Tottlebank Church

A Church of Christ

- Early As 1669
Attempting Restoration

• In 1669, Charles II had been on the English throne for nine years.
• Despite Charles’ inclination toward toleration, the early years of his reign were marked by a series of repressive measures, collectively known as the Clarendon Code.
• Under the Code grave disabilities were placed on those who sought to worship outside the boundaries placed on them by the English church.
• In particular the Conventicle Act banished any meetings of more than five people in addition to the household for worship other than in the prescribed form and location.
Seven fled, two of whom had suffered severe penalties for violation, sought seclusion and solitude from London’s watchful eye!

They settled in England’s Northern Lake District, 200 miles to the NW of London
England’s Lake District

• In 1669 the Convenicle Act ran out, and during the brief period before it was reinacted, The group drew up articles of organization as follows:
This booke is for the use of that Church of Christ in Broughton furnessfell and Cartmell whereof Mr. Gabrill Camelford is Teachinge Elder.

The 18th day of ye sixth month called August 1669 A church of Christ was formed in order and sate down together in the fellowship and order of ye Gospel of Jesus Christ. Att the house of William Rawlinson off Totle-banke in Coulton in furness.
There were present and assisted Mr George Larkham Pasto off a Church off Christ in Cumberland and Mr Roger Sawrey of Broughton Tower a member of Christ and off that particular Church in London of wych Mr George Coackine is Teaching Elder

The persons joyning themselves at this time Gabriel Camelford, Hugh Towers, William Towers, James Towers, Joseph Towers, James Fisher, Henery Jackson
On 9th of November, 1669, articles of faith were drawn up. "The Confession off ffaith held forth by the Church off Christ . . ."

Some Things The Lengthy document claims:

- “The way of Separation from the world is the way off god.”
- “with us is a door wide enough to entertaine every Sonn of ye lord of glory, we dare not barr the dore against any honest soule ...desieringe much that we may all be helpful to each other...our table is large enough and provision suited for children, youre men and ffathers amonge the flock of Christ that shall consent with us and desier to sit down with us or amongst us.”
Seven Basic Principles Of Faith Were Listed According To Tottlebank Historian Foster Sutherland, 1969:

- Repentance, Faith, Baptism of water and the spirit, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgement.
- Thankfulness to God and willingness to be the praise of His grace.
- Dear love and affection to all saints.
- The chiefest tie and bond is the bond of love, Christian, heavenly and unfeigned love.
- The word of Christ is the utmost boundary of liberty.
- “We desire and expect to receive help in our weakness and from another by the watchful aid of one another and the faithful reprehension and admonition one of another.”
- Everything is to be referred to God and Christ, and when all is done they are to say, “Not unto us but unto Thy name be praise.”
Organization

• Infant baptism vs. adult baptism is not discussed in the book of faith.

• They claimed church autonomy, having rights to its own affairs, claiming freedom to choose its own officers, to examine disagreements or “matters of scandall any way arrising amonge themselfes,” and to discipline if necessary by suspension, “on occation of obstinace and wilfull persistinge in any ennormous sinn,” with exclusion as the final resort.
Outside Influences

- 1695 — London Minister, David Crossley introduced Baptist Theology, and the church became identified as a Baptist church, and is so to the present.
The Tottlebank church planted a church near the west coast that for years remained in fellowship with them.
• By 1824 a church after the ancient order was serving the Lord at Kirkby.
• It was 30 years before any hear of Barton W. Stone or Alexander Campbell.
Kirkby Part In Digression

- When the battle over the instrument raged, the Kirkby church added the instrument to its services.
- Today Kirkby church is known as Wall End Christian Church.
- It is the oldest continuous restoration church in Great Britain.
William Robinson

• Long-time Restoration Preacher, buried in the cemetery at Wall End

• Educator And Evangelist
William M. McDougall
Of
Prospect Cottage Kirkby In Furness
(Late Of Wigan)
A Faithful Pastor
And True Evangelist
Honoured By God In The Upbuilding
Of His People
And The Conversion Of Many Souls
He Died February 28, 1882
Aged 64 Years