

In our Golden Heritage Series featuring pioneering Elim ministers, we re-publish Elim founder **George Jeffreys'** remarkable account of how the Movement started out in Ireland. Here Jeffreys testifies to God's faithfulness as a prophecy is fulfilled after the prayerful and determined efforts of just a few committed believers bore fruit.



Above

A vision for Ireland showed a gold ring – representing the first Elim Assembly – out of which came many other rings

Main pic

George Jeffreys (1889-1962), founder of the Elim Pentecostal Church

How Elim ministry in Ireland began with fulfilled prophecy

Pentecostal trailblazer George Jeffreys visits Ireland where faith and vision puts Elim on the map

I regard the county town of Monaghan which is situated some 50 miles from the city of Belfast, and which has a mixed population of Roman Catholics and Protestants, as being the birthplace of this work.

In January 1915 I crossed over from England for the purpose of conducting a mission in Monaghan and, during my stay, a meeting was held in a Temperance Hotel. There a number of young businessmen discussed the question of how to reach their country with the full gospel – for spirit, soul, and body – and to spread the news of the Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

They were seekers after God, and had been convinced that the baptism of the Holy Ghost with signs following was for each of them and for all Chris-

tians who would believe. At this time, not one in the town had received the experience, but they had seen the truth in the Word, and could well afford to trust the Author of the Word to come in his fullness to them.

At this meeting I definitely decided to accept their invitation to

The vision consisted of a large, golden ring out of which came a dazzling brightness.

commence operations for a permanent work in the country, and a movement was set in motion to secure a gospel tent for this purpose. In June of the same year, a tent was pitched in the town and the Lord smiled upon our effort as we began to walk in the path we knew God had mapped out for us. About this

time a dear brother in Belfast had also been touched by the Lord regarding a work in Ireland and, at his invitation, a centre was opened in the city. The first meeting was held in his home in August of the same year, when the Elim Assembly was formed. This assembly has since been the headquarters of the work.

Efforts were put forth by the brethren concerned to secure a hall, and one was procured in a most needy district. It was opened in the month of October, when a special mission was held, in which numbers came to the foot of the cross and found that salvation which Christ alone can give.

I must at this juncture mention the vision given to the sister at the commencement – a sister who up to the present time has been a most consistent

follower of the Master, and who has been most faithful to the Elim work. At the time this vision was given she knew nothing of the plans proposed in Monaghan. The vision consisted of a large, golden ring out of which came a dazzling brightness – brighter than the sun at noonday – and out of the ring ran many other rings in all directions. She prayed to God for the interpretation, and it was given: “The large ring is the first Elim Assembly, and out of it shall come many other assemblies.”

Blessed results have not been given without the determination to stand firm against all opposition.

To her it was no idle dream in which a vagary or phantom had passed over the mind, leaving but little impression. It was a vision given by God, one that was stamped indelibly upon her heart, and which was meant to be actually fulfilled.

As I write these words my heart flows out in praise and thanksgiving to God, for he has caused it to come to pass! Out of a mere handful of Christians – devoted followers of Christ, who knew something about praying and thirsting for souls – have come workers who have gone forth with the sword of the Spirit, and with the shield of faith, who have walked in the train of his triumph, and who have reaped the fruit of that corn of wheat that fell into the ground and died.

Lives and homes have been transformed on all hands. The garment of praise from the wardrobe of heaven has been given to many who previously were garbed in the robe of sadness and gloom. The oil of gladness has been poured into mourners' hearts, and they have been filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

At the time of writing, there are 15 permanent assemblies and 21 workers who have



entered the regular work of the ministry since the commencement. Three of the young men who met at that first meeting in Monaghan are now in this work of the Lord. To God be all the praise! The glorious gospel has and is being proclaimed, and the signs follow.

Such blessed results have not been given without the willingness to suffer, without the determination to stand firm against all opposition, and without being called upon to pass through testing times – financial and otherwise. Yet in all tests and trials our God has proved himself to be all-sufficient. No salary is paid to any

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pastor or evangelist. Each one has to trust God individually. The only tie that binds is the one of love and unity in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Not long after the work started it became necessary to form a council, and in this again most loyal and practical friends consented to take responsibility. Please pray that the good news may spread still further, and that those who carry the message may be kept walking in the light. To God be all the glory, and to God be all the praise!

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