

## **Moments in Our History**

### **(Excerpts from the Dissenting Church of Christ at St. John's 1775 – 1975)**

#### A Sufficiency of Land (Part 5)

Better news was contained in a letter from the Reverend Samuel Greatheed. He had obtained the consent of the Reverend William Bull (as well as the first guinea) to take leave of absence from the church and Academy at Newton Pagnell to do some collecting. He found a favourable hearing in many country charges and had already £ 30. The Reverend John Newton had also proved most helpful. Greatheed refers to Mr. Newton simply as “the author.” He was, of course, co-founder of the Academy from which two of our ministers were to come, as well as the foremost evangelical churchman of his day. He is remembered today for his hymns (“*Amazing Grace*,” “*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*,” “*How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*” to name but a few). Mr. Greatheed had also conferred with Dr. Stafford in London. Greatheed did not share the good doctor’s opinion that Jones should come to England. “The risk of two Voyages” and “the desertion of your people for the time” plus “your own diffidence ... to preach ... render the trial inexpedient.” If agreeable, Mr. Greatheed would act as General Agent as time would allow. He had just paid Mr. Welsh Fifty Guineas to their account and hoped to make it one hundred. Banker Welsh was confident that “Poole will do as much.” However, don’t get your hopes too high. “Mr. Ashburner with every exertion could procure only between Two and Three Hundred Pounds for building their own Meeting House” and “Dr. Weatherspoon could obtain nothing when he came over from America for a similar purpose three years since.” However, “the Lord is able to do anything and I hope for His peculiar support in this clause” concluded “Your unworthy Brother and affectionate friend and Servant, Samuel Greatheed.”