

*The Magazine of The Faith Mission*

# FIRST!

Price 75p  
Nov/Dec 2011

**PACKED FOR CANADA**  
**PIONEER PILGRIMS WHO**  
**BLAZED A TRAIL FOR GOD**

**GOD AT WORK TODAY**  
**FIRST-HAND REPORT**  
**FROM DERBYSHIRE**

**PRAYING PARENTS**  
**MEMORIES OF THE**  
**CLOGHER VALLEY**

**RURAL MINISTRY NOW**

Seeing the need and making a difference

'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness' (Matt.6:33).

FIRST! No. 1278 November/December 2011

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To reach through passionate evangelism the lost of all age groups, particularly in the villages and rural areas of Great Britain and Ireland, and by biblical teaching to encourage holiness of heart and life in Christian people.

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▶▶ (Locations are continued on the inside back cover)

# Snow globe history

## *Thoughts from the editor*

**A**S PROMISED IN OUR PREVIOUS ISSUE, in addition to fresh material, this number of *FIRST!* carries more from our magazine archives. This time, the second quarter-century of Faith Mission life is reflected in a number of articles.

### **How should we view the events of that period?**

In a time of great turmoil they include:

- 1912 The Titanic sank on her maiden voyage
- 1914-18 The Great War raged
- 1917 The Russian revolution
- 1922 The tomb of Egyptian king Tutankhamun was discovered
- 1927 Lindbergh flew the Atlantic solo
- 1928 Women in the UK were permitted to vote in an election
- 1933 Hitler became Chancellor of Germany
- 1935 First practical radar was invented
- 1936 King George V died, and was succeeded by Edward VIII, who abdicated and was succeeded by his brother, George VI.

### **Also in this period :**

- The wonderful 1921 spiritual revival among the fisherfolk in North-east Scotland and also Yarmouth.
- Pilgrims (as FM workers were then known) continued to trudge through the countryside, reaching as many as they could for Christ.
- Faith Mission work began in the vast land of Canada.

**We may view history** in the same way that we consider a snow globe—scenes which are encapsulated in the past, romanticized in our minds and isolated from today's reality. From time to time we may bring out the memories of others, admire them, feel a warm glow and then put them away again.

As we read the following accounts of what God has done in the past through people sold out to his will, regardless of cost, let's not confine God and his actions to history. Let's smash the snow globe! We need to allow the events of the past to affect us and the action of God to break into our present. Then he will enable us to meet the very real challenges of today. ■



# CHRISTMAS CREED



**I BELIEVE** that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments— it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God’s love in human flesh.

**I BELIEVE** there are gifts more important than the ones under the tree— the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about doing God’s will.

**I BELIEVE** that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices— from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

**I BELIEVE** in the angel’s message that we should not be afraid— that the one who was the child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

**I BELIEVE** in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas— that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.

**I BELIEVE** in going away from Christmas as the wise men went, “another way.”— I want to be different when these days are past: more Christ-centred, more thoughtful, more caring.

**AND I BELIEVE** God will help me.

—*Author unknown*

# People on our hearts

DAVID and DONNA OHIN, Faith Mission workers in Derbyshire, answer the editor's questions—*"Who has been on your heart and how has God been working?"*

## **Saved and delivered!**

A few people have been very much on our hearts. One of them was Anthony. He was a heavily addicted to heroin and alcohol. David met him at the *Christianity Explored* course which a church ran. We gathered later that he was totally uninterested in the Christian faith, but after much encouragement by his parents he had finally given in and attended the course. Anthony found the first session very boring. But at the second one he was spoken to and touched in his heart. A good relationship grew between David and Anthony.

On a few occasions David encouraged and challenged him about trusting Jesus. A few weeks later, at the course's "Weekend away", God convicted him deeply and he gave his life to the Lord—Praise God! His life was changed instantly and radically. God's saving power was manifested so powerfully and evidently. Anthony is very keen in his new found faith in Christ. His life changed so much that many of his "friends" left him. His girlfriend didn't want to know him anymore. But by the grace of God Anthony took a firm stand. God has given him now many more friends, or rather brothers and sisters



David and Donna with Jadon (left) and Caleb.

in God's family, than he ever used to have. He has got a passion to share the good news wherever he can. And another huge miracle happened. God thoroughly delivered Anthony from heroin and alcohol—Praise God! He has been completely free ever since, by the grace of God! A few months later he was baptized. David and Anthony are now good friends .

## **On fire for God**

Last year we ran a mission in a Baptist church. The person responsible there gave us a news update: Jane, who came to the Church as a result of the mission invitation leaflets, and subsequently attended an Alpha Course with her husband, came to the church recently. She stood up and testified that she was now saved. Then her husband prayed and confirmed that he too had accepted Jesus into his life. A few weeks later David met Jane. It was so encouraging to see a fresh Christian really excited about her new

walk with Jesus. Both she and her husband are on fire for the Lord. It is amazing to see what God is able to do in such a short time. Our God is a mighty God!

### **Goodness not good enough**

A local man was another of those who have been on our hearts. It started about three years ago when we challenged him with the gospel. He believed his own goodness was enough to secure his salvation and had been offended at the challenge. For those who, like this man, are genuinely very good and kind people, it is much harder to take in that our goodness is not good enough; only Jesus' goodness is.

We directed him to the passage in Acts about Cornelius, who was truly a God-fearing man, and an extremely good person. And yet God sent him an angel to give instructions about how to be saved. the apostle Peter explained to Cornelius how to receive salvation. David explained to the man that, like Cornelius, he too needed to take that step. It was then that David was able to lead him to Christ for forgiveness.

### **Well Dressing**

David joined with workers of the Open-Air Mission for two days at Tissington, where they had tremendous opportunities to share the Gospel effectively. It's the great annual Well Dressings event [See *information box on page 7*] with thousands of people coming from all over. We showed a DVD, followed by a clear gospel message, every half an hour in a Methodist chapel (on average over 30 people were at each viewing—nearly all non-Christians). David had many profitable conversations where he could



communicate the gospel. The team reached hundreds of people and over the whole week around 3,000 people were presented with the challenge of the gospel.

### **Open Air work**

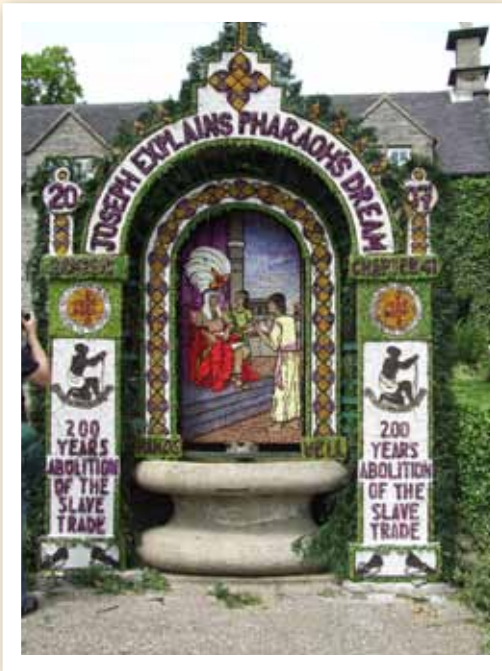
David has had some excellent opportunities to share the Gospel in the open air. This type of outreach is a great tool to reach people who have no Christian friends and no contact with any churches whatsoever.

We would like you to pray especially for two men. One showed much interest in the spiritual things. He used to be an atheist but has changed dramatically from his former belief. David explained the gospel to him and then pointed him to 1 John 1:9. Then he said: "Oh, this is my name." Later on in the conversation David wanted to show him this verse: "But as many as received him to them he gave the right to become children of God..." The man was thrilled as he saw the Gospel's name and said again: "This is my name." I think he was touched



that his name appeared twice—talk about heavenly coincidence! Also, please pray Neil, another man who showed hunger for God. At first he didn't grasp the concept of "being saved by grace", but then half way through I think the penny dropped. He was excited to realize he doesn't have to work to be saved. David and Neil exchanged contact numbers with us at the end. Please pray that God gives him grace to break right through. ■

*(Left)* Liaising with churches and evangelistic groups gives opportunity for FM workers to reach many more people than might otherwise be possible if they worked in isolation.



## WELL DRESSING

Around fifty thousand people visit Tissington to view its well dressings each year. Six wells are decorated for Ascension Day, with pictures formed by pressing flower petals, seeds, cones, etc. into a bed of clay. The pictures are usually on a Biblical theme, reflecting current events or anniversaries.

Some say this tradition is of pagan origin; others, that it began in 1348, following the village's escape from the Black Death, which the villagers attributed to the purity of the water in its wells. When the practice was revived in the nineteenth century, it was with a church service and Bible readings at each of the wells. Today

the well dressing season provides opportunity for our staff, and those of other Christian groups, to bring the message of Christ, the Living Water, to visitors. ■



# A VERY LONG CAMEL RIDE

By Sarah Palmer Felgate

Often we look at the Wise Men as a nice added extra to give a few more children a part in the nativity play! But the wise men weren't just crazy, old, rich men with too much time on their hands—they were people desperate for an encounter with Jesus. They were prepared to leave comfort and familiarity behind, jump on a camel (not the most comfortable mode of transport!) and follow a star, in the hope that this would lead them to baby Jesus, just to bow down and worship him.

## Pilgrimage

This concept of pilgrimage is simple, yet it's something that many of us have dismissed as irrelevant or forgotten in the busyness of our everyday lives. Jesus commanded his disciples to "go and learn" (Matt. 9:13). Yet so often we find ourselves waiting for God to give us a supernatural green light before we'll move beyond our immediate comfortable existence.

We think a little about attending the next big worship event or festival, but when it becomes more about being a blessing than receiving one, it suddenly all seems a little less appealing.

The story of the wise men challenges this mindset in us. If we really want to encounter more of the living Jesus, then going on a journey to worship Jesus is where the real adventure begins!

## Encounter

Worship is all about coming to this place of encounter—with God and with our neighbour. Just as the wise men brought extravagant gifts to worship Jesus, let's think about how we can worship him by really valuing those we meet.

Pilgrimage is a practice that should be part of everything we do and what we are about. Essentially, whether it's on our door-step or on the other side of the world, it involves us seeing differently—seeing and valuing people

as individuals whom God has made and for whom he has a purpose.

### Seeing and Doing

Seeing and doing are intrinsically linked —if we notice something and it moves us we do something about it. If we really want to obey God's command to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength and all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27), then first of all we must stop shielding ourselves and see people as God does. See the kid who is bullied at school, the lonely old lady who lives up the road, those living in poverty, see them all as people rather than statistics.

Take the story of the Samaritan woman for example (John 4). Jesus didn't *label* her as an adulteress; he *saw* her. She was precious. She mattered. She was of the highest value because she was made in the image of God. Jesus both met her physical needs and spoke prophetically into her life. And as a result of not just hearing, but seeing the awesome presence of God through this encounter at the well, she ran back to her town and told everyone to come and see this incredible person, Jesus.

### Ordinarily radical lives

Wouldn't it be great if our churches were less about hearing and more about seeing the incoming of God's kingdom? What if we lived such ordinarily radical lives that every person we encountered each day went away having seen Jesus and telling others to come and see him too?

Whilst we are all called to worship God and see people in our everyday lives as he does, for some of us pilgrimage may

What if...we lived such ordinarily radical lives that every person we encountered went away having seen Jesus?

also involve going on a specific journey, for example a short-term mission project.

### Transformation

What really excites me about this kind of journey is that it's transformative. The impact of 'going' extends far wider than the community we visit and lasts far longer than the few weeks or months we spend there. As we step out and connect with individuals, we meet Jesus in a new, more intimate way. And we meet him at the foot of the cross, as we come to realize that actually we're all equal before God.

### Connection

As we connect with the last, the least and the lost, an exchange, a miracle, takes place. As David Ruis\* puts it, "we are changed in the encounter. Far beyond rich helping poor, strong helping weak, or privilege reaching down to underprivileged, or (perhaps the worst of all) 'holy' touching 'sinner', this is an exchange of life and love—Friendship." So where might your journey to meet with God be taking you? Who do you see and what do you have? Maybe you could get together with some mates and give mince pies to the homeless in your town or go carol singing in your local hospital. Maybe you could think about giving up a few weeks of your summer holiday to go on a short-term mission project. ■

\* From *The Justice God is Seeking* by David Ruis  
Extracted from an article in *Soul Survivor*  
Magazine. Used by kind permission of  
[www.soulsurvivor.org](http://www.soulsurvivor.org).

# God's keys

*Facing difficulties such as no one to lead singing, a seized-up lock and their inability to speak Gaelic, two lady workers on the Isle of Tiree in the 1920s, find that God is able to break through any barrier!*

## Children lead the singing

The children had not been taught singing, the school-teacher himself being unable to sing. We wondered if we could teach them, and began our feeble efforts. [We] found that some did very well indeed; and better still, many of them got beautifully converted. Girls of fourteen and fifteen, and boys too, came right out for Christ.

[Later] the minister told us that he depends on the children leading the church congregation in singing, and does not know what to do when they are not there. They can start the choruses and psalms.

## A rusty lock

We walked about sixteen miles to get an opening for our next mission, and we found here that the people wanted us eagerly. An old man had been praying for years, since the Pilgrims' former visits to the island, and he gave us a scolding and asked us why we had not come sooner. We excused ourselves by telling him that the Mission was scarce of Gaelic-speaking pilgrims. We went to open the hall, but could not, as the lock was so rusty. He said: "You know, there has not been a mission here for fifteen years, and we have only had one service in four years." We got oil for the



key and got into the hall and started a mission. We had plodded on for five weeks, and were inclined to think that this old man was the only Christian in the place. We were getting desperate as to whether God was with us and working with us.

## God breaks through

One night we were much led to have an after-meeting. A Highlander about six feet tall stood up and seemed to be confessing in Gaelic, and was broken and contrite, confessing and returning to the Lord. We felt that the break had come. The next night a little girl of eight yielded to the Lord; she and another sister have prayer meetings every night until this very day. Then others were being reached, just by the Holy Spirit.

We could see that God was beginning to move. The hall was packed nearly every night, and they would walk miles. One Sunday night the hall was very, very full and we had a gentleman down to give an opening word in Gaelic. He gave a very short word [and then] God



A restored "spotted house" on Tiree

came down in power so that we could not continue with further speaking. We had to turn it into a prayer meeting. God really blessed, and we saw that Christians who had backslidden were getting right with one another. It was a lovely sight to see great big men being reconciled. They were greatly broken down, and sobbed and cried aloud, and wanted to be saved, and got saved. The meetings went on like that for a while.

### Send for someone who can pray!

A young lady here had been spoken to in the meetings, but she said she had no assurance of salvation. One night, after she had got home, she was in great concern and said she wanted someone to pray. She went to bed in agony about her soul. The mother got alarmed, and asked, "What is wrong with you? I think I must send for the doctor."

"It is not the doctor I need; it is some one to pray," she responded.

"But there is no one."

"There is Sandy."

"But I cannot send for Sandy."

"I don't care who it is, get anyone who can pray!"

Her youngest sister, aged about seventeen, had yielded to the Lord the night before. So she got out of bed and knelt down and prayed God to give her sister light; and immediately, as she prayed, the darkness fled away and both rejoiced in the salvation of the Lord. The older sister told us all about it next day.

### "Me likes Jesus!"

God never failed us. Ever so many more got converted. In visiting in the Highlands it is sometimes difficult, especially when one has no Gaelic. One woman looked round the door and did nothing but smile, and then she said, "No English," and seemed very much upset. One day we met her and said all the Gaelic we knew. I smiled and gave her a pat on the back. We visited her again and she said in Gaelic, "Come in." We went in and she told us in Gaelic to sit down. She wanted to say something to us, and was always smiling. Then suddenly she got down by our side on her knees and looked up and said, "Me likes Jesus." After that, that woman, although she did not understand English, came to the meetings and really enjoyed the atmosphere of them. She knew the Lord was there. We hear from time to time that the work is still going on there. The devil is very, very real and trying to hinder, but they are going on with God.

God really came down and worked a deep work. The secret was that we got the victory in the place of prayer. ■

Adapted from *Bright Words* 1920

Photo of the "spotted house" is © Sue Jackson and is used under the Creative Commons license.

*HAVE YOU RECENTLY BECOME A CHRISTIAN? If so, it is vital not only to receive Christ by faith, but to continue with him. The following points will help you lay a good foundation for growing stronger as a follower of Jesus Christ.*

### 1. Assurance

If you have followed God's steps for salvation, you can enter into the sure promises of God's Word.\*

*"For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children" (Romans 8:16).*

This assurance is given by the Spirit of God directly to our spirits.

*"I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13).*

This is not presumption, but is the glad assurance of Christ's indwelling presence. It is often immediately realized, but for some it may take a little while as we continue to trust.

### 2. Doubt

The devil will attempt to shake your new-found faith by trying to sow doubt.

*"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 5:7).*

*"Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again" (Galatians 5:1).*

### 3. Prayer

You now have access to God the Father through Christ the Son. Thank him for his power, salvation, holiness and love. Praise him that he has given you eternal life and has made you his child. Make sure that you have a daily "Quiet Time" with the Lord. Take time in his presence and you will derive strength and guidance for each day. Pray for others to meet with Christ as you have done. Pray with other Christians whenever possible.

*"But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength" (Isaiah 40:31).*

### 4. Bible Reading

In prayer you speak to God and in the Bible God speaks to you. Read it daily, methodically, ponder it

# FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH

By Colin N. Peckham

prayerfully and obey it instantly. Begin with the New Testament, and, reading a chapter or two a day, ask the Lord to help you to understand it and interpret its truths to you.

*“The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand” (Psalm 119:130).*

## 5. Obedience

Light (understanding) is often received through the Word of God, and when this is obeyed, more light is given. This encourages growth to take place quickly. The voice of the Holy Spirit will sometimes encourage, instruct or correct. You may have to change your habits or life-style, for God says, *“Now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy” (1 Peter 1:15).*

Obedience will lead to joy, growth and usefulness in the Christian life.

## 6. Dealing quickly with your sin

Christians are not perfect. If you sin, go immediately to the Lord. Confess it, ask him to forgive you, believe he has done so, be assured that the relationship has been restored, and continue your Christian witness.

*“My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous” (1 John 2:1).*

*“If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness” (1 John 1:9).*

## 7. Witnessing

It is essential to tell others what God has done for you. It will confirm to you all that you have believed and experienced.

*“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved” (Romans 10:9-10).*

As you tell the story of God’s saving power in your own life, the Holy Spirit witnesses with your spirit, confirming to you that your words are true. “I am saved! Christ lives in me!” Not only are you strengthened in your faith, but you are now spreading the glad news to others.

## 8. Fellowship

*“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another” (Hebrews 10:25).*

As members of God’s family, we need one another. A local Bible-believing church is where you will be encouraged and taught, and where you will discover the joy of sharing your faith and experiences with others of like mind.

## 9. Service

In Bible times, the Thessalonian Christians had *“turned away from idols to serve the living and true God” (1 Thessalonians 1:9)*. It is also our privilege to serve a holy God. His holiness must fill our lives for we represent him. Be alert for opportunities of telling others how much the Lord has done for you. This is our great privilege and exhilarating experience. ■

\* Bible verses in this article are from the New Living Translation (NLT).

The late **Dr Colin N. Peckham** was Principal Emeritus of the Faith Mission Bible College.

# Early Days in East Anglia

Extracts from a report by H. M. Scrutton



## Unconverted church workers

In the year 1917, when the work was quite young, a mission was held at Rowhedge, a fairly large fishing village in Essex, and here God graciously blessed the Pilgrims' visit. When the mission commenced, only the Sunday School Superintendent was a saved worker, but before the effort concluded all the teachers were in the fold. The converts have been scattered to many different parts of these islands, and some are now useful and used servants for God. A Prayer Union was formed then, and this has been a real source of strength to the Lord's work in this part.

## Prayer meeting sensation

The Pilgrims were invited to hold a mission in a village chapel which had been kept open with great difficulty, and where the average Sunday attendance was four. The invitation being accepted, the Pilgrims' methods were keenly observed. When [they] suggested that an all-night of prayer should be held, this created quite a sensation, and the result was watched with interest. However, God honoured faith, and the attendance at the mission rose to over a hundred, and best of all, many were led to the Saviour.

## Simple testimony breaks the dam

A testimony meeting was held on the closing night of that mission. Being unaccustomed to such meetings, the folk were slow to respond, until a

**V**ARIOUS CAUSES make the work in East Anglia somewhat different from other districts, and with so many missions being held in chapels of different denominations, it has not always been easy to conserve the results, nor to get into new areas. At times the work has gone slowly, to our minds, but we believe it has been steadily making advance, and prayer has ever been the effective weapon.

young lad rose, who had been saved a few days, and said, in the broad Essex dialect, "I'm glad I'm saved, 'cause that means God is really my Father, the Lord Jesus is my Saviour, the Holy Spirit is my Guide, and the devil is no relation of mine." This led to a spontaneous flow of testimony which caused the speaker to make the closing message very brief.

### **Accommodation problem**

As invitations to needy places came in, often great difficulties arose about lodgings, and many interesting stories could be written as to the ways and means adopted to overcome these, but often they turned out to God's praise. In one village, the Pilgrims were offered the use of a wee cottage that was generally used as a summer residence. This was in February, and it had not been occupied since the previous August. On their arrival they found the place to be extremely damp, and a fire only seemed to make matters worse. One suggested that the best thing to do was to keep up the fire and to sleep on the hearthrug, but the other said, "Let's get to prayer that something else may open." Being about 9 p.m. on a Saturday, and in an isolated village, this seemed most unlikely, but it was once again proved that "prayer changes things".

### **Their bonnets on ready!**

In a small town, some seven miles away, a family sat down to supper, but the mother could not eat. She had children of her own, and her thoughts were with the Pilgrims. Noticing her preoccupation, her husband enquired the reason, and when she said that she



*Their bonnets on ready!* Three Faith Mission Training Home students in their distinctive bonnets, 1927.

was thinking of the probable condition of the cottage after having been closed all those months, he suggested that their son should go in the car and fetch the Pilgrims to their own home. This he agreed to do, and it seemed but a short time till he returned with their willing and praiseful guests.

His mother expressed surprise, and enquired as to how he had got back so quickly. "Why, it was like this, Mum", he answered. "They were praying for someone to call for them, and expecting the call they had their bonnets on ready." This made a lasting impression on the youth, and afterwards led to his conversion, and to-day, he is in full-time service for Christ. Hallelujah! ■

Extracted from a report in *Faith Triumphant* (1936)—a review of the first 50 years of Faith Mission work.

# Facing the challenge of rural ministry

## Challenge 1—Seeing the need

By our General Director, John Townend

In a society that is increasingly secularized, multi-cultural, post-modern and anti-Christian, the challenges of rural ministry are not unlike those in every other kind of gospel ministry. This article is a brief overview of troubling statistics.

Great Britain and Ireland have a total population of just over 62 million. Living in the broadly rural areas are over 27 million, most without Christ.

### DECLINING CHURCH ATTENDANCE

In 2005 when the last English Church Census was carried out by *Christian Research*, a “snapshot” of typical Sunday church attendance in England revealed that 3 million people attended church on that day. Interestingly, only about 1 million said that they had read their Bible at least once in the previous two weeks. So only about a third of churchgoers in England appear to be people committed to living for Christ. 19% of churchgoers (about 570,000) live in rural areas.

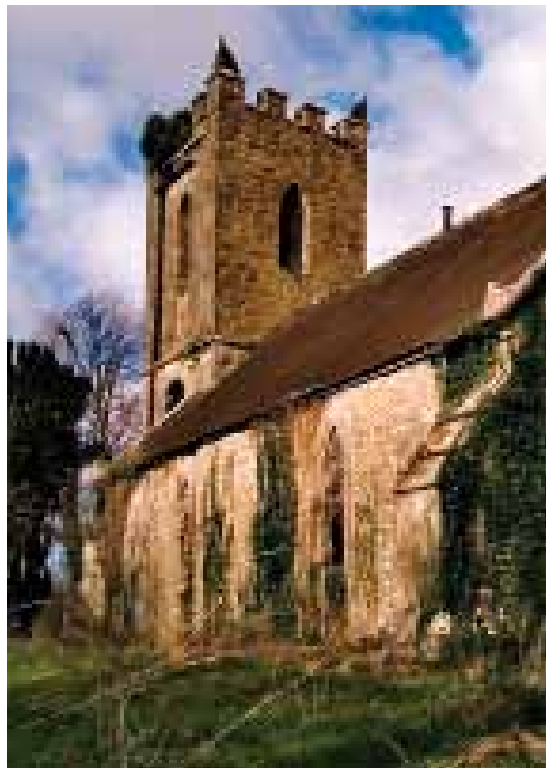
### PIONEER MISSION FIELD

We have a pioneer mission field in rural Britain and Ireland at the moment. We are not Christian nations any more.

*In Scotland*, the mainstream denominations are experiencing steady decline in church attendance. So although Scotland has had the reputation of being a gospel-centred culture, that is not true today.

*In England and Wales* 95% of people in the rural areas do not attend church and 65% of country-dwellers do not have access, within reasonable travelling distance, to a church which emphasizes the gospel.

Only 34% of Anglican churches would claim to be evangelical. The other main denomination in rural areas of England is Methodism. Nowadays only 18% of Methodist churches describe



## OUR VISION STATEMENT

To reach through passionate evangelism the lost of all age groups, particularly in the villages and rural areas of Great Britain and Ireland, and by biblical teaching to encourage holiness of heart and life in Christian people.

themselves as broadly evangelical (compared with 36% ten years earlier). So the evangelical influence in the rural areas of England is declining. Other denominations and independent churches are present, but they have less influence in the rural areas.

Of the 6 million children living in rural England, 95% do not attend Sunday School. When I was a child in a very small English village, every child in the

community went to Sunday School. Now hardly any village children go and many villages don't have a Sunday School, anyway. So now we are into the third generation of people who have not been taught even the most basic Bible truths.

### *In Northern Ireland*

The province has a larger percentage of evangelical Christians than any country in Europe and gives tremendous support to missionary activity throughout the world. But even in such an evangelical society, of the protestants only 34% go to church and the remaining 66% are gospel-hardened and hard to reach for Christ.

### *In the Republic of Ireland.*

Here 95% of the population are Roman Catholic and 42% of the total population live in rural areas. The Republic prospered during the "Celtic Tiger" economic boom. But now the "bust" has come and the economy has collapsed, bringing a lot of hardship. People are increasingly open to the gospel, but vast areas of the land are still totally unreached with the message of salvation through Christ. ■

This is the first part of a series adapted from a seminar that John conducted at the 2011 Faith Mission Edinburgh Convention. Part 2, *Understanding the Rural Culture*, will follow in our next issue.

(Left) DERELICT CHURCH BUILDING  
—Photo by Steve Ford Elliott



# PRAYING PARENTS

*Testimonies from the Clogher Valley, Northern Ireland, 1924*



**A**TTENDING THE FAITH MISSION CONFERENCE IN BALLYGAWLEY this June I heard what grateful fathers and mothers we have now in Clogher Valley.

**I heard one man** say at that conference that he had six children converted during the Faith Mission meetings conducted by Pilgrims Lucas and Eberstein. It is no exaggeration to say that there were at least one hundred and twenty boys and girls at that conference who had been converted during those services.

What struck me forcibly was that most of these were the children of praying fathers and mothers.

**Listening to his son testifying** at the conference to what God had done for him, one father said, "I have prayed for him since he [was a baby]. A mother told me she gazed out of the window all the time her son was speaking, lest he would notice the tears in her eyes. Another mother grasped my hands when her son spoke, her emotion too great for words.

What transformed homes we have here

in the Clogher Valley! "Where Jesus is, 'tis heaven there."

**A number of brothers**, I know, read their chapter now at night and retire to rest, instead of coming in at the small hours of the morning from the dancing class.

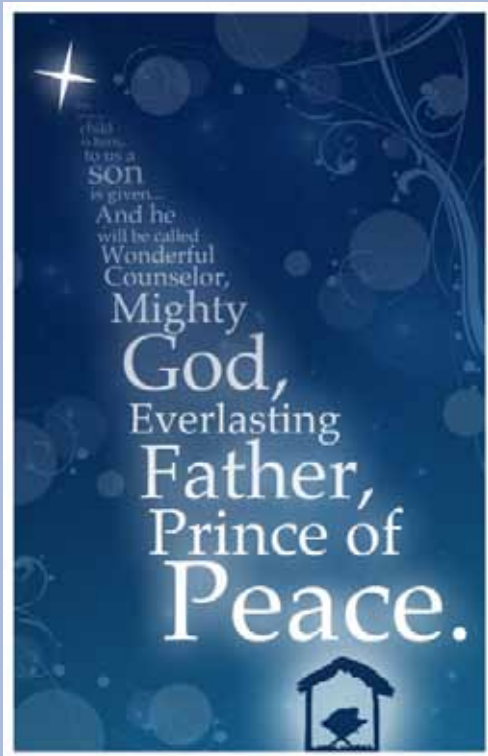
**One pious father** told a friend of his that one day at dinner, when he saw so much happiness among his boys, he could not bear it any longer. He did not go into his room and go down on his knees, but he went away up the top of the hill, and took off his cap, and swung it round his head, and sang the praises of God at the top of his voice.

All this has happened in the Clogher Valley during the past twelve months. Surely the Valley is not a bad place to live in after all!

**Mothers**, you know, have their own wee stories to tell. One mother said she was so anxious to hear her big son make an effort to preach that she slipped in to the meeting unawares; and the very lesson he read, and the very verse from that lesson he spoke on, was just the Psalm she taught him as a child, with her hand on his head, as he knelt at his cradle-bed. When does a mother's influence cease? ■

From *Bright Words*, 1924

Photo opposite: Design Pics/SW Productions.



## Emmanuel

What use is a distant God who observes from afar with no intimate concern for his creation? The magnificence of the incarnation is the crossing of uncrossable boundaries: the divine lodged in human life, the transcendent made real and tangible. If God is, then he is not God against us, or God apart from us, or God observing us, but God with us.

—Maggi Dawn

Names of Christ image by Dora Wong

# As I see it

By John Townend

Reflections and news  
from our General Director



**A**S I WRITE there are just a few days left before the special day of prayer which we plan to hold on 14 October. This will mark the beginning of our 125th anniversary year. With this in mind, I have been giving some thought to matters for which we would particularly appreciate prayer at this time. By the time you read this magazine the day of prayer will have been and gone, though we would encourage you to continue to bring to the Lord the following matters for praise and prayer.

## PRAISE

- Thank God for his **unfailing provision** during the past 125 years.
- Rejoice in the many **thousands who have been converted to Christ** since John George Govan obeyed the call of God to begin this work, especially those who have trusted the Lord in recent weeks and months.
- Praise him for the **dedicated team** of Mission workers, employees and volunteers who serve with us today.
- Give thanks for the **wonderful facilities** with which he has blessed us in recent years.
- Return thanks to the Lord for his **continuing protection** upon the Mission and its members.
- Most of all thank him for his **continued presence and blessing** amongst us.

## PRAYER

- **For the Faith Mission Council**—as we seek God’s direction for the next 25 years of the Mission’s ministry.
- **For the Bible College**—for increased numbers of students, the new third year apprenticeship course and progress in respect of the accreditation process.
- **For our bookshop and literature ministry**—its leaders and the dedicated team of staff and volunteers who staff it.
- **For the ongoing development of our camp and camp centre ministry**—including the new centre to be opened in Co Laois, Republic of Ireland next summer. Especially uphold those who trusted Christ as a result of the camp ministry during the past summer.
- **For more workers** to enable us to reach more of the 27.5 million people populating the rural areas of Britain and Ireland.
- **For the new work and workers which commenced in Co Fermanagh**, Northern Ireland, in September
- **For an increasing sense of God’s presence and power** at work in our meetings and outreach activities.

- That the Faith Mission leadership may have vision and passion in directing the work.
- For a new generation of spiritual leaders to be raised up to replace those who will retire within the next ten years.
- Pray for a mighty move of the Holy Spirit in revival to touch our nations again.

## PLANNING AHEAD

As we arrive at this significant event in the life of The Faith Mission we are overwhelmed by the sense of privilege at being called to serve the Lord within its ranks. We are also reminded of the immense responsibility which this brings. With this in mind, and partly in response to vacancies created by recent resignations, the Faith Mission Council are in the process of making changes which, we trust, will bring stability to the work for the foreseeable future. More importantly, these developments will leave us better equipped to reach the rural areas of our nation with the message of the gospel. During the next few months, as details are finalized, we will announce the various changes.

Recently it was decided that in January 2012 **Johnathan and Janet Slater** will move from the North English District, to take responsibility for the camp centre and area work ministry in Co. Cork. Meanwhile, **David and Marjorie Bennett**, with local help, will oversee the work in Cork until the end of this year. Decisions taken by Council regarding the leadership of the North English and Irish Border Districts are being finalized and we expect to be able to announce these in the next issue of *First!* magazine.

## OTHER MISSION NEWS

The new session has begun at the **Bible College**, with nineteen students present. This includes six who have returned for their second year, eight new students and five who are undertaking the new ministry apprenticeship third-year course.

Following a short break after the summer outreach programme, our workers are now fully involved in the **autumn and winter outreach** and we thank God for the opportunities and encouragements this brings.

We are pleased to report that **Ian Booth** has recovered well from the hip replacement surgery which he underwent in the early summer and he is fully involved in the work again.

We rejoice with **Mark and Sheena Nelson** on the birth of their first child, Leah Hazel on Tuesday 6th September.

As mentioned in a previous issue, after twenty years of service with the Mission, **Paul and Sharon Acheson** leave us at the end of December to take up their new appointment at Newtonards Congregational Church. We thank them sincerely for their fellowship and wish them much blessing as they settle into their new sphere of service.

Finally, please pray that the various **125th anniversary rallies** planned for the coming months may be powerfully used by the Lord. These will be announced locally as appropriate. ■

# Blueprint for the Future?

## *A Challenge to the Church* By Samuel Chadwick,

*After the 1914-1918 War, there was a great need for social and economic change. Rather than look for spiritual solutions, many reformers advocated human and social strategies. At that time they referred to the hoped for reforms as "the new age".*

*This year, in the UK we have seen an unprecedented breakdown of social order, with rioting, destruction and looting, so this article is particularly apposite.— Ed.*

**T**HE NEW AGE IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO THE CHURCH. The lightning revelations of the war have given abundant cause for repentance. In political influence, the church has hardly counted during the war.

### **Mediocrity**

The testing-time of war has brought against the church the charge of unreality, and revealed much misunderstanding. Her divisions have become a reproach and a source of weakness. Worst of all, the moral mediocrity of both teaching and practice have brought the gravest condemnation. The church needs to recover moral distinction, spiritual authority, and effective fellowship; and the new age is to the church a challenge and a call.

### **A Vision of Heaven, but no God**

No one can go through the programme of social betterment, economic adjustment, and industrial reform, without discovering the Christian source of its inspiration. Men have seen a vision of heaven, and they are resolved to re-make the world on the

heavenly pattern. To such a programme the church cannot be indifferent.

The church has a witness and a message for those who seek to bring in the kingdom of heaven. There is grave danger of missing the mark by taking the wrong way. Babel sought to reach heaven, and came to confusion. The new Jerusalem comes down out of heaven from God. There is a grave danger of a secularised religion and a "kingdom of heaven" in which there is no God.

### **Reconstruction by Regeneration**

The common assumption is that what all human nature wants is not a *change* but a *chance*. The new age is determined it shall have a chance; the gospel of Christ insists that it needs a change. The modern programme assumes that education will evolve the highest manhood; the Christian interpretation of man makes sin a fundamental fact [...] and insists that man is a spiritual being.

Spirituality is the basis and foundation of human life, rather than its apex and final attainment. Regeneration is, therefore, the way to reconstruction,

rather than reconstruction being the means of regeneration.

The supreme business of the church is to preach Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour of men. He is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. He is Lord and Saviour of all the ages.

### Forward in Faith

We must not be afraid of the future. There is no salvation in the glories of the past. Our faith must go forward with vision that comes of a pure heart and sympathies born of fellowship in the redeeming passion of our Lord. We must be careful not to be deceived into false estimates, and lose [essentials] by concentrating on things that come second and not first. Jesus Christ still draws the souls of men, and it is with the soul that salvation begins.

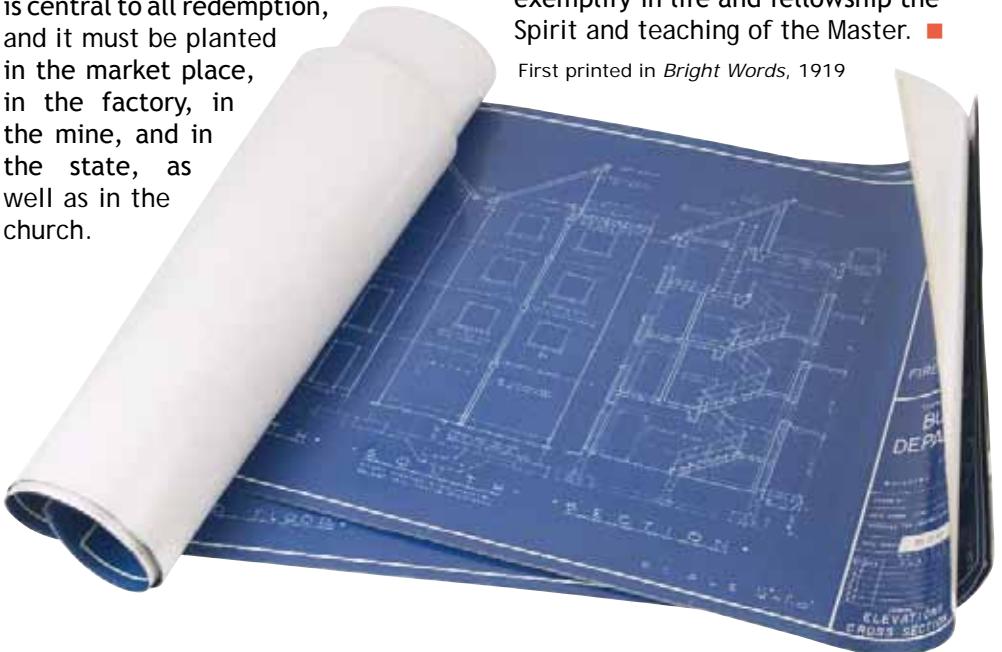
Preach Christ crucified, for the word of the cross is the power of God. The cross is central to all redemption, and it must be planted in the market place, in the factory, in the mine, and in the state, as well as in the church.

Jesus Christ is still the standard of Christian morality, and the cross is the supreme example of the love that neither spares nor despairs.

### Moral and Spiritual Dynamic

What can the church do? So much, that nobody can do much without it. All the schemes of reconstruction are so intimately related, as to be one. The evils they seek to remedy come from one root, and there is only one power that goes deep enough to deal with it. The kingdom of heaven cannot be imposed by authority; it is implanted, and grows from within. From the church must come the moral and spiritual dynamic of the new order. To this end, Christians must come into a fellowship that demonstrates the unity of the Spirit. They must preach Christ as a living presence, saving and reigning on earth. Above all they must exemplify in life and fellowship the Spirit and teaching of the Master. ■

First printed in *Bright Words*, 1919



# PACKED FOR CANADA

By the Rev. W. A. Nisbet BA, Toronto

IN THE EARLY PART OF THE YEAR 1927, at the regular meeting of the Missionary Executive of one of the larger Presbyterian churches in Toronto, the question was discussed of undertaking some independent home-missionary work. The thought at first was to find some needy rural quarter and support a mission-worker there in a settled charge.

One member of the committee, however, suggested the idea of an itinerant evangelism, rather than the opening of a fixed mission station.

This member had been closely associated with the work of The Faith Mission in the Old Country, and as he outlined the type of itinerant evangelism carried on by the Pilgrims, every member of the committee seemed to feel that was what was needed in the rural districts of Ontario, where so many smaller towns and villages have no vital gospel testimony whatever.

## ADVERTISEMENT

On learning that there were many in Toronto and in other parts of Ontario who had known The Faith Mission in the homeland, it was decided that this was a work greater than one congregation, or even one denomination, should participate in, so a notice was put in the daily papers announcing a meeting of "all those

interested in the work of The Faith Mission of Great Britain and Ireland." The attendance was very encouraging, and the enthusiasm of those present to have the work of the Mission extended to Canada was very evident.

The outcome of the meeting was that the Chairman was



requested to write to the late Mr. J. G. Govan, and ask whether the Mission Council would not send out a couple of Pilgrims to prepare the way for a testimony in Canada similar to that in the Old Land. Mr. Govan seemed to catch the vision that had been given to the Canadian friends, and sent a very gracious and sympathetic reply to the appeal from Ontario. Letters were sent out to the Pilgrims by him, telling of the call from Canada to "Come over and help us" and asking for volunteers for the Canadian work.

### THE CHOSEN TWO

Two sisters were chosen from those who responded to the call, and on October 7th, 1927, Pilgrims Gibb and Rowdon set sail for Canada. Meanwhile, J. G. Govan had become suddenly and seriously ill and went to be with the Lord just a few days prior to the date of sailing. He had made all the arrangements for the new venture in Canada just before he finished his great life-work, and his remains were being laid to rest just at the time that the two Canadian pioneers were quietly slipping off to carry out the task he had arranged for them.

### THE WORK BEGINS

A large and sympathetic audience eagerly awaited the Pilgrims on their first appearance at St. John's, and during the early missions at Gormley, Carville, Maple, and Oshawa, large contingents went out from the city by car and bus to show their interest in the work of the Pilgrims. Miss Gibb was the senior Pilgrim, and therefore bore the greater part of the responsibility. She was an untiring worker, and she



and her companion made friends for the Mission wherever they went. The Mission in Canada owes a great deal to the enthusiasm and vision of these first Pilgrims.

Soon the need was felt for more workers, and other volunteers came from the Old Land. Eventually, Miss Gibb realized that the time had come for a male Superintendent to be appointed. The first Superintendent was Mr. J. G. Eberstein, M.A., who won his way into many hearts in Canada. After the latter's return to Scotland, Mr. J. Allan Wallace was appointed, as Superintendent of the Canadian work. These recent years of financial

depression have made the work a difficult, and a very sacrificial one, but the Pilgrims have laboured on, and together with the Superintendent and his splendid helpmeet, have kept aloft the banner of the cross.

### CONTINUING NEED

The need is as great as ever. Many souls have been saved in Ontario, and Christians blessed and established, but the great need stands as yet largely unmet. The two pioneers shared a vision of Pilgrims labouring in every province in the Dominion. The Mission has been entrusted with the life-giving Word and with a message of a full and free salvation, and Canada could do

with hundreds of Pilgrims from coast to coast. Otherwise God must raise up other agencies or many will perish without the Gospel, for most of the provinces are much more needy even than Ontario.

The work has many difficulties peculiar to Canada, and demands self-effacement and self-denial on the part of the workers. May God give Canada scores of additional Pilgrims with the spirit that has been so characteristic of the work from its very beginning, that Canada may be speedily evangelized before her day of opportunity passes. ■

From *Faith Triumphant*— A review of fifty years of Faith Mission Work, edited by J. B. McLean, 1936.

## WINTER OUTREACH IN CANADA

John Bennett, General Director Faith Mission (in Canada)

**T**HIS WINTER, in addition to our regular work, we will again run two programmes which have been used by God in past years to help many. The *Christmas in the Country* banquets are an opportunity for us to reach people who never go to church or any other place where they hear the gospel. Parents bring wayward children, Christian friends bring unsaved neighbours, and churches bring people they are seeking to reach. Our Faith Mission team, along with many helpers, are privileged to provide a

Christmas dinner followed by a programme which clearly presents the gospel. Only eternity will reveal the full impact of such events.

*Snow camps* are something we have found to be very useful. They bring together many beautiful young people who love the Saviour, but are facing difficult challenges in this ungodly society. Non-Christian youth are also usually in the number, and for each one who comes to Snow camp we pray that God will be given full control of their lives. ■



# A very long walk

**A**T THE VILLAGE WHERE WE WERE TO START THE WORK the minister was very much opposed, and in his intimations at the Communion service, when all the countryside was there, he said, "These accursed women are come hither also, and anyone who receives them is partaker of their evil deeds."

## Ten miles each way

[Because of this] the people were so prejudiced against us that the work did seem hopeless, and we prospected a place ten miles further on, walking there and back the same day, with a meeting to take at the finish.

## Another thirty miles

From there we made up our minds to go on to another small village thirty miles distant. So the last day of the mission we sent on our luggage, and the next morning we got up at four o'clock again, and started out on our thirty-mile walk, with our coats and our bags.



Image Hemera Technologies

*This report challenges each of us to ask: "How far would I be prepared to go to take the gospel to a hostile, prejudiced world?"*

## More prejudice

It was a terrible walk, and when we got there late at night we found that no one would take us in. They were so prejudiced against us that they would not allow us to set foot inside the door. When we turned away from one of the last houses, Maggie [my fellow-worker] went right over in a faint, and when I asked a man standing at the door of a barn if we could come in for a few minutes, he replied that he did not think it would be suitable. So we dragged ourselves to the schoolhouse, and, with

an umbrella up to keep off the cold of the wind, we prepared to spend the night there.

## Something better

But the Lord had something better than that in store for us. We had not been sitting there for so very long when a boy came up—the schoolmaster's son—and told us to come with him, and his mother gave us a bed and a fire and a footbath, and a good supper to the bargain, and the next morning we were able to walk ten miles on to a more hospitable place. ■

From a report in *Bright Words*, 1923



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# THE WORKERS IN THE FAITH MISSION DURING 2011

*General Director* – J. TOWNEND, 1st October, 1975, and *Mrs. Townend Mission Administrator & Treasurer*  
*and Director for Scotland* - J. McNEILLY, 1st October, 1969, and *Mrs. McNeilly Principal of Bible College* – J. D. BRAND, June, 2009  
*Director for Ireland* – T. MATTHEWS, 1st October, 1972, and *Mrs. Matthews Director for England* – A. B. PATTERSON, 1st October, 1986, and *Mrs. Patterson Superintendents* –

D. R. BENNETT, 1st October, 1972, and *Mrs. Bennett*, South Irish District  
 L. BRUSH, 1st October, 1982, and *Mrs. Brush*, North Irish District  
 P. R. CROWE, 1st October, 1982, and *Mrs. Crowe*, Wales Regional Rep  
 D. CHAMBERS, 1st Oct., 1983 and *Mrs. Chambers*, South Scottish District  
 W. L. HARRISON, 1st October, 1983, and *Mrs. Harrison*, Anglo-Scottish Border District  
 G. CONN, 1st October, 1985, and *Mrs. Conn*, West Irish District  
 D. P. HOWSON, 1st October, 1986, and *Mrs. Howson*, Central English District  
 P. ACHESON, 1st October, 1991, and *Mrs. Acheson*, Irish Border District  
 N. McCLINTOCK, 1st October 1991, East Scottish District  
 D. A. MACLEOD, 1st October, 1996, and *Mrs Macleod*, Highland District  
 J. SLATER, 1st October, 1998, and *Mrs Slater*, North English District

Ladies' names in Italics

\*Denotes withdrawn \*\* Denotes died

*E. Moynan* 1st Oct., 1965  
*L. F. J. Pearson* 1st Oct., 1972  
*I. H. P. Farrell* 1st Oct., 1973  
*J. Matthews* 1st Oct., 1973  
*and Mrs. Matthews* (rejoined 1986)  
*A. H. Paul* 1st Oct., 1987  
*S. Williams\** 1st Oct., 1987  
*and Mrs. Williams\** (rejoined 2006)  
*J. Macdonald* 1st Oct., 1989  
*and Mrs. Macdonald*  
*G. J. Tutty and Mrs. Tutty* 1st Oct., 1990  
*N. J. Bovenizer* 1st Oct., 1993  
*and Mrs. Bovenizer*  
*D. Lewis* 1st Oct., 1993 (rejoined 2009)  
*I. Booth* 1st Oct., 1994  
*A. McCullough* 1st Oct., 1994  
*M. Tomb and Mrs. Tomb* 1st Oct., 1994  
*K. I. Wood* 1st Oct., 1995  
*G. S. S. Walker* 1st Oct., 1996  
*and Mrs. Walker*  
*I. Gilkinson* 1st Oct., 1997  
*and Mrs. Gilkinson*  
*D. Ohin and Mrs. Ohin* 1st Oct., 1999  
 (rejoined 1st July 2003)  
*G. McKitterick\** 1st Oct., 2002  
*J. Kilpatrick* 1st Oct., 2002  
*G. Bingham and Mrs Bingham* 1st Oct., 2004  
*A. Holdsworth and*  
*Mrs. Holdsworth* 1st Oct., 2004  
*J. Cummings* 1st Oct., 2005  
*and Mrs. Cummings*  
*J. McCartney* 1st Oct., 2005  
*R. Allen* 1st Oct., 2005 (rejoined 2011)

*T. Condy\** 1st Oct., 2008  
*R. Martin* 1st Oct., 2006 (rejoined 2011)  
*M. Nelson and Mrs Nelson* 1st Oct., 2007  
*B. Mason and Mrs Mason\** 1st Oct., 2007  
*R. Killops and Mrs Killops* 1st Oct., 2007  
*N. Fox\** 1st Oct., 2008  
*C. Anderson* 1st Oct., 2009  
*H. Wilson* 1st Oct., 2009

#### Associate Workers:

*S. Walsh and Mrs. Walsh* 1st Oct., 2000

#### Auxiliary Workers:

*T. Bennett and Mrs. Bennett* 1st Jan., 2011

#### Ministry Apprentices:

*T. Currie* 1st Oct., 2009  
*P. Curwen* 1st Oct., 2009  
*V. Mezger* 1st Oct., 2009

#### CANADA

*V. J. Bennett and Mrs. Bennett*  
*B. G. M. Thiessen\**  
*G. Deane\* and Mrs. Deane\**  
*A. Porter and Mrs. Porter*  
*B. Spence and Mrs. Spence*  
*J. Moldovan*  
*C. Mitchell*  
*J. Armitage*  
*S. Megaw and Mrs Megaw*  
*D. Hewitt*  
*K. Evans and Mrs. Evans*  
*J. Goudy and Mrs. Goudy*  
*B. Bott and Mrs Bott*  
*T. Condy and Mrs Condy*  
*L-A. Drake*

#### RETIRED WORKERS (UK)

*R. Kingston\*\** (1932-66)  
*T. Black* (1941-72)  
*E. Currie\*\** (1945-80)  
*B. Fox* (1943-80)  
*M. J. Dawson* (1947-81)  
*O. Dale* (1942-83)  
*O. Greenaway* (1953-90)  
*M. Thompson* (1955-97)  
*W. J. Porter* (1953-99) and *Mrs. Porter*  
*W. Wright* (1976-99) and *Mrs. Wright*  
*R. C. Dukelow* (1953-2000) and *Mrs. Dukelow*  
*C. Slight* (1968–2002)  
*J. McDonald* (1966-71; Rejoined 1990-2003)  
*K. H. Percival* (1961-2004) and *Mrs Percival*

#### MISSION-FOI-EVANGILE

*Mr. J.-P. Krémer*  
*Miss. L. Krémer*  
*Mrs. V. Krémer*  
*Mr. and Mrs. K. Ruegger*  
*Mr. and Mrs. W. Streiff*  
*Mr. and Mrs. K. Lipp*  
*Mr. and Mrs. D. Schott*  
*Mr. and Mrs. D. Perret*

# Called Home

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**Mrs Helen Reid** (mother of former FM worker Jonathan Reid) has gone to her reward. A founder member of the Clonroot PU she gave wholehearted, faithful support over many years until ill-health prevented her attending. She is greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Mrs Emily Winifred (Winnie) Conn** was converted when she was seventeen at an FM mission. For many years she was a faithful supporter of the work and member of the Acton PU, until ill-health prevented her attending.

**Mrs Ethel Leatham**, a retired missionary to India, went to be with Lord earlier this year. She was a faithful supporter of The Faith Mission, for many years attending Ipswich PU and many of the local Mission meetings.

**Jack Balls**, Secretary of Commodore Mission, Lowestoft, was called home to be with the Lord in April. He had a great interest in missionary work at home and abroad. His help, fellowship and encouragement in work of the Lord will be greatly missed.

**Mrs Evelyn Mills** was a very godly woman

who was greatly involved in reaching young folk for the Lord. She was a faithful member of Killyfaddy PU and made a significant impact for God in her community.

**Miss Jane Neilly** passed away at the age of 94. She was a member of Ballymena PU for many years and also attended many rallies and conventions. During her time in Kintullagh Nursing Home she was encouraged when visited by the FM workers.

**Mrs Sarah Cardwell** was saved as a teenager. She married Sammy in 1951 and joined Moneymore PU with him; she attended until ill-health prevented her.

The sudden homecall of **Mrs Joan Buick**, a Craigatempin PU member for many years, left all who knew her saddened. She was a godly, praying lady who loved the Lord and her family; her godly influence will be sadly missed.

**Mrs Emma Bell**, with her late husband David, was a faithful member of Laymore PU for many years. After David's passing she moved to care home facilities. She was a gentle and loving person who always appreciated the help and care of others.

## LIVINGSTONE'S LAST BIRTHDAY!

**When Stanley found Livingstone, the great missionary who spent thirty years in darkest Africa, he wanted him to come back to England with him, but Livingstone refused to go.**

**Two days later he wrote in his diary:**

**“March 19, my birthday. My Jesus, my King, my Life, my all, I again dedicate my whole self to Thee. Accept me, and grant, O gracious Father, that ere the year is gone I may finish my work. In Jesus’ name I ask it. Amen.”**

**A year later his servants found him on his knees, dead.**

*—Tom M. Olson*

**Co. Donegal** – Christian farmhouse, self-catering accommodation available. 10 minutes drive to Rathmullen beach. For further details Tel: 074-9158334 (UK: 00-35374-9158334).

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**Devon/Cornwall** – nr. Plymouth, Farmhouse B&B en-suite, convenient to coasts, moors and National Trust property with riverside walks and gardens. www.higherchapel.co.uk Tel.01579 350894 e-mail.smjwg@tiscali.co.uk

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www.christiancoastalapartments.com

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*First!* is published bi-monthly and costs 75p per copy, plus postage. The annual subscription is: UK £6.30 ; EUROPE (incl. EIRE) £12.12 OTHER OVERSEAS £11.22. All postal payments should be made to The Faith Mission Publishing Department, Edinburgh, to which changes of address or alterations in the number of copies should be notified by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

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Space for advertisements is limited and unfortunately we cannot guarantee inclusion. All communications should be sent to *FM Publishing Dept.*, Govan House, 548 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh EH17 7JD, a minimum of 7 weeks preceding the month of issue. The charge for advertising is 20p per word + VAT minimum £4.80. Enclose SAE for receipt if required.

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# Two Faith Mission events for your 2012 diary

## BANGOR Convention

Friday 6 to Tuesday 10 April

*Speakers expected to include:*

Pastor David Legge,  
*Portadown, N Ireland*

Rev Paul Mallard,  
*Birmingham*

Dr Victor Maxwell,  
*Lisburn, N Ireland*

Pastor John Shearer,  
*Edinburgh*

*A weekend of challenge  
and encouragement  
for all the family*

*Facilities for children,  
teens and adults*

For further details email: [hq.ireland@faithmission.org](mailto:hq.ireland@faithmission.org)  
or telephone (028) 9262 8286

## EDINBURGH Convention

Tuesday 3 to Sunday 8 July

*Speakers expected to include:*

Charles Price  
David Johnstone

*Programme:*

- Morning Bible Readings
- Seminars
- Evening Word & Worship
- Youth Track

For more details of the programme and accommodation contact:  
The Convention Secretary, The Faith Mission, 548 Gilmerton Road,  
Edinburgh EH17 7JD Email: [admin@faithmission.org](mailto:admin@faithmission.org) Tel: 0131 672 2149

*The Magazine of The Faith Mission*

# FIRST!

Sept/Oct 2011  
\$16 per year

**PACKED FOR CANADA**  
**PIONEER PILGRIMS WHO**  
**BLAZED A TRAIL FOR GOD**

**GOD AT WORK TODAY**  
**FIRST-HAND REPORT**  
**FROM DERBYSHIRE**

**PRAYING PARENTS**  
**MEMORIES OF THE**  
**CLOGHER VALLEY**

**RURAL MINISTRY NOW**

Seeing the need and making a difference

# Called to Canada

Our staff member TIM CONDY tells his story

## “YOU CANNOT KNOW THE WILL OF GOD WITH A CLOSED BIBLE!”

These were the words which I remember hearing as a young boy attending a missionary convention in Bangor, Northern Ireland.

As I sat there listening to missionaries from all around the world, I heard them speak about the need to evangelize and about the call to obey the will of God, and I was challenged to consider what God would want with my life.

## WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

As a child of seven I had realized my sinful heart and turned to Jesus to save me and forgive me of all my sin. I praise God that he did for me what I could not do for myself and I began, by his grace, to live for him. I wanted to serve the Lord and read missionary biographies such as that of Gladys Aylward. As a young child I prayed, “Lord, I will go where you will send me.” I was even prepared to go to China, if that was the Lord’s will!

## BROKENNESS

A number of years passed and there were things that had crept into my life which were far from godly. Though I was not living an openly sinful lifestyle, the Lord began to show me that I was not in the place I should have been and was not seeking his will for my life.



God graciously brought me to a place of brokenness and I made a complete surrender of myself to his will as a “living sacrifice” (Romans 12:1-2). This was the beginning, I believe, of God revealing his perfect will to me, and it would only be revealed with an open Bible and an obedient heart.

## GOD’S TIMING

During these weeks I sought the Lord and at times was getting somewhat impatient! Why was the Lord not answering on my timescale?

► *Concluded on page 31*

► *Continued from page 2*

As I continued to pray and seek the Lord, a verse from 2 Peter 3:9 came powerfully to me: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some count slackness...” and that was all I read. It was enough to remind me to wait on the Lord and his timing. Then, a few days later, I read the rest of the verse: “...but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” This was it! The Lord made it very clear to me through his Word that he wanted me to leave my business career behind and “go to a world that is dying, his perfect salvation to tell”. Now this did not mean I sold everything I had and left the next day on a plane to some foreign land! As with every call to service, it had to be tested and I thank the Lord for godly men and women whom the Lord used to challenge and encourage me in the right way.

### THE VOICE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

At that time the Lord was directing me to ministry among boys and girls and, after much prayer, I was led to attend the CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) Training Institute in Switzerland for three months. This was a beneficial time and I thank the Lord for leading me that way. During my time there I was continuing to seek the Lord regarding the next step. One of our teachers sat down with me and said, “Timothy, listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd.” This was good advice and as I waited on the Lord he made it clear.

A few years earlier (in 2000), I had come to Canada with a friend from my home church to work over the summer with the Faith Mission in Canada. That summer God had done some amazing things during the camp ministry and what had taken place during my summer in Canada had not left me.

This came back to me again and again during my time in Switzerland and it was clear I was to spend some time in Canada serving the Lord.

During my seven months here in 2003, I gained valuable experience working alongside the other staff and putting into practice some of my training. I left Canada to continue my training at The Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh and throughout my time in Edinburgh, and even in Wales where I completed my degree in Theology, the work in Canada was not far from my mind. Was this my own desire or was it the Lord’s?

### SERVING IN CANADA

After a number of years working with the Mission in the UK and Ireland, and other avenues of service coming across my path, there were some tough decisions to be made. By now I was in a serious relationship with Emma and we were both seeking to know the mind and will of God. It was easy to get distracted by other voices, but I was reminded from Psalm 85:8 “I will hear what God the Lord will speak.” Indeed the Lord did speak through his Word, through his people and through circumstances to show us that he wanted us to serve him in Canada. And here we are today, knowing we are here in the will of God “for such a time as this”. ■



# Chase the Chill!

Join us for our Winter Events

## ONTARIO

### MEN'S RETREATS

February 17, 18, 24, 25

### SNO' CAMPS 2012

Jan. 27-29 (12-16 years)

Feb. 3-5 (8-11 years)

Details contact (905) 854 - 3284

Email [fmcampbellville@aol.com](mailto:fmcampbellville@aol.com)

## B.C.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE VALLEY

Nov 23 & 25

### SNOW CAMPS 2012

Jan. 27-29 (Ages 13-15)

Feb. 3-5 (Ages 8-12)

Details contact (250) 558-1805

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Ontario—During the March break

B.C.—March 26-30

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