



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

### The true source of Ulster's trouble

*Irish Presbyterian Moderator, Dr. Trevor Morrow, is rebuked for his slanderous and deceitful attack upon the Free Presbyterian Church.*

An article by Rev. Brian McClung *Minister of Newtownabbey Free Presbyterian Church*



Dr. Trevor

**There has been a running sore within Irish Presbyterianism for a number of years. The ecumenical clergy are grieved at the treatment Rev. David Armstrong, former minister of Limavady Presbyterian Church received, chiefly from the then members of his own congregation. This treatment forced him to leave Northern Ireland and the Presbyterian Church. He is now a Church of Ireland minister.**

This grievance goes back to the events within the town of Limavady, twenty years ago, when so-called "Loyalists" placed a bomb in the newly-built Roman Catholic Church. David Armstrong in making known his abhorrence at this deed launched out on a course of increased ecumenical fellowship and co-operation with the local Roman Catholic priest. This Romanising activity led first to opposition within his own congregation. He was "strongly warned" from within his own congregation not to attend the re-opening of the Roman Catholic Church. He went, nevertheless, and consequently received the rebuke of a section of his congregation. Subsequent visits took place on Christmas mornings to exchange greetings. The second of these was marked by protest, mounted by local Free Presbyterians, and led by the minister Rev. Wesley McDowell.

In a recent UTV Insight programme, David Armstrong spoke of those who would not speak to him when he entered shops in the town. He accused bowlers, in his own Church Hall, of turning away from him, refusing to speak with him. Others were accused of expressing the sentiment that he should be shot.

#### Programme

On the Insight programme David Armstrong maintained that this protest was born out of fear, mistrust and the belief that a great conspiracy was at work to destroy what was left of the Reformation. He further stated that Ulster had "paid a very, very high price accepting the theology that has come from Free Presbyterian pulpits". Rev. Trevor Morrow, present Moderator of the Presbyterian Church, agreed, adding: "Well I think there is some validity in David's contention that Ulster is suffering the consequences of the theology and practice of Free Presbyterianism".



Rev. Brian McClung

#### False charge

These men are charging Free Presbyterian ministers, in general, with being responsible for the intimidation, murder, destruction, bigotry, sectarianism and general mayhem that this province has suffered over many years of "The Troubles". In particular, they are laying the blame for the latest series of pipe bomb attacks and general intimidation, in places like Larne, at our door. It is a serious matter to be accused, at best of incitement to these wicked deeds or, at worst of complicity in them. Can such a charge be sustained?



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Such a charge would immediately remind us of similar words addressed by the wicked king Ahab to the godly prophet Elijah: *Art thou he that troubleth Israel?* 1 Kings 18:17. Ahab resented the rebuke of Elijah. Ahab would have preferred there to be no voice raised in opposition against him. He desired to continue on his sinful course free from any voice of opposition being raised, warning the people that he was actually responsible for the trouble that Israel faced. Unable to escape this rebuke, and employing inverted logic, he accuses the godly prophet of being the troubler of Israel.

Revs. Armstrong and Morrow, unable and unwilling to face up to the errors of apostate Protestantism, Ecumenism and Romanism, use the same logic to accuse Free Presbyterian ministers. For it is in these evils that the true cause of Ulster's troubles can be found.

### Departure from God

It is departure from God and His Word that brings trouble upon a nation. Elijah reminded Ahab that he was the cause of Israel's troubles because he had forsaken the Lord and served Baalim. *I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim,* 1 Kings 18:18. If anyone is to be charged with "The Troubles" then it is the promoters of false religion who fill the land. It is their harvest Ulster is reaping. Trouble always comes with forsaking the truth of God. Israel were warned as a nation what the end of compromise with sin and the world would bring. Lev 26:14-17 states: *But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; I also will do this unto you; ..... I will even appoint over you terror ..... I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you....* If anything sums up our present situation in this land it is these words. We have experienced terror. They that have hated us, and have slain the inhabitants of this land, now sit in government ruling over us, and all because of a refusal to obey the Word of God.

### Not of God

Ecumenism is not of God. It is energised by another spirit. It is of the same spirit that will one day bring together the amalgamation of false religion and make it "the cage of every unclean bird". There is to be no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. There is to be a reproving and an avoiding of those who follow this course. Revs. Morrow and Armstrong have done neither. These men did not speak out against the Church of Rome, which has spawned, succoured and encouraged Republican terrorists these many years. To have done so would not be good, of course, for ecumenical relations with the Archbishop or Cardinal of the Roman Catholic church!

### Ordination vows

Romanism is not agreeable to the Word of God. Both these ministers swore at their ordination to the ministry of the Presbyterian Church that they believed the Westminster Confession of Faith. It states in ch 25 section 6: *There is no other head of the church but the Lord Jesus Christ: nor can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof; but is that Anti-christ, that man of sin and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ and all that is called God.* If this is so, then how can they justify fellowship with this system of religion which gives full and utter submission to the man they called an anti-christ at their ordination? They are either being dishonest or else perjurers, having sworn



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to believe something they do not. Just what impact does it have upon a people when their ministers are guilty of swearing to believe and teach one thing but, in fact, believing and teaching the very opposite? Must it not be an offence to God of the highest order for those professing to be God's servants to act so? Is this not the real source of God's controversy with our land?

### **Reason for protests**

As for saying that any who protest against them are doing so out of fear, mistrust and a belief in a great conspiracy, they are not far from the truth. We have every right to fear and mistrust Romanism. History has taught us that where Rome is in control there will be the crushing of any who oppose her. That is why we have resisted the murderous onslaught of Roman Catholic terror these many years in this province. David Armstrong will soon learn of Rome's ways as he watches what is left of the Protestant population, in Southern Ireland, dwindle even further. For when a Protestant marries a Roman Catholic, Rome will insist that any children are raised within Holy Mother Church. This is but one example of the methods Rome employs. If there is a conspiracy, it is not Rome which, in this matter at least, conceals what she is about. After all, Popery has come out and clearly stated what her goals are within the ecumenical movement. The decree on Ecumenism states: Our separated brethren, whether considered as individuals or as Communities and Churches, are not blessed with that unity which Jesus Christ wished to bestow on all those to whom He has given new birth into one body..... For it is through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the all embracing means of salvation, that fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained. Believing this Rome works openly for the return of the "separated brethren". The result will be that, little by little, as the obstacles to perfect ecclesiastical communion are overcome, all Christians will be gathered, in a common celebration of the Eucharist, into the unity of the one and only Church, which Christ bestowed on His Church from the beginning. This unity, we believe, subsists in the Catholic Church as something she can never lose, and we hope that it will continue until the end of time.

It would seem that Rome knows where the ecumenical movement is heading, and makes no secret of it.

It is Revs. Morrow and Armstrong who conspire and that to deceive their own people as to where they are being led by the false shepherds who preside over their spiritual affairs. There is self-inflicted blindness towards the obvious, on the part of those within the mainstream, so-called Protestant Churches, as to where ecumenism is taking them. It is taking them back to Rome.

By bowing down at the altars of apostate Protestantism, Ecumenism and Romanism, the Moderator and Rev. Armstrong have troubled Ulster. That trouble will be removed only by a turning back to God's Word and ways similar to that which Israel knew in the days of Elijah.