

Irish Convention Report: Reconciliation with God and man.

Six came to know the ultimate reconciliation with God that only Jesus gives. Hearts were challenged to get right with God and man. Former opponents from the troubles, who previously had been set against each other, had, in the interim, been set free by the Lord and had their lives changed, and set about praying for and encouraging each other, in Him. God has been turning the hearts of the fathers and youth towards each other!



What an Almighty Gracious God we love, know and serve!

Main speakers' testimonies also shared this one thing in common, the love of God and how He changes ordinary people in extraordinary ways: from an orphan to a community leader; from a prisoner to a pastor and from a local boy preacher to a worldwide missionary: the testimonies of Dr James McConnell, Pastor David Hamilton and missionary John Abraham. Delegates from these islands and beyond, repeatedly confirmed God's patient love and care for us all, showing His transforming love, and miracles in their own and others lives when we accept and trust Him faithfully. Of particular note were the testimonies from the youth, both from the platform, and those taking tracts on the street, who appreciated being encouraged by fathers in the faith; straight from Malachi giving the generations hearts for each other, so that the youth might inherit a better future, and not just in this life, but for eternity!



Throughout the weekend the main speakers gave us riveting messages on the importance of listening to and obeying the Holy Spirit, specifically in relation to prayer, repentance, un-forgiveness, reconciliation and salvation. A sobering challenging message was given to the fellowship in general, on the second last night, from Rev 3:1-3: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The next morning's themes followed on prayer, repentance and sacrifice. No doubt, people repented, as the Lord relented, and overnight had the speaker change the final message of the convention to the theme of resurrection - mercifully! This repeated Biblical pattern of repentance and restoration, is so relevant, not just to Northern Ireland, within the context of recent history, but is crucial to all who live in these islands, both individually and together.

Praise and Worship was led by Trevor, his wife Helen, with Chris, Bethany, Amy and Pat on a mix of drums, guitars, banjo, keyboards and vocals. The Lord used Trevor to give continuity to the conference as led by the Holy Spirit. Praise God and pray for Trevor and his team. This year we again went onto the streets where the good news of Jesus was presented with song, music and testimonies. Voice magazines, John's gospels and tracts with a local focus, both in English and Gaelic, were distributed, and prayer offered to any who requested or were open.



Clearly the Lord had gone before us and prepared hearts; there was a genuine hunger for God and a freedom experienced in the heart of Belfast as few refused our literature, and many were genuinely grateful. All Voice magazines were taken, by all ages, all the time He opened a window; quite amazing! All glory to Him! We also thank God for all who ventured out to help this work, and this year were aided by the DHM (Divine Healing Ministries from St Anne's Cathedral) and BMF. DHM led the afternoon prayer sessions back in the hotel, for the outreach, the city and country, and any desiring prayer. Thank God for their strong and enabling support throughout planning and the entire weekend.

The Irish convention in Belfast reflects Isaiah 55, in that, the Lord God sends His word, to bring about His purposes! When accompanied by urgent timely repentance and prayer, He responds in time with abundant pardon and restoration. Therefore, we could go out in the streets with joy and peace! Instead of the troubles (thorn and brier), there was praise and intercession (softness and fragrance of the cypress and myrtle). This is to the glory of God and a sign of His mercy and restoration for all in these islands and beyond! Praise God for His witness to all here ... and hear!