



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### Free Presbyterian church buildings under attack.



Rev. Gordon Dane and Dr. Paisley view the fire damage

Coragarry Free Presbyterian Church, in Co. Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland, was very badly damaged in an arson attack in the early hours of Lord's Day, July 4th. The entrance porch, kitchen, prayer room and toilets were so severely damaged that they will have to be demolished. A portable hall used for a Sabbath school was totally destroyed and the inside of the main building badly smoke-damaged. A tractor belonging to a builder was also destroyed. The total cost of rebuilding and refurnishing the building will be nearly £100,000. The Irish government has refused compensation, claiming

**that the church must prove that three or more individuals were involved in the attack.**

Moneyslane Free Presbyterian Church was also damaged, though not nearly so severely, in a series of attacks by republicans on church and Orange Order property in Co. Down. A number of windows in the church were broken. That same weekend, Ryans Presbyterian Church Hall was totally gutted by arsonists. It is about ten miles from Moneyslane. Nearby Ballyrone Orange Hall and Ballyrone Presbyterian Church had many of the windows broken. Further east, Downpatrick Baptist also came under attack.

Recently, in Dunmurry, just outside Belfast, a gospel tent was burned in a similar attack. Attacks on Orange Halls have been an ongoing feature of the troubles.

These attacks show the underlying enmity toward anything Protestant or anything linked to the Reformed faith.

No ecumenical arrangements or peace deals can ever remove or successfully restrain the enmity that exists within Romanism toward the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It has to be said that Roman Catholic property has been attacked by those who may call themselves loyalists. But in truth, they are but nominal Protestants with no true knowledge of Christ. They are acting out of the same depraved nature as energises the Republican arsonist. Protestantism has always promoted civil and religious liberty. The history of the freedoms enjoyed by Romanists in Protestant countries has demonstrated this beyond dispute.