



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

New Minister for Bethel



Rev. John Gray, his wife Arlene and children, John, Aaron (back row), Naomi, Peter and Hannah.

On Friday, May 21st, Bethel Free Presbyterian Church, in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, was packed for the installation of Rev. John Gray as the new minister. Mr. Gray was minister of Ballymagerney Free Presbyterian Church, in Co. Armagh for six years.

Rev. David Priestley, minister in charge during the vacancy, which followed the retirement of Rev. Gordon Cook last year after 21 years as minister, led the service. Rev. Larry Power of Kesh Free Presbyterian Church opened the service in prayer and Rev. Paul Fitton, recently installed minister of Dunganon Free Presbyterian Church, preached the sermon. Rev. John Morrow of Omagh substituted for Dr. Paisley, the Moderator, and preached the charge to the congregation.

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Rev. Ken Elliott, acting Clerk of Presbytery, put the prescribed questions to the minister-elect and after they were answered, called upon Mr. Gray to sign the Articles of Faith of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster and the Westminster Confession of Faith. Rev. Elliott, Mr. Gray's former minister, then led in prayer.

A large contingent from Mr. Gray's former church were present at the meeting. Mr. Albert Doherty presented a cheque to Mr. Gray from the Ballymagerney church. Gifts were also presented to Rev. and Mrs Gray from the Bethel church as well as to Rev. and Mrs Priestley.

Rev. Ivan Foster, the first minister of Bethel closed the gathering in prayer, returning thanks for the supper that had been prepared by the ladies of the congregation for the overflowing crowd.

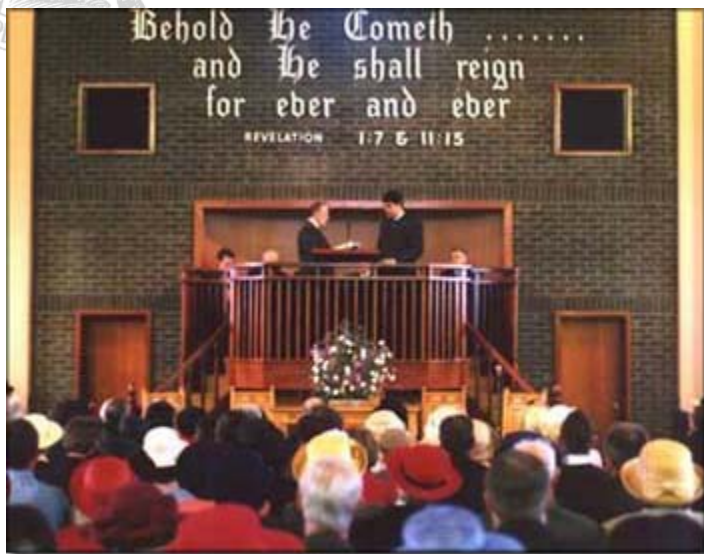


Ministers attending the installation of Rev. John Gray.

(Left to Right, back row) — Revs. Larry Power, David Smith, David Park, Paul Fitton, Mr. Lyle Boyd (FP missionary to Spain)

(Front row) — Revs. Ken Elliott, David Priestley, John Gray, John Morrow, Ivan Foster.

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Rev. Ken Elliott, Acting Clerk, putting the prescribed questions to Rev. John Gray during the installation service.