

# Kenya

## Visit From Our Moderator



to accompany Rev Ian Harris and Mr Alastair Hamilton to witness at first hand how this work is progressing. The itinerary for the trip was largely drawn up by Rev Malcolm Patterson and his wife Alison. I want to thank them for their continuing work and hospitality. A number of business meetings were held. I was delighted to constitute two different congregations in the new Bible Glory Church denomination. Rev Harris constituted a third. We also conducted a Pastors' Conference in Kakamega. Pastors and church workers, about forty in number from both Kenya and Uganda, demonstrated a great interest in the things of God. As in every area of the Lord's work the labourers in Kenya are few, but we thank God that He uses the few to reach out with the Gospel to the many.

I wish to acknowledge the kindness of the Mission Board for their invitation to go to Kenya. It was a most enjoyable and informative experience. I would like also to thank Rev Harris and Mr Hamilton for their fellowship in the Gospel during our time away.

The work in Kenya, as you would expect, has a number of challenges. However, under the Lord's direction, it continues to go forward; for that we give Him thanks. ■

✍ **Rev J Armstrong**

Kenya is a land of great natural beauty. The idyllic beaches of the east coast, the safari parks affording close-up experiences of animals in their natural habitat, the impressive Mount Kenya rising to a height of 17000 feet, all collaborate to provide many a stunning picture for glossy holiday magazines. The Psalmist was correct when he maintained that the firmament 'sheweth' the Lord's

'handywork'. However, the Free Presbyterian Mission Society Africa in Kenya is primarily concerned, not with the physical splendour of the landscape, but rather with the spiritual condition of the people.

That spiritual work in Kenya has long been of special interest to the members and friends of the Free Presbyterian church. So, it was a great joy for me

## Baptisms and Beulah Christian Literature

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 13 members of Nyaporo Glory Bible Church were baptized in a Swimming Pool at the Pennjoki Resort outside Kakamega. Prior to this two of our other congregations held Baptismal Services, Shimo la Tewa at the Swimming Pool at the Voyage Resort outside Kitale and Tantana held their service at a waterfall in the Kapenguria Region.



## MISSIONARY VISION



Rev. Malcolm Patterson and Pastors Patrice and Andrew conducted the baptismal service. Pastor Patrice led the service. Rev Patterson preached from the text Acts 2:41-42. It was with great joy that we listened to the testimonies of each person before they were baptized. Many had been brought up in the Roman Catholic church and had passed through the rituals of that church. Others had attended various Protestant denominations but sadly had not heard the gospel preached. One man pointed out that his father was the pastor but still he did not hear the gospel. One woman testified that she was brought up in an Islamic family. Pastor Andrew put the set questions to candidates for baptism.

The three men then conducted the baptism in the pool. As the members passed through the waters of baptism the others stood by the poolside and sang hymns. The pool was being used at that time by families with children so it was indeed a public witness.

Some time ago, Mrs Patterson had been invited to speak at the Ladies' Meeting in Nyaporo and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June was the date settled on. Unknown to us all, the baptismal service would be the day before. The ladies in Nyaporo are embarking on the course Mrs Patterson taught in Kitale in 2014/15 on the Doctrine of Salvation. The meetings will continue after the Patterson's return from Northern Ireland on a Saturday with the ladies of Kakamega joining them. This course will help these ladies, so recently baptized, to further grasp the significance of their

salvation and enable them to witness to others. Pray for all those who have recently made this public profession of faith in our Glory Bible Church newly constituted congregations.

The ministry of Beulah Christian Literature has developed over the seven years since the bookshop opened in the Holden Mall, Kakamega. Firstly a small upstairs unit housed the new bookstore with Kathy Walker solely in charge of the work. Later in 2016 a larger ground floor unit became available and Josephine Kisia joined the staff. A lunchtime Bible study was held each Tuesday at which Kathy and visiting missionaries ministered. University students and others attended faithfully. In 2018 Patrice Akali was appointed as a pastor in FPMSA and he then took responsibility for the Bible studies. These Bible Studies led to the formation of Kakamega GBC. One of the graduates from MMUST who attended the church has recently returned to Kakamega to further his studies. He is assisting in the bookshop at present.

At the end of 2019 Beulah Christian Literature opened a second outlet in Mega Mall, Kitale, in a Kiosk where Mercy Cheptoo and Jared Opemi share responsibility for the shop. They have many customers who are pleased with the literature they stock and make many requests.

We rely upon donations of books from Northern Ireland as well as purchasing Bibles and Hymnbooks locally in Kenya. Recently we received around three and a half thousand books in the consignment sent by Mission Board. We are grateful for the secondhand books donated by people in our congregations. We were delighted to receive a range of new books for adults and children purchased by Mission Board. Revival Movement sent us John's gospels in Swahili and Ekegusii, the language spoken in Kisii. This was a new venture, having obtained the Gospel in Ekegusii from the Kenya Bible Society we had the introductory part, 'Seven steps to knowing God' translated by a pastor in Kisii. The Trinitarian Bible Society sent us John's Gospel in Pokot. One of our pastors, Emanuel Lilimo was involved in the revision of that Gospel, improving the Pokot translation.

After our annual stock take, we decided to rearrange the layout in the Kakamega store. Pray that as the new books are placed on the shelves that this will attract more customers to walk around the store. Pray too that others will hear of the bookstore and travel to it. We have regular customers who do travel some distance to obtain books, e.g. the Principal of Faith Bible College Eldoret.

The wife of a Baptist Pastor from Nairobi was visiting Kakamega on business and noticed the store. She came in and was delighted with what she saw. Pray that she too will tell others. ■

☑ **Rev Malcolm Patterson**



## MISSIONARY VISION

# New Developments in Nepal

The words of Proverbs 25:25 seem appropriate as far as the work in Nepal is concerned, 'As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.' That far country is Nepal and the good news from there is refreshing indeed.

In recent months, two new church building projects have commenced. One church is about 250kms west of Kathmandu, with about 45 people in attendance. The other church is in the mid-west of the country, and has about 50 people coming to the meetings. The people were so keen to erect a simple church building to meet in, they carried large stones from 45 minutes walking distance away to lay down for foundations and a floor base. This was a huge effort in hilly and



mountainous terrain and showed great determination and enthusiasm from God's people there. On 9<sup>th</sup> May, trial radio broadcasts began on their new station in the Kathmandu valley and the reports have been most encouraging. It is hoped that these radio programmes will be fully functional in August. Already there are requests coming in almost daily for Bibles and gospel literature. Many are hearing the gospel for the first time are taking up the offer of free copies of God's word.

The meetings are back to normal after the upheaval due to Covid-19. The Sunday school and youth meetings have resumed, and it is planned that the Bible college will recommence in September, with the youth conference at the end of October. Please continue to pray for all of these efforts, and that the Lord's name will be glorified in the needy land of Nepal. Thank you for all of your continued financial and prayerful support. ■

✉ **Rev Jonathan Creane**

## Home Calling of **Rev Noel Kelly**



The Mission Board was greatly saddened by the news, that Rev Noel Kelly had passed away suddenly in hospital in Lancaster, England, on 12<sup>th</sup> of July from a heart attack. Rev Kelly, along with his wife Stella, went as Missionaries to Uganda in 2001 and together they founded the Emmanuel Mission Station in Nsaalu in 2004.

The Emmanuel Christian School, which started with just 16 children, now

has almost 450 children enrolled. It is a great challenge to us all to consider the circumstances in which they lived, the work they did and the sacrifices they made for the cause of the Gospel in the latter years of their lives.

The Emmanuel Church is now a very busy outreach centre. The Emmanuel Christian School, which started with just 16 children, now has almost 450 children enrolled. In 2014 Rev Kelly approached the Mission Board requesting that they take over the work at Emmanuel with the official handover taking place in 2017. Rev Kelly came originally from outside Dungannon in Co Tyrone. He was converted while in the RAF in Germany, and spent some time studying at the Emmanuel Bible College in Birkenhead, England. Mrs Kelly came from the Lake

District, and in recent years the Kelly's had returned to live in Kendal.

Rev Kelly's funeral took place in Parr Street Evangelical Church in Kendal on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July. Miss Noreen McAfee along with my wife and I represented the Mission Board at the funeral, and I was privileged to bring a tribute to Rev Kelly in the service. Donations in lieu of flowers were given to the Emmanuel Christian School.

The Mission Board extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs Kelly and to Noel's children, Daniel, Naomi and their families. Please pray that they will know the comfort of the Lord in coming days. ■

✉ **Rev David McMillan,**  
*Chairman of the Ugandan Subcommittee*

# Farewell Service for **The Boyds**



On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, as a congregation, we were able to mark with thanksgiving the farewell service of Rev Lyle Boyd and his wife Heather. After 36 years in Spain, they are now returning to Northern Ireland to look after Lyle's mother, but the congregation here will miss them very much.

It was a very emotional service, and we had around 70 people from different parts of Spain. After some tributes which different people brought, and a video of others who could not be with us, the Rev John Hanna preached on 1 Samuel 7 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us'. After the preaching of God's Word, we had some gifts for Lyle and Heather, and after the Rev Lyle Boyd spoke, we sang 'Great is

thy faithfulness'. After the meeting we went to the countryside to enjoy a time of fellowship while eating a 'paella'. We praise the Lord for what He has done through them, 'we have a goodly heritage.' (Psalm 16:6)

Personally, it has been a great help for me in these last few years to spend time with Rev Boyd . I have learnt so much

from him, and his words of advice and encouragement have been invaluable. I now feel as Joshua felt, when Moses was not there any more to guide him, but I know the Lord will be with us, as He was with the Rev Boyd and his family during all their years of service in Spain. ■

✍ **Rev Alejandro Bernabeu**



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