

# Missionary Council Celebrate Sixty Years



The Missionary Council held an anniversary dinner in the Jubilee Hall on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September to celebrate six decades of Missionary work. Council members, including some veteran members, came together to give God the glory for His faithfulness to the missionary cause of the Free Presbyterian Church. Special guests included Presbytery officers, Mission Board members, and missionaries.

After a sumptuous meal, the Missionary Council Chairman, Rev Park, presented a pictorial overview of the Missionary Council through the years. He highlighted the many projects that were supported and the essential missionary funding which was delivered.

The Missionary Council was formed in 1962 following some initial ideas that were communicated in a letter to Presbytery by Miss Valerie Shaw, where she laid out proposals which became the basis for the work of the Council.



At the first meeting, Cecil Harvey was appointed as chairman; Elizabeth McIlreavey (now Hartin) as treasurer; Elizabeth McAuley (now Menary) as assistant treasurer; and Valerie Shaw as secretary. The decisions at that first meeting set the Council's agenda for the years to come; which was to raise financial support across the churches and encourage missionary interest throughout the denomination.

The next chairman was R.J. McAuley from Ballymena, who was followed by Brian Foreman for a short time until he emigrated. George McConnell became chairman in 1970 and occupied the position for 42 years. Many others, past and present, have served faithfully in the other roles on the Council.

The Missionary Council supported many of our early missionaries, including Tom Lewis in Europe, Edmund Norwood in Brazil, and Denis Murphy in the Canary Islands. The Council also provided support for Ron and Raema Johnstone in Papua New Guinea and Bill Woods, who had been serving the Lord in Brazil since 1960.

Rev Park congratulated the Council for the dedication to the missionary cause, and encouraged the members to continue the good work. The Moderator, Rev John Armstrong,

brought greetings and congratulations from Presbytery; Rev Ian Harris spoke on behalf of the Mission Board; Miss Noreen McAfee on behalf of our missionaries, and greetings were brought on behalf of the Mission Board Chairman, Rev Mercer.

The night also presented an opportunity to say thank you to Rev Park as he steps down as Chairman this year, following his ten year term. Rev Park thanked the officers of the Council and the members for their support, encouragement and missionary vision. He also acknowledged the unwavering support of his wife, Susan, who has been a great encouragement.



Rev Park also spoke of how he has been inspired by others, such as George McConnell, Bill Woods, Margaret Russell and Noreen McAfee. He spoke fondly of the honour and privilege of visiting the mission fields of the world in Spain, Kenya, Uganda, Nepal and Brazil. He also highlighted the blessing of the Missionary Weekends in Ballymoney and the Missionary Council Weekend.

Rev Park's leadership during the past decade was acknowledged with presentations made by the Treasurer of the Council, Miss Rosemary Wallace. ■



**W**e give thanks and praise to our Lord for the blessings enjoyed at United Children's Camp 2022 (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> August). Every space in the camp was full with forty-eight children and eight leaders in attendance. Over 75% of the children were first-time campers; some were away overnight from their parents for the first time.

Before the children arrived, the leaders met for a time of preparation and prayer. We can truly say that God heard and answered our prayers. Some of the activities that we enjoyed together were: camp challenge; camp Olympics; table quiz; DVD night; crafts; assault course; football skills workshop; trampoline park; mini golf; shopping; Aunt Sandra's chocolate factory workshop; swimming; board games and much more.

The vision of the camp is to teach the children about the Lord Jesus Christ.

This year we had a Bible Lesson series each evening on the theme 'People who Met Jesus'. In the morning meetings, we looked at the life of George Muller and how God hears and answers the prayers of His people. Alongside this teaching, we had songs, memory verses, quizzes, testimony times and devotional times in the dorms.

The campers were able to express their thoughts about camp by writing them down on the final night. A couple of extracts from the children speak for themselves:

*'Camp is very good. It helps you get closer to Jesus. It's been a great experience for the first time.'*

*'I enjoyed the Missionary meetings about George Muller and the Bible meetings. They made me think about what God has done for me. I also enjoyed making friends at camp.'*



On Friday morning we welcomed the parents and friends, who had come to collect their children, to an open-air meeting where they could experience what the camp meetings were like.

We are thankful for the children's excellent behaviour throughout and their attention during the meetings. We are also grateful for the wonderful food that was provided, for the weather, safety and the opportunity to teach the children about the things of God.

I would like to say a personal thank you to the team of workers. It was a blessing to have such unity and fellowship as we served together. In the will of the Lord, we will be holding United Children's Camp next year - do look out for information in January 2023. ■

✉ **Rev Ryan McKee,**  
Camp Director.



# Missionaries Return to Fields of Service

## Miss Noreen McAfee Returns to Uganda



A large congregation gathered in Hebron Free Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney, on Lord's Day evening 2<sup>nd</sup> October, for the Sending Forth Service for Miss Noreen McAfee. The minister of the congregation and secretary of the Mission Board, Rev David Park, led the service.

Rev Ian Harris, brought greetings to Miss McAfee on behalf of the Mission Board, highlighting Miss McAfee's faithful labours. Presentations were made to Miss McAfee by Mr Alastair Hamilton (Mission Board) and by Mr Philip Calderwood (Hebron FPC). Miss McAfee expressed her thanks for

the support that she receives and also asked for continued support in prayer. Rev David McMillan, Chairman of the Ugandan Subcommittee, preached a missionary challenge from Ruth 2:2 on the subject, 'Are you in the field of service?'

At the close of the service, the Mission Board members and elders who were present gathered with Miss McAfee at the front of the church, and special prayers of dedication were offered. After the service, supper was served and a time of refreshment and fellowship was enjoyed.

Miss McAfee returned to Uganda on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Do remember her in prayer. ■

## Sending Forth Service Miss Joy Gillespie



Miss Joy Gillespie's Sending Forth Service took place at the evening meeting in Armagh Free Presbyterian Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. A good number was present including several members of Miss Gillespie's family. The missionary family was well represented, with members of the Missionary Council, Mission Board and missionaries, both past and present, in attendance.

Rev David McMillan (Armagh), led the service and spoke of how highly respected Miss Gillespie is in the Armagh congregation. Mr Eric Graham from Lisburn made a presentation to Miss Gillespie on behalf of the Board. Miss Gillespie then addressed the meeting and expressed her thanks for the faithful support that she receives, while setting out important prayer

requests. Chairman of the Mission Board, Rev Ian Harris, brought a very profitable message as he preached on missionaries being sent out as witnesses. After the message, all the elders and ministers present gathered at the front of the church with Miss Gillespie, while Rev Harris led in prayer, dedicating Miss Gillespie to the Lord for another term of service.

A special missionary offering was taken, totalling £1274. Some light refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed after the meeting, when friends had an opportunity to say farewell to the Lord's servant. Miss Gillespie returned to the land of her calling on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August and, a few days later, received a very definite seal upon her new term of service, when she was granted a visa for one year. ■

# In his own words

*“The Lord has proved Himself faithful to me and my family. We go forward assured of His faithfulness in the days to come.”*

In recent weeks, Rev Ray Carscadden has been approved by Presbytery as a probationary missionary to Uganda under the Mission Board. Commenting recently, Rev Carscadden said:

‘From an early age I was sent along to children’s meetings where I was told my need of a Saviour. While I am not sure of the date, I remember asking the Lord to save me. In the years that followed, I have known the Lord’s hand upon my life. In my final year of university, the Lord began to challenge me about full-time service but I was unsure of how He could use me.

The Lord answered that question by opening the door to serve Him in Clogher Valley Independent Christian School. During those years, I became a member of Kesh Free Presbyterian church and married Rhonda. While working in the school, the Lord began to call me into further service. Having completed my four years of study at the Whitefield College of the Bible, I received the call to Coragarry Free Presbyterian Church.

However, for many years I felt the burden for the Lord’s cause in Uganda and so was thrilled to hear, several years ago, of the open door for a Free Presbyterian witness there at Emmanuel Mission Station. In recent months, my family and I have had the opportunity to visit Uganda following which the Lord led me to apply to the Mission Board to work as a missionary in that land.



Throughout the years of study and ministry, the Lord has proved Himself faithful to me and my family. We go forward assured of His faithfulness in the days to come.’ ■

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