

## TRIBUTE TO ALLAN A. MACRAE

### **R. Allan Killen**

Professor Emeritus  
Reformed Theological Seminary

All of us who are contributing articles to this memorial volume owe much of our expertise and success in the Lord's work to certain teachers and professors who contributed greatly to our training. I myself owe most to two men of great stature and faith, namely to Dr Allan A. MacRae and Dr J. Oliver Buswell III.

For some years Dr Buswell and Dr MacRae worked closely together (from about 1940 till 1955), Dr MacRae being the President and Dr Buswell the Professor of Theology at Faith Theological Seminary.

These men were leaders in their own fields: Dr Buswell in theology and philosophy, Dr MacRae in Old Testament theology and archeology. From Dr Buswell I received a solid training in theology plus apologetics, and from Dr MacRae a similar training in the study and defence of the Old Testament along with archeology.

I shall never forget when Dr MacRae spoke at Wheaton College Chapel in the fall of 1938. I had completed my B.A. with a major in history, and was enrolled, with five other young men, in a new two-year master's program in biblical studies. As he ably, yet simply and clearly, defended the Old Testament and the infallibility of the Bible, I realized that here was a man of warmth and love, with a scholarly approach to the Old Testament, under whom I could learn to understand and defend the Bible. Humility and sincerity coupled with kindness shone through his address.

Because of a sad heart-rending experience which I had gone through at St Stephen's College (seminary) in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, about twelve years before, as an Old Testament professor tore the early chapters of Genesis apart, and a New Testament professor refused to support the doctrine of the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ, I had lost my faith in the Bible, turned away from preparation for the gospel ministry and became a farmer.

But as I heard Dr MacRae speak in Chapel at Wheaton College, I sensed he had love and grace, and knew in his particular way, how to approach the problems faced by college and university students. While studying under him I had the privilege of driving him over to a nearby college and hearing him speak at an Inter-Varsity Fellowship meeting. He was simple and clear. What he said was loving and understanding. He was a man who knew and taught the art of pre-evangelism, both in his attitude and his words. From him I learned that we must really love people if we are to help them. From him I learned that we must be ready to understand a person's intellectual problems, to make those problems our own in the sense we would assume the challenge and responsibility to study them and to answer them.

I have always been glad that I moved to Faith Theological Seminary to