

## "O Lord, Bend Us"

On Thursday, September 29th, 1904, Evan Roberts and some twenty students started out at 6:00 a.m. to attend a 7 a.m. meeting at the Blaenannerch conference. Along the way they sang, "It is coming, it is coming, the power of the Holy Ghost; I receive it, I receive it, the power of the Holy Ghost." As they broke for breakfast, Seth Joshua concluded his preaching with a prayer in Welsh, "O Arglwydd, plyg ni" "O Lord, bend us". Evan Roberts was deeply and visibly moved by this prayer. According to Roberts, "'That is what you stand in need of,' said the Spirit to me. And Oh! In going through the door I prayed within myself, 'Oh! Lord, bend us.'"

On the way into the 9 o'clock meeting Seth Joshua commented, "We are going to have a wonderful meeting here to-day," to which Roberts replied "I am just bursting." When the meeting resumed at 9 a.m., Roberts knew he must pray. As he waited for others to finish praying he said, "I felt some living energy or force entering my bosom. It took my breath away, and my legs trembled exceedingly." Evan Roberts recounted the event himself, "I fell on my knees with my arms on the seat before me, the perspiration poured down my face and my tears streamed quickly - until I thought that the blood came out. Soon Mrs. Davies, Mona, New Quay, came to wipe my perspiration. . . It was awful on me for about two minutes. I cried 'Bend me, bend me, bend me; Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! When wiping my perspiration Mrs. Davies said, 'Oh wonderful grace!' 'Yes,' said I, 'Oh wonderful grace!' It was God commending His love that bent me, and I not seeing anything for Him to commend. After I was bent, a wave of peace filled my bosom. When I was in this feeling the audience sang heartily, 'I am coming, coming, Lord, to Thee!' What came to my mind after this was, the bending in the day of judgment. Then I was filled with sympathy for the people who will have to bend in the judgment day, and I wept. Afterwards, the salvation of souls weighed heavily upon me. Seth Joshua wrote in his diary, "One young man was deeply moved". Indeed he was. Evan Roberts would always remember this day as "Blaenanerch's great meeting." That was the crisis experience of Evan Roberts. When his burden lifted Roberts rose from prayer a changed man, "I felt ablaze with a desire to go through the length and breadth of Wales to tell of the Saviour; and had it been possible, I was willing to pay God for doing so."

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On Wednesday evening, November 2, at an "after meeting" at Moriah Chapel in Loughor, Evan Roberts declared, "I have a word for you from God." He proceeded to give them four points, which became the basis of all his revival work:

1. You must confess any known sin to God, and put any wrong done to man right;
  2. You must put away any doubtful habit;
  3. You must obey the Spirit promptly;
  4. You must confess your faith in Christ publicly.
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The above quotes are taken from When The Fire Fell, by R. Maurice Smith

Another excellent resource, a very short and powerful read, is Llangeitho and The Welsh Revival, by D. Geraint Jones.

You can download both at: <http://walesawakening.org/resources.php>