

THE WEEK THAT WAS [*continued*]

The response was generally very good; in some cases excellent. We called with parents who had sent their children to our previous Bible Club on Ballarat Street; approximately half the 30+ children who attended the Bible Clubs were completely new to the church. Please pray that the words spoken and the literature distributed will issue in much blessing for Belfast.

[Photos from Student Outreach @ Martyrs: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Martyrs-Memorial-Church/167598460065458>]



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Wednesday, 10 Sept. @ 9.30pm:

CHILDRENS & YOUTH WORKERS MEETING

Co-ordinating for the term ahead

- Friday, 12 September @ 8.00pm:

‘THE ROCK MAN UK TOUR – Genesis, Geology & The Gospel Connection’ (Dr. Tas Walker)

- Sunday, 21 Sept. (After PM Service):

SUPPER & FELLOWSHIP TIME IN JUBILEE HALL

- Monday 22 – Friday 26 September @ 8.00pm each evening:

AUTUMN WEEK OF PRAYER, inc. Rev. Lyle Boyd on Wednesday 24 September @ 8.00pm

MEETINGS TODAY

Sunday School & Bible Class – 10.15am

Morning Worship – 11.30am

Evening Service – 7.00pm (with Whitefield College Students)

Ladies Meeting – 8.30pm (with Whitefield College Students)

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

“Christ is always the same ... this makes the Gospel precious.”

martyrs

1 BULLETIN 2014

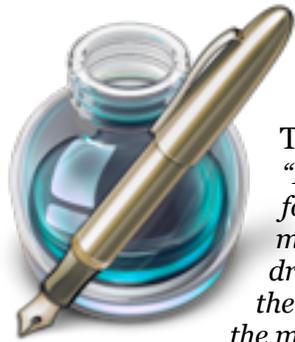


THE WEEK THAT WAS

Monday, 1 September 2014, signalled the start of an extensive Outreach Programme for Martyrs Memorial FPC. A team of students from the Whitefield College of the Bible (Paul Foster, Paul Hanna, Julian Patterson, Stephen Miller, Philip Knowles, Alana Stewart and Christina Logan) joined up with Phil Hartin and Rev. Ian Brown to take the Gospel to East Belfast.

Door-to-door visitation was concentrated on an area from Ardenlee Avenue down to the lower Ravenhill Road, through to the Woodstock and Cregagh Roads, and across to Castlereagh Road: other regions covered included Sandy Row and Sydenham. Each home received an invitation to our One Week Gospel and a brand new church invite; children were invited to our three-day Autumn Explore Bible Club at Ballarat Street. Open-air meetings were another feature of this extremely busy week.

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THE REVIVAL WE NEED #4 'THE CONTENTS OF REVIVAL'

Text: **Isaiah 41:18-19.**

"I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. 19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together."

The Contents of this spiritual refreshing were **(1) PLENTIFUL.**

(a) Plentiful in their VARIETY.

- Four words relating to water are used in **Isaiah 41:18**: "Rivers" (1 out of every 5 times this word appears, our English Bible translates it as "flood") ... "fountains" (on 5 occasions, rendered as a "well") ... "pool" ... "springs" (i.e. source of water). These point to the variety and abundance that is a characteristic of revival.
- Note also the seven varieties of trees that are listed in **Isaiah 41:19**. The numeral 7 is a Hebrew symbol for perfection / abundance. C19th Scottish preacher, J.R. MacDuff, stated that, *"Each tree may be taken as the emblem of a cluster of Bible promises. To the weak, there is the cedar in its strength; to the bereaved, there is the olive with its ... 'oil of joy' for the mourner; to the wounded spirit, there is ... the fragrant myrtle ..."* Our Lord gives sustaining grace to one, strengthening grace to another; plus sanctifying / comforting / restraining / dying grace.

(b) Plentiful in their VITALITY.

The abundance of water in **v18** supplies all the trees in **v19**, encouraging growth and ensuring fruitfulness. cf. **Ezekiel 47: v5** – the rising of the tide; **v7** – the trees that grow on the riverbanks; **v9** – fruitfulness results.

"We shall know it better by its lasting fruits; but for the present its fruits, now continued for several weeks, proclaim a work in

which the Spirit of God has been sensibly among us." (Belfast Newsletter, reporting on 1859 Revival in Ulster).

(c) Plentiful in their VALUE.

The trees mentioned in **Isaiah 41:19** are the best in the land of Syria and Palestine. In naming the choicest trees, our Lord is assuring His people that He is careful to give them only what is best.

The results of this spiritual refreshing were **(2) POWERFUL.**

With rivers to the flood and tall trees dominating the picture, **Isaiah 41:18-19** speaks of sheer strength. This scene is even more stunning when we remember that this abundance of water and forest of trees appears in the centre of the arid desert. God can take our most barren wildernesses – and transform them into lush forests.

"Various springs from the hills of Antrim contributed to swell the meandering rivulet of Revival into a broad an mighty stream" (Historian's comment on 1859 Ulster Revival). 100,000 souls were converted in Ulster, 50,000 in Wales, 300,000 in Scotland, and a greater number in England. It was a work of power.

The contents of this revival were **(3) PERMANENT.**

Four chief verbs are used in connection with the water and the trees in **Isaiah 41:18-19**: "open" (carries the sense, "to plough up"); "make"; "plant"; "set" ("to establish, place with design, care and exactness"). Each of these four words points to the permanence of this refreshing. The true blessing of God is not a mere emotional lift that endures for a particular meeting, then evaporates. The effect is prolonged. The 1859 Revival enforced a lasting change on society.

May Christ Jesus, through His mighty Spirit, appear again in our land – for our salvation and satisfaction, and for His own glory.

[To catch up on any messages you may have missed in this series, call in at our church site – http://www.freepresbyterian.org/church/martyrs_memorial – and scroll down to "Sermons"]