



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Rev. Ivan & Mrs Foster visit Canada



Rev Andy, Cameron, Rev. Ivan, Ann and Jill Foster.

The Editor of "The Burning Bush" and his wife, Ann, spent just under three weeks in Canada during April. They stayed with their son, Andrew, his wife, Jill, and little son, Cameron. Andrew has been pioneering a Free Presbyterian congregation in Penticton, British Columbia, since the beginning of 1997. The Easter holidays presented Mrs. Foster, principal of Kilskeery Independent Christian School with the opportunity to join her husband on the

visit. Rev. Foster preached in Penticton and at four special Easter weekend services in Cloverdale, where Rev Ian Goligher, his wife, Beulah, and family live. The Golighers come originally from our Omagh, Co. Tyrone congregation, and are long-time friends of the Fosters. The visit to Canada was very much a delightful surprise for the Editor and his wife. Many thanks are due from them to the kind and generous Christian friend who felt led of the Lord to offer to purchase air tickets for them to visit their son and his family, who had been unable to get over to Northern Ireland for the Jubilee celebrations in March.

The following two reports are from Revs. Goligher and Foster.

On Friday April 13 the Church in Cloverdale, B.C. welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Foster for the annual Easter weekend meetings. The Fosters were in B.C. to visit their son Andy who is ministering in our pioneer church in the city of Penticton in the interior of B.C.

The Friday afternoon service was followed by a buffet dinner and another meeting at 7 p.m. Mr. Foster told some of the highlights of the 50 year history of the Free Presbyterian Church and preached powerfully at both meetings and again at the Easter Sunday services. At each meeting Rev. Foster preached on one of the sayings of our Lord on the cross. We were reminded not only of the physical sufferings of our Lord's crucifixion, but also His deep spiritual agonies which were necessary to bear away the sins of His people. As the Word of God was preached the Lord impressed these things on many hearts and by the close of Sunday evening the joy of the Lord's covenant blessings was evident.

On Monday morning it was time to make the trip back to Manning Park, the half-way point between Vancouver and Penticton, where we had arranged to meet Andy, Jill and little Cameron, who took great delight in sitting beside "Grampins" for the remaining two hour journey back to Penticton.

I praise God for renewed fellowship with Rev. & Mrs. Foster, who have been mainstays to my wife and myself when we were starting out in the Christian life and through the years of preparation for the gospel ministry, and we wish to convey our sincere thanks and that



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of our congregation to them for coming again to minister to our people and share fellowship with us.

Rev. Ian Goligher.

From April 4th to 24th, Jill, Cameron and I were very glad to have our parents/grandparents visiting with us. It was a very special treat to have such a visit together - a rare joy being so far from family members here in Penticton! Cameron especially enjoyed getting to know his grandparents.

The visit was about more than family fellowship however. Apart from the one Lord's Day Rev Foster spent in Cloverdale, he preached in all the services he was present for here in Penticton. His ministry was particularly appreciated by all who were present to hear him preach. On Lord's Day, April 8th, he gave his own testimony and then went on to deal with his personal recollections of his first days in the Free Presbyterian Church, thirty-seven years ago. This was appropriate in light of the Jubilee celebrations. May God be pleased to give lasting fruit to his ministry among us.

Another highlight of the visit was an afternoon of fellowship with two faithful friends of the witness here who live in Kelowna (about 50 miles north of Penticton). Mr Andy Klassen and Miss Mary Reeves faithfully support our 30 minute Lord's Day evening broadcast and also participate in a monthly prayer meeting for our "LTBS" radio listeners that is held in Miss Reeves' home.

On April 24th we made our farewells. Although it was in one sense a naturally sad occasion it was a blessed time of realisation again of the goodness of God who has called us to follow Him wherever that calling leads. In His paths there is occasion for joy even when following Him brings separation between us and our loved ones.

We send our warmest greetings to all our friends and supporters in Northern Ireland.

Rev. Andy Foster.