

SIR FRED CATHERWOOD 1925 - 2014

The Board of Contemporary Christianity was saddened to learn of the death of Sir Fred Catherwood, who died on 30 November 2014. For some time he had been in failing health and was wonderfully supported by his wife Elizabeth who along with Christopher and several other family members were at his bedside when he was called to “higher service”.

Sir Fred was born in Castledawson in January 1925 and his childhood home was on the Antrim Road in Belfast. He then went to school in Shrewsbury and then to Cambridge to study History and Law before embarking on a significant and distinguished career in business and politics. He was Chief Industrial Advisor at the Department of Economic Affairs 1964-66, and then Director-General of the National Economic Development Council 1966-71. He was elected as a member of the European Parliament in 1979, representing Cambridge and North Bedfordshire until 1994. He served as a Vice-President of the European Parliament 1989-1992. Then he served for 9 years as President of Evangelical Alliance (EA) and for 8 years as President of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) as well as serving many other Evangelical causes over the years. He was awarded honorary degrees from the University of Aston, Queen’s University Belfast, and the University of Surrey; and he was knighted in 1971.

The Catherwood Lecture in Public Theology was launched to mark ECONI’s 10th anniversary and was named in honour of Sir Fred. He gave the inaugural lecture in Belfast in 1998 and it continues to be held annually. He actively supported the work of ECONI from its earliest days when “For God and His Glory Alone” was launched. He was always a thinker, a listener and a communicator...as a writer and broadcaster and the author more than 10 books. An Ulsterman, a politician, a Christian thinker and a true European whose faith shaped every aspect of his life. We assure the family of our sympathy and support in these days.

A memorial service will be held at Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge on 17 January 2015.

The memory of the righteous is blessed. Proverbs 10 v7.