

Clerk of Nepal Presbytery Called Home

Pastor Ramesh Kumar (Prakash) Basnet

23rd September 2021

Pastor Basnet was called home to glory after a short illness on the 23rd September 2021. He is survived by his sorrowing wife, Krishna, and their son and daughter. His remains were interred in Slesmontak Mountain. A Thanksgiving Service was held on the 24th September, which enabled his family, friends and colleagues from across Nepal to pay their respects. Over 150 men and women came to testify to the faithfulness of their beloved brother and colleague in the Lord. Pastor Prakash Rai of Nepal Free Presbyterian Church brought a powerful word based on 1 Corinthians 15:54 and gave testimony to the faithfulness and service of Pastor Basnet.

Pastor Basnet grew up in the far south eastern district of Jhapa Nepal, where his father continues to pastor a large Christian church. A second-generation Christian, Prakash followed in his father's footsteps and became a pastor. He studied the Bible, with Pastor Paul Thapa, under the tutelage of Pastor Sundar Thapa, a renowned Nepalese Christian leader.

He started New Hope church in his home, more than 15 years ago, in the Lalitpur district of Kathmandu. When the fledgling Free Presbyterian denomination commenced, he immediately joined with his old college friend and became a Free Presbyterian minister. He was ordained to the ministry under the auspices of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster on 29th November 2013. In 2017, he became Clerk of Presbytery, indicating how highly he was esteemed by the ministers of Nepal Presbytery.

Throughout the Christian community, he was known as a gifted teacher and taught in many different Bible colleges in the capital. He taught four subjects in Nepal Free Presbyterian Church Bible college since 2011. Students can testify to his friendliness and kindness, his humility, and how he encouraged them to go through with God. Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

Commenting on the passing of Pastor Basnet, Mission Board Chairman, Rev Ian Harris, said, "When I first visited Nepal in 2008, I met Pastor Basnet and his family at one of the conferences at which Rev Wesley Graham invited me to speak. It was a privilege to get to know this dear brother and enjoy fellowship with him. He was an able translator – following my Ulster accent without any problem. His labours on earth are over but his works do follow him. We remember his wife and family, and those whom he pastored in the Nepali church in our prayers. Psalm 12:1." ■



“ Throughout the Christian community, he was known as a gifted teacher. Students can testify to his friendliness and kindness, his humility, and how he encouraged them to go through with God. ”

✉ **Left:** Pastor Basnet with his wife, Krishna, and son

Noel Shields on Outreach



Our home evangelists continued with their ministry during 2021. Colin Maxwell and Noel Shields have conducted numerous open-air services in various cities and towns in Northern Ireland. They have also preached at Drive-in Missions connected with local Free Presbyterian congregations in Markethill, Mullaglass, Moneyslane, and Hillsborough.

Speaking of their work, Noel Shields reported, “Generally, the meetings were well attended with God’s people coming along each night to support the preaching of the gospel. Several unsaved and backsliders were in attendance throughout these meetings and two precious souls professed faith in Christ at the Moneyslane mission. We pray that the Lord will lead them on with Himself. At the time of writing, we are doing door-to-door visitation for our next Drive-in Mission which is being held at Tullyvallen Free Presbyterian Church. These are unusual times for us all, yet we thank

the Lord for the opportunities that have been given to us to declare the gospel. Please pray that the Lord will bless the seed that has been sown to the salvation of many. With the dark nights now hastening upon us, we trust to recommence our street evangelism around the Province. This will include the distribution of tracts and holding open air services.” ■

✉ **Left:** Noel Shields engaged in door-to-door visitation, in Newtownhamilton, Co. Armagh.

✉ **Below:** Home evangelist, Noel Shields, preaching at the Drive-In Gospel Mission at Moneyslane Free Presbyterian Church.



Glory Bible Church, Kenya

It is another time when we thank the Lord for God’s blessing in Glory Bible Church. Our church was established a few years ago. After this, we found that it was needful to establish official church membership. From 2019 to 2021, discipleship classes were taught to prepare those who intended to seek membership. Early this year, several congregants applied for membership and, later, they were interviewed: some passed the interview; others had to wait until one year worshipping with GBC elapsed; and a few needed to be baptised.

On 25th September 2021, we had a baptismal service and three were baptised. The service took place in Le Voyage. The Scripture reading

was from Romans 6:1-11. The emphasis was the need for a sinner to be brought into union with Christ by the Spirit of God. Water baptism does not save but is a public declaration of trust in the Lord. Thereafter, we had fellowship at the venue. The next day, the Lord’s Day, was a very important day for GBC Bikeke and Shimo, for it was a day when those accepted for membership were to be given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into GBC.

Pastor Patrice from Kakamega preached from Acts 2:37-42. Pastor Andrew read from Numbers 6:24-26 and wished them God’s blessings as they continue as members of GBC. Pastor Patrice committed

them to the Lord in prayer. This was followed by our communion service when Pastor Andrew preached from 1Corinthians 11:24-29 and, thereafter, administered the elements. After the communion service, the new members were reminded of their responsibilities as church members. Nineteen new members were welcomed into Bikeke and Shimo GBC churches.

We thank the Lord for His undertakings and we thank the Mission Board for their prayers, support and encouragement to see that GBC membership is established. We are also looking forward to seeing membership being established in other GBC branches.

Do continue to pray for us. ■

✉ **Pastor Andrew Cheptoo**

Margaret Russell: Retirement Service



behalf of the Russell family and Rev John Gray on behalf of Tandragee congregation. Miss Russell responded with thanks and words of reflection from her time in Kenya. A video presentation was shown, revisiting Margaret's early years, her college training, her call and early days in Kenya, her Sunday school work and her administration and oversight of the building and running of the Christian Academy. The video is available to view at www.fpcmission.org/gallery.php. Greetings were brought from Kenyan pastors in Glory Bible Church and Bible Christian Faith Church, including Rev Nathaniel Kendagor. Rev Malcolm Patterson and Miss Noreen McAfee also brought greetings and good wishes for a long and fulfilling retirement. ■

Our denomination holds our missionary to Kenya, Miss Margaret Russell, in the highest esteem. This was exemplified in the contributions at the service to mark her retirement on 21st September 2021. The service was held in Tandragee Free Presbyterian Church (her home church for over fifty years) where there was a wide representation of people from many congregations. Margaret's family turned out in large numbers, showing their respect for the oldest of the Russell siblings, who left Ulster as a young woman to follow the call of God.

Various ministers took part during the evening, each one reflecting on Margaret's work in Kenya and the legacy she has left behind. Rev Ian Harris (Mission Board Chairman) led the meeting and others taking part included Rev David Park (Missionary Council Chairman), Rev John Gray (Mission Board member and minister of Tandragee FPC), Rev David McMillan (Mission Board member) and Rev Samuel Murray (previous minister of Tandragee FPC). The Moderator

of Presbytery, Rev John Armstrong, brought a sincere message of thanks and encouragement to Margaret from the entire denomination and Dr John Douglas offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Margaret's 38 years of missionary service. Her long-time friend, Rev John Greer, brought a closing message from John 4:34: "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

'Great is thy faithfulness' was the appropriate solo sung by Mrs Mary Baxter and presentations were made by Mr Alastair Hamilton on behalf of Mission Board, Mr Bertie Russell on

📷 **Top:** Miss Margaret Russell.

📷 **Above left:** Miss Margaret Russell is pictured at her retirement service with (L to R) Revs D Park, D McMillan, J Greer, S Murray, Mr B Russell, Rev J Gray, Mr A Hamilton, Revs I Harris, J Armstrong and Dr J Douglas.

📷 **Below :** Miss Margaret Russell with members of her extended family circle.



Emmanuel Electrical Project

Imagine what life would be like without mains electric: that is what it is currently like at the Emmanuel Mission Station in Uganda. There are many challenges that are faced there in everyday life without the mains supply – especially because they are not far from the Equator and there are long nights all year round. For over two years, the Mission Board has been working towards installing mains electric at Emmanuel. However, the work has been greatly hindered because of Coronavirus restrictions.



At the end of 2019, for the very first time, an electric supply was brought into the community around Emmanuel. Then, in February 2020, an electrical team went out from Northern Ireland, led by Mr Kyle Wenlock (Magherafelt) and Mr Richard Foster (Kilskeery). During their two week-long visit, the team rewired most of the campus for the mains supply. An important part of this project was having a custom-built electrical switchboard. Three months ago, the switchboard was completed,

packaged and shipped to Uganda. It has recently cleared customs in Kampala and arrived safely at Emmanuel. Please pray that travel circumstances will soon allow the electrical team to return to Uganda, so that the work on the installation of the mains electric can be completed. ■

📷 **Above:** The electrical team in Uganda (February 2020)

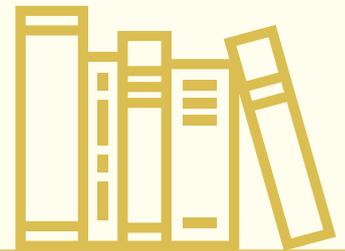
📷 **Left:** The electrical switchboard being loaded onto the small truck at Kampala for final delivery at the Emmanuel Christian School



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



Office:

Mrs Glenda Graham,
3 Carrigenagh Road,
Kilkeel, BT34 4NE
T: 028 4176 5574
office@fpcmission.org

Chairman:

Rev Ian Harris,
23a Moneydaragh Road,
Annalong, BT34 4TY
T: 028 4376 8040
rev.harris@fpcmission.org

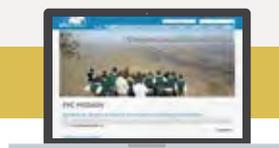
Secretary:

Rev David Park,
55 Market Street,
Ballymoney, BT53 6ED
T: 028 2766 2039
hebronfpc@btconnect.com

Treasurer:

Mr Alastair Hamilton,
37A Ballymacvea Road,
Kells, Ballymena BT42 3NH
T: 078 6061 6302
a.hamilton@fpcmission.org

STAY UP TO DATE AT



FPCMISSION.ORG