

Jack W. Murray

"Roots" has become a much-used word during recent days. Dr Allan A. MacRae and I were born in the small town of Calumet on Michigan's Upper Penninsula. At the turn of the century it was a boom town, extracting more copper than almost any other place in the world. In this remotest region of Michigan's Upper Penninsula, Dr MacRae's father was the medical doctor while my father was employed as a miner by the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company. Allan MacRae studied at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in the days when Reuben A. Torrey was the president. Years later I was enrolled in the same school. We believed in Horace Greeley's, "Go West, Young Man, go West." Not until I was a college student at Wheaton College in Illinois did I hear Dr Allan A. MacRae speak. Little did I realize that I would be enrolled as a first year student when Faith Theological Seminary was founded in the fall of 1937 in Wilmington, Delaware, and Dr Allan A. MacRae would be its founding president. I am grateful to pay tribute to this unusual and brilliant scholar. It was my privilege to study under him during those three years of seminary. Later I served as a visiting lecturer and as a member of the Board of Directors. Little did I realize that in 1971 it would be my joy to serve as founding chairman of the Board of Trustees of a new seminary, Biblical Theological Seminary, in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, with Dr Allan A. MacRae as its founding president.

Now nearly fifty years after our first meeting, I deeply appreciate the scholarship and spiritual leadership of this man of God. Our "roots" are similar, but the bloom of the life of this man of God is more brilliant than ever. May our Lord enable him to continue to serve His Lord, and the church with increased spiritual effectiveness.