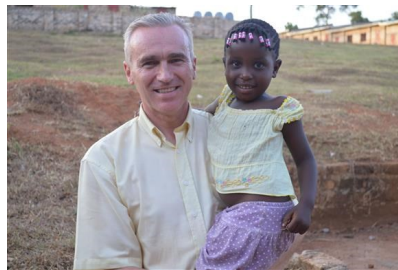


Report on Uganda Visit - February 2015

Mr. Eric Graham and I were asked by the Mission Board to visit Uganda. My remit was to further assess the work, investigate with solicitors the transfer of property and application for registration, and take video footage to be used in a promotion video. Mr. Graham was tasked with assessing the buildings of the Emmanuel School in order to ascertain what work should be done. Miss Joanne Greer accompanied us to Uganda with the intention of staying for six weeks to labour in the school.

We were made most welcome by all concerned - Rev. and Mrs. Kelly, the staff and pupils of the Emmanuel School and by Pastor Andrew and the congregation. Our visit was most encouraging and challenging, and, like others who have gone before us, we believe there is a future for the Free Presbyterian Church in Uganda.



We were met at Entebbe Airport by Rev. Noel Kelly and Pastor Joel Kamugisha (whose vehicle was hired for our trip). On arrival we remained in Kampala where books were purchased with a view to setting up a school library to further the reading skills of the pupils. This venture was accomplished by Joanne before we left to come home. It is her intention to assess the reading skills of every pupil in the School during her stay. Madam Emma and Madam Catherine seem keen to develop the use of the library. A guitar was also purchased to assist with music.



We visited the Headquarters of Fields of Life where we met with Mrs. Anne Brown, a solicitor who originally practised in Ballymoney. Having experience in land and property in Uganda, she was able to give us valuable advice and put us in touch with local Uganda solicitors who were qualified to guide us concerning the property at the school and help us with registration.

Being at the school was a joy. We had opportunity to visit each class, meet teachers and pulpits, and speak with and interview some of the children. Miss Joanne Greer has formed a tremendous rapport with the staff and pupils and is to be highly commended for her work and ministry. She has been a tremendous asset to the whole ministry of the school in such a short period of time



I had the opportunity to speak at the midweek Bible Study where the Book of Romans was being studied. I was requested to go through Romans chapter nine. This was a more informal time when we sat to speak and interaction with the congregation, mostly the school children, took place. A four hour service was held on the Lord's Day when, again, I preached and Eric brought a word at the Lord's Table .

For filming purposes, I observed, Robert and Miriam, two of the young people on evangelism. A young woman approached us asking to be saved and I had the joy of pointing her to Christ at the side of the road (assisted by Grace, another church young person, who came across the situation at that moment). It transpired that the young woman, Judith, aged 15, knew Miriam, attended Emmanuel School and had been thinking about being saved for some time. She came back to the school with us where I asked Joanne to counsel her further. Judith lives with her aunt and comes from a Roman Catholic background.

On the Lord's Day, Noel indicated publicly that he intended to retire and had asked the Mission Board of the Free Presbyterian Church to take over. In response, I indicated to the congregation that, as a mission, we were committed to helping the school for a year, and, if the Lord continued to open the door, we would hope to be in Uganda for a long time. This met with a very favourable response.

Eric completed his assessment of the buildings and the water supply. We feel that the water harvesting system should be repaired and the bore hole pursued. A survey for the well has been carried out by Fields of Life who have determined that the nearest water is 30 metres down. The rig available for the school only drills to a maximum of 30 metres. This matter is under review



A gift had been given by an individual from Lisburn who asked Eric to take it out to Uganda. This enabled us to pay for the books of the library, buy a guitar, purchase 20 mattresses, help with treatment of Fred who has broken his leg (Joanne is seeing to this medical help) and the remainder to be used for general purposes in the school including purchasing maize.

We ask God's praying people to remember this work at the Throne of Grace. Ask the Lord to open the door according to His purpose and supply all the needs, spiritually and financially, and that He, who alone is the Lord of the Harvest, will send forth labourers into the Harvest. To those who prayed for Eric and I during our visit to Uganda, thank you sincerely in the Lord's Name.

Rev David Park