

REPORT OF REV. R. MACDONALD, VANCOUVER.

Clerk of Synod,
Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland,
Wick, Scotland.

4010 St. Catherine Street,

Vancouver, 10, B.C.

12th May, 1955.

Sir,

I wish hereby to tender my apologies for my absence from the Meeting of Synod. The great distance which makes physical separation inevitable, does not, I trust, mean a spiritual detachment, or lack of interest on our part, here in Vancouver; and our prayer is that the Lord and great Head of the Church will guide the Brethren in their deliberations.

Another year has passed, and if it be asked how it has fared with us in this part of the world, I am afraid that the answer will have to be that there is little evidence of a break in the dark cloud of religious indifference and general declension from spiritual and moral standards. One reads, indeed, of an increasing interest in religion in these countries of North America, even of Revival of Religion, with an increase in Church membership, and this may well be so; but it does not seem to be an interest in the old and tried paths as we understand them, and as we, by the Grace of God, seek to maintain them in this outpost of the F.P. Church.

There has been therefore no significant increase in our numbers. It is gratifying that members and adherents sustain their attendance and their interest in the outward means, and it should be put on record that the Lord has been most kind to us all in His Providence. Nevertheless, we are constantly reminded that spiritually, ours is a day of small things.

I would like to mention here that our oldest member passed away last year. This dear lady had arrived at a great age and despite her physical frailties and loss of memory, to the last she showed that her delight was in the place where prayer was wont to be made and her place in the Church was seldom vacant. Some of the older generation in Scotland will remember Mrs. Johan Morrison, as will those Deputies who have been in Vancouver. She is sadly missed here. May the Lord be pleased to raise up witness to His Saving Grace.

I was able to give four Sabbaths in Calgary in September of last year. The services were held in a rented hall and there was a fair attendance, some Dutch families attending, but ordinarily the attendance is not so good. Mr. A. Macleod usually conducts the services there, but apart from Mr. A. Beaton and family there are few F.P.s in Calgary now.

We have not been able to give aid to the congregation in Winnipeg - the distance is too great. The elders, Mr. A. Macleod and Mr. T. Macdonald, are to be commended for zeal and diligence in supplying the Congregation in Winnipeg, especially the latter, who is now greatly advanced in years.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in Vancouver in August and we had the great pleasure of the fellowship of Mr. T. Macdonald. Mr. Hugh Mackay, elder, was able to conduct the services while I was in Calgary. He had an operation and had been very ill and we are glad that he has been greatly restored in health.

Brethren, pray for us.

Yours very sincerely,

R. MACDONALD.