



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Editor visits some Free Presbyterian congregations in USA



Having been invited to speak at the Annual banquet of the Organised Minorities Association in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on April 8th, I was able to use the occasion to visit a number of our Free Presbyterian witnesses in USA .

We flew to Philadelphia in time to speak in Malvern and Allentown churches on the first Lord's day in April. We happily renewed fellowship with the Greer and Hamilton families as well as the many believers we have met in there before. It was particularly good to see that Rev. Stephen Hamilton and his family have settled in to a beautiful home in the Allentown area of Pennsylvania having moved over from Rutherglen in Scotland at the end of last year. >From Pennsylvania we flew south to Greenville in South Carolina. Both Rev. Alan Cairns and his wife Joan were looking well. Joan has made a remarkable recovery from her heart attack last summer. We once again stayed with them. After speaking at both Sabbath services on April 11th, we travelled up to Winston Salem in North Carolina and spoke at a midweek service for Rev. Reggie Kimbro. We were made most welcome by the Kimbro family and congregation there which has been enjoying a period of growth of late.

From there we went to visit with the Rev. Myron Mooney in Alabama. I had never been able to visit with our brother before so I was looking forward to this stop. Rev. Mooney's great grandfather left Co. Tyrone, not far from us here in Kilskeery, back in the late 1800s, and settled in Alabama. There is still much to remind one of Co. Tyrone around the Mooney home. We had a great time of preaching and fellowship with the Mooney family. He has contributed a brief report for us.

Report from Rev. Myron Mooney

We lift our praise to the Lord for His goodness during the series of meetings with the Rev. Ivan Foster. The Lord did indeed have a word for the saints and the unsaved at each service. The people of God have been greatly encouraged to go on faithfully with the Lord. The lost clearly heard afresh the way of salvation. Please pray that the Lord will bestow the sovereign gifts of saving faith and repentance unto life in this place. There were 48 souls in attendance at the meetings. Several pastors attended and, we trust, have been refreshed, convicted, and challenged to go forward. The young people of the church passed out much literature advertising the meetings, and a few people responded by coming. The newspaper ad also brought in several people. We would ask your prayers for God to bless His Word to those in attendance especially those who need to heed the call to separate unto Christ outside the camp of apostasy.

From Alabama it was further south to Orlando. The work there under Rev. John Wagner has seen a great advance since my last visit. Though some things had not changed - like Rev. John Wagner!! We were made very welcome by the family and the congregation and



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spoke to a mid-week congregation of about 40 people. This was about twice what they were getting on a Sabbath when I was last visiting with them!

Then it was on to our last visit, this time up in New England and the congregation in Manchester, New Hampshire. Again, reminders of Ulster are aplenty. Adjacent to the town of Manchester are the towns of Londonderry and Derry. No need to tell you of their origins!! We were last in Manchester when we preached at the opening of their present church building. That was in the early '90s. They are now planning an extension which will almost double their seating capacity as well as adding other facilities. I will let Rev. Dave Brame report on our series of meetings. We renewed fellowship with his wife and family, enjoying our stay in their home. Again, it was a joy to meet many that we had become acquainted with during our last visit and getting to know those that had joined the congregation since then.

Report from Rev. Dave Brame

The church in New Hampshire recently held a series of special meetings with Rev. Ivan Foster as the guest preacher. The congregation had been praying earnestly that the Lord would especially use these meetings in mightily stirring the hearts of His people. The Lord abundantly answered that petition.

The meetings commenced on the Lord's Day morning, with a searching message on seeking the Lord. The church had been praying for a young friend of one of its members, whose life in recent years had been a long chronicle of misery. After the service, this young man sought the Lord and committed his life to the Saviour. The Sunday Evening meeting dealt with "The Function of Trouble in the Life of the Believer." Many of God's people were encouraged and challenged to go on with Christ. The Monday evening meeting focused on the nature of "Spiritual Progress in the Life of the Believer." A number of God's people testified that it was a much needed word for their souls and important instruction on the work of sanctification. On Tuesday evening, Rev. Foster dealt with "The Believer's Abiding in Christ." From John 15, he opened the simplicity and blessing of that relationship in the hearts of Christ's people. In the final meeting, the church was brought to Revelation 3:14-22 to consider the church in Laodicea and "How the Believer May Hinder Revival." In a very simple but direct message, the Lord, by this word, searched the hearts of His people. As the minister of the congregation, I rejoiced to see the people hungry for the truth and receptive to it, even the rebuke and reproof of the Word. The weeknight meetings had better attendance than I can ever remember in any similar meetings. And judging from the many, many requests for tapes of the series, God's working through these meetings will go on for some time to come.

We were encouraged with the response of many of God's people following the meetings. Our churches out in USA are enjoying a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Of course, much work over many years has gone into these outreaches. Many of God's servants, and their wives, took part-time jobs in order to provide for their families when the witnesses were but beginning. Rev. Myron Mooney still holds down a demanding job at



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a feed mill as well as labouring to see the congregation in Trinity, Alabama established. We commend these works to the prayers of our readers and we would encourage you to contact them and assure them of your prayers. We are thankful for the Lord's hand upon us in all our travels and His blessing upon our congregation in Kilskeery during our absence.