

Free Presbyterian Youth Council



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

2009 SEPTEMBER RALLY REPORT

By Mr Kyle Thompson (North Down Committee Member)

The second Youth Council rally of the year took place in Hillsborough Free Presbyterian church on Friday 11th September and formed part of the 'Creation Weekend' being jointly hosted by our Lisburn and Hillsborough churches. The guest speaker for the weekend, Mr Paul Taylor from Answers in Genesis, preached on the subject of 'Adam, Apes and Attitude – the non evolution of human beings'.

After a time of community hymn singing while everyone was gathering in, the Youth Council President, Rev. Ian Harris, opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and by singing the hymn 'Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder'. After Rev. Thomas Martin committed the evening to the Lord in prayer, the congregation sang the hymn 'Twas God that made the ocean'.

Rev. Gary Goodes, minister of Hillsborough FPC, then welcomed everyone along and outlined the schedule for the weekend's meetings in Hillsborough and Lisburn. After this the hymn 'Mighty God, while angels bless Thee' was sung while an offering was collected for Answers in Genesis and the Youth Council Summer Outreach Project.

Following the offertory hymn Mr Taylor began his presentation by telling us a little bit about who Answers in Genesis are and what they do. He pointed out that they are first and foremost a 'Christ-centred, evangelistic ministry' who believe and teach that the Gospel is founded in Genesis. He emphasised this by asking 'Why did Jesus need to come?' and 'Where does sin come from?' while reinforcing that the events of Genesis are historical acts rather than a poetic representation. Mr Taylor used Psalm 8 to show man's place in creation and contrasted this with the theory of evolution which was described as 'naturalistic and developed without God' and had been and continues to be used to close people's ears to the Gospel.

With the aid of slides, Mr Taylor then proceeded to give examples of significant skeleton discoveries, which had been greatly exaggerated by sculptors when they were reconstructing models of so called 'ape-men' of the past. Some models had even been constructed on the basis of finding one tooth or bone. Mr Taylor went on to demonstrate how an artist's own biases are evident in drawings and models which they produce. He also mentioned numerous famous bone findings which were later exposed as hoaxes and how incredibly some of these are still referenced in school textbooks today. In summary Mr Taylor quoted Psalm 118:8 – 'It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.', and concluded that the teaching of Genesis and the rest of scripture is the only reliable source of information about our creation.

Rev. Harris then thanked Mr. Taylor for his message and after singing the hymn 'Am I a soldier of the cross' closed the meeting in prayer. The time of fellowship continued after the service when the young people gathered for a lovely supper provided by the ladies of Hillsborough congregation.

The Youth Council would like to publically thank our Hillsborough and Lisburn churches for hosting this event, and for allowing the Youth Council to participate in their Friday night meeting.