Presbyterian
CHURCH IN IRELAND

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Location: Nairobi, KENYA

Mission: Christian education

GLOBAL DISCIPLES
Go Deep Go Wide

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Blasts from the Past!

My home congregation has just celebrated its 70th anniversary. It was a special day, meeting and remembering the people who made an impact through their godly influence on the lives of others. I'll always be grateful to them and their legacy.

During lunch, we were delighted to hear stories from the first communicant member of how the children's church got started. And how brackets had to be welded to hold the wooden structure together on the breezy hill! Those brackets were the only things that survived the fire many years later.

Recently I found the first prayer letter I wrote dated Monday 9th December 1991. By then, I'd been living and teaching in Malawi for three months. The letter was faxed to the prayer secretaries as the original got lost in the post!



I wrote about –

1. The challenges my secondary school students were facing, such as paying for school fees, their long walks to and from school while surviving on only one meal a day in the evening.
2. The new cultural experiences I'd had: "the local seasonal delicacy – fried flying ants – delicious!"
3. Struggles with learning the local language and only knowing basic greetings.
4. Spiritual reflections: thanking God for the student Christian leaders, praying they will grow stronger in their faith and deeper in their knowledge of God.

The letter reads, "It is a hard task trying to live with the stark contrasts between rich and poor… It is reassuring to know that God is constant and never changing – wherever we are and whatever we do. Thanks to all of you for your prayer support…Please continue, I need your involvement." Things haven't changed.

This month I'll be travelling back to join Thomas and Silas in Nairobi once more. Leaving Aaron behind will not be easy, but I'm thankful he is in safe student accommodation in Belfast and settling well.

Points for Prayer:

- Thank God for my home congregation and the commitment of those who impacted the lives of many, passing on the faith from generation to generation. For the faithful prayers of supporters over the past 35 years.
- Praise the Lord for his faithfulness in providing for the family, especially in recent months.
- Continue keeping the TEE department in your prayers. Pray for the content team of Miriam, Joyce, Peter, Gladwell, and myself with Rev Jecinta, as we do some follow-up work and form a clear plan of action to ensure continuity and meaningful implementation of materials.