

John W. Sanderson

Allan MacRae spoke in chapel during my senior year of college, and he impressed me with the natural blend of scholarship and mission, which was his emphasis in that talk. His concern was for missions throughout the world, in particular, for the mission field of Europe because of its strategic place in the world, as well as for the needs of the Europeans who once had the Gospel as their possession. This was not a one-time stress. Later on, in his classes, I saw the same commitment, and when both of us served on the executive committee of a foreign missions board, I saw his concern only deepening and widening.

It is only natural today that graduates of schools with which Allan has been connected should be found both in the halls of scholarship and on the mission fields where the need for theological education is a high priority. Seminaries and Bible schools were established as soon as churches had been planted. While of course others shared his vision in this and gave their support, much credit is Allan's for his continued emphasis on missions.

Allan had been influenced greatly by Robert Dick Wilson who was careful not to side-step the difficult questions of the Old Testament. Like Wilson, he took his students on a painstaking review of Pentateuchal criticism and the single authorship of Isaiah. We spent a month, three hours a week, on the latter. We took a whole semester to consider the development of documentary theories concerning the writings of Moses. Such time-consuming study was not appreciated by many students, but the professor always insisted that only the truth would prevail, and that truth would be found in the data of Scripture and not in the critics' theories.

Allan's influence continues to make itself felt today, and the church can be grateful for his balance between word and deed, and for his zeal for the truth. It is my pleasure to recall just a few things for which I will be forever grateful.