

Hour of Revival Campaign at Hastings

MUCH blessing attended the recent "Hour of Revival" campaign held in the White Rock Pavilion, Hastings. More than 5,000 people attended on the first six nights.

Active preparation occupied some six weeks of careful planning, centred on the Campaign Office kindly made available by the generosity of Mr. A. W. Vint, who also assumed the heavy responsibility of Campaign Treasurer. Willing co-operation of very many Ministers and church leaders contributed immensely.

Four special Preparation Meetings were addressed by the Rev. G. E. Bottomley of St. Luke's, Wolverhampton, the Rev. George Cumming of Victoria Baptist Church, Eastbourne, the Rev. Cyril Chilvers of Edgware Baptist Church, and the Rev. John Thomas of the Slavic Gospel Association.

Mr. L. Vidler, Prayer Secretary, organised some 30 Prayer Groups, who met weekly to prepare by Prayer. Mr. William Fletcher of The Navigators gave valuable help in preparing the personal work. Dr. Carr was host at a reception for business and professional people organised by a local group of doctors and business men; Mr. John Henderson, M.P., gave a stirring challenge on that occasion.

Prayer was the keynote of the Campaign itself with two Prayer Meetings daily, three whole nights of prayer, and one whole day of prayer. Generous and sacrificial financial giving enabled the expenses of the campaign to be entirely cleared by the final day.

Everyone who made contact during the vital campaign days with Canon C. C. Griffiths, Vice Chairman of the Campaign, and the Rev. John Maddock, Head Counsellor, were inspired and refreshed by the unflinching wisdom and courtesy invariably shown.

SPIRITUAL INVASION

Opening the Campaign the Rev. C. G. Redgrave, gracious Chairman of the Sponsoring Committee, recalled the famous invasion of Britain in 1066. He suggested that Britain is about to see a countrywide revival and that God had chosen Hastings for a great spiritual invasion. Thus the campaign was called the "second invasion of Britain".

In response to earnest intercession, conviction of sin and Christians getting right with one another, revival hit the district in such a way that souls sought Christ in the shops, restaurants, schools, hospitals, churches, and even in the streets. So intense was the conviction of sin that anxious souls knelt in the streets crying to God for mercy. Workers knelt with them at the edge of the pavements in the thronged streets of the town's centre. News is to hand of decisions still being made for Christ in various parts of the district through the continuing sense of conviction of sin.

Hundreds of anxious souls have passed from death unto life and are the subject of an intensive two months follow up course.

There has been an ever deepening fellowship among the various denominations and now the Christian leaders are calling

out for more prayer—whole nights of prayer.

The Rev. Duncan Campbell, fresh from scenes of renewed Holy Ghost power in the revivals in Lewis and the Hebrides, travelled to the South Coast of Britain to this new revival centre to tell of God's method of working in the Twentieth Century. As the reaping of the harvest still continues in Hastings and District the earnest cry is that the revival may spread through the whole of Southern England.

TRIBUTES FROM CHURCHMEN

Local Church Leaders write as follows:—

The Rev. C. G. Redgrave (Vicar of Fairlight):

"The title 'Hour of Revival' has proved to be a very apt one by the surge of new vision and zeal for God's work which has come to many Christians. The visiting team had an untiring and courageous leader in Eric Hutchings, whose messages were powerful and inspired. The team work of the supporting speakers, soloists and instrumentalists was a great factor in making the programmes bright and helpful. The outstanding feature has been that of Christian revival. This has been seen in renewed evangelical zeal, love of the brethren, and an amazing fellowship among Christians of many denominations. Among the 40 churches taking part there has been full co-operation and a willingness to put the claims of the campaign before other things. Another notable feature has been the number of nominal Christians who have received Christ as personal Saviour, in one instance after being engaged 20 years in religious work".

Canon C. C. Griffiths (Rector of St. Leonards):

"The marked feature of this Hour of Revival Campaign to myself and others who have volunteered the same impression is the sense of the power of God's presence, and the utter selflessness, humility and sincerity of every member of the team from the leader downwards. All our fears of sensationalism or questionable theology never arose, and the pure gospel of redemption uniting us all was faithfully proclaimed. Above all the enquirers are being faithfully followed up".

Mr. A. W. Vint, Christian Business Man and lay-reader at Christ Church, Ore:

"The Hour of Revival at Hastings was God's answer to past fervent and prevailing prayer. Much forethought and careful planning was given to the preparation. Strong Holy Spirit conviction was much in evidence as the gospel was faithfully preached every night. Only in eternity will the full story be known of the numbers who have yielded to Christ in their homes. Many souls were won for Christ in the meetings. The Campaign was also of incalculable help to Christians, many of whose lives have indeed been transformed".