Christmas Evans

~Other Speakers A-F: Short Biographies:

Christmas Evans
1766-1838

Welch Baptist minister. Christmas Evans was born near the village of Llandyssul, Cardiganshire, on Christmas day, 1766. His father, a shoemaker, died soon after, and Christmas grew up as an illiterate farm laborer in the care of a godless, cruel uncle. At the age of 17, he became a servant to a Presbyterian minister, in whose church he was converted during a revival meeting. He began to learn to read and to write and to take an interest in spiritual things, which caused his former companions in sin to beat him severely and to put out one of his eyes.

The Baptists of Llandyssul influenced him greatly, and he joined the Baptist church there in 1790, at the age of 24. He was ordained and began to travel the entire country of Wales, preaching in churches, in the coal mines, and in the fields. A remarkable manifestation of the Holy Spirit accompanied his ministry, and revival like a prairie fire swept the country. Thousands of Christians began to openly witness for Christ and to sing hymns publicly as testimony of their salvation. This resulted in the Welch Revival.

In spite of his early disadvantages and personal disfigurement, Christmas Evans was a remarkably powerful preacher. To a natural aptitude for this calling, he united a nimble mind and an inquiring spirit. His character was simple, his piety genuine, and his faith fervently evangelical. His chief characteristic was a vivid and a fluent imagination, which, under the control of the Holy Spirit, earned for him the name of "The Bunyan of Wales."