



finder

Jesus said,  
"I am the  
way..."

A publication of *Bailiesmills* Reformed Presbyterian Church

Winter 2015

# MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

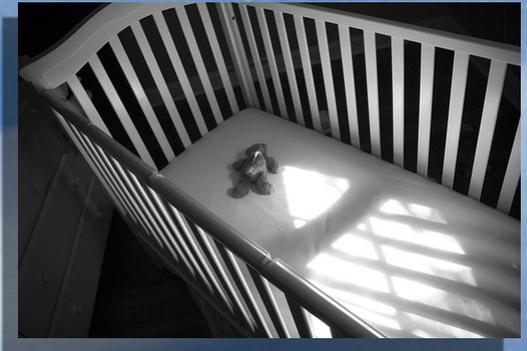
*Is anything too hard for the LORD?*

**Some things** are simply impossible because they are contradictions in terms, like a "square circle". Others are impossible because they're self-defeating, like lifting yourself by your bootstraps. And other things are impossible because they're beyond our strength – you can't fly by flapping your arms...and elderly women can't bear children.

## **The impossibility of Sarah's body**

That was the issue faced by Sarah, the wife of Abraham. As a younger woman Sarah had been unable to conceive; now she was 90 years old – well beyond the age of childbearing. Her body was

"dead" with respect to children.



So when she overheard the LORD say to Abraham, "Sarah your wife shall have a son" (Genesis 18:10), Sarah laughed disbelievingly: "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure? Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" Sarah looked at God's promise, and then she looked at her body, and then she concluded, "It's impossible."

## The wonder of God's power

Unbelief (saying of God's promise, "It's impossible") is a serious sin. But God rebuked Sarah so mildly: "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" he asked. And he repeated his promise: "At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son."



"Is anything too hard for the LORD?" A more literal translation is, "Is anything too wonderful for the LORD?" This puts the emphasis where it should be – not on the raw exercise of power, but on the gracious exercise of power.

"Wonderful" is a loaded word. The Old Testament uses it again and again for God's

great works of grace and salvation. Psalm 111:4 says, "He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful."

## The kindness of God's purpose

God exercises his wonderful power because of his mercy and kindness to his people.

Sarah laughed with disbelief when she heard God's promise about bearing Abraham a child. But God kept his promise, and when the child was born Sarah laughed again, saying, "God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me" (Genesis 21:6). And so she called the child Isaac, because Isaac means "*He Laughs*".

Isaac was the Promised Child and central to God's kind purpose for Abraham and Sarah and all his people.

## With God all things are possible

God's purpose is kind and his power is wonderful. This is good news for people who face the impossible.

**We can't save ourselves.** If you look at yourself you might conclude, "It's impossible for me to be right with God." We need to have our sins forgiven to have a good relationship with God – but we simply can't get rid of sin by anything we do.

But what we can't do for ourselves, God has done for us through the "Promised Child" Jesus (of whom Isaac was both an ancestor and a picture). God "did not spare his own Son but gave him up

for us all" (Romans 8:32).

**We cannot keep ourselves on-track.** If you look at your inconsistent behaviour you might say, "I could never keep being a Christian up." But Jesus promises that he loses none of those who come to him, and he says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Is anything too wonderful for God? No, with God all things are possible.

## ***What's on at Bailiesmills?***

Minor

# PROPHETS

with a MAJOR

# Message

Evening guest services.

7 PM on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

## **How Shall We sing the LORD's Song?**

Join us for a series of Psalm explanations,  
7 PM, first Lord's Day of each month



### **CHILDREN'S WORK**

The **Winter Bible Club** (Primary School) is held from 6.30 PM to 8.15 PM on the last Saturday of the month.

The **Youth Club** (Secondary School) lasts from from 7.00 PM to 8.30 PM on the second Saturday of the month.

**Both clubs run September to March.**

Bailiesmills runs a Sunday School from September to June for children aged 4 to

18 years. We meet in the church at 10.30 AM and classes run for about 45 minutes. Parents are welcome to attend the Adult Bible Class.



**Bailiesmills  
Sunday School**



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...is a publication of

**Bailiesmills** Reformed Presbyterian Church. It aims to provide a Reformed Outlook on life.

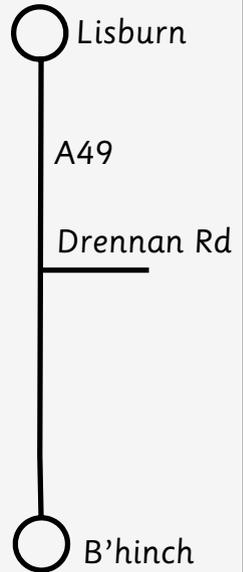
The Reformed outlook endeavours to apply the Bible to every area of life. Its goal is to put into practice the Christian's confession that "Jesus Christ is Lord."

**Bailiesmills** is a Bible-based, confessional and evangelical congregation of the *Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland*.

We meet for worship at 11.30 AM each Lord's Day and at 7 PM on the first and third Sunday of the month.

The church building is at 15 Drennan Road, Lisburn, BT27 6UT.

Drennan Road is on the A49, 4.0 miles from Lisburn, and 4.7 miles from Ballynahinch.



For more information contact our minister, John Watterson, on (028) 9263 9684, or check out the congregational website, [bailiesmills.rpc.org](http://bailiesmills.rpc.org).

