

Keswick in Wales Convention

Newsletter – December 2018

Review of Convention 2018

“Except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it.” Ps 127 v 1

We again praise our gracious Lord for His many blessings to us at this year’s Convention. There were great blessings and yet at the same time several challenges.

The morning Bible readings were taken by the Rev. Eric Lewis, an old friend of the Convention, who spoke very helpfully from Philippians.

In the evenings the Rev. Wayne Sutton took several studies from John’s Gospel under the general heading of “Encounters with Jesus.” Again very helpful and challenging and Wayne was able to talk afterwards to several folk who needed spiritual help.

We had our usual Missionary interviews on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings with the following representatives – Mr. Jon Taylor from Messianic Testimony; Mr. Mike Beresford from Zambesi Mission and Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Susan Boothby from the New Tribes Mission and who have been serving the Lord with the Gende People in Papua New Guinea. They all presented encouraging reports on their ministries and a challenge to continue to pray for the work.

On Thursday afternoon we had a “one off” special, with a visit of the Swansea Male Voice Gospel Choir. This was intended as an outreach to the town and surrounding district and it was encouraging to have many visitors. Eric Lewis preached a straight forward Gospel Message at the end.

Every morning there was a prayer meeting, lead, at very short notice, by one of our new council members, Mr. Andrew Hill. We indeed need to pray, pray and pray again that the Lord might visit this benighted land once more!!

Tuesday afternoon was our very informal “Coffee, cupcakes and chat” session, where the Chairman has an informal chat with someone involved in Christian work. This year it was with Rev. Roger Thomas from Carmarthen who is the evangelist attached to the Carmarthen Welsh Evangelical Church. Roger is involved mainly with Welsh speakers at Farming events, horse shows etc. We thank God for his zeal and enthusiasm for the work. During the week there was a Children’s Club, ably run by Mrs. Ruth Glover, aided and abetted by husband Freddie and baby daughter Sarah, whom we heard on several occasions!! Numbers were down a little this year because of clashes with holidays. We are always amazed by the generosity of the Lord’s people and this year was no exception, both to the overall work of K.in W. and to the Missionary work. Praise the Lord. Next year, we will be returning to the Pavilion again for the 2019 Convention. The Convention Council regularly reviews the arrangements for the Convention, including the venue, and they will be undertaking this review at the next Council Meeting, arranged for 23rd March, 2019. Please pray for us as we consider matters such as the venue for future Conventions.

The dates for the 2019 Convention are Monday, 29th July to Friday, 2nd August, 2019, inclusive. God Willing we are looking forward to having Rev. Mike Moore with us to take the morning Bible Readings and Dr. Alec Passmore to take the evening meetings, along with three Missionary organisations – Chosen People Ministries, Albanian Evangelical Mission and Acre Gospel Mission/Acre International who will be with us for the week and will share in the evening services. Our Thursday afternoon preacher will be Rev. John Macleod, Allander Evangelical Church, Milngavie, Glasgow, who is also involved in the ministry of Children for Christ in Romania.

We greatly appreciate the support both prayerfully and financially of friends of the Convention and please continue to do so. We are living in desperate days both morally

and spiritually speaking.

We believe that only a direct intervention from on High can deal with the situation.

“Oh that Thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down.. that the mountains might flow at Thy Presence. “

I am taking the liberty of enclosing an excerpt from Rev. R. B. Jones’ book entitled “Rent Heavens” written I believe around 1930. Its amazing how relevant it is to the sad prevailing condition in Wales..and elsewhere...in 2018.

Blessings,

Colin Leyshon

(Chair of Keswick in Wales Convention)

discuss the most abstruse theological problems. The people had imbibed the principles of the Gospel not only from the Bible but also through their incomparable hymns. They were, as Dr. Maclaren testified, "full of the Word of God." Here then was the fuel ready for the fire when it fell.

The lesson hardly needs stressing. No fire can burn where fuel lacks. Let then the fuel be prepared. "Never let a generation grow up without that knowledge of Divine things which may contain the germ of national revival in years to come."

In closing, we may perhaps return to the thought already expressed that another great Revival is on the way. The need for it is at least painfully obvious, and history shows that periodical revivals is God's usual method of calling a sinning and godless world to repentance. Each revival comes in a time characterized by confusion, politically and morally; by the spread of sacerdotalism; by social lawlessness and chaotic homelife; by worldliness in the churches and scepticism in the pulpits. These features are as pronounced in Christendom to-day as they have never been within a century and a half. The pre-Wesley period is, perhaps, the nearest period that affords anything analogous to the present condition.

If Revival was needed in 1859 and 1904 it is surely needed to-day in an even greater degree. It is needed to still the multiplicity of voices and to enthrone "Thus saith the LORD"; to magnify the local churches as against the encroaching tyranny of the confederated "church". How can faith be restored to the ministry and preachers be quickened? How can the tide of worldliness now sweeping over the churches be stemmed? How can the youth of our lands be won to faith in a personal God, an atoning Saviour, and a truthful Bible? How can sacred institutions such as marriage and the Lord's Day be rescued from their desecraters? There is but one answer—REVIVAL! Revival such as comes through "heaven-anointed men rather than human-appointed machines".*

Even the secular press has been forced to say, "There must come a great spiritual awakening or civilization is doomed.

* "Our leaders," to quote a recent true statement, "are planning the work of a paralysed church. They hope to accomplish by human plans and programmes what the Holy Spirit only can do."