

Free Presbyterian Youth

For almost thirty years Free Presbyterian Youth has sought to encourage the young people of the Free Presbyterian Church in the things of the Lord and to direct their energies into His service.

In 1972 the Presbytery commissioned Rev. Alan Cairns to coordinate the youth fellowships of the church. As a result of united youth meetings in Martyrs' Memorial Church Hall, Free Presbyterian Youth was born. Its first united action was to launch *Truth for Youth*, a bimonthly magazine. *Truth for Youth* almost immediately commenced Let the Bible Speak, our international radio ministry, and was soon successfully raising thousands of pounds for Christian relief work, especially in India.

However, the difficulty in contacting fellowships speedily to call them to a united protest against *Jesus Christ Superstar* highlighted the need for a further step in Free Presbyterian Youth's development. So on February 19, 1974, Mr. Cairns called a meeting of thirty-eight delegates from twenty-two youth fellowships at Sandown church. There they formed the Youth Council to provide a forum to discuss young people's work in general and to organize events for the edification of Free Presbyterian youth, seeking at all times the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am very pleased to say that under God the Youth Council has grown to be very successful in the various activities it organizes throughout the year. Here are some of the events the Youth Council sponsors:

Evenings of Prayer

We have two special evenings of prayer, one at the beginning of the year and another one in the autumn. These have been well supported, particularly last year when between six and seven hundred young people met in nine different places to pray for the work of the Lord. Many young people have started their public prayer activity at these meetings.

Rallies

During March and September each year the council organizes special rallies. Guest speakers preach on subjects requested by members of the council. These have been blessed times with large numbers of young people in attendance.

Training Weekend

Each year a training weekend is organized for those interested in outreach work. This weekend is very practical, with a good combination

of lectures, presentations, and contributions from individual attendees. The training emphasizes evangelism and includes specific instruction on communication skills, door-to-door work, open-air meetings, and leading souls to Christ. This event serves to prepare those who wish to travel on our summer outreach.

Summer Outreach

Each year a group of young people travel to a particular work within the church—usually in England, Scotland, or Wales—where they visit door-to-door, conduct open-air meetings, and distribute tracts. This outreach has been blessed of the Lord in the salvation of souls and the encouragement of our young people who attend.



Open-air Rallies

These meetings take place in five locations during July and August, when the youth of our denomination meet together to conduct services. At some of the rallies they hold a public march of witness and then preach, testify, and distribute tracts to bring the gospel to needy souls.

Projects

Since 1981 the Youth Council has been involved in six projects. Three of the projects have been for the Whitefield

College of the Bible, raising almost £24,000 for computers, printers, and other equipment. The other three projects have been conducted in support of the Free Church's missionary efforts with £5,000 being raised for a photocopier for Kenya and £5,400 being collected to sponsor "Let the Bible Speak" broadcasts to China. The present project has raised approximately £11,000 to date for the purchase of equipment for the Christian school in Kenya. The total finances raised by the Youth Council since 1981 is a staggering £45,000.

As president of the Youth Council I commend our young people and the Youth Council Committee for their dedication and support of the Youth Council. Truly our motto text is appropriate: "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).

The youth are the future of our denomination. May God raise up a people "that do know their God [who] shall be strong, and do exploits" (Daniel 11:32). ■

by **REV. ALAN LAMONT** *Youth Council President*

The Youth Council has its own web site (www.fpcyouth.org). Please take time to visit the site and see all the up-to-date information regarding the Youth Council.