

Free Presbyterian Youth Council



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

2010 MARCH REGIONAL RALLY REPORT (HEBRON FPC, BALLYMONEY)

By Mr Ivan Bailie (South Antrim Committee Member)

Hebron Free Presbyterian Church marked the venue for the first Youth Council Regional Rally to be held for the County Antrim & North West Youth Fellowships on 12th March 2010. On a night when similar rallies were convened in different parts of the province, approximately 250 young people assembled in Ballymoney to mark this occasion.

Mr Mark Telford from the Ballymoney congregation led in a time of hymn singing while the young people gathered in. Mr David Stewart (Whitefield College Student) then opened the meeting by leading the congregation in the singing of Hymn No. 332 "What a Wonderful Change in my Life has been wrought," prior to committing the meeting unto the Lord in prayer.

A special Youth Choir, whose 34 members consisted of young people from the North Antrim fellowships, sang three pieces during the meeting that they had practiced collectively in the weeks leading up to the Youth Rally. The choir brought an excellent rendering of the following hymns to the congregation – "They were Gathered", "Christ Liveth in Me" and "Complete in Thee."

Mr David Junkin from Garvagh FPC brought a very challenging word of testimony to the young people, taking Revelation 12 v 11 as his Scripture reference. Sharing some of his experiences in life and examples of the Lord's blessings that he had enjoyed, David exhorted the young people to seek Christ as their Saviour.

Miss Emma Stirling from Ballymena FPC, a member of the Outreach Team who travelled to Stranraer last summer, brought a very encouraging report of the blessings experienced whilst working alongside Rev Philip Gardiner (leader of the team) in that area. Emma spoke of the many openings to share the Gospel that were presented to the group during door to door evangelism. She made special reference to the encouraging times of Open Air that witnessed many stopping and listening as the Word of God was preached and presented in song and testimony. Emma highlighted the great need for labourers in the mainland and encouraged all present to get involved in this type of outreach endeavour in the future. Many items for prayer were also brought before those assembled.

Following various announcements of Youth Council events planned for 2010, brought by Mr David Stewart, an offering for the 2010 Outreach Programs was taken up during the singing of Hymn No 390, "Dear Saviour Thou art mine".

The meeting was then handed over to the guest preacher for the evening, Rev David Park, minister of the host congregation. Mr Park brought the attention of the young people to Acts 42 v 41-47 as he focused on the special subject matter for the evening – **"THE MARKS OF GRACE."**

After drawing the attention of the young people to the **COMMON GRACE** of God to all mankind, Mr Park exhorted the young people of the great need to ensure that each one was a recipient of God's **SPECIAL** or **SAVING GRACE** – that blessed goodness of God to those whom He has chosen in Christ. By making reference to Acts 42, Mr Park referred to the many Marks of Grace that were displayed in the lives of the New Testament Saints as something to seek after and inwardly search for evidence of.

Throughout his message, Mr Park continually asked the young people – **"If you were arrested for being a CHRISTIAN, would there be enough evidence to convict you?"** – a very challenging question and one whose answer would provide evidence of the state of the soul.

Mr David Stewart then led the congregation in the singing of Hymn No. 416, "O for a Closer Walk with God" before closing the meeting in prayer and giving thanks for the wonderful supper which was provided by the young people and ladies of Hebron FPC.

We thank God for the great sense of His presence during this meeting and would exhort you to pray that the Spirit of God will continue to attend to the Word preached that night and for the Lord's blessing to be upon our Young People in these days.