

Free Presbyterian Youth Council



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

REPORT ON 2008 SUMMER OUTREACH TO LOUGHOR & BRYN

By Andrea McIlroy

I had the privilege of going to Wales last year on the Youth Council Outreach from Wednesday 23rd - 30th July. There was a group of thirteen altogether (ten from N Ireland and three from SE England). Rev Uprichard is the minister of the work and along with his wife and two children they labour there. The work is centred in two places. There is a meeting in Loughor on Sunday afternoon and a prayer meeting on a Tuesday night. There are services in the Bryn on a Sunday morning and evening and also a prayer meeting on a Thursday night. The work is very small there and apart from the Uprichard family and ourselves there were only three others in attendance at the meetings although there were a number absent on holiday and sickness.

Each day we started off with morning devotions in the church. We were blessed by the word brought each day and certainly we knew a sense of the Lord's presence in our times of prayer and it gave us strength for the day ahead. Our first two days of outreach were on Thursday and Friday and outreach was based around the Loughor church. We didn't have to leave the church too far before we saw the utter apostasy of some churches and our hearts were grieved. The Pisgah church is well known in the area and certainly we were given a polite reception on the doors with the exception of one or two. Some people we met attended the Sunday school in that church in former days. Sad to say there was great apathy on the doors. Many people didn't really seem to care about their soul and many had no real idea about God and what the Bible teaches. There were others who talked much about the church they attended but when questioned further about being saved you felt that the door was very quickly being closed and so we fear that many are depending upon their good works. On the Saturday we had an open air and the Lord gave help to those who preached the Word and testified. Some opportunities were given to speak of the Lord when the Gospel tracts were given out. We were encouraged to see three new people who we met around the doors out at the Sunday meeting in Pisgah on Sun afternoon.

On Monday and Tuesday our outreach endeavours centred around the work in the vicinity of the Bryn church. Whilst on the doors in this area we had special emphasis on giving out invitations for the children's meeting, which commenced in September. We did make good contacts on the doors and met a number of parents who were keen that their children would attend the meetings.

On the Tuesday afternoon we'd the opportunity of going to a home for those who have physical and mental disabilities mainly arising from accidents. We sang and Rev Uprichard preached. It was good to see the residents and care assistants attentive to the word. Some of them had favourite hymns they wanted us to sing and the care assistants very much appreciated us being there and said that no church ever comes in. As the care assistant took me around the residents and introduced me to them and told me what many of them used to do it really touched my heart. None of us know what's ahead. It did really challenge my heart. We need the Lord to teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom and that every day we have we must live it for God's glory and in the light of eternity.

During the week we also had good opportunities to present the gospel to the owner of the guesthouse and his wife. Do pray for that couple Steve and Wendy. Others who have been preaching over there and those that have stayed there too have also got good opportunities to speak to them.

During the week we had some free time and unlike most of last summer the Lord blessed us with good weather. We were able to go to the beach one evening and played football and rugby and we had a great time of fellowship. Rev Uprichard said that his children particularly enjoyed it. They have two children. David is seventeen and Joanna is fifteen. They have no young Christian friends in the church or anywhere else and it's hard for them. They were encouraged by the visit of the Youth Council. Certainly we have so many privileges in our land and church, which we take so often for granted.

We also had the privilege of visiting the house of the hymn writer Frances Ridley Harvegal. She wrote some of the great hymns we have in our hymn book eg *Like a river glorious, Take my life and let it be* and the lady who now owns the house let us in to see round it and we were enabled to sing some hymns when we were there.

One of the highlights of the trip was the visit to Moriah chapel. Our hearts were greatly moved and challenged to hear what God did in 1904 through a young man who was only in his mid 20s called Evan Roberts. Two men from that church told us with much passion and fervour what God did in that place. They took us first of all to see the grave of Evan Roberts at the back of the church and then took us into the schoolroom, which had been built after the revival. There was such a sense of the Lord in the midst of us that night. Then after visiting the school room we went into the main church and sang many of the great revival hymns eg *Here is love vast as the ocean, Guide me o thou great Jehovah*. Everyone was very reluctant to leave the church that night as the Lord was so near. We then had open air singing in the street and people from the local pub came out to see what was happening and we were enabled to speak to them and give them tracts. There is a great dearth and much apathy in the land of Wales and in U.K. as a whole but our prayer is in the words of Habakkuk 3 v2 "O Lord revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known, in wrath remember mercy." We do pray that God will once again sweep through that land and indeed our nation in great power as he has done in former times.

We look to the Lord to bless and prosper His Word as he has promised in Isaiah 55v11. Can I encourage you to think about the Youth council outreach this year? The week in Wales and the other outreaches I've had the privilege of going on have been such a blessing in my life. There always is a blessing in serving God. It's good to be away with those of similar desires. We had blessed times of fellowship with each other and most of all with the Lord in the meetings and prayer meetings that we had. The Lord's last command to his disciples before returning to heaven was "Go ye into all the World and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16v15) May we be faithful in fulfilling the Great Commission and in reaching those who are lost and perishing in their sin.