

# Free Presbyterian Youth Council



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

## 2006 MARCH RALLY REPORT

By Mr Clifford McBurney (South Down Committee Member)

Psalm 126:2 "*The LORD hath done great things for them*" adequately summarises the Youth Council Rally in Ballymena FPC on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> march.

As the church was filling up with young people from across the province, Youth Council secretary, Mr Garth Wilson conducted the congregational singing. Rev Thomas Martin, who led the rally, announced the opening hymn 'I am Redeemed' after which Rev Martin led the congregation in prayer and welcomed all in attendance.

At this stage two young men who had been on Summer Outreach in 2005 to the Republic of Ireland in conjunction with 'Our Samaria' brought comprehensive reports of their missionary endeavours.

Mr Rodney McCosh who visited Cork told of the heavy burden and responsibility each team member had to share in, looking after and controlling their team leader Mr Colin Tinsley. Rodney detailed the means employed in their outreach efforts and concluded in bringing some prayer requests from the witness in Cork.

Mr Robert Palmer, impressed by his time in Convoy shared of the burden to reach many Roman Catholics with the gospel and told of how opportunities opened to bring the good news to many people and of help given on the door step. Both Rodney and Robert encouraged all present who knew the Lord to get involved in this years outreach efforts and to "*do the work of an evangelist.*"

On concluding their reports Mr Martin prayed that Gods blessing would be upon the seed sown in the assurance that Gods Word "would not return onto Him void."

After the singing of the second hymn, the President welcomed Dr & Mrs Paisley who had been invited to give their testimonies on this occasion.

Mrs Paisley told the 600 in attendance how she was the youngest of five children and three of them died before she was born. Commenting on her early years she told of how her father sat her on his knee and instructed her in ways of the Lord. Also her older brother who was saved at the age of ten, witnessed to her faithfully.

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War the family were evacuated out of Belfast to Lurgan where she attended many gospel meetings. It was at the age of thirteen at a gospel meeting and through the words of John 6:37, that she came to trust the Saviour.

On leaving school, the young Miss Cassells enrolled in a Business College and studied short hand. The National union of Protestants discovered her talent and she was appointed to the position of secretary. There was also on that committee a young man who held the office of treasurer by the name of Ian Paisley. They became good friends and as their friendship developed, they fell in love. This relationship blossomed and flourished and as we read in Song of Solomon, "*Many waters cannot quench love*". They planned to marry, believing the Lord had brought them together.

In their marriage, the Lord blessed them with five children, three of which Mrs Paisley led to the Lord. It was with delight she shared how in turn the Lord had used them to win others to Himself. Mrs Paisley recalled how in various places like Abraham "...*being in the way the Lord led me*" to witness and win others for her Saviour.

In conclusion she spoke of how she used the weapons of God's Word and prayer and encouraged others to give of their time and talents to the Lord.

During the singing of another hymn, £1000.37 was raised for the summer outreach programme.

The Moderator began his testimony with a story. A missionary from the Irish Presbyterian Church returned from India to Ulster and held a mission in Omagh. At that mission a young boy of sixteen with no knowledge of the gospel and a Church of Ireland background, attended the mission and got saved. When he returned home, his father asked him what he had done that evening. When he explained his father, mother and sister exploded. The next morning the boy asked his father could he borrow his barn. "Why son?" asked his father, "To hold gospel meetings to tell my neighbours about my Saviour," was his reply. At that mission this boy's father, mother and sister got saved. That boy was Dr Paisley's father.

Dr Paisley clearly stated that the Lord wants us all to be witnesses and pointed out how that it was good to know that we are saved, but better to show that we are saved.

At the tender age of six while attending a children's meeting on 29 May 1932 his mother was speaking on John 10:11 "***I am the good shepherd***" and drawing lessons from the parable of the lost sheep this young boy, seeing his condition and position before God, knelt down beside a pew with his mother and there he asked the Lord into his heart.

Dr Paisley exhorted all present to come to Christ and to be a soul winner. Thinking of the children of Israel and the children of the Free Presbyterian Church, his final words were "go forward"

After the singing of the final hymn and prayer, Dr & Mrs Paisley were presented with gifts. Mrs Rebecca Bingham presented Mrs Paisley with a bouquet of flowers and Mr Garth Wilson presented Dr Paisley with a suitably engraved crystal vase. The gifts expressed the appreciation and affection of the youth of our denomination for the leadership and encouragement of the Moderator and his wife.

Ballymena Youth Fellowship provided refreshments to all present.