

# Retirement Dinner

Members of the Mission Board and their wives met in Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November to recognise the retirement of Rev Ian Harris as Chairman and Rev David Park as Secretary. These brethren have a combined service of over 25 years in these important roles. Following a fine meal, various presentations were made to them and their wives. Commenting on the evening, the present Chairman, Rev Colin Mercer, noted, 'It is fitting to give honour where honour is due. The



Mission Board owes a great debt to Revs Harris and Park for their years of service in the missionary endeavour of our church. They have served with tremendous zeal and unflinching interest in the spread of the gospel and much has been accomplished under their leadership. We appreciate the many hours devoted to this labour and,

also, the support they have received from their wives and families.' Mr Alastair Hamilton (Treasurer) spoke of various mission trips that had been taken and the privilege of working alongside his brethren on the Mission Board. In response, Revs Harris and Park expressed thanks to the Lord for His grace and for the opportunity they had been given to serve in their respective roles. They thanked the members of the Mission Board for their support and expressed their gratitude for the kind tokens of appreciation. ■



✍ **Rev Colin Mercer,**  
*Mission Board Chairman.*

📷 **Above:** Rev and Mrs Park & Rev and Mrs Harris. 📷 **Left:** Those who made the presentations at the dinner.

# 25 Years on the Mission Field

January 2023 marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Miss Joy Gillespie going to the Mission Field. It was on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1998 that her farewell service took place in Armagh Free Presbyterian Church. Dr Paisley preached at that special service on the subject: 'Being an overcomer'. Miss

Gillespie flew to Spain the following day to commence language studies and take up her labours.

During the last quarter of a century, Miss Gillespie has had the distinction of serving on two foreign mission fields

on two different continents. For the first nineteen and a half years, she laboured in Spain, and, for the last five and half years, she has been labouring in Asia.

On behalf of the denomination, the Mission Board congratulates Miss Gillespie on reaching her silver jubilee of missionary service. We express our sincere thanks for her faithful labours and pray that the Lord will give her many more years of fruitful service. ■



📷 **Photo:** The front cover of the March/April 1998 edition of the *Truth for Youth*.

# 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Missionary Council Weekend



The Missionary Council gathered for their annual weekend in Magherabuoy House Hotel, Portrush. This has been the venue for the past ten years and is set amidst the beautiful scenery of the North Antrim Coast. The weekend was organised by the outgoing Chairman, Rev David Park. Around 110 guests were accommodated at the hotel, with others travelling in for the meetings. Friday night was an informal evening. The fellowship time was opened and closed with prayer by Mr Eric Graham and Mr John Dumigan. Ukrainian visitors attended: Pastor Valentin Pavlenkov along with his wife, Larisa, and their four children.

Friday night, therefore, became a 'Ukrainian Night' with the Pavlenkov family singing, the Pastor testifying, and Rev Park reporting on the project undertaken by his Hebron congregation to receive 41 Ukrainian refugees to Ballymoney. He introduced his visual presentation with the words of the Saviour, 'I was a stranger, and ye took me in' (Matthew 25:35). He then spoke of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the fleeing of these refugees and how God had provided for them in so many ways – truly a story of grace and love.

The main conference service was held on Saturday night as the Council sought to renew its vision for the Great

Commission. Rev Joshua Moffatt conducted congregational singing and Mr Graham led the service. Missionary reports were given by Rev Lyle Boyd (returned home from Spain), Mr Samuel Johnston (Hebron Youth Leader, reporting on the Ugandan VBS), and Mr David McAuley (Whitefield College student reporting on his visit to Uganda). Mrs Rebekah Park was the guest soloist and Mrs Glenda Graham from the Mission Board office testified. Dr John Douglas was the special conference speaker and preached a challenging message with the evident anointing of the Lord.

On the Lord's Day, the worship service was held in Hebron, Ballymoney. A video report was given by Deepanker Nandy on the Indian Orphan Project, and Mr Graham brought personal greetings as the new Missionary Council Chairman and, also, from Rev Colin Mercer, Mission Board Chairman. The special singing was from the Ukrainian Church Choir and the Hebron Youth Choir. Rev Joshua Moffatt preached the Missionary Challenge and hearts were touched and moved. Overall, it was a blessed weekend when the Lord came among us and stirred our hearts. ■

✍ **Rev David Park**



*“ Give me the love that leads the way,  
The faith that nothing can dismay,  
The hope no disappointments tire,  
The passion that will burn like fire;  
Let me not sink to be a clod;  
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God. ”*

Amy Carmichael, *Missionary to India*



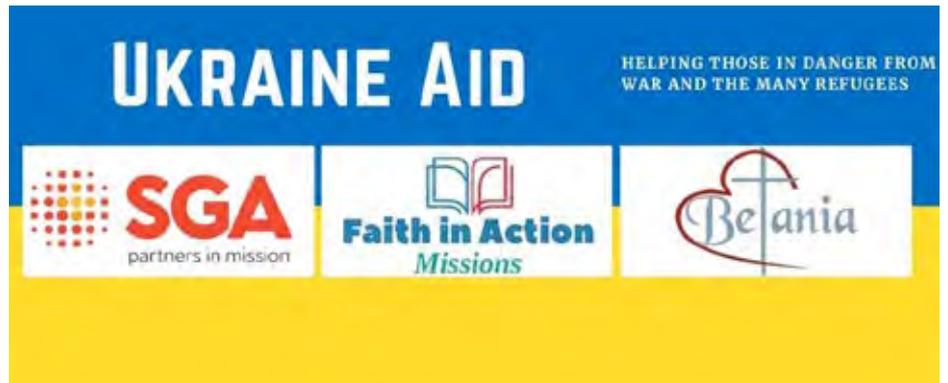
# From the Treasurer



## Ukraine Aid

*“Thank you for such a generous and compassionate response to help other Christians in their time of great need.”*

One of the highlights last year was, undoubtedly, the speedy and generous response to the Ukraine Aid appeal which was launched in March 2022, following the invasion of Ukraine. As the Mission Board did not have a presence in this area, we decided to



channel all of the support through three partners who work in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries where so many of the refugees sought shelter. These partners are: the Slavic Gospel Association, Faith in Action Missions and Betania Baptist Church, Timisoara.

I am pleased to report that, by the end of 2023, we had raised a total of £123,228.87, which was passed to the

three partners for distribution. You can read reports of how this funding was used at [www.sga.org.uk](http://www.sga.org.uk) and [www.faithinactionmissions.com](http://www.faithinactionmissions.com) for your encouragement.

Thank you for such a generous and compassionate response to help other Christians in their time of great need. The appeal remains open, as, sadly, the difficulties in Ukraine are ongoing. ■

## Banking Update

We receive many calls from supporters asking how they can send funds to assist the work of the Mission Board. The best, most cost effective and quickest way to send funds is by direct bank transfer. Over the past few years, we have expanded the means by which you can donate to support the work – most recently, with the addition of the ‘Donate’ function on our website at [www.fpcmission.org/give](http://www.fpcmission.org/give)

I appreciate that some people still send cheques to the Mission Board



office; however, our local bank branch in Kilkeel has closed recently, which makes the lodgement of these cheques more difficult. I would, therefore, like to encourage as many as possible to consider changing over to use bank transfers to help overcome these issues. These are easy for you to set up and manage, and much easier for us to track

to ensure that the funds get allocated to the correct area, according to your wishes, as a donor. I would specifically encourage all church treasurers to consider this method of transfer. If you would like to use this system, please contact Glenda in the Mission Board office and she will provide you with all of the details. ■

## MISSIONARY VISION

### Child Sponsorship

Emmanuel Christian School, Uganda



To all of those who have sponsored children, let me take this opportunity to thank you for your vital support in the ministry of Emmanuel Christian School. Through your sponsorship, poor and vulnerable children are receiving a high-quality, Christian education. Children from different faiths and backgrounds attend the school and many, over the years, have professed faith in our Lord and

Saviour Jesus Christ, having heard the gospel during their time at the school.

The current increase in the 'cost of living' is being felt at home and abroad, and has hit Uganda hard. Food inflation there is expected to be 27% this year, and we are already feeling the impact of this change in the escalating running costs at the school. As a result, the cost of sponsoring a child at Emmanuel

Christian School will increase to £140 per year (£112.00, if Gift Aided). If you provide monthly sponsorship support, then the monthly cost will rise from £10/month (£8.00, if Gift Aided) to £11.66/month (£9.34, if Gift Aided).

We thank you, again, for your support and we would encourage new supporters to consider this very direct and tangible way to support the children in Uganda. ■

## Easter Convention Saturday Night Missionary Rally

The Presbytery has recently decided to recommence in 2023 the Missionary Rally on the Saturday night at the Easter Convention in the Martyrs Memorial Church in Belfast.

The Easter Convention from the very beginning has always had a very strong missionary emphasis, and, for many years, the Saturday night Missionary Meeting was eagerly anticipated and a source of great blessing.

Reinstating the Saturday night meeting will allow the full meeting to be given

over to highlighting all the current developments of the missionary work of our denomination.

The meeting will include missionary reports and updates, incorporating some video updates. There will also be a message from the Word of God to present the missionary challenge.

The Mission Board and Missionary Council is very pleased by this development and would encourage you to plan to join them on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30pm. ■



### 2023 EASTER MISSIONARY RALLY

**MARTYRS MEMORIAL FPC**  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm

*Missionary reports & a missionary message.  
Light refreshments afterwards*

*'... Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. . .'*

**John 4:35**

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