

## Golden Jubilee Celebrations for the UPC GB&I

The United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain & Ireland commemorated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at its annual conference in Llandudno, North Wales, in early August.



Host Bishop L N Francis and First Lady Olive Francis, with the General Board, welcomed over 1300 delegates to Venue Cymru – the premier Welsh conference facility, located on the sea front. Special guest speakers included Rev Elias Limones (UPCI), Rev Mike Mitchell (UPCI) and Rev Sammy Stewart (UPCI). We were also graced with the presence of Rev K Linton and his whole family for the entire week, Rev & Sis Troutt, as well as other non-UPC Apostolic ministers and brethren.



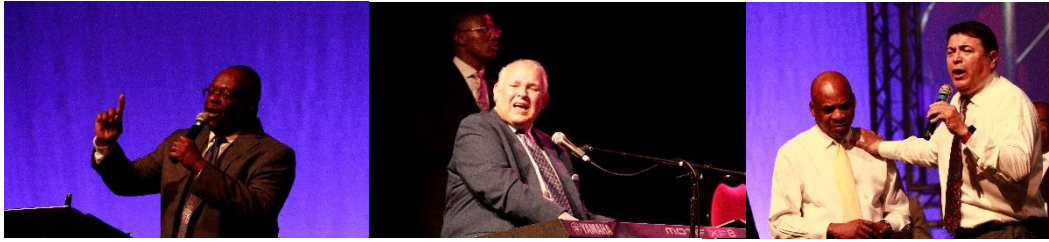
Sister Joan Dallas, widow of the late General Superintendent, Bishop James Dallas, was guest of honour. Also present were Tammy and Todd Miller, adult children of Rev Mervyn Miller, the UPCI missionary who came to the UK in 1965 to help establish the work here and who became the first Superintendent. Rev David Turley, son of Rev F J Turley and Gordon Campbell, son of Rev D Campbell also part of this great celebration / reunion.

Brother Caleb & Sister Beth Anne Randol presided over the children's conference which ran parallel to the adult sessions. There were 91 children between the ages of 3 – 13 attending the children's conference. Also running alongside the main sessions were youth sessions with 185 youth present. What a privilege it was to have 50 young people from America part of Apostolic Youth Cooperation joining in with the youth of the United Kingdom.



Heaven came down during the opening service, with praise and worship so intense that it overtook the programme. The altar area, in fact all open spaces, were filled with saints worshipping the Lord with singing and dancing, for hours. The testimony afterwards was that God's manifest presence had performed a deep work during that intimate time.





Day sessions included the Ladies Meeting (First Lady Francis was the scheduled speaker); the Men's Meeting (Rev Mitchell), Bible School (Rev Limones), and an open-air Missions service on the promenade and water baptisms in the sea. The week was blessed with glorious sunshine.

Rev Mike Anderson (UPCI) took the opportunity to convene and lead a senior choir which spotlighted those that would have been young people during the early years of the organisation.

Over the years that UPC GB&I has been holding its conference in Llandudno the young people established a tradition of visiting the local McDonalds for an afterburner session on the day of its main service. The first occasion became legendary as their praise and worship was published on McDonalds' YouTube channel, generating thousands of hits. This year God moved wonderfully as the McDonalds branch manager attended the main youth service at Venue Cymru and marvellously received the baptism of the Holy Ghost!



Much could be written about the beautiful spirit of love and unity that was evident through the week, the anointing that was upon every gathering and the healing and refreshing that God poured out. We are so thankful for the growth that has occurred since the five spirit-filled saints, immigrants from Jamaica, sat in a car on the roadside in Balham, South London, on a Sunday evening back in 1961. The five, namely, Elder J M Brownie, Sis M Brownie, Bro Roy Lindo, Bro Fred Gallimore and Bro S G Sappleton felt the need to establish a UPC work here and set the wheels in motion. We honour their memory along with the other founding Elders including Rev Carnegie, Rev Turley, Rev Edwards and Rev Price.

What is sure is that God has his Hand upon the United Pentecostal Church of Great Britain & Ireland and the commission is to set our face to fulfil the charge for which God has kept and equipped us. We are thankful for the diversity God has blessed us with and we shall continue to endeavour to be a multi-cultural, inter-generational international organisation.

