



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

New Free Presbyterian congregation constituted in western Canada



Rev. Andrew and Mrs. Jill Foster with their son Cameron.

Ireland.

In the course of the service Rev. Larry Saunders brought greetings on behalf of the North American Commission of Presbytery, while Rev. Ivan Foster spoke on behalf of the Ulster congregations, bringing written greetings from the Moderator of the Ulster Presbytery, Dr. Paisley and Dr. J. Douglas, the Clerk of Presbytery. Rev. John Wagner as Moderator of the NAC constituted the congregation and offered special prayer for the blessing of God upon the newly

constituted church. During the ordination of Rev. Andrew Foster, Rev. David Brame, Clerk of the North American Commission, posed the prescribed questions. Mr. Foster was then ordained by the members of Presbytery who were present - including two of the newly ordained elders from Cloverdale.

It was a special joy to have family members participate in the ordination. Rev. Ivan Foster, Andrew's father and minister of Kilskeery congregation in Northern Ireland, Mr. Richard Foster, his brother and an elder in Kilskeery and Mr. William Sterritt, his father-in-law, who is an elder in Moneyslane congregation, were among those who took part in Mr. Foster's ordination. Mr. Sterritt also brought a special solo.

Rev. John Wagner preached the ordination sermon. He preached on the glorious privilege and duty of the Church. His message was based on 1 Timothy 3:15 and addressed what it meant for the Church to be described as "the pillar and ground of the truth." It was a powerful sermon and a tape is available from Penticton Free Presbyterian church. The Lord was certainly present in the meeting and blessed His word.

The newly ordained and installed minister also had opportunity to address the meeting. Rev. Foster gave thanks to God for His constraining grace that had saved him, led him into the ministry and brought him to Penticton. He especially paid tribute to his parents and his wife as well as many other human influences under God that had shaped his life and minis-



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try. He also expressed deep gratitude to the faithful members of the congregation who had loyally and prayerfully supported him and the cause of Christ.

Mr. Steve Warchola, Deacon and longest attender, speaking for the congregation, paid tribute to Rev. Foster's ministry among them, giving personal testimony of God's saving grace in his own life under the ministry of God's word. He then presented Rev. Foster with a set of books. Refreshments and a great time of fellowship followed the service.

The congregation in Penticton are extremely thankful to each one who travelled to be with them for this special event. The support and friendship of sister congregations was deeply appreciated.



Rev. Andrew Foster, flanked by his two Deacons, Mr. Edward Thomas (left) and Mr. Steve Warchola, along with the other members of the North American Commission and visiting Presbytery members, Rev Ivan Foster, Mr. William Sterritt and Mr. Richard Foster



Rev. Andrew and Mrs. Jill Foster and their son Cameron along with members of the Sterritt and Foster families from Northern Ireland