



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

A Tribute to Hugh Hunter Gallagher.



Hugh Gallagher 1926—1999.

Founder member of Lisbellaw Free Presbyterian Church and Senior Elder in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church

A very large congregation gathered in Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church for the funeral service of Hugh Gallagher on Tuesday 22nd June. Friends from Fermanagh and Tyrone and from Hugh's native Co. Donegal came to bid their respects to a humble and faithful Christian.

His minister for the last 32 years, Rev. Ivan Foster, paid the following tribute to his friend and companion in the battle for God's truth.

"Hugh Hunter Gallagher was a humble believer, a beloved husband and father, a faithful brother in Christ and an honoured elder in our congregation. Mr. Gallagher was a native of Convoys in Co. Donegal. He moved to the Drogheda area in Co. Tyrone in 1954. That same year, as the result of a mission in Shaneragh Hall conducted by IEB evangelists, Willie Moore and Bert Finlay, he was converted

to Christ. The verse that God used in Hugh's conversion was Genesis 6:3: *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man.*

He and his wife Winnie, a former Faith Mission Pilgrim, moved to Killymendon, Ballinamallard in 1965.

His zealous labours and prayers were central to the establishing of the first Free Presbyterian witness in Co. Fermanagh in Lisbellaw in February 1967. He was ordained as an elder of the congregation that was formed there on March 21st, 1972.

At the formation of the Kilskeery Free Presbyterian extension work in 1973 he allied himself with that work, since it was but two miles from his home. He became an elder in the new congregation that was formed in 1977.

He has been greeting worshippers in that congregation on the Lord's Day since that time. His kindly greeting will be sadly missed by members and visitors alike. It was said of Barnabas: He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith. The like may have been said of Hugh Gallagher. Having known him in every situation that may possibly arise in a congregation, I may speak from an informed position. He was a humble, faithful, loyal and dedicated believer. He took his duties as an elder seriously and did what he could in his own quiet way. He had a telling sense of humour and many were the perceptive witticisms which came from his lips.

The night before he took ill and was taken to hospital, where he died of a heart attack some eight hours later, he was visiting the oldest member of our congregation. At the last



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prayer meeting of his life, he prayed for his family, God's people and for Ulster. As ever, he prayed earnestly for Dr. Paisley.

Earlier in June, on his last visit to his native Convoy in Donegal, he visited a number of his old acquaintances, witnessing to them of Christ and leaving gospel tracts. One was an old drinking companion, now confined to a wheelchair. Such was Hugh Hunter Gallagher.

He has gone to glory. In the early hours of the Sabbath, June 20th, he went to be with Christ. All the trumpets have sounded on the other side to welcome this faithful servant of God."

We offer our loving sympathy to his wife Winnie, his son George and his wife Laura, and his daughter Eveline.

May the Lord give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.