

Well, the *Revival Conference* is over. Was it a 'success'? How do you measure success for something like this? Revival didn't break out but that is God's sovereign doing and we can do nothing to force Him to act. If 'success' is measured by the numbers who attended, then we are well satisfied. One evening the sanctuary was full – about 450 people; other meetings also were well attended. To me, 'success' was indicated by the large number who stayed after the final service had been 'dismissed', in order to give testimony of what the Lord had done in them through this conference. Two people stood to acclaim the Lord as their Saviour for the first time, newly 'born again' of His Spirit. A backslidden husband was restored to the Lord - and to his wife who was recently considering separation. Several others gave testimony of restoration and renewal. Three pastors, not involved with conference preparation, stood to say they had been 'changed'. Many others have been reported as having said the same thing. I truly believe God has done a significant thing in many hearts this week and only time will tell how this will effect the church in Victoria. Thank You, Lord!

Our speakers came from different backgrounds and had different emphases. Don McClure is director of a Bible School in California; Chas Price is pastor of People's Church, Toronto; Richard Siple is a retired Alliance pastor, with much experience of the Canadian revival in Saskatoon, 1971; Mark Greening runs a Home Fellowship in Toronto; Clayton Dougan lives in Victoria, is an itinerant evangelist and a dear friend of mine; Andrew Strom hails from New Zealand and has a world-wide revival e-mail list. My good friend Don Courville from Missouri and I were the moderators – a very wearying job if it weren't for the Lord's enabling. We were also greatly blessed by the worship led by David Ford, the concerts of prayer led by Dan Biser of *Broken Before the Throne Ministries*, and the unique 'balladeering' of Trevor Baker. You can find his songs on my **favourite links** page. All the messages and the Q&A session can be heard (and seen) on www.sermonindex.net.

On Friday last, the day after the conference, I was scheduled to meet with a young couple at my home. He is Chinese and she Japanese and I recently had opportunity to conduct a service of Christian blessing on their marriage, before her parents and several of his relatives (Shinto and Buddhist). Ayako is a believer but Victor knew nothing of the Bible so he asked me to teach him. This week he came with a brand new Bible and I taught them both the theme of the OT – Creation - how sin came into the world and separated man from God – how God choose a special people and made a covenant with them – how He saught to draw them back to Himself but they would not, playing 'harlot' with other gods – how He delievered them from Egypt – the Passover lamb and the annual day of atonement when sins could be covered for a year with the shed blood of a spotless lamb - how He gave them judges to deliver them from their enemies – and prophets to call them back to Himself but they refused. I was going to teach the theme of the NT this week but Victor was so excited with the OT that he asked me to go on. As soon as I talked about the Lamb of God who takes away all sin for all mankind for all time (not just covering it for a year) he exclaimed “I want to know Jesus as my Lamb. He died for my sins!” I had to hold the 'reins' on him, telling him this would cost him all – that Jesus must be Lord. I have only once before met someone as prepared and eager to give his life to Jesus. What a joy to lead him to the Saviour. He wrote in his brand-new Bible. 'Today (date) I gave my life to Jesus' and told me as he and Ayako left, I'm going to tell our (Japanese) pastor on Sunday and ask if I can stand to tell everyone else what I have done. PTL!

After the conference I received an email from Dan Biser inviting me to be the speaker at the next *Broken Before the Throne* conference in Hagerstown, Maryland, USA on July 24th/25th. Anne and I are lplanning to spend a week in Springfield, Missouri with Don and his family before I go on to Maryland. My next newsletter will tell you about that.

In the meanwhile, my health is good and I am rejoicing in God's mercy.

Gareth