

Report on Young Adults Chippenham Conference – Autumn 2009
Written by one of the Young Adults attending

Approximately ninety people gathered in Chippenham, Wiltshire, on Saturday 10th October, for the seventh Young Adults Conference jointly organised by Tabernacle Cardiff and Emmanuel Church Salisbury. Since it began in November 2006, the conference has been held biannually - one day in the autumn and the other in spring time. Chippenham, located roughly half way between Cardiff and Salisbury, has provided a convenient setting, with meetings taking place in 'The Cause,' a former Methodist Church now used as a Music and Arts Centre. Although no longer functioning as a church, the owners have nonetheless preserved all of the original features of the traditional chapel building, making it an ideal location for preaching services.

The burden of the organisers is to provide young people, aged fourteen to thirty and upwards, with a conference which emphasises experimental Calvinism, that is, the truths of the Scriptures preached with a heavenly unction. It is their desire to see young people grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to become examples of holiness and to grow in devotion to the Lord. It is their conviction that the greatest need of the church in our day, and indeed at all times, is God Himself - His known and felt presence, which stirs the Christian to true heart worship, and in doing so, both humbles and uplifts.

To start this autumn's conference, Pastor David Kay, of Whiddon Valley Evangelical Church Barnstaple, delivered an engaging devotional message. Taking the words of Jeremiah 6:16 for his text, he presented a challenge to stand for the truth in the Lord Jesus Christ, to discern the issues of the day and to respond in obedience and consecration. After this timely message, the second speaker, Prof. Andy McIntosh from the University of Leeds, gave three informative talks on the subject of creation. In the first of these, Prof. McIntosh drew attention to the evidences of design in the anatomy of bird wings, and explained the inconsistencies of the evolutionary theory that attempts to explain such intricacies. Following on from this, the importance of taking a biblical view of creation was urged upon the congregation, as Prof. McIntosh demonstrated how compromised thinking in this one area has implications which affect all other aspects of theology. In the course of this address, the message of salvation in Christ was also explained and sinners were invited to come to Him in faith and repentance.

Before the day finished, Prof. McIntosh dealt with common objections made against the creationist position. Arguments such as those taken from fossil evidence were explained and carefully refuted. Throughout, Prof. McIntosh stressed that creation, far from substantiating evolutionary claims, points us to an all-wise Creator. Truly, the heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork. The antagonism found in men's hearts, he pointed out, does not spring from a lack of evidence in creation, for men are left without excuse, but rather, it serves to demonstrate the enmity that exists in a sin enslaved heart against its sovereign, gracious Creator.

The spring conference will take place, God willing, in March. Details of future conferences can be found at www.tabernaclecardiff.org, or by phoning Peter Jones (029 20613447) or Paul Thick (01722 321045).