

Covenant Support

Deputation meetings are an important part of our missionary work. Missionaries visit our congregations to present the ministry to which God has called them and to share their vision and burden for the mission field. There are two main areas where missionaries need our support - our intercessions and contributions.

Before leaving for India, William Carey famously told his good friend, Andrew Fuller, "I will go down into the pit if you will hold the ropes." Fuller held the ropes by serving as president of the Baptist Mission Society from its founding until his death in 1814. He travelled over the British Isles, raising funds and preaching missions related sermons. The missionaries in India and other early fields could concentrate on their ministry because they knew Fuller was advocating for them back home.

HOLDING THE ROPES PRAYERFULLY

First and foremost, our missionaries need the prayerful intercessions of God's people at home. Exodus 17 recalls how Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses. As Moses' hands were uplifted and supported, victory was given in the battle. What a picture of our responsibility to our missionaries, holding the ropes and upholding their hands in our prayers. We should pray that God will protect and provide for them and give them spiritual success in their gospel work. This is a ministry all believers can do. Our missionaries appeal to us: "Pray for us!"



HOLDING THE ROPES PRACTICALLY

There are many practical and financial needs on the mission field. We do not want our missionaries to have unnecessary struggles with finance, amidst all the other burdens they carry. Each missionary is responsible for raising 70% of their salary. The Missionary Council raises the remaining 30%. This money is raised through gifts, offerings and covenant support.

We recommend that each believer endeavours to support at least one missionary. We are thankful that some are enabled to support several.

Covenant support is a large or small monthly contribution, usually over a term of service (3 years). This steady, month by month support, is vital to sustaining our missionaries financially. Unless the necessary funding is in place, missionaries cannot go to the place of their calling. Furthermore, it is a seal upon their ministry, that God provides their needs, including finance. This too is a matter for prayer and is a ministry in which we can be involved.

If you would like to offer covenant support for one or more of our missionaries the following information may be helpful.

Firstly, choose a missionary or area of the mission field that you wish to support, remembering to seek God's guidance. Secondly, decide, before the Lord, the amount you want to covenant each month. Thirdly, contact our Mission Board office for a covenant card or ask your missionary council representative in your local church. Fill in the card and return it to the Mission Board office. Once the card is received, Mrs Glenda Graham, from the Mission Board office will make contact regarding your preferred method of payment.

It is always possible to increase or decrease the amount of your covenant support or stop it at any time, for any reason. Those who are covenant supporters receive updates from the supported missionary. If you are a taxpayer then consider gift aiding your covenant support and we can add a further 25p for every pound that is donated. ■

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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MISSIONARY VISION

Devastating Floods in Kenya



At the end of 2019 serious flooding took place in West Pokot, Kenya. This resulted in at least one hundred and twenty people being killed and twenty thousand people being displaced from their homes. ■

Right: Miss Margaret Russell is pictured handing over some of the emergency aid assistance provided by the Mission Board to people connected with our works in Kenya.



Note from Mr A Hamilton, Mission Board Treasurer

Thank you to everyone who has so generously supported the mission work at home and abroad. The Lord, through you, blessed us financially in 2019. Over the past few months we have been asked on various occasions to clarify how we manage gifts that are given to support a specific project or person. Any such gift is designated in our fund management system and will only be used to support that person or project. The Mission Board also ensure that any Gift Aid claimed back on a designated donation is allocated back to the same designated fund. These designated gifts are vitally important but we would also encourage our supporters to remember the work in a general way so that the Mission Board can direct funds to other areas as needs arise. ■

PRAYER REQUEST

Please remember Rev Wesley Graham in prayer. Rev Graham attended the Accident and Emergency department of the Ulster Hospital on the Monday 13th January. After tests and scans, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. Understandably, this came as a great shock to him and his family. He is in good spirits and has obtained grace

from God in his time of need. Wesley testifies to a tremendous inner peace and is trusting the Lord for the coming days. Please also remember Miss Margaret Russell as she recovers from a recent fall, Rev Ian Harris as he recovers from treatment and Rev and Mrs Miller who have returned from Uganda for health reasons. ■

MISSIONARY VISION

Free Presbyterian Ministers Visit Philippines

In early December 2019, Revs P Gardiner (Australia) and R Hall (Tasmania) visited the Philippines to speak at two Pastors' Conferences on behalf of the Mission Board. The conferences were held at Gigaquit, on the island of Mindanao and Bacolod city, on the island of Negros. Pastors from these areas are requesting closer fellowship with the Free Presbyterian Church and further teaching for the pastors and their congregations. ■



52nd Missionary Conference

The 52nd annual Missionary Conference took place in Hebron Free Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, on 10-12th January 2020. The missionary focus was upon Nepal, Kenya, Uganda and Romania with various missionaries taking part. Rev D Park preached each night and several young people responded to the missionary challenge. ■



☒ Rev D Park is pictured at the Missionary Conference with Mission Board treasurer, Mr A Hamilton (centre) and Rev M Patterson (missionary to Kenya).

Youth Camp in Perth



In December 2019, Perth Free Presbyterian Church hosted a youth camp. Rev and Mrs Philip Gardiner and Mr and Mrs Matthew Higgins are pictured with some of the young people who attended the meetings. Rev Gardiner brought a missionary story each night and Mr Higgins brought a message from the Scriptures. ■

Ballynahinch Church Presentation

Mission Board representative Rev David McMillan is pictured receiving a cheque for £3600.00 from Mr G Craig (Ballynahinch). The funds will be used to provide new water storage tanks in Uganda. ■



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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