

On the ground in Uganda

Rev Maurice Baxter and his wife Chrismar spent seven weeks at Emmanuel, Uganda, from the end of March until the start of May. Rev Baxter supplied the pulpit and both Rev & Mrs Baxter spoke at the School assemblies. Mr Baxter also helped with the maintenance of the School Campus. Please pray for the ministry of God's Word at Emmanuel and that the Lord will send a man to take to lead the Emmanuel Church.

The Mission Board seeks to give practical help each year to the ten families connected with the Emmanuel School who are in greatest need. The is done through the Orphan and Vulnerable Children farming project



which provides seed, fertiliser and training to these local people to help them provide for their families.

Other pupils currently being helped are learning Mechanics and Needlework. One young man is also being helped to do his 'A' levels. Sincere thanks to the Londonderry & Magherafelt Churches for sponsoring some of these young people in the Apprenticeship Course. We ask you to pray that they will all know the Lord's help as they learn the various trades and continue their studies. ■

 **Below:**

Pictured with the Emmanuel School Social Worker, Mr Augustine, are the ten families being helped through this project in 2022.



MISSION VISION

CONFERENCE REPORT

'These were not only meetings, they were meetings with God.'

This is how one person described the *Mission Vision* Conference in May 2022. Following the various lockdowns and restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, the Mission Board of Presbytery, believed it was important to organise a conference to give fresh focus to the Great Commission. A small sub-committee was formed and plans were laid to centre the week around the preaching of God's word. In addition to carefully chosen subjects, missionaries (who either serve at home,

or who were at home on furlough) were invited to participate. It was agreed to prepare short videos, outlining how the Mission Board operates on different mission fields and various informal seminars were planned for the final Saturday. The session and committee of our Lisburn congregation kindly agreed to place their church facilities at our disposal, and Mission Vision was arranged to run from 7th to 14th May 2022.

It was a blessed week of encouragement, challenge, instruction and fellowship. Each evening, specific missionary prayer requests were presented to the large congregation, a brief missionary video was shown and the Word of

God preached faithfully. It was fitting that Mission Board chairman, Rev Ian Harris, preached at the opening meeting on the theme of consecration in God's service. In successive meetings, attention was drawn to, the biblical charter for missionary work; the importance of the continual infilling of the Holy Spirit for missionary work; the importance of church planting on the mission field; the role of the home church in missionary work; reaching out and over cultural and national borders with the gospel; Christ's charter of success and, how do I know I am called to missionary work? It was evident, from the outset, that in spite of the interruptions due to Covid, there remains a strong interest in missionary work across our denomination. It was particularly encouraging to see young people in the services throughout the week and, a large number of youth fellowships in attendance on Friday evening.

On the final Saturday, a series of seminars were held, featuring home and foreign missionaries, and several members of various mission teams who have worked in foreign lands. Following a question and answer format, the importance of helping missionaries was stressed and details were given of upcoming mission trip opportunities. The Moderator, Rev John Armstrong and Whitefield College of the Bible Principal, Rev Timothy Nelson,

 **Below:** Members of the Free Presbyterian Church Mission Board



MISSIONARY VISION



📷 **Above:** Missionaries who attended *Mission Vision*

also participated and outlined the importance of missionary work in the life of our denomination and the role of the College in preparing students for missionary work. A BBQ lunch provided by the Lisburn congregation was much appreciated.

Before the Thursday evening service, missionaries, Mission Board members, and other guests, met for dinner. It was a joy to have two Kenyan Pastors, Andrew Cheptoo and Patrice Akali, with us and the fellowship with these brethren and others was a great blessing.

At the close of each service, the congregation was invited to join the

missionaries in the Douglas Suite. Light refreshments were provided and each mission field was represented. It was encouraging to witness numerous conversations taking place with retired and active missionaries.

The Mission Vision week passed quickly, but our missionary work continues. The Mission Board is thankful for those whom the Lord has raised up and who are serving in various ways in various places. However, the need is great. Labourers are few and there remains many open doors of opportunity. We continue to pray that God would continue to guide those who feel burdened for the mission field and raise up more who will go with the glorious news of the gospel. As we reflect on Mission Vision, we do so with gratitude to God; gratitude for making it possible for so many of our missionaries to be present; for the preaching of His Word; for the fellowship that was enjoyed; for the young people who were challenged about Christian service; and for the encouragement experienced by those exercised about future missionary service. As noted, 'these were not just meetings, these were meetings with God.' ■



📷 **Right:** Workshop held on Saturday 14th

*The Mission Board would like to **express thanks** to the Minister, Session and Committee of Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church for hosting Mission Vision 2022*

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