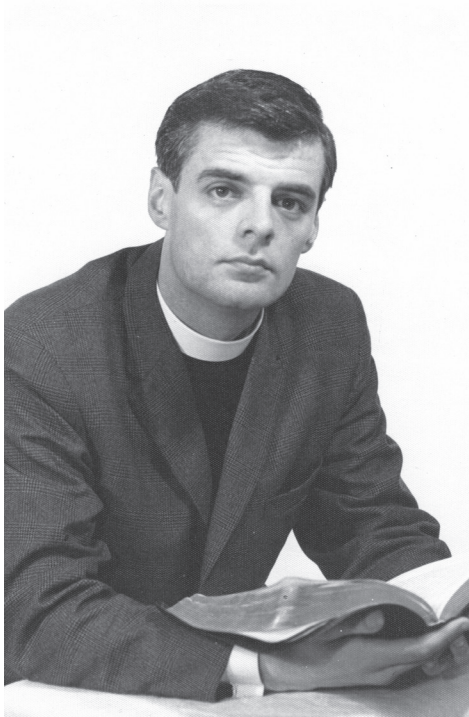




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Report of the ordination of Rev. Ivan Foster

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Saturday 20th April (1968) was an important day for the Free Presbyterian Church and for County Fermanagh. On that day, Rev. Ivan Foster was ordained as the first minister of the first Free Presbyterian Church in the county.

For many years apostates, fearful of the effects of a strong Gospel preaching church upon their iniquitous intrigues, sought to keep us out of Fermanagh. However the Lord opened up the way, and what God opens no man can shut. As a result Lisbellaw Free Presbyterian Church was opened. Since this work commenced the devil and his agents have been busy, but their desires to bring to nought this gospel witness have miserably failed.

It was with great joy that the Presbytery of Ulster ordained Mr. Foster and installed him in Lisbellaw, The two ministers who, along with him spent three months in prison at the hands of a politico-ecumenical plot, took a major part in the ordination service. Dr. Paisley preached the main message and Rev. John Wylie (Coleraine) preached the charge to the newly ordained minister.

Dr. Paisley read and expounded the first chapter of Jeremiah. This was a timely and powerful message preached in the power of the Holy Ghost. The five great divisions of the chapter were outlined as follows:-

(1) The Prophet's Day.

(2) The Prophet's Destiny. Here Dr. Paisley set forth the three great truths of verse 5, which are all too often ignored in these days of milk and water evangelicalism, the eternal Predestination, Sanctification and Ordination of God towards His Prophets. He said that the Presbytery, in ordaining Mr. Foster, were merely saying 'Amen' to the eternal ordination of God.

(3) The Prophet's Doubts.

(4) The Prophet's Duty.

(5) The Prophet's Defence.

After the sermon the Rev. William Beattie, acting Clerk, put the prescribed questions to Mr. Foster, who then subscribed the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Articles of Faith of the Free Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Alan Cairns (Cabra) led in the ordination prayer.

In his charge to Mr. Foster, Rev. John Wylie dwelt with evident power upon Exodus chapter 31 and gave a very enlightening and inspiring address upon the meaning of the seven names mentioned in the opening verses.

Rev. Victor Burns (Limavady) brought the charge to the congregation and told them that they must live and witness according to the pattern which God has ordained for His Church. He emphasised the great truth of the Headship of Christ over His Church.

Mr. Foster was presented with a handsome china cabinet by the congregation. He expressed his sincere



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thanks for this gift and for all the support God's people had given him in the past and asked them to continue to stand by him in the work in County Fermanagh.

"Mr. Wylie has told me to get up and go and that is exactly what I intend to do. I have obtained a tent and I mean to use it to carry the Gospel to the people of Fermanagh and elsewhere."

The ladies of the congregation served tea to the great crowd which attended the ordination service, after which there was a conference service. The special preachers were Rev, S.B. Cooke (Armagh) and Rev. John Douglas (Moneyslane), who both experienced the unction and power of the Holy Ghost upon their Ministry.

All in all, Saturday April 20th was a great day which will be long remembered, not only by us, but by every ecumeniac, every apostate and every compromiser in County Fermanagh. A man of God has come to town and they will be made to realise it very quickly. Our very best wishes and sincere prayers are with Mr Foster and his good wife in their labours for the Lord.

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