

# Free Presbyterian Youth Council



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

## 2006 SEPTEMBER RALLY REPORT

By Mr Clifford McBurney (South Down Committee Member)

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September the main sanctuary of Portadown Free Presbyterian Church was full of young people attending the Youth Council's September Rally.

As the youth were gathering, Mr Garth Wilson led the congregational singing. The congregation sang the opening hymn. 'Nearer Still Nearer' and Rev Thomas Martin, Youth Council president opened the meeting in prayer.

The Victory Quartet from Lurgan sang three pieces, which exalted the Person of Christ.

A new project was launched at this rally, which seeks to support Miss Gillian Gillespie in a practical way as she works with the nursery children, women and teenagers in Kenya. An offering was taken up for this project, which amounted to £1000.00

The guest preacher at the rally was Rev Gordon Ferguson from London. Rev Ferguson read from Romans 12:1-8 and took as his text verses 1-2. *"I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice holy acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."*

In his introduction he pointed out that this is a request to all the people of God especially young Christians as they have more to give with their youth, strength and energy. Rev Ferguson emphasised that no one could make this sacrifice without first being saved.

Rev Ferguson pointed out firstly that Gods salvation is free and that we have been chosen and adopted into God's family so it is both logical and reasonable for God to ask this of us.

Secondly, God did not make us like robots, so this sacrifice will not be forced on us but we should want to please Him because of His love for us and we should choose to do so. Rev Ferguson pointed out that God had the sovereign right to take away our health, strength and energy just as had given it to us and pointed out that our very breath is in God's hands.

Thirdly he warned the six hundred strong congregation, of the dangers of worldliness in dress, music and morals. The Christian should not try to fit into the world, as this would rob us of our usefulness for God.

Fourthly the Spirit of God can cause us to soar to new heights as we spend time with the Lord in His word and in prayer and as our relationship with him develops He will show us His perfect will which is Good and enjoyable to us.

Rev Ferguson concluded his message with the thought that before we can know God's will, we must first know God.

The Rally was brought to a conclusion with the singing of "Have Thine Own Way Lord" and prayer. All present were invited to stay for refreshments kindly provided by the Portadown Youth Fellowship.