

Thank You

On behalf of the Mission Board, I would like to thank those who sent in various anonymous donations for missionary work in 2018.

We cannot personally acknowledge such anonymous gifts, so instead, we would like to publicly thank all those who sent in both large and small donations. Each gift sent in for various

causes and missionaries has been honoured. For those who prefer such means of giving, we thank you all in the Lord's Name. "That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6 v 4). ■

✉ **Rev Ian Harris,**
Chairman.

'Well done, good and Faithful Servant'

✉ Rev. John Hanna and his wife Noranna



Rev. John Hanna has retired as a missionary under the Mission Board at the end of December 2018. He continues to serve the Lord in Spain, ministering in Alorcón, Toledo, and wherever else as the Lord enables him. Mr and Mrs Hanna were the first missionaries to be sent to the mission field under the auspices of the Free Presbyterian Mission Board. They left Northern Ireland on 13th April 1977 to go to language school at the Mangold Institute in Madrid. Their early work involved door-to-door visitation in Vallecas, a town outside Madrid. During their second year in Spain, they became associated with a Reformed Presbyterian church in Alorcón, a town with a population of approximately 200,000 inhabitants. This became the base for their future work in Spain.

After three probationary years, Mr and Mrs Hanna came home to Northern Ireland accompanied by their first child Jonathan who had been born exactly one year earlier. On 28th March, 1980, Mr. Hanna was ordained to the Christian ministry in his home church in Ballymoney. When he returned to Spain, it was as the first ordained Free Presbyterian missionary. At the end of that year in December, their second son, Joel, was born. In 1981, due to the pastor's ill health, the session of Alorcón

requested that Rev. Hanna should serve as assistant pastor. A further development came in 1988 when the Spanish pastor resigned, and Rev. Hanna became the minister of the church.

Mr Hanna has continued until this day to serve the Lord faithfully in Alorcón and, in recent years, in the new work in Toledo. Under God, he has seen sinners brought to Christ and the congregations grow numerically. His co-pastor Rev. Angel Alvarez continues as the official minister in Alorcón, and the work continues to prosper. The Chairman and members of the Mission Board, together with his colleagues in the Presbytery, wish John and Noranna well as they reach this milestone in their ministry. ■

✉ **Rev David Park,**
*Secretary of the Mission Board and
Chairman of the Missionary Council.*

Free Presbyterian Radio Shut Down by Severe Lightning Strike in Monrovia



The Free Presbyterian Mission in Liberia's radio station was knocked off the air on October 29th at 3:30 p.m., local time, in Monrovia, Liberia, after they were hit by severe lightning during a mild thunderstorm. Retired Free Presbyterian minister Rev. Maurice Baxter, who was visiting the mission at the time of the storm, said, "It was quite dry before the lightning struck. It just came out of nowhere." Rev. David DiCanio, the manager of the station and one of two missionaries on the ground in the country, also said that the strike was sudden and without any warning. He commented, "There was really no storm when the lightning struck. I was sitting in the studio working on some programming and noticed light rain starting outside. Suddenly, out of nowhere, there was a large crack-type explosion. The power supply for the laptop exploded open, and pieces of plastic shot across the room."

In addition to the lightning strike destroying the exciter/controller board and the power supply distribution board on the transmitter, the station also lost a MacBook Pro, an internet system which is essential

to run the station and automatically download the news every hour, other sound devices and power supply, and two hard drives which carried Mr DiCanio's personal data. The cost of replacement will involve almost \$8000.00.

Following the strike, the missionaries have sought additional advice on how to prevent such damage from happening again and also discovered that the offending outlet was not properly grounded during construction. The station does have a brush-type lightning rod at the top of the tower connected by copper cable to a 4'x4' copper lattice system in the ground. They also have a lightning rod connected to each set of guy-wires at their anchor points. Although they are being told that there is more protection they need to do, there is never a 100 per cent guarantee against lightning strikes.

Prayer is requested that the station would soon be able to resume broadcasting as it is a vital part of Free Presbyterian mission work in Liberia. ■

✉ **Rev David DiCanio,**
Free Presbyterian Missionary, Liberia.

Precious Children's Home Opens New Building in Nepal

✉ Rev Wesley Graham is pictured officially opening the new orphanage in Nepal.



✉ Children who attended the opening.



Report from the McAuleys: Kenya

David and Rachel McAuley were accepted by the Mission Board to serve in Kenya for three months from September to November 2018. The Mission Board appreciates their willingness to go and serve. Their time spent in Kenya was blessed of the Lord and a great encouragement to the Kenyan believers. We commend this young couple to the prayers of God's people.

✍ **Rev Ian Harris**
(Chairman)



We left for Kenya on the 5th September and returned on the 1st December. We thank the Lord for our time there. We have been blessed, encouraged, and also challenged by the things that we were involved in.

We spent the majority of our time living in Kakamega, a large university town. The opportunities here are endless, but we found ourselves particularly busy with a Bible study, held in Beulah Bookshop each Tuesday at 1.00 p.m. As it is mainly students who attend, numbers vary, depending on class schedules. We were always amazed by

the depth of the questions that would be asked after each study. There was also a book table witness held in the town. In Nyaporo, we held a prayer meeting each week; and, on the Lord's Day, we taught the Discipleship Course. Although we have left Kenya, we ask God's people to pray for Patrice who will take on the Bible study and Discipleship classes, plus other ministries; the witness of the Bookshop in Kakamega; the spiritual growth of the students in Kakamega; the church in Nyaporo; and God's direction in our lives concerning our future. ■

✍ **David and Rachel McAuley**

Rev. and Mrs Baxter return from Liberia

Rev. Maurice Baxter and his wife Chrismar have recently returned from a three-month mission trip to Liberia. They travelled to Monrovia to assist Rev. David DiCanio during Miss Joanne Greer's furlough. Their service and practical help has been a great blessing in the work and much appreciated by the Mission Board. On their return, the Baxters spoke of several of the challenges they faced in Liberia including language (Liberian English), the hot humid climate, and the traffic, which is often dangerous.

Rev. Baxter noted, "We enjoyed the Lord's presence daily but especially in the services." On 25th November, the church had a Liberian lunch for everyone at Pastor Dahn's home, where Rev. and Mrs Baxter were presented with traditional Liberia tunics. ■

✉ Rev and Mrs Baxter wearing Liberian tunics; gifts from the congregation in Paynesville, Liberia.



A Letter from Noel Shields: One Year On

✉ Evangelist Noel Shields (third left) pictured with Revs L Wilson, R Robinson and J Creane.



Dear praying friends,

A sincere thank you to all who have supported me over the past year as I re-commenced my work as an evangelist under the Mission Board. Your practical and prayerful support is vital and much appreciated.

Over the past year I have had many opportunities to preach the gospel in various places including Augher, Lurgan, Mountnorris, Markethill, and Annalong. I have also preached at two gospel campaigns in the south of Ireland. I thank God for those who attended and heard the simple message of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The work among the children was a blessing to my own heart. I held holiday Bible Clubs and children's missions throughout various congregations. This is an encouraging work, and it could not be done without the good support of God's people. We trust that the Lord will bless His Word to the salvation of souls among the children.

In the New Year, I am planning to visit Rathfriland, Killylea, and "The Village" area of Belfast. I am looking to the Lord to help us reach the lost of our province with the gospel of Christ. ■

✉ Noel Shields

Special Sending Forth Service for Miss Noreen McAfee

RETURNING MISSIONARY TO UGANDA

📅 **FRIDAY 11 JAN 2019, 8PM**
Hebron Free Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney.

Special Sending Forth Service for Miss Joanne Greer

RETURNING MISSIONARY TO LIBERIA

📅 **FRIDAY 8 FEB 2019, 8PM**
James Kyle Paisley Memorial Free Presbyterian Church, Ballymena.

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