



ANGLICAN RENEWAL MINISTRIES WALES

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Issue 37 October 2004

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Lord I believe.....Help thou my unbelief.....

I frequently come back to the fact that the Church does not really believe all that it would claim to believe. Why is it that knowledge of the scriptures does not necessarily fix that word in our hearts? More recently I have been wondering if unbelief is something that can actually be a stronger element since faith and belief are slightly different things.

Faith, according to Hebrews 11, is the certainty of things not seen. God can use a mere mustard seed of faith, but faith is something real and certain. It is not something that can be drummed up by us, no matter how many times we quote the scriptures. Often those who do this in, for example, the matter of healing, are disappointed and succeed only in making the sick person feel guilty because they haven't enough faith. I look back to when we first discovered Brian's tumour, and he was very ill with jaundice. I could hear God saying, "Trust me, you are not to pray for his healing, other's will do that", but a member of my family was very insistent on the way to pray to get the healing. The result was that I got very distressed and confused. This is not uncommon.

So how do we get that faith, I think most will accept that it is a gift from God, but why should He give it to one and not another? I can only speak from experience but I believe that it is something that grows as our knowledge of God grows, that instead of claiming the scriptures in a warfare situation we should meditate on them and praise God for what He has already done. Perhaps we could usefully start with:

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5 NRSV)

This was the prophetic word that we saw fulfilled when Jesus went to the cross. What happened at the cross is the basis of our Christian faith, so how do we come to believe and do we only believe half of it? We readily acknowledge this to be the work of the Holy Spirit and are born again of the Spirit, all Christians must have this certainty. So now at least we can pray, "Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief....."

Do we believe that that prayer will be answered? At this point we must consider our relationship with God. Can we acknowledge His love for us, for we are primarily His children and we know that it is natural for a parent to love a child and want the very best for that child. So it cannot be that God wants us sick yet many remain sick and so whose fault is it that we are not healed? I do not feel that we can put the blame on individuals, neither do I see sickness as a punishment, I see the fault lying in our history and within the Church itself. Unbelief is about doubts that creep in because of experience. Lack of teaching of biblical truth about the Holy Spirit has caused there to be great gaps in our knowledge, and experience of failure in moving mountains has caused the Church to find excuses. Even some of the words of Jesus seem to



some to be irrelevant today. Without witnessing miracles few are ready to believe many of the fantastic statements made about His great power and authority.

I feel that much as Jesus loves His Church He must be disappointed with her influence in the world. Can we start to change that? What does he want from A.R.M (Wales)?

I hear the words. "A total focus on God is required, this will allow Him the space He wants within us". I am sure that time spent in the presence of God meditating on His word would make a difference. If God gives you a scripture start there, else start with any that you think you know and believe.

This issue of the magazine, of necessity, causes us to consider the future for A.R.M (Wales) but above all that we respond to God's will for us and for Flames of Fire. At the conference I detected unease about a "split" and unhappiness amongst some of our long term members and I hope that we will dispel such feelings and generate the excitement of which Nick speaks. I hope and pray that you will see how we have come to a positive response as you read this issue and a certainty that it is the will of God. But it is not fait accompli so it is important that we understand all the implications of the change and the reasons why the Executive are recommending it.

With the mailing of this magazine, members will also receive the agenda for the A.G.M. the Annual Reports and two documents entitled "Flames of Fire – Vision, Values and Practices" and "Why will the New Wine family be good for Flames of Fire". These have been put together by Paul Thompson. The former in fact tells you what we already do and what has been accepted by the Executive and will hopefully put your minds at rest over the future, but the latter spells out the benefits and advantages for the conference. Please read these carefully and come to the A.G.M. ready to vote on the motion to approve the changes. We would like to see the maximum number of electors. The Revd. Bill Lewis will be the speaker at the A.G.M.

However we need more members of A.R.M. (Wales), so please encourage others from your church to join us. It is not the money that we want so much as the sharing of the vision of what God would do if we accepted His power and will in our lives; the future is going to need resources in the form of committed, renewed Christians. We will also need a Chairman with vision and so release Nick Jones to put his time into the future development of Flames of Fire.

A.R.M. (Wales) will continue to encourage Renewal within Wales and will continue to administer the Bursary Fund. Two members of the new Ignite Cymru team which will be working in schools during the next year are recipients of bursaries and Elen Griffith has sent us a preview for inclusion in this magazine, please pray for this team as they interact with young people who do not yet know the Lord.

Mary Newsom



A Message from our Chairman Nick Jones

It is hard to believe that it is now the autumn yet the impending round of Harvest services reminds me that it is true. Summer seems to have been brief as I try to think back on it. Preparations for Flames of Fire had dominated that period and the weather has made summer seem that much shorter. Even now the Conference is the matter which requires much attention. In the previous magazine (July 2004) both Brian Newsom and I referred to the discussion that had occupied the Executive committee concerning the balance between Flames of Fire and the work of A.R.M. (Wales) in other areas. The fact is that we have been unable, for a number of years, to devote time or energy to work other than that of the conference, but we do recognise that there is so much that ARM (Wales) could be doing to promote Renewal within the Church in Wales.

What possible answer is there to this situation? The Executive committee has concluded that the best solution would be to allow the conference to be managed by another group, namely New Wine Cymru, thus freeing the limited resources of A.R.M. (Wales) to do other work. A proposal to this effect is to be brought to the A.R.M. (Wales) A.G.M. on November 13th 2004.

On the opening night of the conference this year I spoke about this possibility and have received a mixed response. I can understand that this proposal will cause concern for some and I want to assure those people that it is not being put forward lightly. The Executive has felt that there will be positive benefits to the conference and to A.R.M. (Wales) beyond the freeing up of resources for A.R.M. (Wales)' work.

The first and most obvious advantage is that the conference continues. It will still be available to members of A.R.M. (Wales) and the format and feel of the conference will continue along familiar lines.

A second positive benefit is that transferring the conference to New Wine Cymru means that the conference will give members of other denominations a sense that they too can own the conference. This doesn't mean a change in style. What is already on offer is highly regarded by non – Anglican delegates.

Thirdly, the Vision and Values of New Wine already have wide acceptance around the world. At Flames of Fire we already operate under those values in many areas such as worship, teaching and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit. This proposed conference relationship with New Wine means that people will know what to expect by association. We know that each year churches in Wales take groups to New Wine, Shepton Mallett. Maybe Flames of Fire could be a new option to those groups.

Being able to share speakers with New Wine is a benefit that we have been able to receive in 2004 with Bruce Collins, and Kenny Borthwick from New Wine Scotland. This is not only an

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advantage in knowing the standard of speaker but also in the sharing of cost to have such speakers.

There are many other advantages for the Flames of Fire conference, but let's now turn to the advantages for A.R.M. (Wales).

For A.R.M. (Wales) there is the positive advantage of being released from the financial risk that running Flames of Fire involves. At present the members of the Executive are personally liable as Trustees. This has not been a problem in recent years but some may recall that this hasn't always been the case. As it is, the conference is very tightly budgeted and the surplus in 2003, of £400, could so easily have had a different outcome.

It is well publicised that the Anglican Church in Wales is facing "Restructuring" in the face of future financial forecasts. There is a new emphasis (by the church) on lay leadership. Equipping the laity for that role can be an important part of the work of A.R.M. (Wales).

For some Anglicans the difference between the conference and what happens in the parishes is too great. Being one step removed from Flames of Fire means also an opportunity to meet the parishes where they are. This is a great advantage. As an Anglican clergyman of some 22 years standing, I recognise that clergy can often be reluctant to associate with things too 'foreign' to the norm of parish life. Supporting and providing resources for the local church to experience and move under the power of the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of these times can be an important area of work for A.R.M. (Wales) to engage in. We can always speculate about these things but if we consult with the local church and clergy, the diocesan renewal teams, and even within the structures of the Church in Wales, we will see how A.R.M. (Wales) can be a significant instrument of Renewal within the Church by prayer and being available to the way that the Holy Spirit leads us.

In the July magazine, Mary Newsom produced an article entitled "Stepping into the Future" an edited version of the vision for ReSource (formerly A.R.M. in England) produced by the new Director, Martin Cavender. It has been a great encouragement, to meet with him recently and to have the assurance of support and help, if needed, for A.R.M. (Wales) as we seek to move with God in this next phase of renewal. Looking to what has been happening in England can also be a help to see how the Lord may be moving here in Wales too.

I feel a sense of excitement at the possibilities for A.R.M. (Wales) alongside what is already going on through New Wine Networks in Wales. I am reminded of the invitation to the disciples to "Lift up your eyes and see how the fields are already white for the harvest" (John 4:35) and "the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9:37).

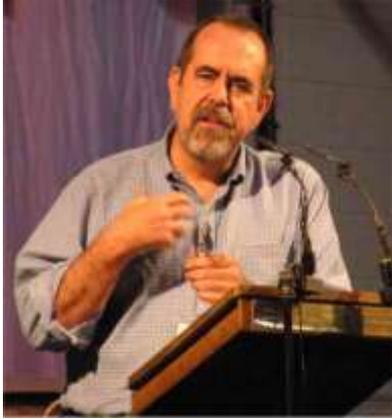
There is much that needs to be done and whilst there is much overlap in the work of A.R.M. and New Wine in Wales there is also great scope for both to work together for the extension of God's Kingdom.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on November 13th. Nicholas

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Reflections of Flames of Fire 2004 By Ron Allen



After several visits to Flames of Fire [over the last seven years] from Heartland Church, Indiana, USA, I am greatly encouraged by our experience this year. It truly has been a blessing to us to experience with you the growing vigour and impact of the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the developing opportunities for evangelism and outreach. Of the many signs of hope, I was especially impressed by the youth and young adults. The fact that their enthusiasm was grounded in radical worship and a deep desire to serve God with abandonment underlines the solid future of the Church in Wales. The

number of new attendees indicates that there is a growing hunger for something more in the things of the Holy Spirit.

Bruce Collins' teaching, and for that matter all of the resource teachers and speakers, gave a solid undergirding both biblically and theologically for the next season of renewal. The message of the Kingdom of God is foundational for all that is ahead of us.

It's obvious that Nick Jones and his hardworking support team are moving in the flow of what God is doing next, building on the faithful service of those who in past years have pursued a vision of renewal and a dynamic Church in Wales. I believe that the emerging relationship with New Wine will only enhance continued growth and development. And of course the partnership across the world with other beachheads of renewal will strengthen what A.R.M. has been doing in the past and is continuing to do in these days.

Heartland Church has been highly impacted by the things our teams have experienced at the conferences and through the many friendships that have flourished over the years. Not the least the Welsh influence of having Andrew Booth on staff as one of our core ministry coach staff. Everyday, his teaching, worship leading, team-building, and leadership is facilitating our own growth and advancement. He is a great blessing in the city and region. We have enjoyed and profited from quite a number of visitors from Wales. We desire to keep the connection strong and growing. We want to be a blessing even as we have been blessed.



Some Insight from Amanda Thompson

This year I was asked to co-ordinate the Prayer ministry team at Flames of Fire, and I must admit to being a little daunted by the task and worried of what would be expected of me. If I had had to give an immediate answer it would have been: "No, I don't think I could do that." But in fact I was told to go away and pray about it for a while. In that time of prayer I found I was able to say, "yes".

I am no longer surprised at how God is able to change my attitudes, my priorities and the way I think about myself. Rather I am just amazed at how willing He is to get involved with my ordinary life and challenge me to doing better, reaching higher and expecting more of Him. One of the first times I can remember Him doing this was when I was visiting my husband-to-be while he was at theological college training for the priesthood. It was Easter and I was asked, as a visitor, if I would involve myself with one of the many Easter liturgies that they practised there. The thought of this filled me with horror. I would have to stand up in front of people I didn't know and complete a liturgy which would require me to move with dignity up the full length of the church without tripping on the steps and keeping in time with the Anglican chant. This liturgy was completely new to me, and I am not good at being dignified so my response was to say "No, I do not want to do that, thank you." My fiancé's Spiritual Director looked at me very directly and said: "Yes, but what would Jesus want you to do?" At first I couldn't see that Jesus would be too worried about it, but as I took it to my prayer He showed me all sorts of things about myself. I am too worried about what I look like and how I perform. I don't trust Him enough to carry me through difficulties. I do not love my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ enough to share in their way of worship, even looking down on them because they do things differently than me. Finally I had to say yes, because my love for Jesus required me to act lovingly and generously towards this part of the family of God regardless of my personal preferences.

So before Flames of Fire Jesus was yet again able to bring me to the point where I said yes. And I am so glad that he did. He blessed the prayer ministry team over and over again as we met with him before the main evening sessions. He gave me new, dear friends and built up a great fellowship between us on the team. He taught me so much about leadership and serving and how His grace can carry you through any difficulty. As a Team we were privileged to see the Lord blessing so many people with healing and forgiveness and filling them with his Holy Spirit. And I had come so close to not being involved!

As Flames of Fire looks to its future there are lots of decisions to be made, some costly and difficult. But I believe we must take it to our prayers and ask the question "What does Jesus want us to do?" and allow Him to challenge our preconceptions about ourselves and how we see the church. If we do it Jesus' way then I am sure His blessings will abound and we will have all we need for the future.



A Preview of the IGNITE Cymru Team by Elen Griffith

Hi guys! My name is Elen Griffith, I'm 18 years old, and I come from Llanfair PG (Yes, that is the place with the really long name and a train station!) on Anglesey. I've been working with IGNITE as a member of their new schools evangelism team, IGNITE Cymru, for three weeks now. For those of you who don't know what IGNITE is about, here's a quick overview...

IGNITE was set up in 2000 by Nigel James and Gary Smith. It is a six part declaration, each part beginning with a letter forming the word IGNITE, which aims to challenge and encourage young people to discover God's purpose for their life, to be a disciple and to transform their generation. Although the initiative is aimed at young people, anyone is welcome to sign up.

In signing up, you commit to:

- I Include Jesus in my moral life, my thoughts, words, actions and relationships
- G Grow closer to Jesus through studying the Bible, praying and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead me each day
- N Network with other Christians in my city, my country and throughout the world
- I Involve myself in the local Church and respect its leadership
- T Take the message of Jesus into my school, college or my place of work and the world by praying, living and witnessing so that everyone may have the opportunity to know Jesus
- E Explore God's will for myself and my generation and seek to follow it.

Since the year 2000, 3,118 people have signed up to IGNITE, and that number is still growing.

In 2003, Nigel and Gary had a vision to set up a schools evangelism team, committed to serving Wales — the IGNITE Cymru team. We are a group of young people working under the leadership of Big Ideas.

The team's mission statement is to "share and take the message of Jesus to teenagers all over Wales."

It's a good job we have a car! He's a Ford Mondeo called Melfyn, and is consequently the fifth member of the IGNITE Cymru Team!

So anyway, let me introduce the rest of the team!

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Maaike van den Broek is the team leader and comes from Holland. She's getting married in May (awww) to the wonderful Wouter (Who makes a cracking Apple Sauce) and her favourite colour is blue.

Rachel comes from Mynytho. She's recently been involved with the Youth Church in her area and her favourite food is Prawn Crackers.

Andrew Budd is a local lad (a Cardiffian to us Gogs!!) He loves chips, hates fish and is a fab Chris Tarrant impersonator (all will be revealed if you invite us to your schools...)

And then there's little me... well what can I say? I'm from Anglesey, my favourite food is Ice Cream with Chocolate sauce (like any other girl) and my favourite colour is pink.

Rach, Maaike and I live in Hebron Hall in Dinas Powys, while Andrew lives at home in Cardiff. We've settled in and had the house warming! We've been training in the offices for three weeks now, and it's hard work, but great fun.

So that's us. Please keep praying for us as a team. Here are a few prayer points:

Thanks for the 3000 sign-ups to the IGNITE declaration

Pray that the people who have signed up remain on fire for Jesus.

Pray for the IGNITE Cymru as we train for the year ahead

Pray that everyone who hears the gospel in the coming year will hear it in a way that is true and relevant to their hearts.

Pray that churches all over Wales will invite us to their local schools and that their relationship will be strengthened.

We are really excited about what God is and will be doing in Wales through the young people. Thank you for your encouragement and prayers.

To get in touch with the team:

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A Review of Flames of Fire By Rachel Milner

I have been attending the Flames of Fire conference since I was 12, and each year I have been so blessed by what God has done in my life, but also in the lives of those around me. I had never in my life been to an event where there were so many youth, wanting to be there, and worshipping and praising God in such a real way. It was amazing and such an encouragement to me, as I come from North Wales where there aren't many young Christians in my area. I also made very strong friendships with Christians my age all over Wales, which was also another massive encouragement. Maybe I would only see some of them once a year, but we kept in touch throughout the rest of the year, and knowing that I could turn to them for advice or for prayer requests, and that they could do the same to me, was just such a lovely feeling. Although we were miles apart, we were all united in Christ!

As some of you may know, the organisation that runs the youth event is called Big Ideas, and the event itself is called Ignite. Each year in the conference, the amount of youth that attend the Ignite programme has grown and grown. Praise God! This year, I, along with the friends that I have made over the years at the conference, were asked to be the new Ignite team leaders for Flames of Fire. This was such a privilege for me, and I know that it was the same for the others too. It was a daunting task to take over from the team that had been there right from the word go, from the people that the youth had got to know really well over the years. We spent a weekend together in January planning and seeking what God wanted to happen during the week, but, even though we had planned it, I know that a lot of us were really apprehensive about the week! But we all knew that God would be there with us and help us through the week - and as ever, He did!

This year's conference was the best for me so far. There were the ups and downs of being on the team, like arranging things, getting up early for team meetings, being tired most of the time. But the rewards were amazing! Stepping back this year and watching what God was doing in the lives of the youth around me was just so mind-blowing, and I can remember thinking throughout the week, what an amazing, and mighty God we have! And it wasn't just the youth that He was blessing either, when I went along to some of the main meetings in the main pavilion, and saw the Spirit of God falling on all of the adults and the small children involved with Messengers, I felt so proud to be a part of GOD'S SQUAD! If there's anyone out there who doubts God, I challenge you to come along to the Flames of Fire conference and then you'll see the power of God moving among His people!

I know that in some Churches it feels like there is a massive gap between the children, the teenagers and the adults - it's all happened to us at some point. But in Flames of Fire, there is no gap. OK, we all attend different meetings, but when we gather, it's like one big happy family of God, all there for the same purpose, to worship Him! Here is so much support and love felt between the different ages, and



this year I felt it more than ever. God has a purpose for all of us, however big or small we are, and we all need to be encouraged by each other to do God's work, because at times it can be really tough, believe me I know. That's what's received from the Flames of Fire conference. It has been such a big part of my life, and I don't think that I would still be following God now if it wasn't for that extra encouragement, prayer network and friendships made with people of all ages in the Flames of Fire conference.

God Bless.

and a Testimony from Flames of Fire

WOW! Would be my reaction to my first experience of Flames of Fire. I must admit I went with a bit of trepidation not knowing what to expect but at the same time quite excited. I went with my two children Alex who is 10 years old and Abi who is 9 years old. I arrived on the Monday and the rest of my friends from church had been there all weekend. When I got there I felt a bit like the new kid on the block as I didn't know the ropes but what I immediately sensed was a calm atmosphere over the whole place. Not being a person who finds time to relax very easily I was surprised how quickly I relaxed myself and the children just joined in with all of the other children. It was wonderful to know that they were in a safe and loving environment having lots of fun!

After a very tough period in my life where I have had to battle breast cancer and had recently received the news that there may have been activity in my bones as well, I had decided well beforehand that I would ask for prayer for healing at every opportunity. I went to the evening service and at the end of that service I decided to 'Go for it!' I went up to the front and was asked by a lovely couple what I wanted prayer for. "Healing!" was all I could say as I began to feel quite choked. "What for?", was the next question, and the only word I could physically get out of my mouth was, "Cancer!". I may have been very rude I don't think I even said please so I would like to apologize to that couple just in case they are reading this!

Well they started to pray for me and tears were just pouring out of my eyes like a tap turned full on! After a few minutes I felt a hand on my back about three quarters of the way up. The hand was very warm and I assumed that I must have been swaying and that they were holding me up to stop me falling backwards. I didn't think much about it. Then I began to sense that the hand was there more and more and it seemed to be travelling very, very, slowly down my back, really pressing into my back. I thought "Whoa, I must be really swaying," and never really thought much more about it. They prayed for me for quite a long time and when we had finished tears were still flowing. I thanked them and said "I'm really sorry was I swaying?" They looked rather quizzically at me and I said to them, "Well you were holding me up weren't you.?" They informed me that their hands were above my head. I now know that that was God's hand and the place where the hand started was the place where the doctors informed me that I may have some activity in the vertebrae of my spine. I used to have a sensation of 'cold in my bones' but that sensation has completely gone. I know that God's hand that day was healing me and I can't wait until my next appointment with my consultant so that I can tell him!



I didn't really feel the desperate need for healing prayer after that. I admit I have been a bit like Eeyore. I have had a cloud of worry over my head. Worries about my health and my future but my week at Flames of Fire has really given me peace about myself and excitement about my future.

Whilst I was at Flames of Fire I was bowled over by the Ignite work. To see those teenagers openly and confidently talking about their love for God gave me a feeling of confidence for the Church's future. My children went to Messengers and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. I pray that my children actively love the Lord openly and with as much confidence in Him as the teenagers I saw. All in all I felt captured by every seminar and talk that I heard. I loved the prayer and worship. The Fellowship between all of the people attending was wonderfully warm and loving and the fact that we were being watched over by Angels made me feel so much closer to the Lord. Since Flames of Fire I have definitely felt much closer to God and can't wait to return next year. We've already booked!

A.B.

Bruce Collins was a popular speaker leading the Bible studies each morning as well as a number of seminars. This was his comment :

“Overall I felt that this year's Flames of Fire has been a very good event. It was wonderful to see the Lord so obviously at work amongst us, and I heard much very positive feedback from all manner of people, old and young about how much they enjoyed it. The testimonies and stories on the last morning were really good to hear.”

“2029----WRITING OUR FUTURE NOW” SOMA SILVER JUBILEE CONFERENCE

JULY 5—8—2004 AT CANTERBURY ENGLAND:

S.O.M.A. - SHARING OF MINISTRY ABROAD, Celebrated 25 years of service to ALMIGHTY GOD in July of this year with a Silver Jubilee conference at Canterbury. 410 delegates attended, from 37 different countries including three from Wales. (i.e. Glenys Williams from Swansea; Brian and June Waters from Newport.) A.R.M. (Wales) started its contact with S.O.M.A in 1990 when Revd Michael Harper spoke at our annual conference. And in 1991, I represented A.R.M. (Wales) at an International conference in Brighton. Since then our work with S.O.M.A has been steady and varied. (S.O.M.A teams and conferences etc.)

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S.O.M.A. now has national bodies in 9 different countries. Missions have been carried out by S.O.M.A. in 60 different countries, with an impact on the world wide church that is constantly growing. Many conference members funded their own costs. Some were sponsored by parishes. Numbers attending would have been higher, but some delegates had difficulty over their visas.

The conference was held on the campus of the University of Kent, at Canterbury. Greetings were extended to the conference from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, well known to us in A.R.M. (Wales). Lord George Carey, retired Archbishop of Canterbury was one of the main speakers; another of our speakers well known in Wales was Revd Mrs Elizabeth Kamau, from Kenya.

Morning Bible study was led by Revd Canon Dr Stephen Noll from MUKONO UGANDA. Subjects for the main addresses included the following:

- 1) THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE 21st CENTURY - Lord George Carey
- 2) THE BEST IS YET TO BE - Revd David Harper
- 3) TRANSFORMATION INTO AFRICA. - Revd Canon Stephen Noll
- 4) GLOBAL SHIFTS IMPACTING THE 21st CENTURY CHURCH - Revd Professor Alister McGrath
- 5) TOUCHING HEAVEN, CHANGING EARTH. - Revd Elizabeth Kamau
- 6) EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING THE 21st CENTURY CHURCH - Rt.Revd James Tengtenga.

Plus workshops on a variety of topics, on Tuesday afternoon. There was plenty of time for socialising; and meeting old friends. The purpose of the conference was twofold.

1. To give thanks to Almighty God, for the vision for S.O.M.A. given to a group of delegates at the 1978 Lambeth Conference. And for bringing forward leaders to see that the vision was brought alive in such a wonderful way.
2. To project the vision forward over the next 25 years, to give the vision a realistic direction to follow. Hence the title of the conference “2029—WRITING OUR FUTURE NOW”

A few of the original founder members of S.O.M.A were present, and due respect was paid to them. Thanks were also expressed to those who organised this Silver Jubilee event. Particularly Don Brewin S.O.M.A. U.K. director, and all at the SOMA U.K office. They can now take a much -needed rest.



We at A.R.M (Wales) must seriously consider who is to be nominated to continue our membership of the S.O.M.A (U.K) council. It is critical that we maintain our link with this growing, charismatic mission movement.

Brian Waters

Advance Notice

15th May 2005 is to be a WORLD DAY of PRAYER. Every country is invited to take part in this God-centred prayer day. In May 2004 millions of people in Africa took part in an African Day of Prayer for their continent.

(SEE THE TRANSFORMATION VIDEO)

Book review “CHARISMATICS AND THE NEW MILLENNIUM” by Nigel Scotland

EAGLE £8.99

A Review by Stephan Jenkins

What does Nigel Scotland’s readable book have to offer? His introduction ends with a quotation, “Everywhere one looks, throughout the Anglican Communion the ranks of the renewed are swelling. Reading the statistics and monitoring the vitality, there is little doubt this is the predominant trend within world - wide Anglicanism, and it is conceivable that by the next century renewal Christianity will be on the verge of becoming the mainstream of the Episcopal Church.” (from “New Millennium, New Church” by R.Kew & R.White –Cowley Publications 1992, p19)

Pray that this renewal will not pass by the Church in Wales. Let none be uneasy about the word “renewal”.

There is nothing about the 19th or 20th century Renewal Movement in Wales but Nigel Scotland makes this telling point about the Welsh Revival of 1904, “it brought this same range of experiences to thousands of believers and unbelievers alike. Yet many received no instruction on the basics. Within four years thousands who had been touched were no longer in the churches.” Yet Scotland is not as pessimistic about the present day. He mentions how

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renewed Roman Catholics study the Bible more, how there has been a greater interest in the Eucharist where the Holy Spirit has moved in healing.

The book tackles a number of subjects relevant to the Christian experience, the first of which is worship. He quotes Mark Stibbe, "The greatest of all spiritual petitions is neither for gifts nor for fruit but for a deeper intimacy with Jesus Christ"; and the chapter ends with a quote from Bishop Michael Marshall "The worship is over let the service begin."

The churches in England have been touched by the Holy Spirit since the 1960's. They, through Scotland, are effectively saying, "Let us share but let us learn from each other. We desire for you not a 'revival' or 'blessing' that will touch some churches and fade but one that will sweep through the Church 'in Wales' and will grow to the four corners of the earth." And quoting Lesslie Newbigin, "There are no 'truths of reason' except those that have developed in an historical tradition." Michael Mitton (former Director A.R.M. England) is quoted as saying of England in 1994, "The charismatic movement is running out of steam. There is a real need for ritual, a need for liturgy, and a need for a connectedness with roots which are seen in the Jewish, Celtic and Orthodox Traditions"

In chapters on Worship, Leadership and Ministry, Authority and Pastoral Care, Spiritual Battle, Prophecy, Healing and Signs and Wonders, Scotland looks honestly and biblically at the subjects. He notes the involvement of prominent Anglicans in the Renewal Movement such as the Bishop of Pontefract, David Pytches and Tony Higton, but doesn't follow through either the Roman Catholic contribution or the work

of organisations such as Full Gospel Businessmen's International. Possibly the chapter on the Healing Ministry is the most broadly based in this respect. He's not averse to washing dirty linen in public, looking honestly at the abuses of heavy shepherding, hype and hysteria, faith teaching, demons in everything teaching, personal touching and pushing, directional and false prophecy and churches within the Church. Often he refers back to Chris Brain and the Nine O'clock Services as a warning of what can go wrong. He celebrates personal wholeness, commitment, increased giving, freedom in worship and every man and woman ministry.

What is significant is how Nigel Scotland traces the links between John Wimber and the New Wine Conferences and the Renewal Movement in England. These links are particularly important to later chapters on Revivalism, Church Planting, Charismatics and Theology and Charismatics and the Third Millennium. My only criticism of the last chapters is that the role of Alpha, as a biblical underpinning to renewal, is encompassed on one hand by theologians such as Tom Smail, Alister McGrath and Nigel Wright and on the other hand by the Conference Teaching popularised in the writing of Mark Stibbe, Bruce Collins and others. Throughout the book Michael Mitton provides encouraging and useful comment. He does not want debates about "the Baptism" but "a personal experience of the Holy Spirit bringing an awareness of love and holiness of our Father, and equipping us to serve our Lord Jesus".



Editor's note.

We welcome book reviews from our members. They are printed, as are other articles, as the personal opinion of the contributor.

Even so Come LORD Jesus by Mary Newsom

Lord you call me into the depths of your heart.

But I fear to enter that Holy place, for there I will feel your pain, your disappointment.

As I stand on the threshold my eyes are so close to tears and yet I can't weep,

Is it your protection or simply my lack of love for the world and all that grieves you?

I shrink from the reality that honest prayer will make the difference.

I want to pray for the Church and the world as I see them, based on my limited knowledge and under my judgement as it were,

But you Lord want to restore all into your peace and rejoice in all men, no matter what they have done. And we must not condemn them further.

My prayer could in fact hinder your plan, even your coming.

Lord I ask forgiveness and rejoice that you will pray your prayer in me as I surrender my heart to you and enter yours.

Amen