

Testimony

Michael Browne

A tribute by Nelson Thomas Mumbai

Well known itinerant preacher and missionary, Lord's servant Michael Browne was home called on February 26, 2016 at the age of 84. He was undergoing treatment for bladder cancer in his home town Bath, UK. He went home to be with the Lord Jesus whom he loved and preached with all sincerity and zeal for more than 60 years.

Many brethren in India who know him personally will miss him so much. He was a regular preacher at various assembly based conventions and spiritual gatherings in India from the early eighties. Once he became aware of the need in Andhra Pradesh he frequently visited that state to encourage the brethren there. His sound teaching and commitment to the assembly principles made him dear to many.



Passionate preacher

He had a special ability to expound the word of God clearly and convincingly. His presentation of the gospel truth was very effective. Exalting the person and work of Christ was the main focus of his preaching. He passionately proclaimed every aspect of the New Testament doctrines.

This writer vividly remembers how his narration of the ascension of Christ and the rapture in near future captured the attention of the listeners. We would feel the same experience as we hear him preach. During one of his conferences at Khandala, Maharashtra, he spoke on the sovereignty of God in such a way that we all felt the awe-inspiring presence of God in our midst. Whether expository or topical sermons, his ministry of the word of God was very much heart-touching.

His early days and Conversion:

According to one of his testimonies available today, he was not privileged to be raised by a mother or father. He lived with a drunkard's family in a slum. He says the entire area where he lived was full of drunkards. He never went to any worship place or a Sunday school. Due to the war he later moved to a farm in the south western part of England to stay and work there. War also interrupted his studies.

At the age of around 15 years he joined the Royal Marines and worked as a commando. He never heard the gospel, had no knowledge of it. By the time he was posted at Hong Kong, he became a worst drunkard and heavy smoker, fighting with others. He says once he even attacked a Christian who used to distribute tracts in the streets of Hong Kong.

During his time in Malaysia fighting in the jungles, he got a 10 day vacation and went to Singapore with a friend. They happened to stay in a facility a Christian woman was running. Riots in Singapore forced them to spend their entire time in that place which was full of Bibles and tracts and were available, yet these youngsters simply avoided any opportunity to hear the gospel.

On the last day, just as they were returning, that godly sister handed over a gospel booklet to them. (It seems the title was, 'The Reason Why'.) In the breakfast packet she also kept tracts in between the sandwiches which they could read in the train. He says it was the first time he began to be convinced of his sin and the need of salvation. He says he repeatedly read that booklet, even signed the decision form, though did not get saved. God began to work in the heart of young Michael. During the nights when everybody was sleeping, he was reading the books and New Testament with a passion to know more about eternal life, being fully convinced of his terrible spiritual state.

After six months of such intense divine work internally, moving his heart towards the Saviour through various ways, on Monday the 15th October 1951, Michael accepted the Lord Jesus as his Saviour and Lord while on his knees.

His ministry and unique personality

The Lord had a definite purpose for His life. He could communicate with the Chinese in their own language. Hong Kong was a main mission field for him. Also he used to visit Eastern Europe, India and other countries extensively, evangelizing, teaching and encouraging the brethren.

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