

Rev. G. C. Reay - Mission To Hastings - 28 March to 11 April - 1943

Truth through the personality of the preacher, good music, prayerful co-operation by Baptists and other friends, and perfect autumn weather all contributed to the regenerating and reviving influence of Rev. Reay's Mission at Hastings.

The church had set itself to make this year of grace an outstanding one in Evangelism, and already there had been response to a directly evangelistic ministry. But others heard and believed in the Special Mission, and increased attendances at prayer meetings since the mission closed testify to a renewal of spiritual life in many church members. A personal letter from the minister to every home in any way connected with the church, broadcast leaflets, street signs and newspaper advertising were employed to announce the meetings.

The first Sunday gave the Mission a flying start. Satisfactory numbers gathered for week-night services and several of the young people of the church, besides others outside, openly confessed the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. It was a disappointment that Mrs. Reay, through indisposition, was unable to accompany her, husband. Mr Kenneth Ayo, young Indian baritone, besides singing at every service, gave a recital on the last Saturday evening, and was a big attraction.

Two after-school services were held for children (with a bun and an apple for them when they arrived). Decision cards were accepted and signed at home by those children who desired to surrender themselves to the Saviour. A largely-attended ladies' meeting was addressed by the Missioner, a young people's rally, held one Sunday afternoon, and several informal talks with members of the Boys' Brigade, were arranged.

Mr Reay will be associated in our minds with a chorus of lovely words and haunting melody introduced by him to us—"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee." Many have found "joy and peace in believing." God has honoured the faith of those throughout the Dominion who have sustained this Mission in prayer.—J. R. G.