



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Baptist Church initiates ecumenical get-together for youth



Work began on Saturday in Downpatrick on an inter-church project which has been initiated by the local Baptist Church in order to bring together young people from the town. The project, which is entitled "Growing Together 2000 - A Millennium Project for Downpatrick Youth", will involve planting a number of trees at the Grove. The trees will form an archway signifying the growing together of the different communities. A large stone (see pic) will be placed under the arch with an inscription from the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Project participants are pictured with Pastor Joe White, Fr Gerry Coleman and Pauline McFadyen (Co-ordinator).

The Mourne Observer article

The Mourne Observer of September 8th carried a story of a special millennium project for Downpatrick youth. It involves the planting of a number of trees at "the Grove." It is hoped the trees will grow together to form an archway and thus signify the growing together of the different communities in Downpatrick.

The picture that accompanied the article showed Baptist pastor, Joe White in company with Roman Catholic parish priest, 'Father' Gerry Coleman and some young people with spades. A large stone with an inscription from the parable of the mustard seed is to be placed under the arch of trees.

The pastor's actions must disappoint and grieve every true Christian, Baptists especially. Pastor White is obviously keen to see his young people "growing closer" to the Roman Catholic youth in Downpatrick. Efforts such as this will undoubtedly succeed and Pastor White will have the opportunity to attend the weddings in the local Roman Catholic

chapel of those of his Baptist flock whom he encouraged to grow together with their local Roman Catholic neighbours.

One wonders is that the outcome Pastor White desires? Why is it neighbourliness must mean fellowship on a religious basis? Pastor White is following the ecumenical agenda and it will have only one outcome. God's Word sets another agenda for the Christian and his children. *And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them,* Ephesians 5:11.