



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

New Free Presbyterian congregation constituted in western Canada



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

On Friday October 31st, 2003, the congregation in Penticton took a significant step forward as a special service marking the constitution of the congregation was held. In the course of the evening Mr. Andrew Foster was also ordained and installed as its first minister. The significance of the date as the anniversary of Luther's posting of his 95 theses, was not lost on the meeting. May the God of Luther be pleased to move again in Reformation power against the kingdom of darkness in our day!

Rev. Ian Goligher presided at the meeting and gave thanks to God for the mercy shown in the establishment of a gospel witness in the Penticton area. He also welcomed the many visitors who included visiting ministers, elders and deacons as well as Rev. Ivan and Mrs Foster and Andrew's two brothers, Richard and Stephen and Mrs. Jill Foster's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Sterritt from Northern

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