

Glenn Tomlinson, *From Scotland to Canada: The Life of Pioneer Missionary Alexander Stewart*. Guelph, Ontario: Joshua Press, 2008. 331 pages.

A Scotsman, a Baptist, an early inhabitant of what would become the bustling urban metropolis of Toronto, a pioneer of the future Jarvis Street Baptist Church—Alexander Stewart was all of these and for anyone with similar links and convictions, this detailed account of his life by Pastor Tomlinson should be of deep interest. It has been so to me certainly.

Ever since I married my Scottish wife in Stanley Avenue Baptist Church in Hamilton—which had strong links to Jarvis Street Baptist Church for much of the twentieth century—I have been interested in Scottish Baptists and, because I was living in Ontario, their impact on this province. As I studied the influence of various first- or second-generation Scottish Baptists—men like William Fraser, John Gilmour, R.A. Fyfe, or D.A. McGregor, and now, Alexander Stewart—I found that they played a key formative role in the community of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Ontario Baptists. The story of that role has yet to be fully told. But I am deeply thankful for this account by Pastor Tomlinson of one of these men, an important step in the realization of that larger project and a stimulus to others to hopefully become interested in the riches of Ontario Baptist history.

But Alexander Stewart's story is important in its own right. His life reveals what Baptists have always insisted on: that a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ is the most valuable treasure a human being can possess and that through such a relationship God can do great things in the advance of his Kingdom. Since Stewart laid the foundations for what is now Jarvis Street Baptist Church in the second decade of the nineteenth century, this church has played a central role in the Baptist cause in Toronto and Ontario. And for that, and Stewart's life, may God be praised and glorified!

Reviewed by Dr. Michael A.G. Haykin, Director  
The Andrew Fuller Center for Baptist Studies