

GDOP 2009 Report from Northern Ireland

Fifteen places hosted Global Day of Prayer events this year across Northern Ireland, several of these for the first time. Feedback from all of these expressed the appreciation of being part of a worldwide phenomenon with millions participating across the globe, encouragement at the growing unity among local churches taking part and an increased desire to see the church become all that God called it to be in this nation.

The west of our province started our day of prayer events at 7am when people gathered at a local viewpoint overlooking six counties to worship and pray for Christians around the world, for the nation of Israel, for revival in the church and for the turning to God of those who don't know Him.

In the afternoon the various areas taking part expressed their participation in many different ways and the emphasis on prayer in each often reflected the needs of local communities and our world today. People gathered in parks, in churches, in town centres and in prayer rooms. Bangor hosted its event on the site of the historic Bangor Abbey where in our history continuous prayer was offered up by the monks for hundreds of years. Following the prayer event a procession of witness made its way through the town to the seafront where prayers to bless the town were offered. It was from here that many hundreds of years ago monks set off from our shores to help bring about the evangelisation of Europe.

Several events were hosted in the evening bringing together people from all generations and a wide expression of church family. This year in Belfast the event was very different than in previous years and rather than organise a large structured event people gathered in an upper room in an old mill to worship and wait on the Holy Spirit reminiscent of the first Pentecost. Everyone was encouraged that perhaps they had experienced something of the freedom, unity and empowerment that the apostles had on that first Pentecost. In Belfast and in the evening event in Newry the Holy Spirit put on hearts the desire to see God come and finish the good work He started in Ireland through St Patrick. We asked that He would send a fresh move of His Spirit within the church enabling us to be pure, holy, to have the mind of Christ, to be completely soaked in prayer and His presence so that we can be light, salt and a blessing in our local communities.

Report by Margaret Clarke (Transformations Ireland)

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