

## Retired Members' Corner: Poured Out

Likely as we each have gone through life, we have been aware on occasions of 'outpourings' of grief.

I have experienced this **personally** following the sudden and totally unexpected passing of my dear brother, Ivor, in August. Ivor had been a constant in my life for over 58 years and so there has been grief and, at times, many tears. But I have also experienced an outpouring of love, care and sympathy on the part of many people, and that has been of great help and comfort.

Then, in the month of September, we all experienced **nationally** the outpouring of grief, affection and sympathy following the passing of our dear Queen, manifested in huge crowds, long queues and seas of floral tributes. Elizabeth II was a constant in the lives of the nation as Queen for over 70 years, and the outpouring of grief following her death has been seen throughout the British Isles, the Commonwealth and, indeed, the world. I was working at Parliament Buildings, Stormont, during her visits in 2002 and 2012, and was privileged to capture those occasions on camera.



2002



2012

The Chambers Dictionary gives, very simply, a definition of outpouring as 'a pouring out' and I would like to leave with you some Bible references to this. It surely speaks of earnestness, total commitment and dedication.

### **SALVATION**

In Psalm 22 David writes prophetically of the Saviour: "I am poured out like water" as he details the sufferings to be experienced at Calvary by the coming Messiah. Similarly, Isaiah writes in chapter 53 verse 12 "He poured out His soul unto death."

Both these verses tell us of the intense sufferings of the Lord Jesus on our behalf on the cross. We are amazed at His love for us, even in our sinful condition. We rejoice that the price has been paid in full and the work of salvation is complete. With Paul we can say "the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2 v 20).

### **APPRECIATION**

In 2 Samuel chapter 23 there is a garrison of enemy Philistines in David's hometown of Bethlehem. Likely David had boyhood memories of drinking water from the well at the entrance to the town, and he expressed his longing to have a

drink once again from the well. This resulted in three members of his 'special forces' breaking through enemy lines, drawing the water from the well and bringing it back to David. "Nevertheless he would not drink it, but poured it out to the Lord". He regarded the water as too precious to drink and offered it as a sacrifice. Surely this is devotion to the Lord. and great appreciation of what had been done on his behalf. What is our appreciation of the Saviour and what He has done for us – the One of whom it is said in Song of Solomon chapter 1 verse 3 "Thy name is as ointment poured forth"? We should be a thankful people: "Be ye thankful" (Colossians 3 v 15).

### **SUPPLICATION**

In 1 Samuel chapter 1 we have Hannah in earnest prayer to the Lord in all of her anguish, tears and bitterness of soul. However, her intense silent prayer was misinterpreted by Eli, the priest, who thinks that Hannah is in a drunken state. Hannah sets things straight: "I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord".

Eli responds: Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him". Hannah, some time later, was able to return and say to Eli: "I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord ... the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him". What a wonderful example and encouragement in prayer and supplication!

### **FORMATION**

Acts chapter 2 recounts what we could perhaps call the formation of the New Testament church. Those first believers were united and together in one place and suddenly they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Those observing from a wide variety of nations were amazed to hear the 'Galileans' speak in the languages of their home nations. Just like Eli, the response of some was "They are full of new wine".

Peter responded that they were not drunk, but what had just happened was the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy "I will pour out My Spirit in those days." (Joel 2 v 29)

Paul later explains that believers receive the Holy Spirit when they put their faith in the Saviour: "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory." (Ephesians 1 v 13 & 14)

### **EXHORTATION**

Finally, there is a wonderful exhortation from the Psalmist David. We find it in Psalm 62 v 8. May we each be enabled to do as it says:

"Trust in Him at all times, you people;  
Pour out your heart before Him;  
God *is* a refuge for us. Selah"