

COORDINATING OUR CHILDREN'S WORK [*continued*]

One target for 2014/15 is to achieve an increased degree of coordination between each of our children's and youth works. It is always important that these works do not exist as self-contained, separate entities, but are encouraged to mesh and flow forward together. Though this presents a formidable challenge, it is essential that good linkages exist between children / youth / church if we are to see the current generation changed by Christ.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sunday, 21 September (After PM Service):

SUPPER & FELLOWSHIP TIME IN JUBILEE HALL

- 22–26 September @ 8.00pm
each evening:

AUTUMN WEEK OF

PRAYER, inc. Rev. Lyle Boyd on

Wednesday 24 September @ 8.00pm

- Sunday, 5 October @ 3.10pm: **ADULT BIBLE CLASS**
(with Rev. Ian Kenny, Dromore FPC) ... @ 8.30pm: **LADIES
MEETING** (with Mrs. Karen Murray, Tandragee).

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

MEETINGS TODAY

- Sunday School & Bible Class – 10.15am
- Morning Worship – 11.30am • Evening Service – 7.00pm

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

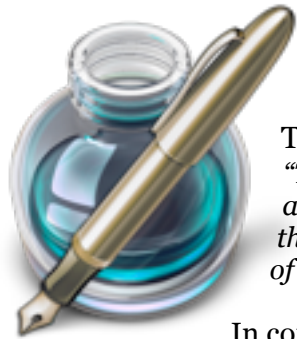
“Use thy duties, as Noah’s dove did her wings, to carry thee to the ark of the Lord Jesus Christ, where only there is rest.”
(Isaac Ambrose)



COORDINATING OUR CHILDREN'S WORK

Tomorrow, 15 September 2014, marks the recommencement of the Explore and Reach Clubs for children and youth at Martyrs Memorial. Buses will traverse their usual routes, ensuring the church is an exciting hive of activity between 7.00 and 8.00pm. ‘Little Ones’ – our Mums and Toddlers Group – has already begun for the new season; 50 gathered on the top floor of the Jubilee Complex on Thursday morning. Both our Sunday Schools, at Martyrs and at Sandy Row, started on the traditional date, the first Lord’s Day in September, with a combined total of 50 children.

In addition to these meetings, the Explore and Reach clubs are due to start in Taughmonagh on 30 September; our Youth Fellowship will have its first regular meeting on 3 October, following their attendance at a few consecutive ‘other’ events, and Mr Phil Hartin continues to be heavily engaged in the school ministry. [*continued on back page*]



THE REVIVAL WE NEED #5 'THE CORONATION VIA REVIVAL'

Text: **Isaiah 41:20.**
"That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it."

In contrast to the charlatans of today, our Lord is happy to submit His work of revival to close scrutiny: He invites us to examine it, from every possible angle.

Note how He appeals for **(1) THE EXERCISE OF DISCERNMENT** concerning this display of His power.

(a) CLOSE SCRUTINY.

• Four verbs stand out in **Isaiah 41:20**:
"See" (meaning "to inspect / find out / discern / distinguish") ...
"know" ("to perceive and see, find out and discern; to discriminate") ...
"consider" ("to set / station / set in place / plant") ...
"understand" ("to be prudent / wisely understand / ponder / to have insight").
It is vital that we use our minds for careful analysis when something is claimed to be a work of God (cf. **1 John 4:1**).

(b) CHARACTERISTIC SIGNS.

The amazing sources of water predicted in **v18**, supplying the magnificent trees that are identified in **v19**, point to a genuine work of God's power. True spiritual revivals also have distinguishing marks. Four basic essentials were true of the famous Pentecost Revival (**Acts 2**) – and are true of all revivals:
(i) A sense of God's nearness / awareness of His majesty (cf. **Exodus 40:34, 2 Chronicles 7:1; John 14:17, Acts 2:43**).
(ii) A greatly intensified work of the Holy Spirit in conviction of sin and giving repentance and faith.
(iii) A marvellous increase in the numbers added to the church.
(iv) Powerful preaching of the Gospel (**Hebrews 4:12, Romans 1:16, Jeremiah 23:29**).

(c) CONTEMPLATIVE SPEECH.

• Israel was commanded to rehearse the redemptive works of Jehovah to succeeding generations (**Psalms 78:4**);
• The psalmist was lifted from his depression when he contemplated the years of God's favour (**Psalms 77:10-12**).
• Fresh revivals have been sparked by recounting the mighty blessings of God in past days.

A leading result of this spiritual refreshing was **(2) THE EXPERIENCE OF DYNAMISM**.

The power behind the transformation of the desert into a forest (**Isaiah 41:18-19**) is "the hand of the LORD" and the creation of "the Holy One of Israel" (**v20**). This term "created" catapults us back to **Genesis 1:1**. When Jehovah, who brought all of creation into being out of nothing, becomes involved, everything is possible.

"When the Holy Ghost sweeps across cities and towns in supernatural power and holds men in the grip of terrifying conviction; when every shop becomes a pulpit, every heart an altar, every home a sanctuary and people walk softly before God – this is Revival!" (Rev. Owen Murphy).

Another outcome of this revival was **(3) THE EXPRESSION OF DOXOLOGY**.

The ultimate purpose of God in everything is the glory of His own great name. He saved us for His glory (**Psalms 106:8**), and everything leading up to this salvation – e.g. election, redemption, calling – were each for "the praise of His glory" (**Ephesians 1:13**).

Revival is no different in terms of its objective. Its:

- personnel reflect this (cf. **1 Corinthians 1:26-31, John 3:30**);
- praises announce this (cf. 'What's the news ... the Lamb ...');
- petitions emphasise this; **Isaiah 41:17-20** incites prayer.

Let us pray the promise of this text in expectation of revival!

[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"]