



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Tenth Anniversary Services in Port Hope



A report by the minister, Rev. Reggie Cranston

Ten years after the Moderator, Dr. Ian Paisley visited the small town of Port Hope, Ontario, Rev. Ivan Foster, Kilskeery, Northern Ireland was invited to conduct a week of meetings to mark the tenth anniversary of the congregation in Port Hope becoming part of the Free Presbyterian Church in Canada. Rev. Reginald Cranston, minister of the church, was pleased to welcome his friend of many years standing to his pulpit in Port Hope, looking forward to the opportunity of hearing him again preach the word of God.

Rev. Foster was led to preach a series of messages based on the life of Hezekiah, king of Judah, and the great revival which swept through the land after the godly king ascended the throne. From the opening meeting it was very evident that Mr. Foster had the anointing of the Lord upon him, preaching with great power and liberty.

Repeatedly directing the congregation to 2 Chronicles chapters 27 to 30, God's servant began by drawing attention to the deplorable spiritual state of the land of Judah, before the godly Hezekiah became king.

As the meetings continued, it was clear the Holy Spirit was at work amongst the people of God, bringing conviction of sin and brokenness of heart.

Developing his "Revival" theme, Mr. Foster went on to show how Hezekiah opened again the doors of the Lord's house casting out every abominable thing that was found therein. Leading his people in the proper worship of God, the purging of the temple was completed in just sixteen days. Mr. Foster showed that the God of Hezekiah is able to send revival today and will, when God's people give themselves to prayer and living holy lives, 2 Chron. 7: 14.

All too quickly the week of meetings came to an end and none who was in attendance will ever forget the final service. Calling upon Christians to "Go through with God" Mr. Foster emphasized the need for believers to rededicate their lives to the Lord and to the giving of themselves to praying for revival. As the congregation sang the words of the closing hymn,

Go thro' with God, thy vows to pay, Thy life upon the altar lay; The Holy Ghost will do the rest, And bring to thee God's very best.

there was a great sense of the Lord's presence in the meeting and many who were there in that blessed service were moved to tears, as they surrendered their all to the Lord.

During those anniversary services the Lord was pleased to give His people in Port Hope "a little reviving."

May this only be the beginning and may the Lord continue the work He has begun.