

‘From Toronto to Truth’

Conference reflects on 20th anniversary of the “Toronto Blessing”

20 years ago much of professing Christendom was being told that the Lord was doing great things in Canada – at the ‘**Toronto Airport Vineyard Church**’. The strange goings-on that were happening there proved to be a ‘magnet’ to multitudes of people who made their way over land and sea to the **TAVC** to get ‘it’ and take ‘it’ back to their own churches and fellowships where many then proceeded to distribute ‘it’.

Over the next year or so I gave two public talks on the ‘it’ that came to be known as the ‘**Toronto Blessing**’. Those talks can be watched on these links –

‘Toronto’: The Facts’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55eTq3woAkw&list=UUY6K5SN-Z7IIOKmXclB51jQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCEr3hKOxkE&list=UUY6K5SN-Z7IIOKmXclB51jQ>

‘Toronto: Antics and Heretics’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RM2A3sVYGU&list=UUY6K5SN-Z7IIOKmXclB51jQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTEEURiKzqw&list=UUY6K5SN-Z7IIOKmXclB51jQ>

As well as these talks I also invited a Pastor from England called **Chris Hand** to come and speak at a number of meetings in the Province. Chris had been the assistant pastor at a Pentecostal church near Wimbledon that had ‘embraced’ the so-called ‘**Toronto Blessing**’ but through time he became troubled by this and ‘in the fullness of time’ he came away from that and his life as a Christian took an entirely new ‘direction’.

In the **August and September 2014** issues of **Evangelical Times** there is an advert and I want to reproduce it now in full. The advert reads –

CRICH BAPTIST CHURCH

**THE 'TORONTO BLESSING' TWENTY YEARS ON:
LEARNING LESSONS FROM RECENT PAST**

**SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2014
10.30AM-4.00PM**

**Speakers: Chris Hand (Crich Baptist Church), Walter Johnston
and Mike Judge (Chorlton Evangelical Church)**

It is twenty years since many churches in the UK experienced a phenomenon that came to be known as the "Toronto Blessing". Thought by some to be the work of the Holy Spirit, people experienced strange and bizarre manifestations such as shaking, uncontrollable laughter and being "slain in the Spirit". What was it? What difference did it make? What legacy has it left behind? These are some of the questions we will be addressing.

Venue: Crich Baptist Church, Crich, Matlock, Derbys, DE4 5DD.

Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee served through the day.

**For more information ring 01773-853180 or email
chris.hand1@btopenworld.com**

I am sure this will be a most interesting and spiritually 'profitable' event so if you are in a position to get along then I would encourage you to do so.

Returning to the meetings that Chris Hand spoke at whilst he was with me here in the Province, I am grateful to good friends, Glenn and Isobel Lindsay from 'Good News Video Ministries' from Dublin for tracking down the VIDEO recording of one of those meetings and you can see what Chris said by going to

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kokN_4Rd5_U

Cecil Andrews – Take Heed' Ministries – 6 September 2014

As a 'PS' you will note that in the text at the start and finish of the video that Chris Hand was at that time Pastor of Grace Baptist in Lewisham – he has of course since then moved to Crich Baptist – the church that is mentioned in the advert above.