



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

“What Hath God Wrought?”



The newly acquired property

A report of a marvellous answer to prayer in Penticton by Rev. Andy Foster

Towards the end of 2001, we became aware that a Brethren church building in Penticton was going to be put up for sale. It was a building that I had long had an interest in, having repeatedly expressed to the elder of the assembly an interest in renting the facility for our services, if that was ever compatible with their use of the property. As soon as it became clear that the building was to be disposed of, we began to pray as a congregation that the Lord would somehow give us the

property. The words of Caleb were especially useful to us, “Give me this mountain.” Like Caleb we faced an uphill struggle and many giants were in the way, but we felt that it was of the Lord to pray in this fashion. Gradually the Lord refined our praying and led us by His word into a clearer understanding of His will and how we should pray. We were to expect Him to do the impossible! As the months went past, the building remained on the market and there were no signs of it being sold. Towards the end of April, the Lord laid a portion from Jeremiah 32 on my heart and we prayed that the Lord would send us a request from the brethren folks, similar to the one that Jeremiah heard from Hanameel — “Buy thee my field” (Jer 32:7). Within two days, the Lord had answered that prayer and while, at times we had wondered whether we were praying in the will of God at all, like Jeremiah we could say, “Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord,” verse 8.

It soon became clear that we would have to pay something for the property. After some discussion internally among the brethren assembly members and with ourselves, the sum of \$50,000 was agreed upon - a bargain price for a \$300,000 property. At the time of writing the matter is now with our lawyers and we expect the deal to be closed on June 14th. We salute the decision made by the Assembly members. Many of these folks are elderly and no longer able to actively carry on the work. It was their desire to see the gospel witness continue in the building rather than see it demolished and the site redeveloped. With that objective in mind the amount of money we could pay was not really an issue at all.

The property itself is beyond anything we ever thought possible. We are in the unusual position of having a building that can easily seat 150 people and we only have less than 20 regular attenders! Yet we are confident that the Lord Who has given us the bricks and mortar will give us the lively stones to build His temple in this city. Some repairs and renovations will be needed but these are not of such a serious nature as to prevent immediate use of the building for our services. The church has excellent facilities - a large auditorium; nursery; several Sunday school rooms; kitchen; minor hall and other large rooms suitable for other church functions. The entire property comprises 0.8 of an acre and is in a very



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good location in the city. A nice lawn, mature trees which provide shade in the summer and a paved parking lot complete the scene outside. Truly the Lord has done great things for us whereof we are glad. We can identify with the words of the Psalmist for we are like those that dream! We do need to see the Lord provide the money to purchase the building and we are looking to Him to pay for what He has had us buy. It is the burden of our hearts to see the Lord move in power and pour out His Spirit upon us. It is our prayer that He will make this property just a beach-head to reach the rest of the Okanagan and the 300,000 inhabitants in multiple communities that live within our radio broadcast area. We are praying that what the Saviour said of the disciples will be true of us, "John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (*Acts 1:5*).

A word from the Editor.

We would request our readers to take this work upon their hearts in prayer. God has wonderfully undertaken for this infant witness with regards a building and we rejoice with them in the mercy of the Lord and the generosity of the remaining members of the Brethren Assembly, some of whom have Ulster roots! We in Kilskeery would wish to help all we can with the raising of money to pay off the \$50,000. Along with our readers, £14,000 has been raised for the extension work in Rhiwderin, Wales, £10,000 of which was recently paid over to Rev. Richard Monteith to help in the purchasing of the hall in which his little congregation currently meet. We would like to be able to do something similar for far-off Penticton. Lurgan Free Presbyterian Church has already stepped in with a gift of £5,000 — about \$11,000 Canadian dollars and with a further loan of £5,000. Andy Foster was assistant minister in Lurgan before he went to Penticton in 1997. The generosity of the Lurgan church is very much appreciated.

Church or individual

If any church or individual can help, you can send your cheque directly to: Rev. Andy Foster, Box 329, Kaleden, British Columbia, Canada, V0H 1K0. Please make your cheque out to "Penticton FPC Building Fund." Your help will be greatly appreciated. Above all, pray that God, having given the building, will fill it with people earnestly seeking His grace and mercy. "When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps 126:1-3.

[Link to gallery of photographs of new building](#)