



Irish Trust Talk

Spring 2007 No 76



Joy - Hope - Thanksgiving

St Patrick's Cathedral Armagh

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes February 11th 2007



This is the text of Bishop Dermot O'Mahony's words of thanks to all who attended the Mass of Thanksgiving in St Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Archbishop Sean Brady, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

What a lovely liturgy we have celebrated here today! It certainly captured the joy, the hope, the thanksgiving of our 35th Anniversary Celebrations.

We are deeply grateful to Archbishop Brady for leading us in such a life-giving Liturgy as a further expression of his appreciation of the work of the Trust. We are fortunate in the Irish Church to have a leader whose unassuming humanity has been such a gentle but constant light in times of darkness during the past ten years. I am delighted to have this opportunity to pay public tribute to his style of leadership which I greatly admire.

What a brilliant homily! On all our behalf thank you Bishop Tony. But you did surprise me. You had a magic mobile phone – plenty of sound but no sight of it! A handsfree set!

It's great to have Bishop John McAreavey with us this afternoon. He is the only Bishop ever of the Irish Episcopal Conference who knows the Trust at the coalface. He was chaplain to the Newry Group for a number of years. Bishop John will be travelling to Lourdes as part of our Pilgrimage this Easter. He is so welcome.

Above all, no words of mine could adequately express our thanks for the enormous amount of dedicated work and creative thinking that went into the organisation of this special event. I have been very impressed by the way in which you have gathered together so many Trust Stars/Stalwarts who have graced the Boards of Trustees with the characteristic northern directness and clarity from the earliest years to today; and not forgetting so much outstanding Trust talent present from throughout the Region. A big 'Thank You' to Seamus Collins and the Regional Team.

On a very personal note I am also thrilled to be in with you all on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes because on this day 32 years ago, I received my appointment as Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin. I have a photo of Our Lady on my crozier. I am only here today because of her constant presence by my side.

There are so many thoughts that I could leave you with, for example, the phenomenal growth of the Trust from 28 young people and carers in 1972 to 1000 plus in 2006. You can compare our growth to the tiny mustard seed in the Gospel (Mt 13:31-32). "The Kingdom of Heaven",

Jesus said, "is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches".

What a lovely Gospel picture of the Trust! Hundreds and hundreds of people with disabilities finding protection and security in the seven comforting branches of the Irish Pilgrimage Trust. The Trust is certainly a work of the Holy Spirit. The finger of God is here.

Or the prophetic nature of the Trust. By prophetic I mean that our organisation has already the qualities that must characterise Church organisations of the future – Lay Leadership based on collaborative ministry, creative in Liturgy, attractive to young people, and at the heart of the Church through a healthy and mature relationship with Bishops.

Or the difference you have made to hundreds/thousands of children and young people with a disability. The loneliness, the exclusion, the sense of inadequacy of those carrying the burden of a disability should never be underestimated. Our week together in Lourdes nearly always lifts the burden considerably if not completely. To make a difference in just one life is to make your own life so very worthwhile.

But the big thought I most want to leave with you is THE CHILDREN. I do so because children are at the heart of the charism which inspired our founder, Dr. Michael Strode to bring them on pilgrimage to Lourdes, but also of the high regard in which Jesus held them.

Jesus rejoiced so much in the openness, vitality and curiosity of children about the world around them that he regarded them as the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Mt 18:4). That is why he challenges the adult Christian community not only to recapture the wonder and innocence of their own childhood but also to try and appreciate the unique qualities of children and so welcome them into their hearts. "For it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs" (Mt :19-15).

I will conclude with you my favourite moment in Lourdes. Some years ago at our National Irish Mass, I was telling the story about how the apostles with great sternness tried to keep the children from him. But Jesus said, "come to me; do not stop them" (Mk.: 10:14). Then my imagination went into overdrive and I excitedly said how the children ran through the legs of the apostles and he gave each of them a big big hug! There was total and absolute silence in the Church. Then we heard a little girl's voice from the congregation saying, "you would want to be mad to believe that"! That put me in my place! "For it is to such as (her) that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs".

Again thanks a million for everything.



**IHCPT
The Irish
Pilgrimage
Trust**



PRESIDENT
Bishop Dermot O'Mahony
Kilcuan, Clarenbridge
Co Galway

CHAIRPERSON
Mr Gerry Martin
Nunsland, Eadestown
Co Kildare

TREASURERS
Mr James White
Ballindinas, Barntown
Wexford

Northern Ireland
Damian McNicholl
6 Cedarhurst Court
Cedarhurst Road
Belfast BT8 7AA

IHCPT NATIONAL CO-ORDINATOR
Bernadette O'Connell
Kilcuan
Clarenbridge, Co Galway
Tel: 091-796622
Fax: 091-796916
email: hq@ihcpt.com
www.ihcpt.com

KILCUAN MANAGER
Pat Jordan
Kilcuan
Clarenbridge
Co Galway
Phone: (091) 796900
Fax: (091) 796916
email: kilcuan@indigo.ie

BOARD MEMBERS
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LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

LOURDES 2007

The theme for our pilgrimage this year is LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS. As in previous years this theme comes from a piece of music that we will use during our week in Lourdes. Written by Roc O'Connor of the Louis Jesuit Community this hymn is a lively and energetic song that invites us to LIFT UP OUR HEARTS to the Lord in praise of his mercy and goodness. The lyrics and music will be a central part of the celebration of 35 years of IHCPT when we give thanks to God for 35 great years of iHCPT in Lourdes and Ireland and pray the Blessing of God and protection of Mary on the work of the Trust in the Future.

The phrase LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS will be familiar to all. It is part of the opening dialogue of the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass. It is a most ancient formula which invites the congregation to stand and lift up their hands and hearts to the Lord. Some of the earliest depictions of the Christians at prayer show them standing with hands

uplifted - the Orant Position. The wonderful fresco in the Catacombs of St Priscilla in Rome show a figure in a posture of prayer, standing upright with raised arms in prayer of joy and praise. IHCPT will join with the whole church in joy and praise, in song and prayer this year.

We look forward to hosting the HCPT Mass on Thursday during our week in Lourdes. This is a great privilege as we lead the whole family of HCPT in prayer and praise on HCPT Day in Lourdes. On Thursday morning we will be responsible for the celebration of the Benefactors' Mass in the Basilica of Pius X at 10.00am.

In the afternoon we will contribute to the music and celebration of the Blessed Sacrament Procession. On Tuesday night we will sing some of our music during the Torchlight Procession. This will be a hectic week in Lourdes - but a great honour to put a gaelic slant on the wonderful celebrations in Lourdes.

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome Bishop John McAreavey, Bishop of Dromore, and Bishop Bill Murphy, Bishop of Kerry, to Lourdes this year. They will accompany Bishop Dermot O'Mahony on this pilgrimage as we mark the 35th celebration of IHCPT. Bishop John, no stranger to Lourdes, will celebrate the IHCPT mass on Tuesday morning in St Bernadette's Basilica. This will be the main gathering of IHCPT while in Lourdes. On Thursday morning Bishop Bill Murphy will be the principal celebrant at the HCPT Benefactors' Mass with Bishop O'Mahony,

President of IHCPT, Bishop John McAreavey of Dromore, Bishop John Rawsthorne, President HCPT, Bishop Edwin Regan of Wrexham in Wales, Bishop Tom Burns of Liverpool and the priests of IHCPT and HCPT. The music will be directed by Rev Richard Scriven on behalf of IHCPT.

We are delighted to have Bishop Bill Murphy with us - it is his third visit with IHCPT. We thank him for his commitment to the work of the Trust and look forward to meeting him in Lourdes. Last time he exchanged hats! No doubt he will have a trick or two up his sleeve this year.



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IHCPT

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New Stations of the Cross in Lourdes

On Sunday 11th February after the solemn Mass of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes the 15th Station of the Way of the Cross was inaugurated and blessed in front of Saint Bernadette's Church. This is a new station, entirely new. It represents Mary on Holy Saturday awaiting the Resurrection, full of hope in a life that never ends. This station has been sponsored by the medical personnel who are associated with the Sanctuary. You follow the work of the artist Maria de Faykod, as she continues the work on the new stations of the Cross. www.defaykod-lourdes.com is the website that shows the work in progress.

Not new to Lourdes Maria de Faykod is the artist responsible for the Pieta which has been on display in Lourdes since jubilee year of 1983. Different International Pilgrimages (Belgian, Dutch, British, Irish, Unitali, The North African War Veterans, The Rosary Pilgrimage,

donors and benefactors like the Medical Personell) have supported the production of this Way of the Cross for the sick and disabled pilgrims which answers a new pastoral need in the Sanctuary. The Irish Pilgrimages have sponsored the 9th Station: Jesus falls the Third Time. These new seventeen Stations will enable those with mobility difficulties to follow the Via Dolorosa and meditate on the Passion of Christ. The three new stations bring us beyond the Passion of Christ on the Cross, a journey from hope to the transcendent, from the transcendent to new birth through the mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Produced in Carrara marble the final stations will be in place in 2008, the 150th anniversary of the Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin to Bernadette Soubirous.

You can follow the making of the Stations by Maria de Faykod as she is in the process of sculpting it in her home in Aups on the internet site www.defaykod-lourdes.com

Thanks

A big thank you to all who bought Christmas Cards from IHCPT last year. This is a great source of publicity for the Trust and a great way to let your friends know about the work of IHCPT both here in Ireland and in Lourdes. Thanks to all who co-ordinated the sale and distribution of the cards in the regions. A thank you to all readers of the Trust Talk who ordered cards from Kilcuan.



News from Croatia....

And so another year rolls around and the Croats are ready to pack the bus and hit the road. This year we will travel with 11 young people from a range of areas around the country and for the first time ever with a team of helpers that is all Croatian. The group will be lead for the first time by Andrea Zec who is a fluent speaker of both Croatian and English with Tomislav Sebek continuing to travel as sitting president of DUH.

During the year many activities have taken place including art workshops, trips to the city centre, the cinema and Irish dancing to boot on St. Patrick's Day. These many activities along with our birthday (and main fundraising activity) have given the team of helpers a great chance to bond. Although with most of the team now having a couple of Lourdes weeks under the belt this has never been a problem for us. Anyway 24 hours on a bus before we even get there usually facilitates the whole team knowing everything about each other by the time we hit the banks of the Gave.

This year we continue to work with our globetrotting partners "JOB" who will be providing us with a relatively new bus at a mere ten years of age, which is probably a good thing as it was rumoured that the last bus had seen a change in Pontiff three times. We will of course be accompanied by our mechanic, box playing, bus driving priest and Croatia's longest license holding airline pilot, driving and sleeping in rotation to get us there safely.

We all look forward with great anticipation to seeing ye all there and with the blessing of Our Lady may the sun shine on all of us for the week.

With all our love from Croatia.

THANKS



A word of thanks to Jeanette Dunne, Illustrator, for the use of the artwork for this year's pilgrimage. This work was originally used for the First Holy Communion Programme DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME co-written by Rev Martin Delaney and Maeve Mahon. Further details from www.veritas.ie

Hosanna House

The IHCPT Hosanna House pilgrimage takes place in 15th to 22nd June 2007. Two groups from Ireland avail of the excellent facilities in the wonderful setting high above Lourdes in Bartres. A home from home the House is a great place to visit Lourdes and the surrounding area. Easy access to the Grotto is provided by a fleet of minibuses and a super large coach based at the house.

Further details from Kilcuan
091 796622
info@ihcpt.com

Mailing List

If you no longer wish to receive the Irish Trust Talk please write to us by post or telephone or email quoting the your name and the address on the Address Label and we will ensure that your details are removed from the mailing list. If you are receiving more than one copy please contact the office below.

Kilcuan, Clarenbridge, Co Galway
+353 (0)91 796622
info@ihcpt.com

LAUNCH OF WEB BASED CARER TRAINING PROGRAMME

IHCPT are delighted to launch our web based training course for carers. This course seeks to allow carers learn our Code of Practice and undertake a course test to demonstrate this knowledge. It will also enable the Trust to record all carers who undertake the course and pass the test. This initiative underscores IHCPT's absolute commitment to best practice in the care of young people and carers alike.



Everyone who travels to Lourdes or is involved with IHCPT here in Ireland is invited to register for the training course by either completing your volunteer's carer form and returning it to Kilcuan or contact Kilcuan and request registration.

To access the course log on to our website www.ihcpt.com and press enter

2. Click on Group Leaders Information
3. Click HERE for Code of Practice training pages
Click anywhere to start
3. You will be asked for a *Log-on-id*. This is your surname and initial of your Christian name, for example Gerry Martin's is MartinG.
4. Follow the instructions to complete the course.



If you have any difficulty please ring Bernadette at 091-796622. You can access the course from any computer anywhere. Please run through all the course modules so you can be confident with the content. If applicable please complete your relevant section under the Additional Roles module. It should take about 30 minutes in all.

The objective here is a serious one and if successfully implemented will help support better training for all carers and better tracking of carer training for the Trust. Inevitably there will be individuals who will not be familiar with the web or who do not have ready access. We are presently working on a plan to support anyone who needs help by providing access.

Cycle 2008

Cycle 2008 will be launched during our pilgrimage to Lourdes. An established and essential part of IHCPT this is a wonderful experience for all involved and a necessary source of income for IHCPT. Check out www.ihcpt.com for more details.



In April 2006 fifty walkers raised a staggering 82,656 for HCPT child sponsorship - paying for over 150 young people from HCPT to enjoy a week in Lourdes. The Fifty miles was from Pontacq (well known to Irish Cyclists of the biennial IHCPT cycle) to Lourdes. Each of the walkers raised their own sponsorship money for their own group/region. A wonderful event to mark 50 great years of HCPT the walkers were greeted at the entrance to the Grotto on Holy Saturday night.

HCPT Walkers celebrate 50 years of HCPT

So successful was the walk a second walk was planned for October 2006 - and a few Irish walkers added an international flavour to the team. Deirdre Curtis (pictured on the left with Bishop John Rawsthorne and other walkers) from Ballinteer, was one and writes:

Our walk began on Monday at 8.30am, a willing bunch, eager to get going. First stop was Soumoulou for lunch. But what a fantastic day it was, not really a walking day, with temperatures around 30 degrees, sunny, looking forward to a cool pint after 25 miles! We ended with more than one, well deserved. With a few blistered feet and

a full tummy we went to bed early. Tuesday was dull and cool and I walked with my sister Anne - with plenty to talk about, a stop for lunch, we crossed the line 50 miles and we were delighted with ourselves. 32 walkers completed the task - though it was agreed that blisters are a sore thing!

A HCPT party was had and enjoyed by all, a visit to Lourdes and the Grotto was made. It was my first time to visit Lourdes and I enjoyed the experience greatly.

In all #110,000 was raised - a wonderful effort by all involved. Congrats to all the walkers, support team and fundraisers!

EL CAMINITO DE LA ESPERANZA

IHCPT TAKES ON A PERUVIAN FLAVOUR



IHCPT are delighted to have established an outreach contact with a service for young people with intellectual disability in Peru. Angela Keane, former group leader of 135 and a member of the Board of Trustees, is presently working in Humanga, a city with a population of 24,000 in the area of Ayacucho. An area of over half a million it is here that the terrorist group “The Sendero Luminoso” or “The Shining Path” were active for about twenty years (1980-2000). During that time about 30,000 people were killed in this region. Because of this history there's a lot of mental health problems among the population of Ayacucho. Sr. Anne Carbon of the Columban Sisters with a team of medical people are involved in a project to address some of the problems such as depression and schizophrenia etc.

Angela reports: “In this area there are no support services for children/adults with an intellectual disability. The children get four hours schooling a day but if they present with behavioural problems schooling is not an option. My contract is with the Columban sisters for two years as a lay-missionary. 've been doing the ground work of setting up a service for this special group of people. I have also worked in the special school for two months three mornings a week. I plan to remain in Ayacucho until summer '08. By then the service will be well established with the vision of it continuing into the future”.

After a short few months a service called *El caminito de la esperanza* or *The Path of Hope* has been established. There are 30 young people attending on a weekly basis or more often. Their ages range from 5yrs-33yrs while the conditions include down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy. The therapy programme includes table top activities with an educational emphasis, massage and basic physio stretching, sports, social and recreational development and integration into the local community. Plans for the future are to introduce our young people to the swimming pool and look into offering an overnight respite. Basic resources such as a massage table, toys & educational games, a physio ball, a stereo, art materials, a foot spa, books have been sourced in Lima.



Angela is pictured left and below with some of those with whom she now works. Lots of the resources which the young people use come from Lima.

Since Angela has arrived in Autumn 2006 two full time qualified nurses has been employed. They are working with the young people and learning some of the necessary skills for working in this particular field. There are no multi-disciplinary supports available in this area. Services such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy or speech and language therapy, are over a ten hour bus journey in Lima where all services are centralised. Unfortunately many cannot afford this journey or the overnight accommodation in the city.

One weekend each month two psychiatrists come from Lima to visit the health clinic. They have taken a keen interest in the service as one of the psychiatrists has a child with special needs. They have now agreed to take referrals which has been a great help especially with those young people who present with severe challenging behaviour problems.

IHCPT have been delighted over the past number of years to be associated with DUH, a new Trust group established in Zagreb, Croatia. This has been a wonderful experience and so rewarding as from small seeds sown by Paul O'Grady (Group 136) have flourished and strengthened. Since the Jubilee year of 2000 the Board have sought a partnership programme in a developing country and the presence of one of our own in Peru has now enabled this hope to become a reality. We have committed ourselves to a three year relationship with *El Caminito de la Esperanza*. It is hoped that our small contribution can provide stability for the services which are been put in place. We will keep you up to date of progress and would ask you to pray for the wonderful work that is been done by Angela and associates in Humanga.



If you would like to part of this outreach programme please contact KILCUAN for more details

News from Lourdes

Restoration work near the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary is now complete. The mosaic series representing the five Luminous Mysteries are still in progress - they are placed on the exterior of the Basilica and the inauguration of these mosaics will mark the start of the Jubilee Year of 2008.

Beside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception - the Upper Basilica - a new phase of development is well under way. This consists of cleaning and strengthening the retaining wall by the grotto, cleaning the north tower, and covering the circular walkway. The 2nd phase of this work is now in progress. This involves work on the bells: painting the supports, renewing the electrical system so that, among other things, the bells can be rung by remote control, also turning the bells right round to offset wear and tear, and strengthening the floor directly beneath the bells. Renovations are being carried out on the roof and the exterior facade. These works should be completed by 2009.

Development continues on the Basilica of St Pius X. One of the primary works here is the renewal and modernisation of the technical equipment such as the video system. 7 new cameras are being installed, a new series of small screens will be placed through the basilica and 96 new floodlights will be placed in the ceiling vault which will greatly improve

the lighting and the video broadcasts. The access ramps into the Basilica will also be well-lit. In terms of sound quality efforts are being made to eliminate the echo which has been a problem when the Basilica is not full.

Work on the new Stations of the Cross continues. You will find Photographic representations of the new stations on www.defaydod-lourdes.com

Further information on the work in Lourdes from their website~: www.lourdes2008.com/en/vivre/programe2.htm

IHCPT CODE OF PRACTICE
available from
HQ
YOUR GROUP LEADER
www.ihcpt.com

Compostela 2007

All plans are now in place for the IHCPT walk along the camino to Compostela. This walk will take place in June and there are 30 walkers in 'serious' training for this endeavour. Long term forecasts are for good weather - perhaps not the best for walking but well done to all who have taken up the challenge to participate in this initiative for 2007. All monies raised will be used to bring the proposed development in Duncannon to completion. We are hopeful that planning difficulties will be overcome soon and work can commence this summer.

Well done to all walkers... we wish you all good weather, good company and good luck... all for a great cause... to further the work of IHCPT here in Ireland.

In Memoriam

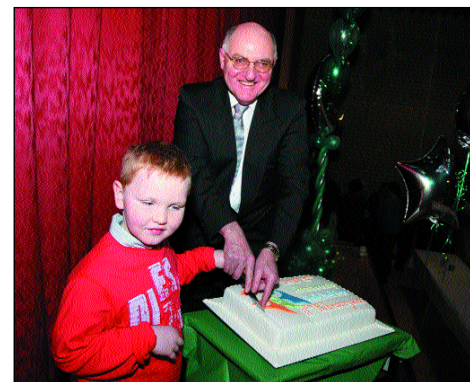
Pat McNicholl	Group 68
Rev Michael Cosgrave	Group 68
Aislinn Bowe	Group 174
Daniel Flanagan	Group 95
Daniel O'Donnell	Group 95
Michael Harrington	Group 70
Niamh O'Hara	Group 103
Caitlin O'Keeffe	Group 94
Blathnaid Foley	Group 164

Eternal rest grant unto all our
benefactors whom the Lord has called
from this life

Lourdes 2007

Sunday	Celebration of Welcome	Cote Carmel	5.30pm
Monday	Rehearsal for Tuesday Mass	St Bernadette's Basilica	5.30pm
Tuesday	IHCPT Benefactors' Mass	St Bernadette's Basilica	10.00am
Tuesday	Torchlight Procession	Domaine	9.00pm
Wednesday	Rehearsal for Thursday Mass	Basilica of Pius X	7.00pm
Wednesday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Rosary Basilica	10.00pm
Thursday	HCPT Benefactors' Mass	Basilica of Pius X	10.00am
Thursday	Blessed Sacrament Procession	Basilica of Pius X	5.00pm
Friday	Im Memoriam Mass	Grotto	8.30am

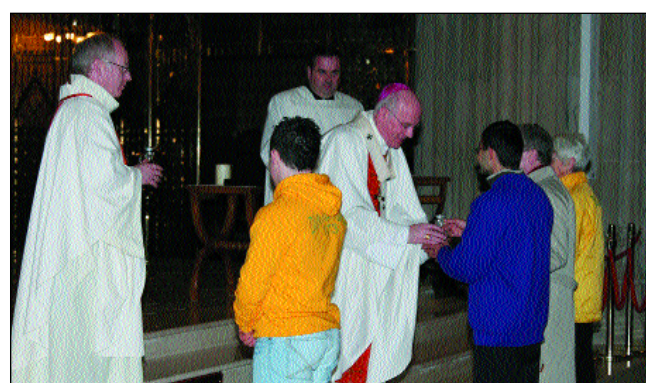
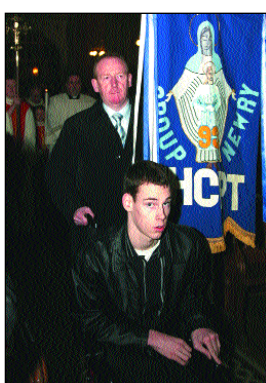
Armagh 'Rises and Shines'



The Lord has indeed done great things for IHCPT! 35 years, and still growing from strength to strength; as good a reason as any to celebrate, and that is exactly what the Northern Region did on the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes. Hundreds of people packed Armagh Cathedral to give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon IHCPT in the last 35 years. People came from all over Ireland to join in this wonderful celebration; a celebration filled with joy, laughter, colour and song, reminiscent of the Irish Mass In Lourdes, with groups carrying their banners with pride and everyone, young and old alike, joining together to sing Rise and Shine and Over my Head with the unforgettable actions.

It was tremendous to see such a remarkable blend of people; people who had their own various links with IHCPT;

fundraisers, guests, volunteers and trustees, present and past, priests and bishops. Amidst all the music and song, there was a beautiful sense of calm as we all shared in this special celebration of the Eucharist. All who were present, I'm certain, were in no doubt, that it was incredible to be part of this celebration, and I'm sure, were proud to say, that they were associated with such a remarkable organisation. On leaving the cathedral, the many guests were greeted with torrential rain, but this in no way dampened the spirits of all who were present. A wonderful day ended with light refreshments, a look at group photographs, plenty of reminiscing and the cutting of the cake. All who gathered for this joyous occasion, returned to their homes with their hearts and spirits renewed, ready and eager to spread the good news of the work of IHCPT to all.





LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD

