



2022



BELFAST CITY
MISSION

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Greetings from the President



As I look back on another busy year for the Mission I am reminded of the words of 1 Chronicles Ch 16 v 34 which encourage us to “give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever”.

There can be no doubt that the past year has been a particularly challenging one as we have sought to recover and rebuild whilst still seeking to manage the ongoing impact of Covid 19. Each of our Missionaries have had to adapt to ministry in a very different environment and I want to pay tribute to, and thank them for, their dedication, commitment and unstinting service. They have continued, along with our staff in the office, to serve with faithfulness as they proclaim the good news of the Gospel across our City and beyond. In an ever changing World, their message is the message of James Ch 1 v 17 - “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

It is good for each of us, whatever our circumstances, to take time to reflect on the unchanging nature of our God as we acknowledge His love, His peace, His patience, His kindness and His faithfulness. But more importantly it is vital, as we seek to live for Him, that that we demonstrate those same characteristics in our interactions with others. It has been said that “every touch leaves a trace,” meaning that every contact we make is important as we seek to advance His Kingdom individually and collectively through the work of the Mission.

In closing may I take this opportunity on behalf of the Governing Body and the Board of Superintendents to thank you for your service to, and your ongoing support for, the work of the Belfast City Mission. I trust God will continue to bless you as you live for Him.

Ronnie Armour
President

MISSION HALL SUPERINTENDENTS

- Ronnie Armour Fairview Road
- Vacant Mountcollyer
- Vacant Sandy Row
- John Douglas Kilburn Street
- George Dunbar Island Street
- Vacant Canton Street
- Tommy Irwin Jersey Street
- Vacant Ballybeen
- Vacant Bloomfield Drive
- Vacant Kimberley Street
- Evan Rice Glencairn
- Fred Teeney Rathcoole
- Roger Thompson Great Northern St
- Bobby Woods Shore Road
- Ian Wilson Mayo Street
- Vacant Ballysillan



*President
Mr Ronnie Armour*



*Vice President and Treasurer
Mr Roger Thompson*



*Honorary Secretary
Rev Denis Bannerman*



*Executive Secretary
Mr William Logan*



Office Bearers

President:

Mr Ronnie Armour

Vice-President:

Mr Roger Thompson

Honorary Treasurer:

Mr Roger Thompson

Honorary Secretary:

Rev Denis Bannerman

Executive Secretary:

Mr William Logan

GOVERNING BODY

The President, Vice President, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary, with the following:

Rev S Castles
Rev I Fleck
Rev J M Maddock
Rev G F McKeown
Rev D Rankin
Rev A S Smyth
Rev B Smyth
Rev W M Smyth.
Rev B Stevenson
Mr G Dunbar
Mr J Douglas
Mr T Irwin
Mr E Rice
Mr R McMenemy
Mr F Teeney
Mr R Woods
Mr I Wilson



Honorary Secretary's Report

Rev D Bannerman

DIFFERENT – AND YET, THE SAME!



As I sat down to read the reports of the missionaries and compose this report for the Governing Body and, in due course, for wider circulation; I realised that 2021 was, for me, something of a special year. 2021 marked fifty years since I was accepted as a member of staff of the Mission. The 13th of September 1971, a Monday, was the beginning of a country lad's adventure in the city of Belfast. On that day I joined with twenty-four active and five retired colleagues in serving as missionaries with Belfast City Mission.

That realisation drew me to the book shelves in my study where I still retain copies of Annual Reports from those early and dramatic days in the life of our premier city. What I discovered from re-reading some of them was something of a paradox - how much our world and our work has changed, and yet how similar to those earlier days the ethos of City Mission work and witness remains. While the world in which we live has changed radically; yet the deepest needs in the hearts and lives of people remain precisely the same, undoubtedly all the way back to the Mission's genesis in 1827! The heartbeat of the Mission's work and witness remains the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto the salvation of each and all who believe!

It seems that the world has changed little since this time last year – but is unrecognisable from 2018 and the years before. We are still trying to emerge fully from the global pandemic with which all are now familiar – COVID19.

WHERE IS NORMALITY?

For more than two years now normal society, as we once knew it, seems to have become something of a distant and progressively fading memory. Never in living memory has our society known anything like the restrictions and limitations under which we have all lived. Even in wartime or through the height of 'the troubles' we enjoyed greater freedoms than over the past two years; and the missionaries reports are eloquent testimony to that.

A missionary reports: Due to lockdown at the beginning of the year 2021, again it was time to think out of the box, thank the Lord that we were still able to put sermons out over the airwaves each Sunday night and Wednesday evening. They were put on YouTube and many people tuned in to watch and many people enjoyed the sermons there.

Another writes: This past year was also still a difficult and strange year for many in Belfast, because of the Corona-virus Pandemic, and it did affect our work in the hall for a second year. As missionaries we learnt new skills through our use of mobile phones and laptops during 2020 and 2021. There were Friday morning meetings, via zoom, for the missionaries to link into, where we took turns to share God's Word and pray for our work. Those times of encouragement and fellowship were helpful to me and many of us took our turn to share a short thought, and then have a time of prayer together, via zoom. Certainly different, and unlike any other in the entire history of the City Mission's work in Belfast.

Missionaries have always been adaptable – from the days of extreme poverty in the city in

the 19th century, through civil unrest at the beginning of the 20th followed by six years of a world war, through over thirty years of 'the troubles' and right to the latest global pandemic – missionaries have always found ways to reach people in need of food for the body and the bread of life for the soul! **DIFFERENT – AND YET THE SAME!**

A DIFFERENT NORMALITY

Often in times of challenge or unrest it is the young, the elderly and the vulnerable who seem to suffer most and, consequently, are in most need of help from others. Again, the covid crisis has provided ample illustration of that reality.

A missionary illustrates the problem all found: *this time of Coronavirus has been a surreal time, and might I say as well, a frustrating time, as we have been unable to get on the doors, which has been the bread and butter of City Mission work for years. It has limited visitation and played havoc with meetings, affecting both young and old alike.*

However, ever resourceful, the staff found ways of continuing their work – some examples are helpful!

An outreach we did was called afternoon tea on the doorstep. We covered homes in the district; about 240 people got boxes on the doorstep for two people. I want to thank God that this afternoon tea on the doorstep was well received.

Another: Once again outreach in door-to-door evangelism has been severely restricted and face-to-face visitation was carried out in a selective and socially distanced way, with phone calls again having to be used. This has been very frustrating as this has always been the main aspect of our work in building relationships with people.

Maintaining contact during lockdown was difficult; but there are many examples that reveal the initiative of missionaries with, in some cases, wives and families involved: *L..... continued to send out messages via Whatsapp to the parents/grandparents of the children who attended Sunday School, Mums And Young Ones and Kids Club. This was to let them know we were still thinking about them, and to ask how we could help or pray for them. She made up Easter packs for the children who attended Sunday School, Mums And Young Ones and Kids Club. The parents, along with the children called to the hall to collect them. A recording of the Easter story was posted on our Facebook page on Easter Sunday. Afternoon tea packs were delivered to some OAP's in the district.*

From January until April it was not possible to have routine hall based activities; so again improvisation was required. By April it became possible to carefully relax some of the restrictions imposed due to Covid; and again wisdom and ingenuity was employed by the missionaries and those who assist them. Phrases like face coverings – social distancing – hand sanitising became part of common parlance for the remainder of the year – and still do. The Mission generally followed the guidance published by the Presbyterian Church, and continues to do so.

A missionary outlines how activities in his district are getting going again: *it has been an interesting year with the covid restrictions; but God has been at work in our hall. Sunday school; we have seen some more children join our sunday school this year at the younger age group and we have 2 new helpers on board also. Kids club; our junior club is from 6.15 to 7.15 pm on thursday followed by the seniors at 7.30 to 8.45 pm . We have a good core group of kids who come to both each week. We have a mix of fun and games with some stories and testimonies. Holiday bible club; we ran our club and bubbled the kids into teams which they stayed in all week because of covid . This worked*

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well and the gospel message was shared over the week. Mums and tots; we are up and running but it has been a bit slower with covid - steady enough interest though.

The pandemic forced the introduction of new ways of doing otherwise normal things – the difficulty of visiting hospitals, residential and nursing homes, tested the adaptability of the professionals, with whom the Mission has always enjoyed good relationships. The conducting of the all too many funerals, covid and non-covid, with only a few family members in attendance – and that at a distance that is considered safe. Ministering to the needs of families, facing crises of one kind or another, has required the acceptance of necessary restrictions and the learning of new ways of doing things. To read the scriptures and pray with a resident from the ground floor garden of a residential home is not without difficulty. To be unable to make face to face contact with patients in hospital and minister to them, and members of their family, in ways that would hitherto be regarded as normal and acceptable has been practically impossible for the best part of two years.

A NEW NORMALITY

Missionaries deserve enormous credit for how they have adapted their methods and have persevered in their desire to reach out to people, in practical and appropriate ways, with the gospel of Christ. God has honoured faithfulness in that there have been conversions amidst the chaos of the past year – a missionary expresses it well: *David who started to attend the hall,..... asked me to visit him in his home, where he gave his life to Christ.*

A lady, whom I officiated at her wedding sent me a message asking about being saved. I asked her to contact me when I could call with her. A couple of weeks passed and she indeed contacted me, and I called to her house and had the joy of leading her to the Lord.

Another lady, a backslider, had started attending the hall. She found out she had cancer, and the shock of the news and having been thinking, she contacted me to say she had recommitted her life to Christ.

Extremity often provides opportunity! Covid, or course, has left a legacy of problems that will not be easy to resolve. Some missionaries report that attendances are not yet back to pre-pandemic levels and, going forward, some rationalisation may be required – but then, that has been the case in the past and in times when the world was not in crisis.

Again, some of our missionaries encounter people who face daily challenges that have little or no relationship to Covid. For a number of years now an ever growing number of people, whose homeland is elsewhere in the world, have made their way to our shores and have chosen to make Northern Ireland, and Belfast in particular, their home – at least for a time.

Missionaries who work closely with these folk, whether refugees or asylum-seekers, value the assistance of Christians with language and literacy skills who help with language learning and coping with many kinds of 'officialdom'. This work is difficult and takes time to produce lasting results – but one example confirms its worth: *One young man from a Muslim background came to faith in Christ May 2021. He has persevered in his newfound faith despite opposition from some in his community, where he has experienced both verbal and physical attacks. It is a joy to see how he has grown and witnessed for Jesus and has a real heart burden for the lost especially those from the land of his birth.*

I want the words of a missionary to form the summary to this report.

I believe the key to what we are doing is personal relationships and friendships. This can require an amazing amount of time and energy..... we are thankful for those who have professed faith or come to the bible study or allowed us to pray with them in their difficulty. Our city is changing and we need to be in the middle and at the centre of the greatest change that needs to take place in the hearts of people . I thank God for our City Mission and for all of those who are part of our City Mission family.

Jesus is the Saviour of all who believe in Him, no matter who they are or where they may have come from. These are just some examples of work in the city of Belfast, which has, to some extent, at least this year, been **DIFFERENT – AND YET THE SAME!**

DR BILLY AND MRS JEAN BOYD 140 years ... not out.

On the 20th January 1952 I made my way into Jersey Street City Mission Hall at five to seven and came out at 8.30pm a sinner saved by the sovereign grace of God.

A few months later I cast my eyes on a girl called Jean Cairns who was a worker in Jersey Street Hall. We married on the 2nd April 1955 in Bethany Presbyterian Church. God then blessed us with a daughter and a son. Both of our children got married and today we have three grandchildren and three great-grand children.

Later we moved to the Cloughfern District of Newtownabbey and began attending the new City Mission Hall in Rathcoole where Mr Roy Graham was the missionary. After ten years we were on the move again, this time to the Woodford District where Mr Raymond Hume was the missionary and he was followed by Mr Adrian Adger. Today we are still active workers in Fairview Road City Mission Hall and our missionary is Mr Alan.



Between us Jean and I have given 140 years' service to the City Mission.

OBITUARY TO HARRY CREIGHTON

In January 2022 our former esteemed staff member Mr Harry Creighton passed into the presence of his Lord and Saviour. When Harry joined the staff in September 1995 he became the oldest missionary ever appointed. He initially worked in Bilston Road before spending the last two years of his service in Bloomfield before retiring in 2003.

In an article penned by Harry for our 2003 Annual Report he said "One of my favourite hymns is 'I have a shepherd', One I love so well'. When I sing those words, I mean them. I can say that the Belfast City Mission has made notable contributions to my happiness and spiritual wellbeing as I have worked in Belfast with fellow missionaries to bring the Good News of the transforming power of Christ to a city steeped in sin.



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Billy McCullagh
Retired



Raymond Hume
Retired



George Ferguson
Retired



Sam Morrow
Retired



Ernie Shoot
Retired



Back Row (left to right) – Eddie Kelso (retired), Andy Williamson, Willie Cowan, Gary Birrell, Jordan Neill, Errol McCrory (retired), Paul McCaw, David Bell, Tom Marshall, Lloy Jones

Seated (left to right) – Walter Simms, Tom Gamble, Bobi Brown (retired), David Brown, William Logan (Executive Secretary), Alan Martin, Joseph Kennow

2021/2022



Our Retired Missionaries



Roy Graham
Retired



Jim Lawther
Retired



Arthur McClelland
Retired



ingham, Michael Waddell,
d Watson (retired)

David Bisset,
ay.



George Lunn



Ivan Patterson



Stanley Kyle

A word from the Executive Secretary

All around us change seems to be taking place at a rate never experienced before in our lifetime. We see it in the structure of our capital city. New hotels, housing complexes and office blocks have suddenly appeared where old familiar buildings once stood.

Of course, the skyline is not the only thing that has changed in Belfast. We also find a great change in the people who dwell in our city. Over the past few years more and more foreign nationals have moved here to make Belfast their home.



The districts in which our Missionaries work have witnessed many of these changes. Young people have moved away looking for employment. Streets have been knocked down and replaced with fewer houses. The urban nature of the city never stays the same; it's always changing.

Although we can not prevent change from happening there are two things that have never changed; one is the nature of our God who is "The same yesterday, today and forever" and the other is the natural heart of man which the Bible says is desperately wicked.

Since 1827 the unchanging message of the gospel has been taken into the highways and byways of Belfast by our Missionaries. As they walk around their districts and knock on doors they encounter so many people from all walks of life whose hearts need to be changed.

Conversations often lead to wonderful opportunities to talk about the saving power of the Lord Jesus. The Friday morning staff meeting is often filled with the sounds of 'Amen's' as Missionaries tell stories of people who have been saved during the week.

It is our prayer that many would respond to this life changing message. Please continue to partner with us in prayer as we seek to work for the One who loved us and gave Himself for us.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.
(1 Cor 15:58)

William Logan
Executive Secretary



Angela Magill



Martha Brown



William Logan
Executive Secretary



**Office
Staff**

STAFF NEWS

SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMP

In June of this year Mr Andy Williamson (Ballysillan Missionary) organised a football camp in connection with Ambassadors for Christ. The camp proved a great success with over 50 children attending each night to play football and hear the gospel.



MISSION AT MAYO STREET

In late Spring a Gospel Mission was held in Mayo Street conducted by Mr Willis McDowell, Missionary Paul McCaw and his wife Lorraine were thankful for the good response to the invitations which were given out. We continue to pray for those who attended and spoken to.





Welcome.....

In May 2022 Mr Joseph Kennoway became the new missionary in our Ballybeen hall. He is pictured here with his wife Sandra, Mr Ernie and Mrs Joyce Shooter and the Executive Secretary Mr William Logan. We pray that Joseph and Sandra will have a fruitful ministry in Ballybeen.

Happy Retirement.....

Having served for over 15 years in Great Northern Street Mr Ivan Patterson retired at the end of June 2022. We wish Ivan and his wife Belle God's richest blessings for the future.



Annual Rally

The Annual Rally was held on Thursday 21st April 2022 in our Glencairn Hall. Our special speaker was Dr William Henry minister of Maze Presbyterian Church. The praise was led by Mr Joseph and Mrs Sandra Kennoway.



Note for your diary...

ANNUAL RALLY 2023

Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7.30pm

Glencairn Mission Hall, Belfast

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2022

For many years families across Belfast have benefited greatly from the generosity of Churches and individuals who have donated gifts to our Annual Christmas Appeal. The giving of these gifts helps to alleviate the pressure many families feel at this time of year.

As has been the practice over the past few years we are not asking for toys, although if toys have been purchased we will take them. We have found that Gift Cards and groceries have been more beneficial to families.

Our Missionaries will be available to speak at Churches and to collect the gifts if required. The dates are **Sunday 4th** and **Sunday 11th December 2022**.

Alternatively, the gifts can be left at our **Glencairn Mission Hall** on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th December and the following week on Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th December between 10am -1:30pm.

On behalf of myself and the Mission staff I want to thank you for your continuing support.

Gift suggestions (unwrapped please)

- Selection Boxes
- Tins of sweets (Roses, Quality Street, Haribo etc.)
- Boxes of biscuits.
- Monetary gifts
- Gift Cards (£5, 10, 15, 20)
- Supermarket vouchers (Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury etc.)
- Toy stores (Smyths , Argos etc.)
- Groceries (non-perishable)





ON THE MOVE

Historical records show that the Belfast City Mission first occupied offices in the headquarters of PCI as far back as 1905. In early January 2022, after an absence of 15 years, the Mission returned once again into Assembly buildings.

Please note our new address -

Belfast City Mission

Assembly Buildings

2-10 Fisherwick Place

Belfast BT1 6DW.

Tel: 02890320557

Email: info@belfastcitymission.org.uk

INTERESTED IN HEARING
ABOUT THE WORK OF
BELFAST CITY MISSION

SUNDAY SERVICES, MIDWEEKS, PW'S,
LADIES/MEN'S GROUPS ETC.



ONE OF OUR MISSIONARIES WILL COME
AND SPEAK AT YOUR SERVICE OR EVENT

CONTACT TEL: (028) 9032 0557

E MAIL : info@belfastcitymission.org.uk

FINANCIAL REPORT 2021/2022

Like all charities the Belfast City Mission relies on the generous financial giving of Churches, Mission Halls and individuals to operate. Although the past couple of years have been difficult for everyone, we praise God for the network of Auxiliaries across the Province who continue to organise meetings and arrange collections on our behalf. We appreciate the giving of those who attend meetings in our halls. We also acknowledge the generosity of those who have left bequests in their wills or arranged donations in lieu of flowers to be sent to BCM; without this collective effort the work of BCM could not continue. Most of all we thank our God for His faithfulness, care and kind provision. As the Psalmist reminds us *He gives food to every creature. His love endures forever. Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever.* (Psalm 136:25-26)

Belfast City Mission

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
Year ended 28 February 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Year ended 28/02/22 £	Year ended 28/02/21 £
Incoming resources					
Income from donations and legacies					
Voluntary income	2	398,336	-	398,336	304,437
Activities for generating funds		-	-	-	-
Investment income	3	-	-	-	90,257
Income from charitable activities	4	51,615	-	51,615	196,691
Other Income	5	195,158	-	195,158	5,170
Total incoming resources		645,109	-	645,109	596,555
Resources expended					
Expenditure on raising funds	6	509,203	-	509,203	490,528
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	84,669	-	84,669	127,778
Other expenditure	6	12,261	-	12,261	11,446
Total resources expended		606,133	-	606,133	629,752
Net resources expended		38,976	-	38,976	(33,197)
Gains / (losses) on investment assets		55,038	-	55,038	174,068
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		(13,484)	-	(13,484)	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year		80,530	-	80,530	140,871
Investment in Presbyterian Mutual Society		-	-	-	(156,287)
		80,530	-	80,530	(15,416)



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