

VELINDRE CHALLENGED BY THE POWER OF GOD, 1971  
by Mary Bayes

Velindre lies near to Newcastle Emlyn, and approximately six miles from Llandysul. It is a very religious community and claims a population of about 200 souls. The venue for the Velindre revival services was the Red Dragon Hall, with a seating capacity of about 350 persons. Prior to the three days crusade during September, much prayer had been offered for the success of these services. At Crymych the previous week the revivalist, Peter Scothern, had given a soul challenging address on the need for regular fervent prayer for the spread of the revival. No less than 101 people present promised to open their homes for regular weekly prayer meetings, honeycombing the area with intercessory prayer groups.

#### CENTRES OF INTERCESSION

Mrs. Davies, a devout Methodist from near Whitland returned to Velindre to give a glowing account of establishment of such a prayer centre.

At Cynwyl Elfed, many of the new converts meet frequently in the home of Mr. Rees for regular intercession. At the Bryn Moriah Chapel numerous young people pray fervently every Thursday night for the flames of blessing to spread. Cottages and homes throughout the locality are centres of fervent intercession.

A recently re-opened Congregational Church on the outskirts of Lampeter has dedicated Wednesday evening to prayer and praise for this praying fellowship revival. It is under the capable leadership of Mr. Alan Brittain, a devoted spirit filled believer.

If one could look down upon this locality it would be possible to see many such prayer groups scattered everywhere like a myriad of fires burning in the night. Even as far west as Cardigan, revival prayer groups have been established, and if one was to enquire as to the basic reason for the spread of the revival it must surely be that quickened saints have caught the vision and are praying accordingly.

The prayer meetings are no longer lifeless and formal. They are charged with passion and purpose. Quickened saints weep before the portals and rend the very heavens with believing prayer. Even the young converts have been known to weep profusely over the ungodly state of their loved ones. The whole area is being bathed and saturated with heart rending prayers and intercession.

#### GOD SEEMED EVERYWHERE

This was surely in evidence at Velindre. The hush and solemnity of the opening service was in complete contrast to other previous "first" meetings. God seemed everywhere. The singing was of the most anointed quality and appeared to float from the Red Dragon Hall through the streets of Velindre, like an angelic anthem.

Once again the underlying theme of the service was the need for the conversion in contrast to religious belief. The testimonials in English and Welsh were simply heart melting. Mrs. Annie Towler gave an appropriate testimonial of her remarkable conversion after thirty years in Methodism, also adding details of her remarkable cure from the effects of a degenerate disc from which she had suffered for many years.

A niece and auntie from near Whitland held the congregation spellbound as they related how Christ had completely changed their lives at conversion. The auntie also testified to a miraculous healing from a growth in her gullet which astonished many of those present.

## THE INGATHERING

But perhaps the most challenging of testimonials came from Desmond, recently a gambler and a drunkard, but gloriously converted in the revival. The congregation spontaneously clapped at the conclusion of his remarkable story.

Once again sinners responded to the invitation and came forward to be converted. And once again the power of the Spirit was in great evidence as they were overwhelmed and filled with God. One convert, a tall handsome young man afterwards testified: "God took hold of me tonight". A lady convert still trembling under the power of God kept repeating: "Oh, Jesus, you're so wonderful, so wonderful". The revivalist publicly interviewed the new converts, who in turn testified spontaneously of receiving heaven sent peace and blessing. Their faces radiated the glory of their new found faith. Songs of praise and thanksgiving followed as the building echoed with anointed anthems.

The Lord's power and presence was so evident that some were completely overwhelmed and were obliged to take their seats.

## THE HEALING POWER

The anointed ministry to the sick and suffering was astonishing as the needy ones were blessed and completely overcome by the Lord's healing grace. It seemed just like a scene from the New Testament days. It had to be seen to be believed. The power of the Lord seemed to run from one side of the hall to the other. It was wonderful to behold. The service continued until well after 10.00 p.m. and even at 11.00 p.m. folk were still congregating outside the hall excitedly discussing the events of the evening.

One of the outstanding features of the revival has been the Christ like love and unity among the new born believers. As in New Testament days even outsiders have remarked: "How they love one another". This unity of the Spirit has prevailed throughout the revival creating a oneness of purpose and vision.

## THE AMAZING SATURDAY SERVICE

The last night of the three day visit to Velindre proved absolutely awe inspiring. At times the presence of God was so awesome that even the revivalist testified of a Godly fear. Scores of new converts were prostrated before the Lord seeking a baptism of holy love. In the service alone about 200 converts from the revival testified by stepping forward that they were the spiritual products of this heaven sent visitation. Local sinners were still enquiring about the way of salvation at past 11.00 p.m. in the evening. It was an unforgettable meeting.