

THE MAGNUM OPUS
OF CORNERSTONE

What is it that makes us Uniquely Cornerstone?



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A JOURNEY DOWN MEMORY LANE

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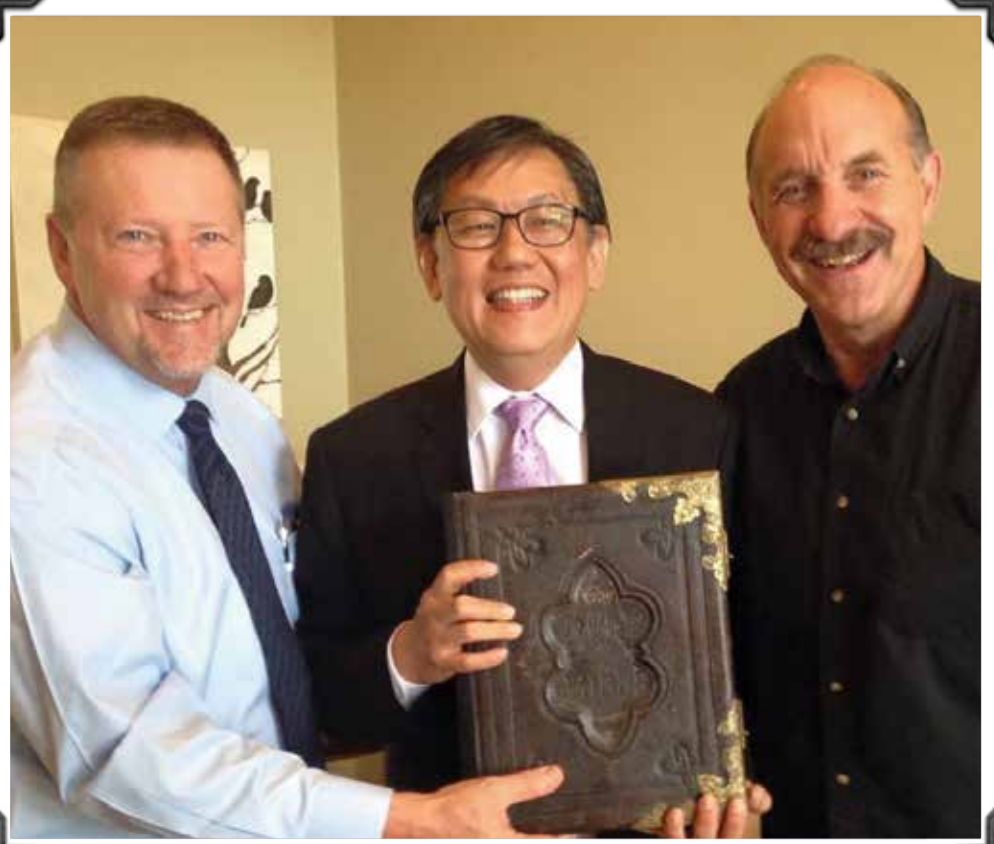
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KEVIN JOHNS column



Reviving a centrepiece of the revival

Saturday's re-opening of Pisgah Chapel in Loughor.

THE story of Evan Roberts and the Welsh Revival of 1904-5 is the most thrilling events on modern church history.

In today's generation, where churches are thought to be irrelevant and chapels are left empty, the thought that 100,000 people in Wales became Christians in just nine months is almost incomprehensible.

Yet it happened and the revival spread far and wide. Within a decade, in Korea and India, in France and Madagascar, and in a dozen other countries, movements influenced by the revival in Wales were touching many thousands.

Men who had not taken one penny home in years now took all home. Houses became decently furnished, women and children became decently clad. The pubs became practically empty, but in Wales the fires died down as chapel services quickly reverted to sober respectability. Religion was no longer "the absorbing theme of thought and conversation".

In these days of scepticism in all matters theological, it is hard to imagine a picture of Wales in 1904 and 1905 when, for many months, the whole country was gripped by a religious revival that swept like a tidal wave across the land.

The man at the head of that revival was a young man from Loughor called Evan Roberts. Those of us who live in the area are used now to a regular stream of visitors from all over the world gathering outside Moriah for a tour of the Revival Chapel which was at the centre of the revival.

The other chapel in Loughor associated with the revival was Pisgah Chapel, close to the Roberts family home near the banks of the estuary. Pisgah had none of the grandeur of cathedrals but there the fires were lit of the largest religious awakening of the 20th Century.

It was January 15, 1893 when the roots of Pisgah Chapel were laid down.

The owner of the local Broadoak Colliery, Sam Thomas, instituted a Sunday school in a room above the

colliery's offices.

After two years he set aside a plot of land nearby and asked Evan Roberts, then a teenager who worked at the pit and was involved with the Sunday school, to overlook the building of a schoolroom.

However, in 2012 Pisgah was under threat of demolition.

The building's then owners, the Presbyterian Church of Wales, found Pisgah too costly to maintain and applied for planning permission to demolish the chapel and replace it with a bungalow.

So despite the wonderful heritage of Pisgah and the special place it held in Welsh social, religious and cultural history, the future was bleak.

Then North Wales Assembly Member Darren Millar, himself a minister, bought the chapel.

Now the chapel has been completely restored to its original state by the Bible College of Wales and financed by the Cornerstone Community Church in Singapore where the impact of the 1904 revival is still felt today.

I was a guest at the rededication service on Saturday and thought how long it had been since Pisgah had been full to capacity and the sound of singing has been heard by the banks of the estuary.

From the middle of the 18th Century to the middle of the 19th, Wales experienced some 15 major revivals, resulting in its reputation as 'the land of revivals'.

It's part of our history and for people of faith or no faith, the 1904 outpouring is recognised for its religious and social impact.

Crime rates dropped wherever Evan Roberts came to preach and huge numbers of people gave up alcohol.

Pubs, hotels and inns all over the country reported major losses in trade.

Today it still impacts Wales with more than 600,000 people visiting the country's religious sites each year, it would appear the concept of 'faith tourism' in the region is undergoing somewhat of a renaissance, or a revival as we like to call it in Wales.





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MELBOURNE



GUATEMALA



CANADA



MAURITIUS



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INDONESIA



IRELAND



JAPAN



BORNEO



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CORNERSTONE HAS A

1

A Global Call



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WE ARE
2

Pentecostal



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WE ARE CALLED TO BE

A Prophetic People

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“As for Me”, says the Lord, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants, says the LORD, from this time and forevermore.”

ISAIAH 59:21



WE HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH

4

The Message of Zion



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5
WE HAVE A

Revival DNA



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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF

6 Israel

IN OUR MESSAGE

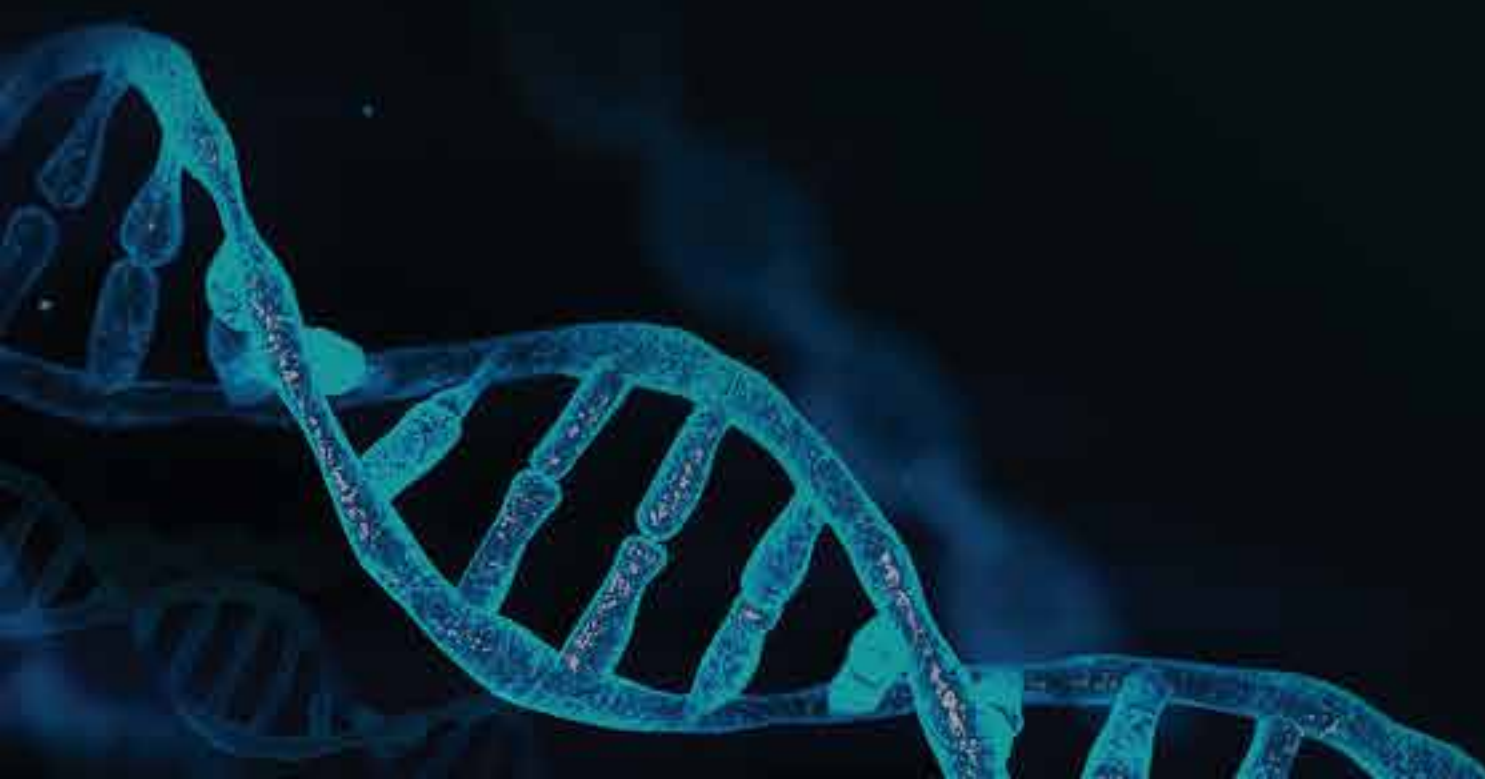


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7
WE ARE CALLED TO BE

A Spiritual RAF



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Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you **ALL** speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

