



The Voice

'My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.' Ps 45:1

SUPPLEMENT SPECIAL

Publishing

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OPEN HEAVENS CONFERENCE
REPORT
Bangor Towerview Free Methodist Church

OPEN HEAVENS CONFERENCE

29th-31st January

Towerview Free Methodist Church, Bangor, Co.Down

Pastor J Forsythe

REPORT

By

Graham & Rachel Gilliland Organisers

In Towerview Free Methodist Church, Bangor Co. Down on the weekend of 29th-31st January we hosted what we called an 'Open Heavens' Conference. Our main speakers were from Wallingford, a town in Oxfordshire. In recent months they have experienced a wonderful move of the Holy Spirit. People have been saved, healed and set free from all manner of issues.

It was our vision to invite the folks from the Wallingford church over to minister in Bangor and to ignite something here that would see the Holy Spirit move in the same power as He is currently doing in Oxfordshire.

We do thank God for moving so powerfully over the whole weekend. It was very moving to see different people ministered to in a very deep and meaningful level. There was a very real sense of God's presence in all the meetings and many folks came forward for prayer. It would take a very hard heart indeed not to be touched by the healing work the Holy Spirit and what He was doing in people's lives those evenings.

One of the young people who goes to the Towerview church gave her heart to the Lord on the Sunday night and the next week was testifying with great joy and emotion at how happy she now is!

The most moving thing of all about the weekend was just being in God's presence and basking in His love for us. The atmosphere was such that most people just did not want to leave and our speakers were delighted to stay for as long as it took to minister to anybody who needed a touch from God.

God has called both Rachel and I to host and organise these weekend conferences and when one sees how He ministered into folks's lives it is easy to see why He wanted us to do this. When we look back at this 'Open

Heaven' weekend and think back to how many dear people were touched by God in a very significant and meaningful level, when we remember the tears of joy and emotion that flowed down their faces, we realise that this is what we live for. Money cannot buy what took place on that last weekend of January and one struggles to put a description of such a move of God down in cold print.

We bow down and humbly gave thanks to our loving heavenly Father for allowing us to be a part of what He is doing and for giving us the unspeakable privilege of seeing the lives of those precious people, He loves turned around before our eyes.

It is our vision to continue to invite the Holy Spirit to come in this way, and to do this we have a further conference coming up soon when our special guest will be Patricia Bootsma from Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship. Patricia was with us last April and we had an unforgettable time with her and the prophetic team that travelled with her. This year she will be here from 9th-11th April.

May we take this opportunity to invite people from all denominations (or none!) to these meetings. These are Kingdom meetings to minister to the body of Christ and not in any way to a single denomination.

So we thank God for what He has done and that only makes us cry out MORE LORD!

BANGOR TOWERVIEW FREE METHODIST CHURCH

PATRICIA BOOTSMA
Canada

Friday 9th - Sunday 11th April 2010

Friday 9th @ 8pm - Youth Band led by Darrell Ross & Ryan Craig
Saturday 10th @ 7.30 pm - Worship led by Paul & Beulah Shields
Sunday 11th @ 6.30 pm - Worship led by Paul & Beulah Shields

PATRICIA BOOTSMA WILL BE SPEAKING AT ALL MEETINGS

Contact: 028 91 473310 E-mail: grahamrachel@btinternet.com
www.jubileecf.ca



Therefore we felt we would bring them over here because they have witnessed exactly that in Wallingford in Oxford. They started off very small like ourselves but the Holy Spirit came during worship and praying for people and had been going on for 18 months ever since. So we felt that we would like them to come over and impart something of that to us. Not just that there would be healings on the night and people touched on the night, but that this would continue on, because that is our vision for the whole conference, that it would be a continuous thing. We want a seed to be planted here that would sprout up and that it would increase in our church. Now I don't mean just numerically but spiritually as well.

Q How long have you been a Christian? Have you always been in this fellowship?

A Since 1979 and I've always lived in Bangor. No I was in Knock Evangelical Presbyterian, used to travel there, then I joined Bangor Elim and then I got married. I have been with Towerview Free Methodist for three and a half years, four years this coming June.

Q So who is actually over at the Open Heavens Conference?

A Well we have Dave and Carol Hill they are personal friends of me and Rachel who is my wife. They would be really spiritual mentors for the last 15 years, and helped us to grow in the Lord and put their experiences into our lives. We also have Bernard and Chris Thompson they are over from a place called Wallingford in Oxfordshire and they have just received a really mighty move of God in Wallingford and they were prayed for in a place called Dudley, and they came back and prayed for their own church, and God literally just 'broke out'. So these two couples have just come over from Oxfordshire just minister and give to us what they have received.

Q So is this your first conference that you have organised or have you organised others?

A No last year we had Patricia Bootsma over from Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship, Canada. That was last April, and that was a great success. That was the first one we did, therefore we didn't know quite what to expect but we had a full church on each night. We just had a great time and she brought a prophetic team over with her, and it was basically like the Open Heavens Conference i.e. the Word, ministry, worship, praying for people the same sort of programme, except it ran over two nights.

Q So Graham you are holding this conference over three nights this time, what do you hope to achieve with this conference?

A Well with this conference we hope that God will do what He has been doing with our friend's church in Wallingford where they are from, and they experience a powerful move of God. God just broke open a lot of things in the spirit, not only healings but people's attitudes, mind sets where changed to go on with God. This is what we had wanted for our churches that this conference would be the beginning of something that would go on and on and increase.

Q Ok Graham so you're looking for a harvest from this of souls if you like, how important is it to you and with you walk with Christ to have that infilling of the Holy Spirit?



Patricia Bootsma will visit Towerview Free Methodist in April 2010

A Well, it's essential to me you can't go, you can be saved but you need to keep getting more of God, and really that is what these conferences are about as well, getting more of God and being filled with the Holy Spirit. The speaker indeed said tonight, keep on being

filled as it says in Ephesians, it is a continuous process. Without the infilling of the Holy Spirit you just become a church, you just become a social thing, but with the infilling of the Holy Spirit that is important to me because that brings anointing, that brings healings, that brings the presence of God in so that would be essentially why it is important to me.

Q So there are number of groups and churches that are doing similar things to what you are doing now, do you think that this could be the start of a revival?

A There have been a lot of prophecies not just in Ireland but in our church about revival. Specifically that God is starting something in Bangor in fact, and Patricia Bootsma who was over last April has a real vision for Bangor itself. She actually visited the Abbey here where many years ago there was 24 hour prayer a bit like Mike Bickle has in Kansas city at the minute, where there is 24 hour worship; and Patricia really has a vision for Bangor itself and her team prophesied over Bangor itself as a town, that there is a time when God is going to start something here that the wells that were dug in Bangor at the Abbey here are going to be released into revival here. Also Mike Bickle who is based in Kansas City and the International House of Prayer he has had a real move of God and starting that whole thing, his teaching emphasises Bangor as

well and the importance of Bangor. So Bangor seems to be a focus of the prophetic at the minute, you know people want to come here, so when we invite people they say 'Yes Bangor we heard of what when on their centuries ago', therefore it is very prophetic.



Rachel & Graham Gilliland, organisers of Open Heavens Conference in Bangor Co. Down

Q So you feel the fire of God is starting to pour out in the particular church and do you see this as having a 'knock on' effect on other churches within the locality?

A Yeah we would love to have it just not for ourselves, it's just not about Bangor Free Methodist Church, we would love it to spread out all over Bangor and even beyond that, if God will start something for everybody totally integrated – denomination free therefore anyone who wants to receive can receive. Our vision is like for the broader outline, this would become a facility for the Holy Spirit to use and branch out and everyone is welcome to come.

Q Now I have heard terms used and witnessed things here tonight that I have never heard before, now I have to say that I was well not in dread but apprehensive, do you feel that there has been bad PR about the charismatic element within the body of Christ and how would you answer that?

A I think there has, as the speaker said today, there will always be people who are cautious and who reject it, and I think it's because they haven't experienced it themselves and it is out of fear and out of insecurity.

Q So do you feel then that you are misunderstood?

A Yes in one way but as more people are beginning to get hungry for God, people I know in fact who have been sceptical but they received a touch from God that changed their lives, they came in sceptical just wondering what was going on and a bit cynical but they changed through experiencing something through the ministry and the presence of

God. So I think that there are a lot of people in Bangor now who are starting to say 'what is this thing?' because they see people's lives changed. But yes of course you will always have your sceptics, you will always have people who will never enter into it, but as more people see that God is doing something significant they are seeing changes in people's lives, their physical bodies, attitudes and therefore in turn they are becoming a bit more interested and thinking that there may be something in this for me...

Q Now tonight what was also impressed on me was the leadership factor, how important is leadership in this sort of an event?

A Absolutely critical. Leadership is where the honour comes from, and even though we are the organisers we are under the covering of Jeremy Forsthye our Pastor. Therefore if he didn't have the vision for this it just wouldn't happen, so for him to embrace this, accept it and the fact that he is 100% behind this, therefore whenever we organise this he releases us and gives us his authority as pastor of the church to just go for it! Therefore his leadership is absolutely critical, because if you have leadership that is sceptical and say 'do and see what it's like' that will stop the blessing and the flow. But Pastor Jeremy is 100% for it and releases us to do this and that is great blessing to Rachel and me, because without that it just wouldn't happen.

Q So do you hope that at some point in the future that you would have your guests back for instance do you see this happening more often in your church?

A Well like everything we pray carefully about who to bring and when to bring, and following the success of this conference we would love to have them back and the type of ministry and sacrifice they gave was very important and precious to us. In fact Patricia Bootsma is coming back in April, early April 2010 and she was very keen to come back, so bringing people back is all part of the journey. In fact last year at Patricia's conference during the ministry someone's leg grew by 4-5 inches, and as she prayed over her I witnessed myself first hand this leg just grow out and it was unbelievable.

Q It is written that there will be signs and wonders in the last days? So do you believe that we are living in the last days?

A Yes, I certainly do, that is the urgency about bringing people over to and getting people saturated in the Holy Spirit so that they will be equipped to go out in the last days and witness to others and reach people for God. You need to be infilled by the Holy Spirit to be able to do this...

***'With men these things are impossible, but with God all things are possible.'* Matt 19: 26**

TOWERVIEW TESTIMONY

I have to say that I was not exactly looking forward to my interview at Towerview Free Methodist. I had never been to anything remotely 'charismatic' before, but decided that I had to remain composed throughout! I had seen services over the years on television 'No way was I going to 'fall down'! I kept telling myself I must remain focused throughout; I had to think more on the questions that I would be asking the organiser. After all I had a job to do!

However, on the way to the event I got completely disorientated and drove around Bangor in what seemed hours, going down what I thought was the 'right road', until eventually I had run over time, was really tired and didn't want to run out of petrol! Therefore I made my way home...I have to say I was slightly bewildered by the experience but we contacted a friend and told them we would go the next evening and this friend kindly requested of their friend to meet us and show us the way!!

Therefore the next evening I didn't really think about things until I actually reached the church, however, it is safe to say I was a sceptic but interested in how the Holy Spirit manifests through the body of Christ – so all was not lost! Tucked away amongst houses Towerview Free Methodist is a beautiful 'regular' little church. I have to say that the service was quite 'normal' and we were made to feel extremely welcome. George McMurtry from Bangor Elim was there and gave an astonishing testimony of how he was healed completely from 4 strokes. I had heard George's testimony many years before, but on this occasion it seemed as though I had heard it for the very first time, it was incredible and extremely moving.

As time went on opportunity was given for people to be prayed over and whilst people went up for prayer, I felt nervous for them 'What if they fall? How will I react? What does that mean?' All these questions ran through my head but suddenly there was a change of mode, not one that I expected, there was a calm, a beautiful peace in the Church and it was then I knew that the Holy Spirit had descended, and where He is there is never anything to worry about...so I went forward myself and received prayer regarding my fear of flying! Afterwards Pastor Jeremy Forsthye introduced himself and in turn introduced me to Graham Gilliland one of the organisers. Graham and his wife have been led by the Lord to host these events and thus far they have proved a real blessing to the people.

We exited the main church where prayer was still going on and headed for the kitchen to conduct the interview. I thanked Graham and then we headed back to the church where he introduced me to two of the guests from Oxfordshire. I started to talk about my interview with Graham and about my fear of flying which had kind of disappeared! The lady turned to me and said 'Why were you afraid?' I said 'I think it was like claustrophobia' she looked straight into my eyes and said 'Why did something happen to you?' Immediately I felt a well of emotion build up inside of me, 'Yes' I replied.

Suddenly I felt myself being led away and prayed over!! All I know I that something broke over me that night, it felt as though a barbell had been lifted from my shoulders! I went out dancing in the spirit, I couldn't believe it actually – they talk about the 'X' factor this was the 'WOW' factor! I was so excited I phoned someone on the other side of the world to

share to great news - I defo wanted to shout it from the mountaintop!

I slept very well that night and woke up the next morning, I immediately went onto the computer and started to write. I still felt great, so it hadn't worn off...that's a relief. But I felt a new strength and new found confidence, it was like starting to walk for the first time, I literally felt a bit wobbly at first but as the day wore on I knew in my spirit that something had altered.

In the afternoon I went to the mirror and noticed that my eyes looked different, I went to another mirror and they definitely looked a different colour! I called my daughter and asked her 'What colour are my eyes?' she looked at me briefly and replied 'They're blue – why?' she said. 'Why?' I replied 'I don't have blue eyes' My eldest daughter confirmed it, this I just couldn't believe – 'No Way!'

I looked at an old photo taken a year ago where I have distinctively hazel eyes – mine were now pale blue. I felt like Charlton Heston when he came down from the mountain and had been 'touched' by God, and in the film his hair had turned white! 'Oh my goodness we have to go back to the church!' Everyone got ready at breakneck speed, I kept looking in the mirror and when we reached the church I looked again to ensure it was not my imagination – nope my eyes were defo blue. So I decided to test this, these people didn't know what eye colour I had before so I started to go up and randomly ask them what colour my eyes were? They all replied 'blue, why?' I cannot tell you what joy this has brought me, it's like the Lord did something permanently, altered what had been destroyed, restored what the locusts had eaten, and if that wasn't enough blessed me with new eyes as a sign, so I could never doubt again what He has done. He indeed has done a new thing and placed a new song in my heart!

Editor



Karin's left eye before (pictured left) clearly coloured hazel and her left eye (pictured right) after the event, clearly coloured light blue.

Bangor Free Methodist Church Bangor (Co Down)

Contact details:

PASTOR JEREMY FORSTHYE

47 Towerview Crescent
Ballyholme
Bangor
Co Down
Tel: 028 9147 8809