

International Missionary Prayer Meeting



A special missionary prayer meeting – the first of its kind – was held on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 by Zoom. All our missionaries, Mission Board members and contacts from around the world were invited to join us. There were 45 screens online, 50 participants and 11 countries represented (U.K., Ireland, Spain, Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Australia).

Rev David Park, Mission Board secretary, brought a word from Revelation 7:9–17. Rev Ian Harris, Mission Board chairman, guided the prayer season through the many requests, and a blessed time of prayer was enjoyed as intercessions were made for the various mission fields represented.

One of the requests, highlighted by the chairman, was to pray earnestly for five new missionaries to be raised up by the Lord in the near future. This is something that you could remember before the throne of grace. Already, one young man, who joined us for prayer, has said, “Praying that the Lord will enable me to be one of those five missionaries that the Board is praying for.” ■

Hundreds die in India

Some parts of India are witnessing torrential rains that have triggered the worst landslides and floods in decades. A total of 180 lives have been lost, nearly 1000 homes damaged, more than 50 people have been reported injured, a little over 1800 people are stranded and hundreds of them remain missing.

Thousands of cattle have also died, as a result of the rains. Over 135,000 people have been evacuated from flood-hit areas and moved to safer places. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Indian Army and Indian Air Force have been deployed for rescue operations.

The administration and various agencies have scrambled to provide shelter to the people affected. Drinking water and electricity supply are being restored. Food and medicines are being arranged.

In another saddening development, the health officials have reported that eight Covid patients have died at a Covid hospital after water entered the premises due to incessant rains.

Last week, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning that a circulation in the Bay of Bengal is likely to cause low-pressure area that will trigger more very heavy rainfall. ■

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for the victims of this disaster that the Lord would comfort the lives that were spared.
2. Pray that the Lord would have mercy on all those working to rescue the stranded and to feed the hungry.
3. Pray that the Lord would keep at bay the spread of disease after the floods recede.
4. Pray that these things will serve as a reminder for the people to turn to their Creator and their Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Andrew and Hannah Foster planning for the future

Last year presented many new challenges for the work of the Mission Board and the Missionaries on the field. Amid all of the Covid-19 related challenges, we were also faced with a Brexit related one. Andrew and Hannah Foster returned to Northern Ireland in September 2020 for their first period of furlough since commencing work in Uganda. The timing of this furlough was also aligned to allow Hannah to give birth to their baby in a hospital here. We give thanks to God for the safe arrival of little Rachel in November 2020 and for her health and development since then.

Due to the new UK rules following Brexit, it became clear to Andrew and Hannah while here on furlough, that Hannah, who was born in the Netherlands, would need to go through an application process, known as 'Settled Status'. This was required to give her the right to continue living in the UK after June 2021. This 'Settled Status' would also be necessary for access to healthcare, to allow visa-free travel back into the UK after any term on the field and was a pre-requisite for some travel insurance policies.

Initial enquiries were followed by specific legal advice from an immigration lawyer and then, the scale of the process and the potential impact became clear. The application process has two steps: first to apply for pre-settled status, which is basically a confirmation that an applicant is eligible for this scheme. In order to qualify for this, Hannah had to be resident in the UK on or before the 31st December 2020. In the providence



✉ Above: Mr and Mrs Foster and their daughter Rachel, are pictured with (L to R) Revs D McMillan, T Martin and Mr A Hamilton

of God, Andrew and Hannah met this requirement, as they were home on furlough, even though they knew nothing about it when it was planned. We are delighted to report that Hannah has now received official confirmation of her pre-settled status.

The second step is more challenging, as it will limit the time that the Foster family can spend in Uganda over the next few years. Specifically, Hannah will need to be resident in the UK for at least six months in every year for five years, before the final 'Settled Status' will be granted.

Having explored all the options to resolve this issue, the Mission Board approved this course of action, with the family spending six months in Uganda and six months in the UK. At this stage, there are another four years to run with this arrangement as we can count from September 2020 when they arrived on furlough. We now have plans in place to ensure that the key work in Uganda

can continue to be covered until 'Settled Status' is granted. Andrew is able to plan a lot of his work from home in advance and then prioritise his time on the field to deliver the projects.

We thank God for providential leading, for answered prayer for the initial application, and for the clarity of advice we were given in this complicated matter. We would ask that you would continue to pray for Andrew and Hannah, as this has been an unsettling time. Pray that the work plans will go smoothly and that the full 'Settled Status' will be granted in due course. ■



Literature for Uganda

Forty-six boxes of Gospel literature arrived safely at the Emmanuel Mission Station with the help of Every Home Crusade. Included in this consignment in the Luganda language is: all five of the Mission Board's children's tracts; a new adult tract; Dr Alan Cairns' booklet, *A New Beginning*; and, the *Gospel of John*. In addition, there are some English tracts and CEF material. Please pray that the Lord will use this literature in the winning of souls as it is distributed in the community by our missionaries. ■



Emergency Aid Distributed in Nepal

“Over 900 families are receiving aid. We are in the villages sharing God's grace to His people.”

Rev Paul Thapa (Moderator of the Nepal Free Presbyterian Church) and fellow workers have distributed emergency aid to over nine hundred families in Nepal. The recently purchased four-wheel drive vehicle has been a great help in reaching remote areas. Following a recent trip to distribute aid, Rev Thapa said, “People are greatly thankful and encouraged by the aid, realising that there are some who take care of them. There are many people with no food. Over 900 families are receiving aid. We are in the villages

sharing God's grace to His people. On behalf of Nepal Free Presbyterian Church, I would like to pass on our gratitude to the Mission Board.”

Thank you for your generosity. Please continue to support the Emergency Aid Fund as there are many needs. “But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (1 John 3:17, 18). ■



Drive-in Missionary Rally

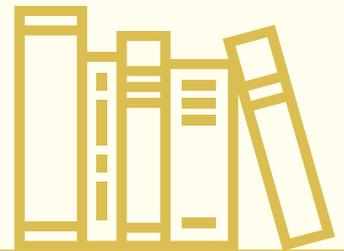
Rev Ian Harris (Mission Board chairman) is pictured giving a report at the Drive-In Missionary Rally that was held on Haffey's farm, Magheralin on Friday 6th August. Sincere appreciation is extended to all who participated and attended. ■



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

**Office:**

Mrs Glenda Graham,
3 Carrigenagh Road,
Kilkeel, BT34 4NE
T: 028 4176 5574
office@fpcmission.org

Chairman:

Rev Ian Harris,
23a Moneydaragh Road,
Annalong, BT34 4TY
T: 028 4376 8040
rev.harris@fpcmission.org

Secretary:

Rev David Park,
55 Market Street,
Ballymoney, BT53 6ED
T: 028 2766 2039
hebronfpc@btconnect.com

Treasurer:

Mr Alastair Hamilton,
37A Ballymacvea Road,
Kells, Ballymena BT42 3NH
T: 078 6061 6302
a.hamilton@fpcmission.org

STAY UP TO DATE AT



FPCMISSION.ORG