



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Free Presbyterians in Toronto protest against "Reunion with Rome" plans



Free Presbyterian Church ministers and members under the leadership of Rev. Alan Smylie, protest outside St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast. Their protest proked Archbishop Eames to deny that Anglicans had any plans to make the pope the head of a united church.

The following report is based upon a press statement issued by Dr. Brian Green, Calvary Grace Free Baptist Church, London, and Rev. William Beattie, Dunmurry Free Presbyterian Church, Northern Ireland, following a protest against the Anglican/Roman Catholic unity talks in Canada.

On Monday 15th May 2000, as the negotiations on the latest Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission's (ARCIC) agreement entitled 'Gift of Authority', got under way near Toronto, a deputation led by Dr. Brian Green, Pastor of Calvary Free Grace Baptist Church, Feltham, London, acting on behalf of the British Council of Protestant Christian

Churches (BCPCC), requested that the Archbishop of Canterbury meet with representatives of those who were strongly opposed to the proposals contained in the 'Gift of Authority' document that Anglicans should "desire a recovery and re-reception under certain clear conditions of the exercise of universal primacy by the Bishop of Rome". As the talks commenced, the Pope sent a message of encouragement to the Anglican and Roman Catholic representatives. It read as follows, "Our international dialogue, ARCIC, has given real signs of hope that in the end our journey will not be in vain, even though new and serious obstacles have slowed our progress". The Bishops of both churches came in pairs from New Zealand, Canada, England, United States, Ireland, India, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Southern Africa, Uganda, Australia, Brazil and the West Indies. The Church of Ireland representative was Bishop Pontz.

As the Archbishop was spending the morning in total silence with those who were part of the negotiations the request to meet with the Archbishop was handled by Rt. Rev. John Baycroft, Bishop of Ottawa, Canada. He undertook to make arrangements for the representatives of the BCPCC, the American Council of Christian Churches, the Free Presbyterian Churches in the UK, USA and Canada, the Fundamental Baptist Association of North America and the Canadian Protestant League to present to the Archbishop a document of solemn protest calling for his withdrawal from the talks and identifying twelve areas of betrayal in regard to the Protestant Faith embraced historically by the Anglican Communion. The large deputation of thirty-five persons, including a delegation of Free Presbyterian Ministers: Revs. William Beattie, Stanley Barnes, Ken Elliott. David Creane, Trevor Baxter, Ron



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Johnstone and Derek Irwin, travelled to the Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre, Mississauga, near Toronto, where the talks were being held. The Archbishop, who was chairing the discussions jointly with Cardinal Cassidy of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for promoting Christian Unity, appointed a representative to receive the deputation. The document was presented by Dr. Brian Green and an undertaking was given that it would be delivered. The Archbishop's representative listened intently to the concerns arising from the talks, but refused to make any comment or to answer any questions, even when it was pointed out to him that the Pope had stated that the position of the Roman Catholic Church was "irreformable" (Ad Tuendam Fidem) on matters of dogma and doctrine, and that therefore the talks were in reality a waste of time and effort unless the Anglicans were prepared to accept the Pope's position on dogma and doctrine. On that same evening, a capacity audience assembled in Toronto Free Presbyterian Church to protest against the Anglican Apostasy. Speakers representing all the churches and groups, that had been to Mississauga earlier in the day to protest, outlined their opposition to the talks. They proclaimed not only their commitment to the historic Protestant Faith but also their continuing opposition to the global apostasy headed up by the Church of Rome and the World Council of Churches and particularly the leadership being given by the Anglican Communion worldwide in leading the historic Protestant denominations back to Rome. The return to Rome is being undertaken in "stages", as proposed by Bishop McAdoo of the Church of Ireland in Malta in 1968 (Anglican/Roman Catholic dialogue - the Work of the Preparatory Commission - the forerunner of ARCIC). It has now progressed to another stage by the Anglican/Roman Catholic talks at Mississauga. Following the talks, it has been announced that Anglicans and Roman Catholics "have reached a very significant NEW PLACE on our journey . . . . We have come to a clear sense that we have moved much closer to the goal of full visible communion than we had at first dared to believe".

The announcement acknowledges "There are as yet unresolved differences", but affirms that A NEW STAGE of "Evangelical Koinonia", ie. a "Communion of joint commitment" has been achieved. It further states that "Now is the appropriate time for the authorities of our two communions to recognise and endorse this NEW STAGE through the signing of a JOINT DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT" which will be a Joint Affirmation of Faith. An ACTION PLAN has been drawn up and the first recommendation is that "A JOINT UNITY COMMISSION" be established which will "oversee the preparation of the JOINT DECLARATION OF AGREEMENT ON FAITH as well as facilitating the development of STRATEGIES for translating the degree of spiritual communion that has been achieved INTO VISIBLE AND PRACTICAL OUTCOMES." Finally the announcement states "THIS NEW STAGE ON OUR JOURNEY IS BUT A STEP ON THE WAY TO FULL AND VISIBLE UNITY".

**Here, in the words of the leaders of the sell-out to popery, is what is really happening in the Church of Ireland. These facts are not the inventions of the Free Presbyterian Church. Let all Church of Ireland members take note of this and decide for themselves who is doing the deceiving and lying.**

The action plan agreed at Mississauga for the new Joint Unity Commission also charges the new Commission, which will be set up jointly by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Anglican Communion Office, "to promote and monitor the formal response and reception of the agreed statements of ARCIC and to promote the coherence of other bilateral dialogues" that Anglicans and Roman Catholics are involved in. The



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Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC) will continue with a new agenda which will include a "study of THE PLACE OF MARY IN THE LIFE AND DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH." The consensus achieved at Mississauga is a Satanic subversion of the Protestant Reformed position of the Anglican Communion and all reformed churches worldwide. It is the latest development of the "Union with Rome by stages" proposal (Malta 1968) and it is proceeding according to the Pope's agenda in UT UNUM SINT (1995), which is his plan for union with Rome.

(All the unidentified quotations are from the statements issued after the Mississauga talks as distributed by the Anglican Communion News Service. The emphases are ours).