



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Some items of interest from “The Burning Bush” of June 1970



As was stated in our last issue of “The Burning Bush”, this year will bring its witness to an end. I plan to discontinue publication from the end of February 2007. During this final year, I hope to reprint some items of interest which will possibly bring back memories of God’s mercies in the past and help to inform younger readers of events that have now passed into history.

The two items I am reprinting in this issue come from our June 1970 edition. They tell of the battle and the blessings that surrounded the Free Presbyterian Church back then.

*The Editor.*

Tyrone County Council Planning and Highways Committee has refused to allow the Free Presbyterian Congregation in the Clogher Valley to continue using a hall that they have erected. The hall is situated at Kiltermon beside the main

Fivemiletown Clogher road. It was erected as a temporary place of worship after the future use of the nearby Orange Hall was suddenly and inexplicably withdrawn. A meeting is held every Lord’s Day at 3.30 pm when a congregation averaging around 150 meets.

The reasons given by the Committee for refusing to give their approval are that the worshippers’ cars would cause congestion and be a traffic hazard. This unfair decision is going to be fought.

We say that the decision is unfair and for the following reasons:—

While on some Sundays there was parking on the verge of the road this has now been remedied by the opening of a car park holding 100 cars.

b) There is an entrance from a side road into the site thus cars entering and leaving the site will not be doing so from the trunk road.

c) At a meeting between the County Surveyor, Mr. Charles Neely and the Minister of the congregation, Rev. Ivan Foster, it was suggested that a site be obtained on a side road 400 yds. further up the trunk road.

Rev. Foster pointed out to the Surveyor that this did not solve the problems which the Council says surround the present site. Cars attending the services would still be exiting from and entering onto the trunk road from a side road. The strange thing is that while the surveyor disapproved of the present site he would be happy enough with one which had the exact same snags, 400 yds. up the road.

It would appear that the Council wants us to move just to say they have moved us. We will not submit to this attempt to hinder the preaching of the Gospel. The ecumenists in the Clogher Valley headed up by Canon Gracey, have openly boasted that they will stop the Free Presbyterian Church in the Clogher Valley. We would quote a text of scripture to these Gospel haters, “Let not him that girdeth on his armour boast himself as he that putteth it off” - 1 Kings 20:11.

While our enemies consort together to hinder us we will follow the example of Nehemiah.



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“But it came to pass, that when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth, And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it. Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God . . .”

May Nehemiah's God give us Nehemiah's victory and cause his testimony to be maintained in triumph at Kiltermon.

**. . . STOP PRESS . . . COUNTY SURVEYOR TO RECOMMEND OUR SITE FOR APPROVAL.  
WE WILL NOT HAVE TO MOVE AFTER ALL . . HALLELUJAH . . . . .**

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**The Lord added to the Church, Acts 2:47**

Farmers have been happy with the recent growth. The warming sun and the life-giving showers have caused our Ulster countryside to blossom with innumerable heralds of summer. The farmers are not the only ones enjoying growth. The Free Presbyterian Church is experiencing a spiritual springtime. As the result of prayer the sunshine of God's blessing accompanied by the refreshing rains of Heaven have brought forth abundant signs of increase in the Free Presbyterian Church.

**CLOGHER VALLEY:** The Sunday after the Tyrone County Council's refusal to give approval for the erection of a temporary hall, there was an overflowing congregation at the hall. 200 people assembled to hear the Word of God preached. The congregation may not have the Council's approval nor indeed the approval of the Clogher Valley ecumenists but they have God's.

At the end of the message God wonderfully saved a man who had been attending the meetings. This was the fourth to respond to the Gospel since the hall was erected four weeks ago. This is an approval indeed.

**OMAGH:** Mr. Ken Elliott, student minister in charge of our Omagh congregation has been there for four months now. In that time he has seen the numbers attending the services increasing steadily. At the moment approximately 250 attend the morning service with this number increasing to almost 300 in the evening. God has been adding to His Church. Sinners trusting Christ for salvation is a regular and blessed occurrence in Omagh.

**LISBELLAW:** In this Church there are many problems. Each person who comes after 7.45 p.m. to get in to the 8.00 p.m. service on Sunday is a problem. It's a problem to get them a seat and if you get them a chair it's a problem then finding somewhere to put it. The service is relayed into the Sunday school room downstairs but even then overcrowding takes place. Despite the packed congregation, praise God there's still room for Christ and His saving power. In the last number of weeks sixteen people, many of them in their twenties, have publicly professed faith in Christ.

The Free Presbyterian Church may be opposed and hated but under God it is flourishing. To His name be all the glory.