

FPC KIDS



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The early months of 2020 were pretty much business as usual for the children’s workers under the Mission Board, as we conducted various school assemblies, SU classes and children’s meetings province-wide. Plans for the Holiday Bible Clubs and summer camps were also beginning to take shape.

However, with the outbreak of the coronavirus, we felt the full impact of the lockdown with the closure of all schools and church buildings. Everything we were involved in and were preparing for came to an abrupt halt.

On Friday 20th March, a Skype conference was headed up by Mr Alistair Hamilton with input from Kathryn Kane (our technical whizz), Christina Logan, Joyce Walsh and me, to see what could be done online by way of streaming children’s meetings.

Joined by Mr Glenn Hamilton soon afterwards, a Facebook page and a YouTube channel were set up,

along with logos, theme tunes and all kinds of technical know-how. Friday 27th March 2020 saw the launch of our online children’s meetings called ‘Bible Corner’

None of us envisaged, however, just how wide the Lord of all faithfulness would then open a new door of opportunity, as many thousands tuned in.

Full-length recordings go out every Friday at 7pm and Sundays at 10am. A short, five-minute slot was added on Wednesdays at noon called the ‘Wee Word’ aimed at presenting the Gospel in the form of an object lesson.

Although we are all looking forward to the day when we can all get back to our normal meetings, please pray the Lord will bless the endeavours of the ‘FPC Kids’. Perhaps only eternity will reveal the impact these meetings will have had in the lives of those boys and girls we would never get to reach otherwise. ■

✉ **Mr R McConnell,**
Mission Board Child Evangelist.

MISSIONARY VISION

Margaret Russell Returns Home

On Thursday 14th May 2020, Miss Margaret Russell returned home from Kenya, after thirty-seven years of faithful missionary service. Miss Russell had many arrangements to make and challenges to overcome in her final few weeks, due to the restrictions in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Mission Board, being conscious of all the demands on Miss Russell, felt that it was important to pray that the Lord would open up the way for her to be able to travel home and that He would be pleased to keep her in health and strength as she journeyed. Therefore, the Board held a special online time of prayer with her, via Zoom, on the afternoon of the Lord's Day 10th May.

The Lord was faithful, and prayer was answered in a very definite way and every need was met. As a result, Miss Russell flew home on 14th May, as arranged, on a flight organised by the British High Commission for British



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citizens leaving Kenya at this time of crisis. The Lord led and opened up the way at every stage of the journey, and Miss Russell arrived safely at her home in Tandragee, late that evening. Then, in keeping with the current requirements for those travelling into the UK, she commenced two weeks of self-isolation immediately.

As the Rev and Mrs Malcolm Patterson are also currently at home in Northern Ireland on furlough, and not able to return to the Mission Field at this time because of the coronavirus, the Mission Board has no missionaries on the ground in Kenya. Consequently, Miss Russell will be continuing, for the interim period, to manage, remotely, the administration of our missionary work in Kenya from Northern Ireland. This is an essential step to enable the

ministry there to continue smoothly at this challenging time.

So, although Miss Russell has returned home, she will not be retiring as a missionary just yet, and her involvement in the work in Kenya will be continuing a little while longer. This arrangement will remain in place until we are able to have missionaries on the ground in Kenya and the administration work there can be handed over to them.

We will keep readers updated regularly on how this situation progresses. Please continue to pray for Miss Russell and support her in this additional phase of her missionary labours in Kenya. ■

✉ Rev D McMillan

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



Emergency Aid Fund Report



We are pleased to report that the first allocation of aid support has now been distributed across the areas which we highlighted initially, when the emergency aid fund appeal was launched. We have received heartfelt messages of thanks from those in need, telling how the aid has helped them through this time of crisis. It is very touching to see friends and families, associated with our outreach works, across the world, receive the aid provided for them.

We have been able to provide direct aid to around 7500 people in Spain,

Liberia, Uganda, Kenya, India and Nepal. Many of these dear people are living hand to mouth – depending on the wages from that day to feed them the following day. With most areas still in some form of lockdown, their daily wages have stopped and there are no savings to fall back on.

Thanks to your generosity, we have exceeded our target and raised enough funds to be able to provide a second wave of support, which now looks necessary as the lockdowns continue and a return to work – for many – looks distant.

We thank you sincerely for your support of this appeal, even though many here, at home, face difficulties and uncertainty in these days. Nevertheless, the desire to help others in need has been amazing and very touching.

As a Mission Board, we pray that these families will continue to be sustained and that you will be blessed as you have supported this work in such a generous way. We pray that the Lord will keep us all safe, and that His work will reach new heights as people – all across the world – consider the times in which we live and seek Him for salvation. ■

Donate Online



We are humbled and encouraged by the ongoing faithful and generous provision of our supporters of FPC Mission works at home and abroad. This has surely been evident over the past few months when - in the midst of a global crisis, and at a time when many may have concerns for their own livelihoods - they have supported the Emergency Aid Fund to a level that we did not think was possible. We thank all of you for your generous and selfless support to help those who are in great need.

The lockdown, however, highlighted the need to provide additional means for our supporters to donate gifts, when our ability to collect through our churches or Missionary Council is limited and when people are not able to send cheques.

Although we do offer the option for people to transfer funds directly by

e-banking, there are those who do not have access to this means, so we have introduced the option to make a donation on our website by credit card, debit card or PayPal. You will find a 'Donate' button on the 'Give' tab of our website – www.fpcmission.org. It is a very straightforward process to make a donation and specify which cause you would like to support by adding some information in the 'Write a note' section.

The Mission Board has decided to cover all transaction fees from our general funds, so you can be assured that 100% of your donation will go to support the cause you indicate in your donation.

On behalf of those who depend on your support, either through the Emergency Aid Fund or through regular giving to our mission works, we say a sincere thank you. ■

The Orphans of India

During lockdown it has been my privilege to put out daily videocasts. These messages were designed to be an encouragement to God's people and a challenge in the gospel to those who do not know Christ. After several weeks of sharing the Word, Eric Graham, interim Chairman of the Missionary Council, suggested that the talks should be published in a book. Although I have no experience in publishing, it was decided to go forward with this venture. The Missionary Council agreed to support the publication. In the course of our discussion, Mr Graham asked me: "What would you like the proceeds to go to?" Just at that time I had heard of 70 orphan children in India who needed support to feed them. Our young Indian friend, Deepanker, had shared this burden with me, and I felt the Lord directing us in this way.

Deepanker related it costs £6.20 to feed one orphan for one month. When that is multiplied up by 70 orphans over 12 months, the total amount is £5208 for a year. I shared this story one Lord's Day in my videocast, and, immediately, without making any appeal, money began to come in to feed these orphans. We received gifts from children, pensioners and others who felt constrained to give.

Within a week around £10 000 had come in. Furthermore, in that same week, the Lisburn Church decided very kindly to fund the entire production of 1500 hard back copies. This means the proceeds of every copy sold will go directly to fund these orphans in India. We do not know what God has in store for this project, but we are fully persuaded in our hearts that it is of the Lord, and He has a sovereign plan and purpose which will be revealed in due course.

Thanks are due to Eric Graham, the Missionary Council, the Lisburn Church and all who have contributed to this project for their support and vision. I believe God has great things in store for the land of India. We pray earnestly these children will be fed and nourished - not just physically, but spiritually - and that many will be won for Christ and become great servants for Christ.

I am reminded of the words of the great pioneer missionary to China, Hudson Taylor: "Depend on it. God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds, and He can just as easily supply them ahead of time as afterwards, and He much prefers doing so." ■

✉ **Rev D Park,**
Mission Board Secretary.

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