

A SUMMER BARBECUE

MISSION BOARD CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Averse much on my mind in recent months is 1 Corinthians 3: 9. It is a wonderful description of Paul's ministry at Corinth. Reviewing his time with the believers, he said that they were "labourers together with God".

What an apt description of the work of the Mission Board, our missionaries, and every missionary-minded believer in our denomination! We have laboured in 2017 together with God to proclaim the Gospel home and abroad, and to build up believers. So I say a sincere 'thank you' to every congregation and individual member!

It has been a year of many battles but also one in which the Lord has been pleased to grant us His blessing. Precious souls have professed faith in Christ, the lost have been evangelised, the needy helped, and new ground taken for the Lord. We genuinely appreciate your labours together with us under God in the Master's harvest field.

⋮ Rev Ian Harris



Friday 28th July 2017 was a memorable evening. We had over 500 people attend a Barbecue on our farm in support of Emmanuel Christian School, Uganda, and the Christian Academy, Kenya.

My husband Paul, who visited Africa in April, felt that we could organise a Barbecue where people could enjoy some time together and at the same time raise awareness of the needs of the children in these parts of Africa.

Following discussion with Rev Harris it was decided that any funds raised could go towards a very much needed toilet and shower block for the school compound in Uganda and to provide food for the many children in the school

and nurseries associated with the Christian Academy in Kenya.

With the help of family and friends the necessary arrangements were made, including a DVD presentation and photo display. We were so grateful to the Lord for suitable weather and for many people who came. An auction in the tent provided a very entertaining, enjoyable end to the night.

As the event became known the Lord touched the hearts of many business contacts, family and friends to give – an amazing £18,120 was raised! We thank all who helped in any way – we could never have anticipated the response.

⋮ Diane Haffey

BALLYMENA WORK TEAM VISIT TO LIBERIA



On 14th July, ten people from Ballymena Church flew to Liberia to visit Rev Dave DiCanio and Miss Joanne Greer. The trip was organised to coincide with the annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) which Joanne runs each year in Paynesville Free Presbyterian Mission Church. The team also had plans to assist with joinery work and other practical tasks, including making 18 bench seats and wiring lights for the Junior VBS hall.

The VBS started on the Monday morning and it was quickly apparent that there were many more children wanting to attend than expected. Two classes had been arranged but over 100

extra children had to be accommodated by the Tuesday morning. A temporary open tent structure was erected outside the buildings and this was used for the remainder of the week. In total, around 350 children attended each day. The following week the team also hosted a sports day for all of the children on Liberia Independence Day.

Rev DiCanio has built and launched Free Presbyterian Radio. This enables the broadcast of Christian radio content eighteen hours per day to the 1.5 million people in the greater Monrovia area. It was a real surprise to hear so many of our own ministers on the airwaves as we travelled across the city. The team was present for the

official opening of the station with a live broadcast from the compound.

A short internal flight brought the group to a small Free Presbyterian Mission Church in the interior of Liberia in Charlie Town, Rivercess. This enabled them to see tribal Liberian life and the challenges faced daily by the people in these isolated areas. They were given a wonderful welcome in the simple mud building and enjoyed a local meal of rice and potato plant with chicken followed by cucumber for dessert!

It was a blessed time and the team left Liberia with first-hand experience of the great spiritual and physical needs of these friendly, welcoming people.

UNITED CHILDREN'S CAMP 2017



Camp was held this year from Monday 31st July to Friday 4th August with 48 children and 9 workers at Humphreys, Rathmore, in Larne. Morning meetings were missionary themed – on the life of Dr Bill Woods – and the evening meetings were on the life of Joshua. Quiet Time Devotions for 15 mins each morning

and evening had each leader meeting with 4-6 children. It was a blessing to hear young children praying sincerely, some for the first time.

Special visits outside were also enjoyed at Brakenhill at Clogh, and to Ark Farm outside Newtownards. In the evening we held camp Olympics. The children were put in mixed age groups and got to take part in eight activities. This is always a highlight.

On the Thursday evening, a BBQ was cooked by Barry and Ruth Stewart. This was prize night, with a photo review and a short testimony time. One of the

girls had asked the Lord to save her on Tuesday night at camp.

I am thankful for sincere and devoted leaders who worked in unity during the week, for the testimonies of lives changed during the week, and for the Mission Board for their vision in commencing this camp and for their support practically, financially and prayerfully. Perhaps the Lord will raise up some of these young people to be the missionaries of tomorrow. Camp is at same venue next year, 30 July – 3 August (£130); contact the Mission Board for details.

✚ Rev Ryan McKee

MODERATOR VISITS AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES



The Australian churches are deeply indebted to the Presbytery for sending the Moderator and his wife, Rev and Mrs Murray. Their visit was very much appreciated. Mr Murray commenced his tour in Perth. During that time he conducted special Protestant Reformation anniversary meetings on the subject of Martin Luther. It was a blessing to see some visitors in those meetings.

Mr Matthew Higgins, who is studying in the Whitefield College of the Bible, has returned to Australia where he will study next term using Skype. In January, Matthew hopes to return to Northern Ireland. He recently got engaged to Leanne Gardiner, a member of Carrickfergus congregation. Meanwhile, Matthew will have opportunity to minister in the Australian churches.

⋮ Rev Philip Gardiner

The congregations of South Australia enjoyed a visit from Rev & Mrs Thomas Murray in early July. Mr Murray spoke in both Port Lincoln and Lock on the Sabbath and so was able to experience something of the landscape as we travelled the 180 mile trip to Lock and back.

A Monday evening lecture on Martin Luther in Port Lincoln was streamed via the internet to Lock congregation, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Tuesday night, Rev & Mrs Murray joined us in the Lock prayer meeting, before which the congregation had dinner together and introduced the Murrays to a few of the local animals. The visit was a great encouragement to us. We were reminded that, despite the distance between Australia and Ulster, we are united in the service of the Lord, and are upon the hearts of those back home.

⋮ Kyle Graham



Monday 17th July 2017 saw the long-awaited installation of Rev. Ralph Hall in Kingston,

Tasmania, where he had been ministering since 2013 under the Mission Board after having agreed to go to Tasmania, initially on a two year working visa. A permanent visa soon followed, as the family settled into their new surroundings.

The visit of the Moderator was then supplemented by Rev Gardiner from Perth and Mr Kyle Graham from Port Lincoln and Lock, both of whom assisted in the installation service. Some 50-60

were in attendance, including friends and neighbours of the Hall family and a contingent from Hobart Southern Presbyterian Church.

Rev Murray preached powerfully from Acts 26:16, many people commenting on the blessing received from his message. A fellowship supper followed, which allowed everyone to meet the guest ministers.

⋮ Rev Ralph Hall

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