

## IMAGINE

A NEW YEAR REFLECTION  
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SOUTH DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..." (Ephesians 3:20)

How good is your imagination? Do you ever listen to children playing make-believe games, wherein they are using their imagination to full effect? It is a beautiful thing that brings a smile to our face. Why? because it illustrates the freedom of the mind of a child, unshackled by the pressures and responsibilities that often weigh heavy on the mind of an adult. This freedom overflows into the stimulation of a myriad of ideas, some crazy and far-fetched, bold beyond reason. However, within the mix is usually something that just might work; that revitalises an old game, breathes life into a social environment, kindles and rekindles vitality to a group of friends.

I was at one of those Children's play centres – multi-coloured padded scaffold structures: slides, obstacles, climbing nets galore! I was intrigued by a poster advertising the centre's

availability for private hire for parties for adults, not just children! I smiled, picturing accountants, head teachers, consultants, labourers, factory workers... rediscovering their inner child, crawling, running, exploring, out of breath, sweaty and a little less dignified than normal! allowing themselves to put to one-side the business and pressures of life, to just laugh and play. I wondered what an impact this might have? Might they find the cogs of their imagination re-stimulated, refreshed?



What about spiritually? – Do we need to rediscover faith like a child, praying and ministering with unshackled freedom and a revitalised imagination? – to the God who does 'more than we can ask or imagine'!

## FOCUS ON UKRAINE / фокус на Україні

### A PRAYER FOR MY COUNTRY

**Oliha 'Oli' Sats** is 19 years old and is from the Ukraine. For the past months she has been living with a Nazarene family in Glasgow. This is her prayer for her home-land.

"Dear God, thank you very much that you protect us every day and every moment. Thank You for being good and patient to us. I'm really grateful to You for saving all my loved ones: my big family, my friends and their families.

"Please, keep saving Ukraine... Give soft hearts and clear minds for people who have power. Help us be more patient and treat our enemies better. It's hard, but please, help us to forgive and love them despite everything.

"Bless our military and doctors by giving them strength. Bless every human who worries or helps in any way for my country or has been hurt by the war. Please, give them a good sleep, tasty food, physical health, mental health, and time to rest. Please, decrease our worries about the situation in Ukraine. Please, change it. Please, make no reason to worry about Ukraine. Please, stop it because You're the only Who can change everything.

"But "Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). So, please, give us wisdom to accept Your decision and everything You're doing because You know better. Because You are The Lord.

"Thank you for Your endless love. Please, give us the mind to love You more too. Amen."

Towards the end of last year - between August and November – a number from the UK travelled to the Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Base on the border of Poland and Ukraine to give assistance to those who were fleeing from the war in Ukraine to find safety in the West. Staying for periods of two or three weeks, or longer, the teams were involved in helping with luggage, giving directions, giving out water, and being available to help.

Rev David Montgomery (Leeds) – who spent part of his sabbatical break in Poland – says, "...fortunately we had some Ukrainian speakers with us which really helped, but we were able to pick up some of the essential Ukrainian words such as 'ticket office' 'toilet' 'left' 'right' 'straight on' 'platform numbers' and most importantly, 'can I help you?' It was hard work but very rewarding... the 'stand out moments' were the appreciation shown by the travellers – some were in tears as they were helped and shown Christian love and friendship."



(l.to r) John-Mark Hutton, Lauren McCann, Rev Carl McCann, Paige McCann



(l.to r) Rev David Montgomery, Rhonda Burleigh, John Swainston, Pastor Hannah Clarkson, Yulia Burlakova, Ian Burleigh (not pictured – Josh McConkey)

(Pictured are some of those who were, at different times, part of the "Poland-Ukraine Team").

# IN MEMORIAM *Remembering those who have served*



**REV JOHN CHARLES DICKSON** passed away, after a short illness, on 10th December 2022 – he was 73 (a month short of his 74th birthday). Raised in a Christian home in Bangor, N. Ireland, John was the fourth child of John and Lily Dickson. He was converted at age 8 – on his way home from a children's meeting, he knelt by railway tracks and committed his life to Christ.

Upon leaving school John worked as a mechanic at the Ulster Weaving company in Belfast, where he met

Carole...they were married in Orangefield Baptist Church in 1970. John told Carole that Jesus came first in his life and she came second. The Dicksons were blessed with 3 children, Craig, Johanna, and Sharon-Rose.

The Dicksons emigrated to Canada for several years before returning to N. Ireland where they became members of the Independent Church in Bangor. It was here that the Lord began speaking to John about full-time ministry. John attended Bethel Bible College, Portrush – staying in the College Monday-Friday and returning to the family home in Bangor for the weekend. Upon graduation, Rev Alan Robinson invited the Dicksons to join them in ministry in S. Wales as unpaid associates. The family moved to S. Wales and Sharon Robinson would baby-sit to allow John and Carole to attend mid-week meetings.

In 1991 Rev Alan Robinson was the pastor of the Salford Church of the Nazarene, and invited John to sing at the church anniversary. As a result, a meeting was arranged with the District Superintendent and John was appointed pastor of the Atherton Nazarene church – the Dicksons served there for 12 years (1992-2004). John was ordained in 2001. For the past 18 years (2004-2022) John served as the pastor of the Greenisland Nazarene church.

Those taking part in the Service of Thanksgiving for John's life and ministry, held 16th December 2022 in the Greenisland Church of the Nazarene, included Rev Norman Patterson (long-standing ministry colleague), John's daughters (who spoke of their father's love of Gospel music), Sam Noble (who spoke on behalf of the local church and referred to John's evangelistic zeal and his pastoral care), and Dr Alan Robinson. Provisionally Alan and Sharon were in Europe at the time and able to attend the service and Alan gave the family tribute along with some personal reflections.

John was a faithful pastor, a fervent evangelist, a Gospel musician, singer and writer of Gospel songs. We thank God for every remembrance of our brother in Christ.



**ESMÉ GERTRUDE DIXON** passed away on the 17th October 2022, age 97. Although arthritis caused mobility problems, and her deafness was a real frustration, Esmé enjoyed relatively good health and had a sharp mind right to the end. She suddenly took poorly and had two weeks in hospital in end-of-life care.

Esmé was born in Ilford, Essex, on the 9th August, 1925, and was the youngest of three sisters. Due to her father's work the family moved in and around London in those early years. She went to High School in Chiswick and was living in Bromley and attending the Bromley Church when she met her husband Desmond Dixon. He was campaigning with the Rev Maynard James and when he saw Esmé he knew that she was the woman he was going to marry. Des and Esmé were married in 1949, and enjoyed 56 years of life together. They were blessed with five daughters (of whom four are still living). Eventually they had 6 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.

The Dixons pastored in Bromley, Ilkeston, Birmingham (Smallheath), Perth and London (Clapham Junction). When they retired to Norfolk in the early 1980's, they became charter members of the Kings Lynn Church. Esmé had a heart for missions and served for many years as Missionary President as well as on the Church Board. She was faithful in attendance, service and giving. She contributed to many charities. And one of her greatest blessings to others was in the writing of encouraging letters which she did to the very end of her life.

Esmé began her working life with British Oxygen and also was a volunteer with the Red Cross during WWII. And after her marriage, she often worked outside the home to help support the manse family. She was a school dinner lady, care home worker and also was employed by British Relay. Eventually she worked for the NHS and her final employment was as a personal medical secretary at Tooting Bec Hospital. Both Des and Esmé enjoyed their retirement years and continued to be active in the Kings Lynn Church. Their friendship, hospitality, and Christian commitment inspired many and they are both greatly missed.

This is an abridged version of the tribute given by Rev Don Mentch at the Thanksgiving Service for Esmé's life on Friday, 4th November 2022. The picture is of the Dixons receiving the Distinguished Service Award from Rev Don Mentch (right) c 1990s. (Rev Desmond Dixon passed away 5th May 2005, age 89.)

We record the passing of **Pastor Jim Stevenson** who died 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022, age 87. For a number of years Jim supported Rev Leslie Roberts in Motherwell and then went on to pastor the Motherwell church. A faithful pastor Jim also made a number of practical improvements to the Motherwell property. He was supported in ministry by his wife Margaret who was a gracious hostess and who exercised a significant ministry as church organist (Margaret passed away after a short illness on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020, age 84). We thank God for Jim and Margaret Stevenson.

## PEOPLE NEWS

**REV MARTIN SEYMOUR**, pastor of the London, Walthamstow, Church of the Nazarene, for the past 17 years, has retired as from 31st December 2022. Originally from Bournemouth, Martin became a Christian in his mid-twenties as a result of taking a Seventh Day Adventist Bible Course and developed an interest in cults and comparative religions especially Islam. Martin served an indentured technical apprenticeship in engineering production and specialized in aerospace obtaining qualifications and much experience.

As an evangelical Christian in Guyana, Martin trained for the ministry with the Church of the Nazarene and was involved in Church Planting including evangelistic work in Saudi Arabia. He also ran a School of the Bible for a number of years and organised seminars

In 1970 Martin married Mavis (a nurse from Guyana) and they have been blessed with 3 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Martin was ordained in 2005 by General Superintendent, Dr Jerry D. Porter, in Demerara, Guyana. We thank Martin and Mavis for their faithful ministry in Walthamstow over these past 17 years and pray for God's blessing to be on them in the coming days.

**REV ERICA TUXWORTH (NÉE LUCAS)** took early retirement for health reasons in August 2021 and at the District Assembly in March 2022 was appointed District Chaplain to Pastors and Families for the South District. Erica had ministered in the Watford churches for some 15 years (2 years as associate in Balmoral Road, and 13 years as pastor at Woodside). Erica says, "...it was such a privilege to serve the people of Watford."



Born in Belfast, Erica and her family moved to Port Glasgow, then to Leeds Dewsbury Road and then, in 1971, to Bolton where Erica spent 25 years of her life. Before going into the ministry Erica was Business Manager for the Bedford and Hertfordshire Health Authority. Following studies at Nazarene Theological College, where she received a Diploma in Theology, Erica was ordained in 2006.

Erica married David Tuxworth, who came originally from Hull, and they had 4 children – Gareth, Claire, Ceri and Tom. Sadly, David passed away 4th October 2022 after a long illness – he was 73. David was a quiet and friendly man and a gifted pianist. His funeral was held in the Bolton 1st Church on 20th October. Erica now lives in Leigh, Greater Manchester, to be nearer family.





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**College Graduation** was held, 5th November 2022, in the Whitworth Hall of The University of Manchester. The proceedings were led by College Principal, **Rev Deirdre Brower Latz**, BA, MA, PhD., assisted by the Dean and Vice Principal, **Peter Rae**, BA, MA, MEd, PhD. The speaker was **Rev Filimão Chambo**, DipTh. ThB, MA, PhD, who comes originally from Mozambique and serves as one of the six General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene. The graduation programme listed 4 PhDs, 14 MAs, 6 Postgraduate Diplomas/Certificates, 17 BAs and 20 Diplomas/Certificates. Dr Chambo was able to see his wife, Alesandra, graduate with the PhD degree. (Pictured right (l to r) Dr Brower Latz, Dr F. Chambo, Dr Alesandra Chambo)



## 2023 EVENTS AT NTC

Open Evening (Online)	Wednesday 15th February
Theological Taster (Online)	Friday 17th February
Drysdale Lecture	Tuesday 21st February
Open Days	Tuesday 14th March
Theological Taster (Online)	Thursday 13th April
Sydney Martin Lecture	Monday 26th June
Didsbury Lectures	Monday 9th October - Thursday 12th October
College Graduation	Saturday 21st October

For more details and for additional information visit the College website.

## CHURCH NEWS

**BANGOR, N. IRELAND** – the Bangor Church of the Nazarene was well filled on Sunday 23rd October 2022 for the annual enrolment service of the local Girls' Brigade Company. The service was conducted by local minister, Rev Ken White, who serves as Chaplain to the Company, assisted by Karen Harris who is the Girls' Brigade Captain.



**IRVINE** – The Irvine Church of the Nazarene celebrated its 90th Anniversary over the weekend 7th-9th October 2022. Special events included an exhibition, a hymn-sing evening, a celebration of 40 years of 'Silver Liners' (which was founded by former pastor, the late, Rev Leslie Hands) and ministry from former pastor, Rev Philip McAlister.



The origins of the Irvine church came out of the local Railway Mission in 1931/2. In addition, a Tent Campaign was held in 1931 under the banner of the Church of the Nazarene, which was led by Rev J.D Lewis and Rev George Cooke. In 1932 the Church of the Nazarene was founded with Rev Tom Wilson as the first pastor. The congregation met in rented halls in Seagate from 1931-34.



In 1933 a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Fullarton Street building which was opened and dedicated in 1934 with Dr George Sharpe as speaker. This building would be home to the congregation until the move to the present Eglington Street location in 1956. It was in 1989/90, under the ministry of Rev Philip McAlister, that the property was developed and extended. Bank Street School provided temporary accommodation during the building programme. The present pastor, Rev Des Robinson, has been pastor for the past 22 years.



Pictured (l.to r) Rev Philip & Ruth McAlister, Diane & Rev Des Robinson.

We thank God for all who have served and been part of the Irvine fellowship over the years, and special thanks are expressed to Gary MacDonald (who has been part of the Irvine church for some 50 years) who was very involved in much of the Anniversary Weekend's activities.

## STRATHCLYDE HOUSE

The Church of the Nazarene has appointed chaplains to Strathclyde House, Skelmorlie, since its opening in 1999/2000. Previous chaplains have included Rev Tommy Goodwin MBE and Rev Beth Wills. For the past 10-plus years Rev Ann Goodwin has served as chaplain. Ann's ministry as chaplain has concluded and was marked by a special presentation made at the Strathclyde House Carol Service held Thursday, 22nd December 2022. Words of appreciation for Ann's ministry were brought by resident Norman McCullough, and presentations were made which included a painting, an Irish scene, painted by one of the residents, Sheila Macintosh. (Pictured (l.to r) Sheila MacIntosh, Jean Stewart, Rev Ann Goodwin).

Ann says, "...to have been Chaplain at Strathclyde House for the past 10+ years has been a privilege, building upon the solid foundations of former chaplains. The unique setting of "independent living within a Christian environment" has brought many wonderful people into my life and has given a place for me to be present with them. Friendships have been forged. I've learned a lot, not least that age has very little to do with our Christian faith. I've witnessed the power of prayer and the strength that God gives in every situation, both good and bad. I went to minister at Strathclyde House and instead was more ministered to. Strathclyde House is a special place with special people!"





# CHURCH NEWS

**BROOKLANDS, MANCHESTER** On Sunday 18th September 2022, Brooklands Church of the Nazarene honoured Rev Karl Stanfield with the title 'Pastor Emeritus' recognising his 31 years of ministry in the Brooklands Church. This was unanimously recommended by the church board and affirmed by the



congregation. Karl was invited to the front with his wife Ingrid, who was given flowers, and the presentation was made by Mark Bolton (Church Secretary) and Sheila Strong (Church Treasurer). Rev Carl McCann (District Superintendent) was also present for the presentation and prayed for both Karl and Ingrid as they continue to serve the Brooklands Church in a number of ways.

Current Lead Pastor, Rev Michael Kane says, "After 31 years of faithful ministry here in the church it seemed like the very least we could do to bless Karl and Ingrid. The title of Pastor Emeritus recognises that Karl will always be 'a pastor' as long as he is around here in the Brooklands Church."

**BELFAST, MEGAIN MEMORIAL** following ministry roles in the Paisley Church of the Nazarene over the past 7 years, Pastor Ryan Smith has joined the ministry team of the Belfast Megain Church. Officially appointed 1st October 2022, Ryan's title is "Families and Community Pastor." Lead pastor, Rev Sammy Robinson, says, "...this role is to oversee



ministry to children aged 0-17, their families and the wider community with in the Church at Megain." Ryan holds a BD degree in Theology and Pastoral Studies from the Scottish Baptist College/University of the West of Scotland and is married to Sarah – they have one son, Blake. (Pictured, Pastor Ryan Smith (left) with Rev Sammy Robinson).

**BELFAST FIRST** On Sunday 18th September, Isabel Hamill was presented with her Local Minister's Licence by Belfast First Church of the Nazarene. Having been called by the Lord into full time service, Isabel has embarked upon a Bachelor of Theology degree course in Belfast Bible College. The congregation in Skegoneill Avenue is delighted that



Isabel has also accepted the post of Interim Pastoral Support Worker in the church on a part-time basis. Having been blessed in so many ways through Isabel's ministry in the past, the people of Belfast First Church are privileged now to welcome her into a more formal pastoral support role. We eagerly anticipate God's blessing on both Isabel and the congregation in the days ahead.

...also in September 2022 Rev Fred and Maureen Cowan were able to attend the midweek prayer meeting at the Skegoneill Avenue church. Church Secretary, Lynn Myers, says, "Rev Fred and Maureen Cowan have long standing connections with Belfast First Church in a variety of roles over more than fifty years. Their roles have



included Church and Board membership, Sunday School Superintendent, NMI President and Assistant Elder; Fred and Maureen are much-loved by the congregation in Skegoneill Avenue. They are both now in residential care. Fred loves to join with the prayer group on Wednesday evenings although Maureen is rarely able to make the journey.

The photo shows Fred and Maureen attending the prayer meeting at Belfast First Church in September. They are joined (in the front row) by their daughter, Rhonda and son-in-law, Martin. Please remember Rev Fred and Maureen in your prayers."

## DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

### SOUTH DISTRICT

10th-11th March 2023  
St John's Church, Dukinfield

### NORTH DISTRICT

10th-13th March 2023  
Parkhead, Glasgow East Nazarene

More information and details will be shared on the run up to assembly weekend. Check online with both the North & South District Facebook pages. We hope to see you there.



THE 30<sup>TH</sup>  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
& CONVENTIONS

9-16 JUNE 2023

INDIANAPOLIS  
INDIANA, USA

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