

## **Centenary Celebrations; Mount Zion Baptist Church Earby; 1819 – 1919 April.**

[This article was written by the then Church Secretary, Percy Windle. The Windle family having had a long association with Mount Zion. It is an account of all the special events that took place in April 1919 to celebrate the founding of the Church in 1819. Percy Windle owned a shop in Water Street, Earby which amongst other things supplied bicycles, batteries and parts associated with early radio reception. This article was sent to me by Miss G.M.Jones who is researching the Windle family history.]  
John Turner July 2006.

---

For many years the Church at Mount Zion have looked forward in glad expectation to this event, but looking back on the time now, we can truthfully say all those expectations have been more than realized, the emotions called forth, the inspiring services, the pilgrimages from far and near of old scholars, members and friends, the willing people who gave their offerings and in turn received blessings, the fellowship, who can do justice to it all, or portray the scenes so that the future generations may see the vision and understand something of its significance or catch something of its glory.

On Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> there was a baptismal service when 10 of the senior scholars/girls went through the waters in obedience to and for love of our Lords command. Mr. Derwent, the Pastor, took this part of the service but being unwell, the sermon was preached by the Church Secretary, Mr. Percy Windle who took for his text Genesis 18:49:

“And Mizpak; for he said, The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.”

The subject was the making of a covenant between Laban and Jacob, and the rearing of a pillar and heap of stones as a sign of that covenant and the meaning behind the stones. So too in the Baptismal waters was a sign and an emblem of a covenant, and the building of Mount Zion stood as a sign of the covenant between God and his people, where men and women had met with God and made a compact to love and serve Him. A place where they had had their best moments, their noblest impulses, their closest fellowship. A place full of tender recollections and gracious influences. So that the very stones were sacred to us because of the meaning and the memories behind them, and what they stood for, and so the preacher pleaded for a rededication of all our lives and a consecration of our hearts to our master Jesus Christ and that the this building should still be a sign of this new covenant between His people and God.

On Wednesday the Programme was continued by a Sale of work opened by Mr. Wm. Smith of Burnley, Chairman was Mr. W.B. White of Colne, Mr. Frank Smith of Bury an old scholar also spoke. Both Mr. Smiths spoke of their early connections with the Sunday School and their gratitude for the teaching they received there.

This was followed by a tea at 5 o'clock. At 7:30 a Concert by the Church Choir was given and they had evidently caught the inspiration of the time for they sang at their best, the principals were misses Clara and Grace Watson, Miss Millicent Turner, Mr. Bailey Watson and Mr. Herbert Lord.

On Thursday we had the pleasure of a visit from Rev. S.W. Hughes of London who preached for us in the afternoon and lectured in the evening. Mr. Hughes was at his best and the large congregation were very appreciative. But the greatest pleasure was yet to be realized at the re-union of former Ministers, Member, Scholars and Friend on Good Friday 2:30 Rev. Frank Thomson preached in the afternoon his subject being Faith, this was followed by a united communion Service conducted by Rev. Frank Thomson who received into fellowship of the Church the ten persons baptised the previous Sunday. Bertha Dickinson, Lilian Brown, Elsie Howell, Annie C. Windle ~~daughter of the Church Secretary~~, Myra Wilkinson, [daughter?] of Treasurer, Lynda Pickles, Gladys Lee, Lena Dickinson, Muriel Smith, Evelyn Hill, Minerva Nutter. After this followed the Tea and such a Tea, many hand shakings, tears of joy, thankfulness congratulations. Then followed the evening meeting, the climax of the celebrations, Mr. C.W. Bailey Chairman, Rev C.W. Townsend. Rev. W.A. Livingstone of London former Pastor spoke. Rev. Hugh Singleton of Birmingham, a former scholar, spoke of his connection with the school and of his teachers, Mr. J.W. Green also spoke as

an old scholar, and Mr. Elihu Wilkinson spoke feelingly of his former teacher Mr. Joseph Windle and of his affection and love for the place.

At this meeting there was an interesting feature the presentation of Bibles to some of the oldest members, some of whom had 50 years membership to their credit. Mrs. Webster nee Ellen Watson, Mrs Sarah Watson, Mrs Jane Hopkins, Mrs Ellen Higson, Mrs Sarah Jane Hopkinson, Mrs Elisha Harrison, Mr. J Wilson Green, few were able to speak their thanks for emotion and as the "Mothers" of Israel climbed up the pulpit steps, ~~helped by the Secretary~~, the congregation realising this cheered again and again. So ended a glorious day.

Saturday was a Sunday School day when the Rev. J.E. Roberts of Manchester came to speak and at this meeting Rev. Walter Wynne also spoke. In the evening was a Grand Concert in the schoolroom, but previous to this was a Sale of Work opened by Fred Wilson Esq. of Lothersdale.

Easter Sunday dawned clear and bright with an air of expectancy of praise and blessing and this expectancy was fully realized in the services of the day, in the morning by the Pastor J.W. Derwent and afternoon and evening by an augmented choir rendering the "Creation" which was an inspiration to all who heard.

Easter Monday Rev. J.E. Roberts spoke on the subject of "The adolescent in Church and Sunday School."

Easter Tuesday Rev. Charles Brown of \_\_\_\_\_ Park paid us a visit and spoke on the parable of the "fig tree" it is unnecessary to say that the sermon was a delight and in keeping with the other meetings and so comes the close of these meetings and as we write the record of them we are conscious of the truth of that hymn;

"And so through all the length of years  
His goodness faileth never  
Good Shepherd may we sing thy praise  
Within thy house for ever"

And to all who have taken any part in these celebrations of labour, of giving, we give grateful thanks to all who have attended, we wish Gods Blessing, to those who come after us and all we would utter and desire the Benedictions that;

"May God bless you and keep you  
And cause his face to shine upon you  
And grant you His salvation for His names sake, Amen."

Percy Windle  
Church Secretary