

Rhos, North Wales, 1904, Part II

By Tom

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(John Powell Parry was born in 1887 and was therefore seventeen years of age in 1904 when the revival came to Rhosllanerchrugog, a mining town three miles south of Wrexham in North Wales. The following account is taken from a recorded interview by Paul Cook of Hull with Powell Parry on 2 October 1974 in Plas Bennion, a small hamlet near Ruabon just south of Rhos. Powell Parry died on 27 June 1979 at the age of ninety-two.)

"This was a revival of praise and thanksgiving in which people learnt to enjoy God. There was a life and reality about everything that was done in the churches; people were involved with eternal issues and 'things' didn't seem to matter any more.

"In the Baptist Chapel R. B. Jones would sit at the front in the 'big pew' with his open Bible. He ensured that nothing took place contrary to Scripture, and preached every night from 8 to 18 November. Services ran without an order, but there was not confusion either; people would sing and pray and praise as the Spirit led them.

"Rhys Jones made sure that things never got out of hand, and in all the enthusiasm and joy, Powell noted that there was never any excess in the town. 'No one ever spoke of tongues or of a second blessing; it was all peace and quiet and tranquillity.' It was very unlike some of the events that accompanied the revival that was going on in other parts of Wales at the same time, under Evan Roberts.

"On Sundays the chapels were full by six in the morning. The pits worked an eleven day fortnight and every other Monday was an extra day off; this was known as the 'playing Monday;' in the revival 'playing Monday' was given over entirely to worship.

"Crowds could be heard simply walking along the streets singing and praising God, and when most of the Thos silver band were converted they took to playing hymns in the open air. Mothers would be up at dawn, and when their husbands left for work they completed the housework early, saw their children off to school and then went to the chapel to worship.

"This was happening all over the town. Yet though the men spent hours in the chapels after a full day of work, no one appeared to be tired; 'there was life in the air' and people seemed to be physically as well as spiritually revived.

"The effect of the revival on the unconverted was amazing. Hundreds were saved and it seemed as though the whole town was coming to church. People gave up drinking and

smoking, and tobacco pouches and pipes were placed on the 'big pew' as a mark of the changed life.

"'The terror of the Lord had fallen on the whole town,' and within a few weeks many drunkards were afraid to come out of their homes or go to the public houses, which were being forced to close throughout 1905 because of lack of customers. The famous football team, the Rhos Rangers, were afraid to go out and play; in fact, for a while the club closed because there were not spectators."

(This excerpt is taken from *Revival! A People Saturated With God*, by Brian Edwards (Evangelical Press, Darlington) 1990, p. 244-245.)