

Rhos, North Wales, 1904, Part III

By Tom Hill

Master Ministries International, Inc.

2700 Marfitt Road, #315
East Lansing, MI 48823-6338

Website: <http://www.masterministries.org/>

Online Sermons: <http://masterministries.sermonaudio.com>

(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.)

"Fighting was a popular sport before the revival and William Price, a well-known fighter in the town, was converted. He had never been to chapel before, and after his conversion he was so full of joy that he reproached the Christians by asking, 'Why didn't you tell me, my friends, that it was like this?'

"Another fighter, Levi Jarvis, was the terror of the town. He was opposed to the work of God but at the same time was terrified of it. The terror had become terrified. He was afraid to go to work, and once there, was afraid to come home again in case he got converted.

"He could not sleep at night, and went off his food. Levi Jarvis knew that people were praying for him and this only made him more afraid; his wife feared that he would go out of his mind. One day R. B. Jones came to visit the home to reassure Levi's wife that they were praying.

"When Jarvis learnt of this he swallowed his meal and fled to the mountains to get away from the revival. But God eventually saved him and the congregation watched the great fighter raise his hands in the air as a mark of his surrender to the Lord.

"Levi Jarvis the fighter became like a lamb. He was in his forties when he was saved and he had turned eighty when he died, but he never went back on his surrender to Christ. Powell knew him well and talked with him in his old age; Levi would often invite him with the words, 'Come on, let's talk about the revival.'

"Life changed in the pits also, and men would meet for prayer before the day's work commenced. 'The spirit was in the pits. It was as pleasant to go to work as it was to go to a place of worship.'

"There was no tension or a dispute among the miners, and out put was one hundred percent. Everyone was talking about being saved; men were even saved down in the mines. Even those who were not saved were deeply affected.

"Ponies were used to haul the coal trucks at that time, and two men were employed to look after them. There could be as many as ninety or more ponies in one pit, and it was long and hard work caring for the harness and feeding and grooming the ponies.

"After the revival came, the foreman found the man in charge of the ponies in a terrible state of mind, afraid that he would lose his job: the boys were each looking after his own pony and there was nothing for the man to do.

"As the news of the revival spread, people traveled from all over Wales to see what was happening. Then they came from other parts of Britain and from the United States, Canada, Australia and elsewhere.

"Many of these visitors carried the revival away with them to distant parts of the world. Such was the presence of God that it could be felt by visitors as soon as they entered the town, and even beyond this. Powell Parry comments, "The presence of God was everywhere."

(This excerpt is taken from *Revival! A People Saturated With God*, by Brian Edwards (Evangelical Press, Darlington) 1990, p. 245-246.)