



# The Burning Bush—Online article archive

## Irish Methodism’s departure from God’s Word



The "B-M" where Enniskillen Methodist church has convened "gospel meetings"

The following article appeared in "The Impartial Reporter", a County Fermanagh weekly newspaper, of September 22nd.

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**"Church service with a difference for those who find Sunday is not for them"**

**"Can you spare 45 minutes for God? This is the question being asked by Enniskillen Methodist Church and Enniskillen Youth for Christ this Saturday evening when they launch a new event called 45."**

A spokesman explains that it is called 45 because it only lasts 45 minutes and it is planned to run on the fourth Saturday evening of each month.

"The aim is to provide a Saturday night alternative for people who either can't go or don't go to Church on Sunday. People have many reasons why they don't go to Church on a Sunday morning; some people work, others find the times inconvenient or the services too traditional, and statistics show that many have given up on Church completely," reported the spokesman, who continued: "45 is particularly aimed at the 18-30 age group and it is intentionally different from Sunday Church. The format is quite simple, there will be a loud live band (no congregational singing), we'll be showing a short dvd clip and there will be a 10-minute talk. This week it's called 'The Gospel according to the Simpsons', and then we'll finish with more of the band."

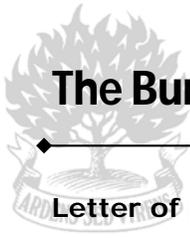
He noted: "The venue is also purposely different, as this month it is being held in Bar-M in Darling Street rather than in a Church building. Bar-M is a more appropriate location for the people we want to reach and the event we want to put on. We want to take God's word to the people rather than expect them to come to us."

The spokesman believes that the people they want to reach are unlikely to read the church pages in the newspaper, but those who do will know many people who can benefit from this event.

"We would ask them to tell their friends and family members about 45 and encourage them all to come along and hear God's word," urged the spokesman.

He added: "Enniskillen will be as busy as usual this Saturday evening, we hope that people will arrive in town a little earlier and come to 45 before they head out to the pubs, restaurants and clubs."

45 takes place this Saturday at 8pm in Bar-M and it lasts 45 minutes."



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Letter of protest to the editor of "The Impartial Reporter" from Rev. Ivan Foster.

Sir,

The article headed "Church service with a difference for those who find Sunday is not for them" in last week's edition of "The Impartial Reporter" made sad reading for anyone who loves the Bible's message of the gospel.

It is praiseworthy to be anxious about those who do not assemble to hear God's Word preached.

However, those involved in the "45", "Bar M" gatherings are not engaged in bringing the Word of God to sinners, whatever else they may be involved in!

Your article makes clear that this is an "alternative" to Lord's Day worship, something which is commanded of God. Any tampering with the order ordained of God with a view to placating those who are in rebellion against God and reject His commands is obviously sinful.

Many mistakenly believe that this is what Christ did. The Saviour brought to men the timeless Word of God and did not alter it in order to accommodate rebellious man.

The format of the gathering is decidedly unscriptural with "a loud live band" and "no congregational singing" (Ps 35:18, 107:32, 111:1, 149:1).

To give a talk entitled, "The gospel according to the Simpsons" borders on blasphemous.

The fact that the gathering will take place in premises with the name "Bar-M", a licensed premises, I understand, indicates clearly the character of it all.

A spokesman for the enterprise is quoted as saying: "We hope that people will arrive in town a little earlier and come to 45 before they head out to the pubs, restaurants and clubs." It is clear from this that they do not expect conversions to follow these meetings or the lifestyle of those attending to change. Rather, pubs and clubs are places very acceptable to this new form of "Christianity".

How different was the objective of the Wesleys and the Ousleys and many other brave men who travelled Ireland calling on men and women to repent.

How different is the Bible's stated objective in gospel preaching. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new," 2 Corinthians 5:17.

That such an unscriptural venture should be sanctioned by Irish Methodism indicates just how far that denomination has departed from the Word of God.

Yours sincerely,  
Ivan Foster.