

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE REV ANGUS MACLEOD

It was with a great sense of sadness and loss that the Christian community in Lewis and beyond learned of the passing of Rev Angus Macleod at his home in 27 Habost, Ness, Isle of Lewis, on 18th March 2010.

Mr Macleod was born in Stornoway on 14th September 1948. He had his primary school and secondary school education in Lionel. He studied in the Balmacara Agricultural School from 1962 to 1964. This was followed by a period of time working on a farm in Kingussie. It was during a home visit from Kingussie that the Lord began to work in his life through the ministry of the minister at Cross, Rev A Smith. He professed faith in the Lord in Kingussie in October 1969.

His time working in Kingussie was followed by a period spent working for a life insurance company in Glasgow. It was during this period under the ministry of Professor Donald Macleod in Partick Highland Free Church that Mr Macleod felt persuaded the Lord was calling him to the fulltime gospel ministry. He returned to study at Langside College for two years as he prepared for university entrance. He enrolled as a mature student in Glasgow University in 1973 and graduated with an MA degree in 1976. He studied for the ministry at the Free Church College from 1976 to 1979.

It was during his time in Glasgow that Mr Macleod met his loyal and devoted wife Ellen. They were married on 1st July 1975 by Rev Hugh M Ferrier in Partick Crow Road Free Church, Glasgow. The marriage was blessed with two much loved and devoted children, Donald and Christina.

Mr Macleod was ordained and inducted to the congregation of Gairloch on 24th August 1979. He served the Lord in Wester Ross for a period of over twelve happy years during which he enjoyed communion and fellowship with a close-knit community who were caring and kind to him and his family. He received a Call from the congregation of Point at the end of 1991. Feeling persuaded of the Lord's summons to a new sphere of labour, he accepted the Call and was inducted to the congregation of Point on 24th January 1992. The congregation of Point lay close to his heart for the remainder of his life and he considered the Manse on the Braighe to be his spiritual home.

Mr Macleod was a winsome preacher. His desire for relevance and personal application made his presentation of the gospel both captivating and engaging. His pulpit ministry was varied according to the breadth of biblical teaching and relevant in its practical application. His own struggles with personal assurance meant that the focus of his preaching was often on the experiential aspect of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. This focus often led others to the assurance which he himself craved. Mr Macleod was also an evangelist whose gospel appeal to those outside of Christ was often moving and always engaging. His ministry was therefore greatly appreciated by Christians and adherents alike. He saw the Lord's blessing on his labours at regular periods throughout his ministry. The congregation of Point, where those who came to know the Lord during his ministry form the backbone of the congregation today, bears testimony to that fact.

After struggling with ill-health for some time, Mr Macleod was forced to take early retirement on 31st December 2006. His relatively young age and evidence of God's blessing on his ministry in the Congregation at the time made this a painful decision to take. His failing health, however, left him with no alternative. During the years of his

retirement, he was able to assist with pulpit supply when his ministry continued to be appreciated throughout the wider Presbytery.

In the last year, Mr Macleod's health continued to deteriorate with the result that he was no longer able to serve the Lord in an active and public way. He longed to be at rest from his suffering and began to yearn more and more to be at home with the Lord. He was granted his heart's desire suddenly and unexpectedly on the morning of Thursday 18th March 2010.

The esteem in which he was held and the regard people had for him and for his ministry were evident in the large gathering in the Free Church at Cross for his funeral on Saturday 21st March 2010.

To Mrs Macleod, his devoted wife and faithful partner in the ministry, to his son Donald and his wife Maarianne, to his daughter Christina, husband Justin, and their daughter Karis, we extend our deepest sympathy and assure them of our prayerful remembrance of them in the days that lie ahead.

M Macleod