



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

Christian School Principal retires after 20 years



Rev. Priestley, Esther Stronge, Victoria Reid, Mrs. Rutherfordale and Gareth Robinson.

One hundred people attended a special dinner on Saturday evening 25th June to mark the retirement of Mrs Elizabeth Rutherfordale B.A; as founding principal of Bangor Independent Christian School, Clandeboye Road. The proceedings were chaired by Rev David Priestley, the school administrator.

Rev Colin Mercer, Convenor of the Presbytery Education Board, and Rev William McDermott, past administrator, brought greetings. There were apologies and greetings from Rev Wesley Graham and Rev Ivan Foster. Rev Priestley paid tribute to Mrs Rutherfordale's dedication and exceptional gifts. Drawing on Paul's

words in 2 Corinthians 12 verse 15: "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you," Mr Priestley said Mrs Rutherfordale had spent herself in the work of the school going far beyond the call of duty.

Presentations were made by Esther Stronge and Victoria Reid, the oldest and youngest pupils present and by Gareth Robinson on behalf of the past pupils. In closing, Mr. Priestley welcomed Mrs Ruth Daly the new principal and her husband Mr. Selwyn Daly who will both be taking up their posts in September.

Greetings sent to the meeting by Rev. Ivan Foster, former Convenor of the Presbytery Education Board, who was preaching in England and therefore unable to attend the farewell gathering.

'Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord,' 1 Cor 15:58.

The work of God, whichever branch of it is considered, involves labour. That word means 'trouble, weariness, sorrow.' It first appears in the New Testament in Matthew 26:10. There it refers to the distress inflicted upon Mary by the disciples because of what she "had done" for the Saviour when she anointed Him with precious ointment. They had not rightly understood her actions and therefore did not appreciate her loving gesture. Jesus understood But the Saviour understood her heart and much appreciated her tenderness. It is the knowledge that such labours are not in vain (the word means 'empty, worthless') that enables God's servants to be "steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

I am sorry that I am unable to be with you on the occasion when the labours of Mrs.



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Rutherforddale are being honoured. The Lord, Who knows the hearts of us all, will know that I speak the truth when I say that I have longed for a right evaluation of the labours of all the teachers within our Christian schools to be made by the people of God generally. Whether this happens in time it will happen in eternity as our text shows. difficulties Mrs. Rutherforddale, you had many difficulties and trials to face over the years but rejoice over each one for the day is coming when the Lord, in His infinite mercy, will turn each trial into a trophy for you to lay at the Saviour's feet. When He says 'Well done', I know that you will say that it was worth it all! I wish both you and Stanley God's richest blessing. I know that the thoughts and prayers of you both will continue to be very much occupied with the vital work of Christian Education.

God bless you both. May you have an enjoyable evening and a happy retirement. Your friend in Christ, Ivan Foster.

Farewells for the Daly family

Mrs Ruth Daly, who has taken over as principal of Bangor school, taught for eight years in Kilskeery school. Her husband, Selwyn, who is also joining the Bangor school staff, taught for four years in Kilskeery. Expressions of appreciation were made by Mrs. Ann Foster, Principal of Kilskeery school, to Mr. and Mrs Daly for their labours in the school at the close of term praise service in Kilskeery on June 22nd. Presentations were also made to the family.

A farewell service for the family was also held in their home church, Bethel Free Presbyterian Church, in Enniskillen, where Mr. Daly served as a deacon and Mrs Daly as a Sunday School teacher.



Mr. & Mrs Daly with their children, Melissa, Malcolm and Reuben and Rev. and Mrs Foster.



The Daly family along with Clerk of Session Stanley Chartres and Rev. John Gray at a farewell service in Bethel church where Mr. Daly served as a deacon and Mrs Daly as a Sunday School teacher.