

Report from Jonny Smith

Youth Worker



With increasing opportunities to minister God's Word within High Schools and potential future opportunities within the church amongst young people, I am now allocating three days per week to this vital work. Over the past four years, I have been in approximately a quarter of High Schools in Northern Ireland, bringing the gospel to a vast range of classes. Unfortunately, many of these young people know very little of fundamental gospel truths. Often, I am standing before young people who are having the gospel explained to them for the first time. Please pray for teenagers brought up here, as well as the many foreign nationals who have moved into our country, that they will have a hunger and thirst for the gospel.

Just before Easter, I helped Banbridge Free Presbyterian Church for several weeks to commence a teenage meeting, which runs concurrently with their children's meeting. Please pray that God's blessing will be upon this new effort as they desire to reach young people in their area. Over the summer I am helping local churches with their annual Bible Clubs. Two of these churches are running week-long teenage meetings alongside their daily children's meeting, similar to the model in Banbridge. This is a fantastic way to encourage unchurched children and young people to keep coming back to God's house, where they will hear words whereby, they must be saved.

There are so many young people to be reached with the gospel throughout all our communities. If I can be of assistance to other local churches to reach this generation for Christ, I am ready and willing to do so with the Lord's help. ■

✍ Jonny Smith

Report from Christina Logan

First Months as a Missionary



At the beginning of March, I began working as a full-time children's evangelist under the Mission Board. I am thankful to the Lord that He has given me a work that I enjoy – working amongst the boys and girls. My hope for 2019 is to be able to go into schools around Co. Antrim, primarily focusing on the Ballymena and Ballymoney areas. I have had the privilege of getting into seven schools but I hope that other doors will be opened in the next year. Please pray that this will be the case and that I will have favour with the teachers and especially the boys and girls.

I have also been asked to speak at several Bible Clubs during the summer months. This is a real opportunity to reach many children with the gospel. I am planning to do a series on 'Life's Big Questions', looking at topics such as 'Who is God?' and 'What is the Bible?'. I would ask you to pray that these meetings will be used to make the children consider their need to come to the Lord for salvation.

“I pray that the Lord will use me over the incoming year and look forward to seeing what the Lord will do amongst our boys and girls.”

I thank everyone who has supported me over the past year, especially in prayer, and I would appreciate your continued support. I pray that the Lord will use me over the incoming year and look forward to seeing what the Lord will do amongst our boys and girls. ■

✍ Christina Logan

Taranaki Bible Conference

New Zealand

In late January 2019, I had the wonderful privilege of addressing the Taranaki Bible Conference in New Zealand. Mr Alan Lauridsen, who organises the annual event, had been in contact some months earlier to invite us over to preach God's Word to the faithful believers there. We set off early and many hours and three plane journeys later we arrived in New Plymouth, New Zealand ready to meet some new acquaintances and to encourage the flock of God in that part of the world.

The Bible conference saw believers and their families from all over the island descend upon the residential campsite that lay in the shadow of the impressive Mt. Taranaki. (I later learned that Mt Taranaki is probably the NZ volcano most at risk of a large eruption in the next 50 years).

Over the next three days, I preached many times on a variety of subjects and themes that the Lord had laid upon my heart. Preaching the word; instant in season, out of season; reproving, rebuking, exhorting with all long-suffering and doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2).

I was greatly impressed by the hunger and thirst for God's Word that was



exhibited by the people there, with many in attendance at every session over the three days of the conference. And Oh, what singing! I have never seen so many musically accomplished families in one place before. As well as the hearty congregational singing there were musical items of praise from the various families in attendance at every meeting.

Meal times at the camp provided the opportunity to meet the people in a more relaxed environment and learn more about them and the spiritual landscape of New Zealand. As I spoke to the people at the camp, a familiar theme seemed to develop. Many of them had travelled for hours to attend the conference, which provided them with much-needed fellowship and spiritual encouragement. They had come from a variety of church backgrounds but all told a similar story. The mainline churches and denominations had largely departed from the truth and many of them had been compelled to leave to find a new spiritual home. Home churches and small independent works were the order of the day. Out of all

the various congregations represented by the people in attendance, not one of them had a dedicated Pastor or Minister. New Zealand's rich Christian heritage was eroding at an alarming rate, the ship was sinking and many small faithful churches were struggling to stay afloat.

As I listened to their accounts, I was reminded of the words of Matthew 9:36 "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd."

I trust that there will be future opportunities to minister to the scattered flocks in New Zealand but until then I hope that you will join me in praying that the Lord of the harvest will raise men to shepherd the people of God there and that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:38). ■

✉ **Rev R Hall,**
*Kingston Free Presbyterian Church,
Tasmania.*

Thank you

Thank you for the support and kind wishes I often receive, when donations are forwarded to the Mission Board. It is always deeply appreciated to learn that Mr Alastair Hamilton and I are remembered in prayer. Please remember the Children's Tracts which can be ordered from the office. They are great for all the forth coming outreaches amongst the boys and

girls over the summer months. Themed pens, relating to our missionary work in Emmanuel Christian School, Precious Orphanage and Spain, are also available from the office at £1. ■

✉ **Mrs Glenda Graham,**
Mission Board Office.



Bushfires in Tasmania

Tasmania has just experienced its hottest summer on record. Total rainfall for the same period was a record-low, one-fifth of average. Severe thunderstorms, often with little or no rain, struck the island on the 14th and 15th January. The 15th January saw 5500 lightning strikes onto dry vegetation leading to over 70 bushfires, many in remote and difficult terrain. Repeated warm days, no rain and periods of strong winds drove the fires to an even higher intensity. The total cost is still being calculated two months later. Thankfully no lives were lost and only seven houses, as approximately 200,000 hectares burned. Two hundred thousand hectares equates to 772 square miles. Imagine 1/8th of Northern Ireland in flames.

Aside from the bravery and tireless endeavours of the Fire Service crews, one of the reasons there was no loss of

life and little property damage is due to a process referred to as “backburning”. Stretches of land are deliberately burned in a controlled environment to create a fire-break. Once that fire has been successfully extinguished, the approaching wall of fire burns out because there is no flammable material left to fuel it. The only way to escape the oncoming flames is to stand where the fire has already been and has been put out.

Our God is described as a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29) and His wrath against sin burns forever. There is only one means of escaping the coming judgment of God and that is to stand where the fire has already burned and has been extinguished. As the Lord Jesus hung upon the cross, He bore our sins and the fiery judgment of God for those sins was poured out upon him. He

bore it all and put the fire out. *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus”* Romans 8:1. The only way to escape the approaching judgment of God is to stand where the fire has been put out.

*“If Thou hast my discharge procured,
And freely in my place endured
The whole of wrath divine,
Payment God will not twice demand,
First at my bleeding Surety’s hand,
And then again at mine.*

*Turn, then, my soul, unto thy rest:
The merits of thy Great High Priest
Speak peace and liberty:
Trust in His efficacious blood,
Nor fear thy banishment from God,
Since Jesus died for thee.”*

Augustus Toplady. ■

✉ **Rev R Hall**, Kingston Free Presbyterian Church, Tasmania.

East Africa Pastors’ Conferences



Two Pastors’ Conferences were held during March in East Africa: one was in Mbale, Uganda, from 24-25 March, with over 30 in attendance;

and the other took place in Kakamega, Kenya, from 27-28 March, with over 40 in attendance.

The speakers this year were Dr John McKnight, Reformation Bible Church, Maryland (USA), Dr Lindsay Wilson (Castlederg FPC), and Rev Malcolm Patterson (FPMSA, Kenya). It was encouraging to find that some of those attending in Uganda listen to Let The Bible Speak programme, which is broadcast on Imani Radio from Kitale. Mbale is a significant town in Uganda

on the other side of Mount Elgon from Kitale in Kenya. It was also good to meet Pastor Joel and some of his colleagues who minister in southern Uganda down near the border with Tanzania. In Kakamega, we were glad to welcome to the conference some of the students who attend the Tuesday Bible Study in the Beulah Bookshop conducted by Evangelist Patrice Akali. Please pray for these young people who are seeking God’s will for their lives. Dr McKnight and his colleagues, Mr Steve Arnold and Mr Mark Webb, brought small gifts for the pastors, their wives and children. FPMSA presented the pastors with a free book, free literature and gave a discount on purchases from the bookshop during the time of the conference. Pray for a great harvest after this time of sowing. ■

Joanne Greer Returns to Liberia



It was 6 celsius when I flew out of Dublin at 06:20 on Wednesday 6th March; it was 29 celsius when I arrived in Monrovia at 20:10 that evening. So, the transition back to cold showers was made quite easily! The numbers in the children's meetings have dropped since I left eight months ago but I am thankful for the few who

have remained faithful. Several families moved away from the area in the latter half of last year and their kids had been part of our core group. Nathan Barco, our children's worker, and I plan to start going out regularly to the communities around the church to invite children, especially to the Sunday School. The problem is certainly not a lack of

children in the area or even a lack of interest but a lack of structure and consistency in the children's families. Please pray for this outreach.

Continue to pray also for the bookstore ministry which has been struggling due to the weak economy. Two of the men who have worked in the bookstore for several years have recently moved on to other employment so a couple of young men from the church have just started working in the store. Pray for them as they settle in and learn the stock.

There are quite a few new faces in the Paynesville congregation, most of whom have come in from the radio station. This is encouraging! We were also encouraged by the words of some police officers who recently testified that they listen to our station regularly – in fact, that it gets them through the night shift! Praise God for the ability to broadcast 24 hours a day! ■

✍ **Joanne Greer**

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



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