

Free Presbyterian Youth Council



'Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth' - Ecclesiastes 12:1

REPORT ON 2004 SUMMER OUTREACH TO MERTHYR TYDFIL

By Andrea McIlroy

On Saturday 7th August 2004 a group of 13 young people led by Rev McMillan set off for the land of the hills and the valleys to assist in a programme of outreach with the Merthyr Tydfil church. After arriving at our destination and meeting with Rev and Mrs Smith we began outreach in the town centre amongst the many shoppers there, giving out invitations for a special Sunday night Family service. After that we had a relaxed evening and found out what our itinerary would be for the week ahead.

Sunday was a very blessed day and all the young people took part in each of the services. Our hearts were stirred as we listened to the ministry of the Word from Rev McMillan. It was lovely to meet with the congregation in Merthyr Tydfil and in particular Mrs Fleming of whom we had heard so much about. We were encouraged by some visitors, which were there on the special family service on the Sunday evening.

The outreach work began in earnest on the Monday and followed a similar pattern throughout the duration of the week. Each morning we met at the church at nine O'clock for our times of devotions and certainly our hearts were blessed and challenged as either Rev McMillan or Rev Smith brought the Word. After the Word was brought we had a time of prayer and we certainly knew the Lord draw near unto us and pour forth the spirit of prayer in our midst

Each morning we did a leaflet drop in the local areas and in the afternoons we knocked the doors. We visited many different areas and came across many different types of people but all had one thing in common - they are sinners in need of Christ. We are thankful for the opportunity that we had to speak to men and women on the doorsteps about their need of salvation and we believe God had prepared hearts to receive His Word. Some showed an interest in spiritual things and we thank God for contacts, which were established. What was certainly clear to all of us was the great ignorance of the people. We found many depending upon their good works or religion for salvation and we pray that God will have mercy upon their souls. The church seems to be well respected in the local area and people spoke highly of the late Mel Jarvis who laboured in that place.

Five children getting saved particularly encouraged us. They were wondering what we were doing out on the streets and some of the girls explained the message of the Gospel to those children and they got saved. Pray for those children and the homes they come from that God will use these children to reach their parents with the Gospel. Since coming home from the outreach we were encouraged to hear of a man attending the church after he received a leaflet through his door. Do continue to pray for the Word, which went forth during that week. Ecclesiastes 11v1 tells us to "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." Only eternity will reveal what was accomplished on that week of outreach.

We also had the privilege to visit the churches in Rhiwderin and Burry Port to conduct their prayer meetings and certainly it was a blessing to meet the Montieths and Uprichards and the congregations there. As well as the outreach we were given opportunity to see some of the beautiful Welsh hills and valleys and we visited the Rhondda Valley and part of the Brecon Beacons and certainly our hearts were lifted heavenward as we admired the beauty of God's creation. This year is the centenary of the Welsh Revival of 1904 and we visited the church of the great revivalist Evan Roberts and other places where God moved greatly. It blessed us to see what a great history our lands have but yet our hearts were saddened when we looked at the lack of interest that there is in spiritual things in these places today. Certainly the prayer of our hearts was found in the words of Habakkuk 3v2 "O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy."

A special word of thanks is due to all the members of Merthyr Tydfil church and in particular Rev and Mrs Smith for all their kindness and hospitality. Also to Rev McMillan for leading the group and all his encouragement and fellowship. But above all we give thanks to Almighty God for His hand of blessing and help which He gave to the group throughout the week.