gifts to help with this will be very much appreciated.



Mr. D. Habegger, Dr. M. Allison, Mr. P. Cangé, Mr. G. McConnell



Since the beginning of the year, six missions have been conducted for children in Orange Halls and Mission halls. Attendance has varied from place to place ranging from five to thirty five. As I travel around the province I come in contact with many children who do not attend Sabbath School or Church. Therefore I count it a tremendous privilege to teach the gospel to these children and trust that as a result of hearing the Word they will be saved.

It has been good to see Roman Catholic children attend many of the meetings. It was encouraging to have a Mum come and tell me that her young son had trusted the Lord as a result of the previous mission held in their area two years ago. At a weekly children's meeting recently it was a joy to see a 12 year old girl trust the Lord. After she was counselled I ask if she had a Bible and she said no. So the church

Busy but not weary in well-doing

BY JOYCE WALSH

supplied her with one as no one in her family attends any church. How we need to pray for these children!

As well as the missions I have been kept busy with deputation meetings, school assemblies, weekly children's meetings, S.U meetings in schools and door-to-door visitation in the areas where missions have been held.

I am waiting on confirmation

regarding halls for missions over the next couple of months. Looking ahead to the summer it will be busy with Holiday Bible Clubs, Open-Air meetings for the children and Camp Ministry. There will be two meetings a day each week and some weeks it will be three. Do pray that we will know much of God's blessing in the meetings over the next few months.

Thank you once again for all your continued support in the Lord's work.



Brought to the crossroads of life

BY CHRIS KILLEN

The Lord has continued to open doors for us to speak to students and pupils in a number of schools throughout the province. The schools ministry is a very important part of our work and gives us a great opportunity to present the gospel to young people.

In March we held a special week of meetings in Ballymena - with the purpose of inviting drug addicts

and their families to them. The guest preacher for the week was Rev. Noel Hughes (Gardenstown FPC) and he preached with power on the theme: 'People Christ Met in the Gospels.' We pray that the Lord will speak on to the unconverted who heard the Word preached. The meetings were also a great encouragement to us as we continue to labour in this difficult ministry.

We extend a special word of thanks to the minister and session of Ballymena FPC who have been and continue to be a great help and support to the work.

During the first week in April we conducted a Youth Mission in Mourne FPC (Kilkeel). The meetings were very well attended and it was evident that a lot of ground work and visitation had been carried out in preparation for the meetings. The subject for the week was 'Brought to the Crossroads of Life,' - and that continues to be our desire and aim - to see young people brought to faith in Christ for the glory of God!

Once again we are indebted to you for all your prayerful and practical support. We pray that the Lord will bless you richly in Christ Jesus for your thoughtfulness and help.

Upcoming debate: "The Church does not need a Pope."

BY COLIN MAXWELL

We enjoyed our short time of deputiation around some of our churches, showing a Power Point presentation of the work. The interest in our work was good and this was reflected in the practical giving of God's people. We are ever grateful for all your prayers and support.

Much of the work continues as usual with its heavy emphasis on

evangelism. We secured a good deal on the printing of little business card size tracts with excellent graphics. Although necessarily brief, they are sufficiently faithful to the gospel and those interested are encouraged to link to a specially designed page on our church website that explains the matter further. An example of this may be seen on: www.corkfpc.com/4.html. There are three new designs with the printer for Roman Catholic orientated cards.

Plans are afoot also to have a public debate with the same RC group with whom we debated last year. We hope to debate on the motion: "The

Church does not need a Pope" which I will affirm.

We are also planning to expand our 24/7 Gospel Telephone ministry in order to make it more effective. The correspondence Bible studies are going well. A few young folk came down for outreach over the St. Patrick's Day parade. It is always good to get help in the work of God.

On the family front, we mourned the passing of Olive's father in April, but rejoice that he has gone to be with the Lord. Ruth is currently studying for her Leaving Certificate. Andrew starts Primary School in September. Thanks again for all your interest and prayers.

Recognition of Service

The Mission Board and the whole of the Free Presbyterian Church would like to congratulate the following on their long service on the Mission Field as of 2007. We join with you all in praising the Lord for his blessing to each of you over this period of long service. Truly *'The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord'*.

Rev. & Mrs. Hanna
30 years in Spain

Miss Margaret Russell
25 years in Kenya

Rev. & Mrs. Patrick
20 years in Australia

Mr. & Mrs. Maxwell
20 years in Cork

Rev. & Mrs. Boyd
20 years in Spain (2006)



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**Change since last edition*