

Free Presbyterian Youth Council



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

2009 MARCH RALLY REPORT

By Mr Kyle Thompson (North Down Committee Member)

The Youth Council Spring Rally was held this year in Tandragee Free Presbyterian Church on Friday, 13th March. Around 650 young people from around the province filled the main church and also the side hall. This meeting was also being used to welcome the new president of the Youth Council, Rev Ian Harris, and to bid farewell to the outgoing president, Rev Thomas Martin, and outgoing secretary, Mr Geoffrey Cromie.

Mr Stephen McAreavey, secretary of the Youth Council, led the young people in singing choruses while waiting for everyone to gather in and also the hymn "*God is here, and that to bless us*" to start the meeting, after which Rev. Thomas Martin opened the meeting in prayer then asked for the two outreach reports to be provided.

Mr Timothy Irvine provided the report from the team in Loughor and Mr Gareth Jones brought the report from Dundee. Both reports told of blessed times and both men encouraged young people to take up the missionary challenge and join the outreach teams for this summer. Rev. Martin then thanked the men for the reports and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The offering was then lifted while the hymn "*O Breath of Life*" was sung.

The preacher for the service was the Rev. Thomas Murray from Comber Free Presbyterian Church. He had been given the topic of Music to deal with and preached from **Ephesians 5 v 16-21** emphasising that with regards to Christian music it is the message rather than the music which should receive pre-eminence, to demonstrate this from Scripture Rev. Murray brought 4 main points:

Command Revealed – God has commanded us to sing spiritual songs (v19)

Content Required – God has laid out in verses 19/20 the content of these songs, they should be scriptural (v19) and selfless (v20)

Characteristics Reviewed – God has described the attitudes in which to sing these songs in verse 19

Consequences Recorded – Verses 19 and 21 show that the heart will be stirred and also submitted to God.

The Rev. Martin then thanked Rev. Murray and led the young people in singing the hymn "*I have a song that Jesus gave me*". Rev. Martin then thanked those who had assisted him in his time as president of the Youth Council and spoke of the personal privilege it was to hold the position, he also said that it was his belief that 'the best is yet to be'. The Rev. Martin then handed over to Rev. Harris who spoke of his own privilege to be given the role of president, he quoted **John 4v38** and pointed out that he was aware he had entered into other men's labours and for these he was very thankful.

Rev. Harris then made a presentation to Rev. and Mrs. Martin of a long weekend at the Radisson Hotel as a token of thanks from the Youth Council, Rev. Harris commended the Rev. Martin for his zeal, enthusiasm, evangelistic gifts and hands on leadership. A presentation of a pen was also made to Mr. Geoffrey Cromie who had served faithfully as secretary of the Youth Council. Rev. Harris went on to describe the youth of the church as its greatest human resource and that it needs to be protected, he called the youth a 'treasure in an earthen vessel' and spoke of how that treasure must be protected, useful and invested to provide a return.

After Rev. Harris had closed the meeting in prayer a wonderful supper had been prepared by the Tandragee congregation.