

National Youth Convention – Saturday 21/4/2012

It was with great anticipation of good things that the youth of the Church of God in England gathered for the Annual National Youth Convention at the Long Lane Church. They were not to be disappointed as the blessed Holy Ghost was very prominent throughout the day. The National Youth Leader, Sister Claudine Brown welcomed everyone and outlined the Convention theme which was 'Unmoveable, Unshakeable.'

After an initial prayer session the devotion was led by Pastor Angela Clarke and Sister Ashley Melton from the Church in London. The scripture was read from Daniel 3:26 – 30. Brother Jason Prince encouraged the youth to be steadfast and to live a life of holiness. He emphasised the fact that God required us to live holy at all times and we should not be hypocrites. Scriptures used included: St. Matthew 7:21- 22, James 1:8 and Exodus 32:1 -6. There followed a time of praise and worship after which Pastor Anderson from the Handsworth Church encouraged the youth that "youth was the last opportunity to get it right." Our National Overseer and Pastor of Long Lane Church encouraged the youth to count the cost and to have a made up mind using as a scripture, St. Luke 14:28 - 32.

During the Gleaners time we had songs from Corey Clarke and Katherine Hamilton as well as Corey on the keyboard. We had further special singing from the churches in London and Druids Heath that was a great blessing to all. Sister Oneaka Prince encouraged us from the story of Ruth to be steadfast and unmoveable using the scriptures Ruth 1:14 – 17 and Acts 9:1 - 6. Brother Justin Clarke encouraged us using the theme 'Stay in the Sanctuary of God.' He encouraged us to be single minded and to stay in the straight and narrow way. Scriptures used included: St. Matthew 7:13 – 14, James 1:6 – 8, 1 Peter 5:8, Romans 8:31 - 39 and Revelations 3:16 – 17.

Following a very appetizing lunch we again gathered for worship with the VLB's [youth aged 12 to 35] marching around the auditorium in their uniform and singing to the glory of God. Following bible and flag pledges we were encouraged by Pastor Frances Prince from the Druids Heath Church to stay with God. A visual presentation followed showing how Satan attacks and destroys those who are not steadfast in their faith.

The National Youth Leader Sister Claudine Brown preached an outstanding message entitled 'No Room for Shaking Christians in an Unshakeable Church.' She encourage the youth to have a made up mind and to be willing to stand whatever situation came their way. She said that the things we trusted in like family and friends may not always be there but even then we must be willing to stand. Scriptures used included: Hebrews 12:22, 26 – 27; St. Luke 21: 27 – 28; Proverbs 4:24 -27 and 1 John2:24.

Pastor Anderson directed a time of prayer where the youth were invited to the altar to seek the Lord. Many could be seen pouring out their hearts to the Lord and seeking Him for a deeper revelation.

After some glorious singing from the National Choir we had an exhortation from Brother Jonathan Wright. He encouraged us using the theme of 'Endurance.' He referred to physical and mental endurance and used the analogy of sports players and marathon runners. Scriptures used included: Ephesians 6:13 – 18, Galatians 5:1, 1 Corinthians 15:58 and St. Matthew 10:22.

This was followed by an encouragement from Brother Joshua Anderson using the theme 'Being Steadfast.' He also spoke about the need to be single minded, to beware of spiritual deception and encouraged us to be sober. Scriptures used included: James 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:6, St. Matthew 24:3-8 and Colossians 2:7.

Brothers Jason and Rikki Prince did a boost for the upcoming Family Camp and encouraged as many as possible to get involved in the fund raising activities that were planned to help to reduce the overall cost of going to Camp.

The National Overseer commended Sister Claudine for the wonderful way that she moderated the Convention, after which Sister Claudine brought the Convention to an end.

We thanked God for His presence with us throughout the day and for all the visitors that attended. The Convention attendance was 96, the same as last year.

Pastor Philip Bennett - Reporter