

### “What Does Jesus Christ Mean To You?”

At the outset of the Welsh Revival Joseph Jenkins was the pastor of New Quay (pronounced “key”) Church in Cardiganshire. He was deeply concerned about the spiritual state of the young people in his church and had begun spending prolonged times in prayer for them. He was concerned that his youth group had become more social than Christian. One Sunday morning in February of 1904 he challenged the 60 youths in his Christian Endeavour movement. “What does Jesus Christ mean to you?” he asked. The question was embarrassing to them. There was a prolonged silence. One boy eventually spoke up and said, “Jesus Christ is the hope of the world.” Jenkins responded, “Never mind the world. What does Jesus Christ mean to you?” Finally, young Florie Evans, who had been converted by Jenkins only two weeks before, testified to the cold youth meeting, “I love the Lord Jesus with all my heart.” This simple statement of personal faith deeply moved the Christian Endeavour movement. The effect was startling, and resulted in an overpowering sense of God’s presence in the church. The fire of revival had been lit. The young people soon began visiting other local churches carrying the fire and sharing the blessing.

### “Please God, Give Me Wales”

In the 1970s a retired Presbyterian minister lived in Port Hueneme in California. His name was Dr. Peter Joshua. He was the son of Seth Joshua (born April 10, 1859). By 1904 Seth Joshua was an official evangelist of the Welsh Presbyterian Church, then called the Calvinistic Methodist Church. Along with John Pugh, Seth Joshua was also an official evangelist for the Forward Movement in Wales. He began to pray a most unusual prayer. He was concerned with the over-emphasis of the Presbyterian church upon the academic and educational qualifications rather than the spiritual qualifications of its ministers. So he had begun to ask God to raise up a lad from the mines or fields of Wales (even as He had taken Elisha from behind the plough), not from Cambridge or Oxford to pander to the people’s pride, but a lad from the mines or the fields to revive his people and lead them back to God. He could scarcely have imagined that God would use his own ministry to anoint the very person who would fulfill this prayer!

Years later Dr. Peter Joshua told a story about missing (“mitching”) school one day and going to a local park to play. Suddenly he spotted his father walking in the park.

Hiding in some bushes he watched as his father walked by:

“As he came near I was frightened as I heard that he was crying (something I thought never my Dad would ever do) and as he went by he was saying, ‘Please God, give me Wales’, and kept saying this as long as I could hear him. After a while I ran back home, and while I had to explain to mother that I had mitched school, I asked her what was wrong with Dad, and told her that I had heard him crying and saying ‘Give me Wales.’ She ruffled her hair and said, ‘You’ll understand one day.’ God never gave Wales to my Dad, although he gave him many souls, but one day when he was preaching when he made an appeal Evan Roberts was the only one who stood to his feet and trusted the Saviour. God never gave Wales to my Dad, but he gave Wales to Evan Roberts.” [9]