

Just one month since my last letter but there is news I must share.

Firstly, the trip to UK was wonderful. I kept a journal so have copied that here for you to enjoy with me the wonders of that trip and the revival conference in Greenock, Scotland.

### **UK Journal**

I arrived safely at Heathrow on Thursday after a good flight; was met by Greg at the airport, driven to a home nearby where we picked up the car we are to use for the next month. It is a stick change which neither Greg nor Eli is familiar with, so it seems I will be the driver for the next three weeks!! Eli arrived from New Brunswick on Wednesday. (His web page is very interesting at [www.timothyministry.net](http://www.timothyministry.net) )

- Thursday night we spent in Reading at the home of Ron and Margaret Bailey. Ron is one of the speakers in Greenock. We had a great time of fellowship as Ron is so interesting and has a vast knowledge of recent church history. Anne's cousin Bernard lives only 15 minutes away so I came on to stay with them on Friday while Greg and Eli were taken to speak at a church in Southall, London. They will visit London with a contact from that church on Sunday and then try to see a little of that wonderful city on Sunday afternoon. We meet up again at Ron's on Monday morning when I shall drive them to my land of Wales to begin the trip around the sites made famous by the Welsh revival of 1904.

- On Sunday morning I went to an open-air remembrance service in the local town, Sandhurst – the home of the army officer training college and a unit of the Ghurka (Nepalese) regiment. It was very moving.

- I'm feeling fine; almost over my cold. However the weather today is miserable with rain and wind. Hopefully it will improve for driving around next week.

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- Thursday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Wales
- We left England on Monday and travelled the 200+km to South Wales, calling in 'en route' to friends in Newport, passing through Cardiff and visiting my boyhood home area, including the home where I gave my life to the Lord, the ruined castle where I played and the school where I attended.
- We stayed two nights in Bridgend where we met with dear friends converted in the revival we experienced in 1973-5, among the youth and young adults of the town and its surroundings. We visited with an elderly couple whose parents and uncles were converted in 1904 and became leaders of the churches that sprung up afterwards. What stories they could tell! Evidently my friends were impressed with Greg and Eli as they gifted them with several old books of great delight to them! From there we journeyed up the valley where I taught, over the mountain into the Rhondda Valley (Cwm Rhondda) and down to Cardiff to see the city centre and to visit a market stall where more old books were bought or gifted. All these valleys were greatly impacted by the 1904 revival and the evidence is seen in the large number of chapels (sadly now mostly unused). Once we were in the Rhondda ("all 'true' Welshmen were born in the Rhondda Valley!"), we found a fish and chips shop to stop for lunch. What a treat! It included a portion of 'mushy peas' – a new experience much liked by us all.
- We are now in Gorseinon at the home of my in-laws. We arrived yesterday, visiting en route old Margam Abbey set in beautiful grounds and now used as a conference centre. Greg and Eli loved walking through the ruins of the old abbey and its circular chapel, now roofless but still impressive. Last evening we had a wonderful time visiting Moriah Chapel in Loughor, just 1 mile away, where Evan Roberts was wonderfully used of God in the revival of 1904 – some say the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit since Pentecost. A local elder took us around – Dyffrig Griffiths (pronounced 'Duvrig') is a man who still walks in a personal revival! We spent some time with him praying in the very room where Evan was so mightily used in leading

the young people into an experience of the Holy Spirit.

- Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, Wales
- We have just spent three wonderful days in central Wales where our hosts have treated us royally. Yesterday, we were toured around the sites here which were involved in preparing Evan Roberts for his revival ministry in 1904. eg; Blaenannerch where he received his baptism in the Spirit and cried “Bend me, bend me!” On to Tabernacl, New Quay where Florrie Evans cried, “O I love the Lord Jesus”. Then to St Michael’s at Aberystwyth University to see a video of Christianity in Wales. We visited Daniel Rowlands’ chapel at Llangeitho, scene of revivals in 1735 – 1760. Then to an old church at Llandewibrefi where St David brought about a mighty work of God as far back as 500AD. Accompanying us was Huw Priday, an operatic singer who sang some of the hymns of the Welsh revival – in Welsh and English. It was wonderful. We ended our tour at Hedyn Mwstard in Lampeter where we were served cawl, caws y bara, dessert, tea/coffee.
- Later in the evening, Eli spoke at two youth meetings that went very well.
- Today I joined 14 men in a 7 mile trek around a reservoir, (“the slog in the bog” or “ruck in the muck”!) followed by lunch together where I shared a brief testimony. It was wet and cold but thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Tomorrow I speak at two churches while Eli and Greg will be at other locations. I am so much enjoying this time, feeling good and having wonderful hosts who enable me to practice a little Welsh.
- Monday: Had a wonderful time yesterday at the two churches. In the morning I spoke on 1 John 2:12-15 at New Life – a free charismatic church of about 60 people. It went very well but I shall remember it for something else. A Chinese man stood and gave a remarkable testimony of a recent healing from bladder cancer. Another man followed with a similar account – and then another! The pastor’s wife, who was leading that part of the service, said “It seems the Lord is doing something special here for bladder cancers. Is there anyone here who needs prayer in this area?” Naturally, I stood, so they then proceeded to pray for me. The ‘coincidence’ was remarkable to me. I shall also remember that church for the songs we sang – many composed by the pastor – with a deep sense of Calvary and worship. In the afternoon I was taken to the Mwnt (mountain), a famous seaside landmark and very beautiful. Naturally I had to hike to the top for the spectacular view. In the evening I spoke at Mt Zion Baptist Church, Cardigan on “Offenses” – another good service, made special for me by the wonderful congregational singing. This has been a fantastic four days in Cardigan – we have been greatly blessed by the hospitality and fellowship and shall leave today for Mold, ‘en route’ to Scotland, with warmed hearts and many memories.
- Tuesday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup>: We are now in Greenock, waiting to meet with the local leaders (14 people/pastors) and then to be berthed at our accommodations. The journey from West Wales went very well. Last night we spent at a farmhouse near Mold, Flintshire, the home of Netta and Wyn. It was large, old and needed to be heated by large fires. They breed shire horses – very large – and Shetland ponies – very small! The road to Mold was very windy and narrow as are most roads in West Wales. We had an enormous meal last evening and another huge breakfast this morning. We tried to give a gift to Netta, hidden in one of my books, but she discovered it and refused to take it. We were so blessed by their generosity. From Mold we soon found the motorway into England, past Liverpool and north to Scotland. As I am the only driver we stopped after 2 hours for 30 minutes, then on to Greenock arriving here at 2.30 this afternoon. Fraser Donaldson, the young pastor of the Elim church, met us and then took us to the Struthers Memorial Church where there is a Christian bookshop and restaurant. We are to eat there each day and charge it to their tab! I had a nice mushroom omelette while the two guys had burgers. You can take Canadians out of Canada but you cannot take away their burgers!! Fraser took us then to see the town hall and adjoining church where the meetings will be held next

week. This evening we met with the three men most involved in planning this conference. It was a good time. Looking forward to tomorrow after a good night's sleep!!!

- Friday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>: my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday! We are staying at a rehabilitation home for drug addicts – I have a nice, warm room, ideal in this extremely cold, windy and wet place. Last evening we attended a DVD at the Haven (1<sup>st</sup> stage rehab) and then a Bible study here (2<sup>nd</sup> stage rehab). Both were a tremendous blessing and the singing was wonderful. Greg and Eli had never heard men sing so well. This morning I spoke at the rehab chapel to about 12 enthusiastic new believers before driving into town (10 km). There at the Struthers restaurant a group had gathered around a birthday cake to sing Happy Birthday to me.

- Sunday Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> evening. Its time to go to bed after a busy day. As there are not enough churches to host all the conference speakers I was asked to step aside to let Denny Kennastan speak at the Elim church this morning - no problem! Instead I took the Courville family (Don, his son John and two daughters, Jennifer and Joy) to Quarries Village to hear Al Whittinghill speak. It was a very interesting place - a village built to house orphans and fatherless children - at one time between the wars it had 1500 children there! There were about 25 people in attendance - several of whom committed their lives to Christ after Al's evangelical message! PTL! In the afternoon, between the showers, I took the Courville family to the Trossachs just north of here - a 30 mile round journey. We stopped at Balloch for a pub dinner - roast lamb with mint sauce, etc. In the evening we heard Al again at the Elim church - about 80 in attendance - a good time. Speakers are beginning to arrive, arrangements are being completed and all are eagerly waiting for the conference to open.

Tuesday, Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 10pm

Canton was water to our ankles; Atlanta was water to our knees; Greenock this first day was water to our loins! PTL! What a day we have celebrated! About 200 joined in the concert of prayer I had the privilege of leading for two hours, interspersed with videos from Zac Poonan and Joshua Daniels, especially prepared for this conference.

More were present this evening for the message by Denny Kenniston. It was preceded by the Courville children playing on violins, flute and keyboards; Worship - the old hymns - led by Dean Taylor, a solo by Mary Peckham, converted in the Isle of Lewis revival, calling on God to visit Scotland once again and two songs by Aylene, wonderfully anointed of God. Many flooded the front of the hall at the close. It was a precious evening! The prayer room was packed for an hour before and we heard of 11 blind Africans meeting on a mountaintop in Africa to pray at the same time. Thank you Lord!

Wednesday: I didn't sleep much last night as I was so 'wound up' from the blessings of the day. Finally I knelt in my bed and spent some time in prayer, before finally getting to sleep about 4.30am. I am now trying to find time to write this update between meetings. This morning my friend Yorrie spoke about "God coming down". What a blessing! Many commented of the blessing they received. Yorrie has has a heart triple by-pass and loses his breath quite quickly but one would never know from the passion he exudes in the pulpit. After the meeting we were invited to meet the town provost (mayor) in his chambers for lunch and a tour. What a wonderful time he gave us before we were able to pray for him and his council. We were there for over an hour before I had to return to prepare for the afternoon meetings. I rested while AL Whittinghill spoke but I understand that was a good time. In the 'breakout' sessions there were three speakers: David Legge from Ireland who spoke on Revival in Ruth; Ron Bailey whose theme was found in Rev 1 and John McGregor (whom I went to hear) speaking on Ezekiel. Wow! was I blessed! Between the meetings I took our car to a local tire company as there was a slow leak in one of the rear tires. They found it was in a join where plugging would be unsafe so I had to buy a new tire (\$60) which we three will share between us.

Friday morning, Nov 28<sup>th</sup>: The conference is over and we have been so blessed. Many hugs and handshakes from delegates and local believers, many tears of joy and lives changed. After Carter spoke, many came to the front to respond to his challenge to be

as Christ reaching out to this needy world. Ayleen came to the keyboards and led us in spontaneous worship. It was precious. On Friday, David Guzik, president of a Bible school in Germany and a revival historian, spoke so clearly on the power of confession. Many came forward to confess publicly under guidance of what was appropriate. The afternoon 'breakout' sessions were well attended. Mary Peckham, a convert of the Isle of Lewis revival in the 50s, was one of the speakers, her husband another. Later I convened the Q&A session with 7 panelists answering questions posed by the delegates. That is always an interesting time.

The evening speaker was Keith Daniel who has a very dramatic presentation. The hall was almost full as he challenged pastors, in particular, to preach the word and not to be swayed into a watered down preaching of the Word. Many responded, some laying prostrate as they committed themselves to more faithful preaching of Biblical truth. We feel the conference was a great 'success' as our goal was to convene a "solemn assembly" of men and women seeking to prepare ourselves for a God sent revival. As Yorrie Richards had said, "It is God's mercy that He does not send revival when we are not ready to receive it."

One added note: The 'most notorious woman' in the town was drawn to the town hall yesterday afternoon. She was met by a young man, now living in the USA, who was in the same class at school with her, had the same birthdate and had shared a cell when they were both drunk many years ago. The outcome was that she gave her life to Christ. Maybe revival starts with the conversion of the worst - but it must continue in the transformed lives of believers.

Monday, Dec 1st: I am resting at the home of wonderful people near Heathrow while Greg and Eli are scouring the Christian used book shops of London. It is bright today but bitterly cold as I cleaned the car out. Yesterday we went into London to attend Westminster Chapel, once the pulpit of Dr Martin Lloyd Jones. The attendance was disappointing but the guest preacher was outstanding. He has a ministry in Iran, his home land and has seen many thousands of Muslims coming to Christ there in recent years. He says there are over 1 million Iranian believers in the world now compared with a few thousand before the cultural revolution of Ayatollah Komeini. Afterwards we were to meet George Verver (Operation Mobilisation) but were delayed and missed him. Tomorrow we all leave for Heathrow and home after a wonderful month of high blessings in UK.  
Gareth

The second bit of news I have is not so pleasant. On returning to my urologist he examined me and found that the cancer has returned. I must now have further immediate surgery to remove three tumors from my bladder, followed by 6 weeks of injections with bovine TB. We have wonderful peace through all this and know our times are in His hands.