Alan Gordon MacLeod (referred to by his wife and probably others as AGM) was born in Liverpool in 1911 where his father John (d.1943) was Minister of the Shaw Street Presbyterian Church (see MAC 3/21; part of site of Liverpool Hope University), himself a son of the manse at Croy, Highland. After university there he trained for the Presbyterian ministry at Westminster College, Cambridge, and was ordained in 1936. He went then to serve in the Rajshahi Mission, Bengal. This was a country town in a densely populated area on the Ganges, some 200 miles north of Calcutta (now Kolkata), which after independence in 1947 fell into the north-western quarter of East Pakistan (from 1971 Bangladesh). When he went the town population was half Muslim, half Hindu but the area around was about 90% Muslim, making it one of the most strongly Muslim areas in the province. Between 1936 and 1938 MacLeod was in charge of Westminster Hostel for Muslim and Hindu Students in Rajshahi. He was joined in this work in 1938 by his fiancée, Margaret Nicol, and they married. The following year he transferred to Naogaon in order to re-establish work there as the mission was in a state of administrative and building collapse. He continued there during the period of famine and the War against the Japanese, and led the church in relief work, providing a home for destitute beggars and establishing an emergency hospital, which was later taken over by the Government, work that was recognized in the award of the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal.

MacLeod worked through the traumatic period of Independence and though his letters suggest less conflict in his area than elsewhere the area was badly affected by influx of Moslem refugees from India. He was actively involved in establishment of the first church among the Santal community, who were mainly a distinct ethnic underclass of people introduced into the area to build the railways and had a particular interest in taking the Gospel to Moslems, being a member of the Muslims Committee of the East Pakistan Christian Council (see MAC 1/7, 2/17, 2/41-50), and the present collection contains several papers relating to the interface of Christianity and Islam. An accomplished linguist, in Bengali and Arabic as well as Hebrew, in 1951 he additionally took on being principal of the Darjeeling Language School for Missionaries from April to June and undertook the role of leading a new, more colloquial, translation of the Bible into Bengali (see MAC 2/35-7). In 1953 he returned to the Rajshahi Mission for a further two years before returning, in 1955, to
England to take up the appointment of Professor of Old Testament Studies at Westminster College, becoming Principal in 1963. Within the Presbyterian Church he took on increasing responsibilities, rising Church to be Moderator in 1967 and (remarkably) again in 1972, the foundation year of the United Reformed Church by union with the Congregationalists. In Cambridge he chaired the Board of the University Faculty of Divinity as well as overseeing the combination on the Westminster site of Cheshunt and Westminster Colleges and linking them with the Federation of Theological Colleges. He retired in 1979 and died suddenly in 1984. Margaret MacLeod died in 2013.

A series of his talks, lectures, writings and papers, together with his addresses as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England in 1967, is held at Westminster College Archives under code WT4.

**CATALOGUE**

The arrangement is as follows:

**MAC 1** Letters. 14 items, 1937-79.

**MAC 2** Articles, Reports and Book Reviews. 57 items, 1937-75

**MAC 3** Sermons and Notes for Sermons (dated). 25 items, 1955-84

**MAC 4** Undated Sermon notes and texts. 36 items late 1950s-1984

**MAC 5** Publications, Ancillary Material. 4 items, 1961-84

**MAC 1 Letters. 14 items, 1937-79.**

**MAC 1/1** First Impressions of India by Alan MacLeod. (4 pages, hand written draft of letter to Douglas James (for whom cf. MAC 2/14))

Sent to Douglas James from the English Presbyterian Mission, Rajshahi, Bengal, 17 February 1937

**MAC 1/2A** Telegram (hand written) to ‘Padri Shaheb’ [presumably the form of address for a clergyman, i.e. Mr Macleod]

‘Come sharp I have been oppressed’

**MAC 1/2B** Letter (typed) similarly addressed, Rajshahi, December 1949

From ‘Mal-phasis of Biplabelghoria’

Complains of false charges and lists culprits. Signed with thumb-prints.

**MAC 1/3** Naogaon, East Pakistan, 1 February 1948 (Copy circular letter, 2 pages, typed and duplicated). Originally addressed to ‘Melville’ but his name deleted heavily.

Comments on the future of Pakistan as an independent country and contrast of West and East (Bengali) Pakistanis.

**MAC 1/4** Alan MacLeod to ‘Mr Fenn’, Bromley. Naogaon, 11 August 1948 (2 pages, typed carbon copy)

Description of the church at Naogaon

**MAC 1/5** ‘News from Naogaon’, September 1949 (2 pages, typed and duplicated)

Increase in religious intolerance to all but Muslims
MAC 1/6  News from Naogaon, September 1950 (2 pages, typed and duplicated)
Mission work amongst the Santal People

MAC 1/7  Alan MacLeod to ‘Vernon’. Naogaon, 22 January 1951 (2 pages, typed carbon copy)
Baptism of the first group of Santals from Belghoria. Reluctance of missions to evangelise the Muslims.

MAC 1/8  To ‘Friends’, Rajshahi, East Pakistan, 13 May 1953 (3 pages, typed and duplicated)
Problems encountered in missionary work amongst Muslims. His work in the Bengali Language School for new missionaries in Darjeeling.

MAC 1/9  Four postcards (one in Bengali) addressed ‘Dear Sir’ or similar, stapled to two sheets with transcripts, expressing offers to convert to Christianity conditional on educational appointment, etc., kept as examples of misunderstanding of the missionary role or as curiosities, with a note by M[argaret] M[acLeod] 1951-1957

MAC 1/10  Newsletter to Friends in East Pakistan, plainly written by Margaret MacLeod but subscribed by both her and Alan. 2 Westminster College Bounds, March 1961 (3 pages, typed, duplicated)
Reports Alan’s work and family news, particularly children.

MAC 1/11  Revd. Vincent Henderson Grosvenor Presbyterian Church, Withington, to Alan MacLeod, requesting a message from him as Moderator for publication in centenary booklet, with carbon copy of message sent in response
14 May 1967 (2 pages, typed)
MacLeod to preach at their centenary celebrations

MAC 1/12  MacLeod to Rt. Revd. B.D. Mondal, Bishop of Dacca, Bangladesh, 2 February 1979 (1 page, typed carbon copy)
Thanks him for his letter offering him a post training of men in Dacca for the ordained ministry. Is retiring in July 1979 and would not be able to come out until January 1980 at the earliest.

MAC 1/13.  Revd. Elia T. Ta’ase, Assistant General Secretary, Council for World Missions, 31 January, 1979
Asks him whether he would do a year’s work in Bangladesh, taking up his response to Bishop Mondal (above). With carbon copy of MacLeod’s reply, 2 March 1979 (2 pages, typed).
Sadly, has to refuse his offer,

MAC 2.  Articles, Reports and Book Reviews. 57 items, 1937-75
Typed carbon copies, unless stated otherwise.
The copies of reports are presumably those sent to the F[oreign] M[issions] Secretary (see MAC 2/14); but some are signed, implying they were themselves sent to someone, and/or marked ‘Please return’ implying more localized distribution.

MAC 2/1  Westminster Hostel [for Muslim and Hindu Students, Rajshahi, Bengal, India] Annual Report, 1937 (3 pages)
Includes violent clash between students arising from settlement of three Moslem students within area used for long time only by Hindus.
With later note, probably by Margaret MacLeod, that AGM[acLeod] in charge 1936-8 while D.J. Ewart on long leave.

**MAC 2/2** ‘Rajshahi 1 (31.3.38)’ (2 pages)
Text of the first of projected ‘series of articles’. Reviews the work of the mission. Description of the Hindu Religion and attitude of the Muslims.

**MAC 2/3** General Report for 1939 (2 pages)
Reputation of the hospital is growing.

**MAC 2/4** Report on a visit to Chakprasad, 25 November 1939 (3 pages)
Description of missionary work in the village

**MAC 2/5** Report on Naogaon for 1940 (4 pages)
Problems of evangelising amidst Muslim hostility

**MAC 2/6** Report on Naogaon for 1941 (3 pages)
Improvements in the buildings. Decrease in open hostility from the Muslims.

**MAC 2/7** Nagaon Report 1941. Note on land and buildings, 30 December 1941 (1 page)
[He was on leave in 1942]

**MAC 2/8** Naogaon Report for 1943 (3 pages)
Problems with supply of food due to bad harvests and loss of imports of rice from Burma. Suffering also from a lack of suitable missionary workers.

**MAC 2/9** Report on Destitutes’ Home, Naogaon, 1943-4 (3 pages)
Mentioned in the above report. Home opened to deal with the crisis caused by the famine

**MAC 2/10** Article on ‘Beggars’ (2 pages)
Undated

**MAC 2/11** Description of Naogaon Relief Hospital, 14 February 1944 (3 pages)
To serve the destitutes created by the famine

**MAC 2/12** Report on the Famine Relief Hospital, Naogaon, 1 October 1944 (2 pages)
People not officially destitute are now using the hospital

**MAC 2/13** Report describing famine at Naogaon, by Margaret MacLeod, 15 November1944 (1 page)
Distribution of rice

**MAC 2/14** Naogaon Report, 1944 (3 pages)
Addressed with note, 17 March 1945, to Mr Band, whom he understands is acting in place of Mr James (cf. MAC 1/1)
Improvement in the food situation but there are problems caused by the large rise in prices. The emergency hospital is to be made permanent. Report on the evangelical work of the mission.

**MAC 2/15** Naogaon Report, 1950 (2 pages)
Problems after independence. Large influx of Muslims from around Calcutta, bringing diseases, particularly cholera and smallpox.
MAC 2/16  Rajshahi. Report on District Evangelistic Work (2 pages)
Undated [?1952-3; cf. next and MAC 1/6-7]
Work amongst the Santals

MAC 2/17  Rajshahi Evangelistic Work Report, 1953-54 (2 pages)
Toleration of Christian missionary work in Pakistan

MAC 2/18  Evangelistic Report, 1954-55 (2 pages)
Complied by MacLeod 9 September 1955
Report on the Santal Conference

MAC 2/19  ‘PCB’s address to the Deputation [?Bengal Church Council, cf. MAC 2/20’], with an
account of the mission since (?) 1907, referring to visit by Revd Douglas James in 1934 and
especially to the MacLeods work since 1939.
A later note identifies PCB as Pratul Chandra Barhoi, dispenser at Naogaon Mission, later trained and
ordained as a minister in the United Church of North India, and a note by Margaret MacLeod at end
add. that he died during or immediately after the ‘genocide war’ of 1972 ] (3 pages). Undated
[c.1950]

MAC 2/20  Report on Bengal Church Council meeting at Naogaon (2 pages)
Undated. Described ordination of Revd. Barhoi (see MAC 2/19)

MAC 2/21  Note of visits to Government Supply Officer and a lawyer, head of local Muslim League,
both prominent Muslims, 15 October 1952 (3 pages)
Hand written

MAC 2/22  Note on bus journey to Nator sitting next to returning Haji shopkeeper (2 pages)
3 November 1952. Hand written

MAC 2/23  Note on arrival in India, meeting native Christian in a taxi and on the train from Bombay
to Calcutta, the latter a Santal. (2 pages)
4 October 1952. Hand written

MAC 2/24  Notes on an evangelistic visit to Jamaljanj Hat [market], Naogaon [added later] (4 pages,
all previously pasted to a single sheet but three now loose)
Tuesday 30 November [no year given]. Hand written

MAC 2/25  Draft of a survey of the Mission’s work on pages numbered 2-5 headed respectively
Hand written in pencil. Undated, ?1930s

MAC 2/26  ‘One Day’s Trouble’ (2 pages)
Undated. Typed and hand written.
Seeks to describe an ‘average’ day’s problems

MAC 2/27  Extract from the United Church Review, March 1945 (1 page, typed)
Details of councils and participating churches of United Church of North India, with statistics

MAC 2/28  Report of O.M. [Overseas Missions] Committee to the General Assembly (4 pages)
May 1958
Description of the work in Rajshahi, Malaya and Formosa (especially Paiwan area)
MAC 2/29 ‘A Lesson in Stewardship’, noted as written for *Messenger September 1958* (2 pages)
Raising money for the Overseas Missions Fund

MAC 2/30-31 Reports on the Language School in Darjeeling, 1951-1955
   30  1951 (3 pages)
   31  1954-55 (3 pages) Hand written draft
   32  1955 (2 pages)

MAC 2/33 ‘The Plan of Church Union in N. India and Pakistan’ (2 pages)
An article for a journal of some kind, noted later as by AGM. [1957; cf next]

MAC 2/34 Page extracted from a Presbyterian Church publication containing article on proposed
curch union for North India (previous item) under title ‘A Pattern for the West’ (2 pages)
   [1957]

MAC 2/35 Article by AGM, ‘A New Bible in Bengali’ (4 pages)
Undated
Draft for an article on the progress of the new bible

MAC 2/36 Pages from a Presbyterian church journal with AGM’s article (previous item) “A New
Bible in Bengali”, reporting imminent publication of St Mark’s Gospel [available at Cambridge
University Library]. (3 pages)
Undated. Printed.

MAC 2/37 Notes by AGM on Bible Translation, at least in part used for article written as above
MAC 2/35-6.. (7 pages)
Undated, Hand written notes.

MAC 2/38 Background Information on the Santals written ‘For Guides’ leaflet’ (2 pages)
Undated

MAC 2/39 ‘The End of a Beginning’; (3 pages)
Undated
Evangelism amongst the Santals [c.1950]

MAC 2/40 ‘Encouraging Santal Developments’ (1 page)
Undated. Printed, cut from a journal.

MAC 2/41 Modern Movements in Indian Islam (3 pages)
Undated, but probably late 1950s as better typed than earlier material
Discussion of the influence of two men, both called Syyid Ahmed

MAC 2/42 The Muslim Creed (1 page)
Undated

MAC 2/43 The Muslim Prayer (1 page)
Undated

MAC 2/44 Ramadan (1 page)
Undated
MAC 2/45  The Pilgrimage (1 page)
Undated

MAC 2/46  ‘Glad Encounter. Notes and Questions on Ch. 2’ (2 pages)
Undated
Presentation of Christianity to Muslims

MAC 2/47  ‘A Faith by any other name’ (Title added in pencil) (4 pages)
Undated
Understanding of Islam by Christian Missionaries

Christian Doctrine of the Trinity (1 page)

MAC 2/49  ‘Moga, a Muslim Enquirer’ (2 pages)
Naogaon, December 1941
Conversion to Christianity

MAC 2/50  ‘Muslims in India’ (1 page)
Undated
Population by areas

MAC 2/51  ‘Mass Movements in India and their Significance for Bengal’ (45 pages)
Undated
Christianity in Dornakal and its relevance for the rest of the Sub-Continent, with contrasts to work among Moslems of Rayshahi.

MAC 2/52  ‘Indianisation’ (6 pages)
Undated, [c.1950; refers to ‘Pakistan’]
In the field of mission work

MAC 2/53  ‘VII Pakistan’. Apparently a contribution to a worldwide, or continent-wide survey of the Church’s Mission (2 pages)
[c1953]
Review of the position of Christianity

MAC 2/54  ‘The political situation in Pakistan’ (3 pages)
11 January 1960
Discussion of the current position - a “benevolent” autocracy planning towards the restoration of democracy

MAC 2/55  ‘Closing Address’ [as Moderator] to the last ordinary Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England (7 pages)
[1972]
Union with the Congregational Church

MAC 2/56  Review of Red Tape and the Gospel : A Study in the significance of the ecumenical missionary struggle of William Paton (1886-1943) by Eleanor M. Jackson (Privately Printed) [for CCCW Library copy: 280.042 JAC], to some extent taking issue with its depiction of the Presbyterian Church. (5 pages) c.1980

MAC 3 Sermons and Notes for Sermons (dated) 25 items, 1955-84

Sermons as described here are typed and the notes are handwritten. AGM’s practice was evidently originally to underline, and later to separately write, in red ink passages for emphasis.

**MAC 3/1** “All things are yours” - I Cor. 3. 21-23 - Raj[shahi]6-3-55. Darj[ee]ling June 1955
Sermon

**MAC 3/2** “Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup”. I Cor. 11. 28
Westminster College 14 January 1959
Sermon
See also 3/14

**MAC 3/3** Training of Ministers in the light of the needs of the Church and the World
St. C. [St. Colomba’s, Cambridge] 28 February 1965
Notes

**MAC 3/4** “To you who believe He is precious”. I Peter 2. 7 – Nechells [Presbyterian Church, Long Acre, Birmingham] 30 October 1966
Notes

**MAC 3/5** ICR Report. 1967
Notes

**MAC 3/6** Commemorative aspect of the Communion Service. Matthew 28. 20
Westminster College 9 October 1968
Notes

**MAC 3/7** The Church - Dedication of a new building - St. Andrews URC Reading, 24 September 1972
Notes

**MAC 3/8** “Am I my brother’s keeper”. Genesis 4. 9 - WHCA 26 September 1972
Notes

**MAC 3/9** Formation of the United Reformed Church - 5 October 1972
[Also 15 October 1972 Great St. Mary’s and 18 October 1972 Cardiff]
Notes

**MAC 3/10** Training for the Ministry. - 2 Cor. 4. 1-10 - Westminster College, 3 October 1972
[5 pages, unnumbered and numbered 4-7, re-using an earlier version]
Notes

**MAC 3/11** ‘Behold how good and pleasant it is when brother dwell together in unity’. Psalm 133.
Notes
MAC 3/12  The wider ecumenical scene - Burwell, 23 January 1974, March churches 22 January 1978
Notes

Notes

MAC 3/14 “Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup”. I Cor. 11. 28. (See also 3/2)
Westminster College, 26 September 1978
Notes

MAC 3/15 “The hour is come when I shall no longer speak to you in figures, but tell you plainly of the Father” John 16. 25 Wesley [Church, Cambridge] ([Cambridge Theological Federation], 20 May 1979
Notes

MAC 3/16 “Swan Song” [upon retirement], Westminster College, 1 June 1979
Notes

MAC 3/17 “Give me this mountain...” Joshua 14. 12. “Purpose for a lifetime” Westminster College, 8 June 1979
Notes

MAC 3/18 “The Messianic Hope” Matthew 11. 3, Isaiah 42. 1-8a - St Cs [St Colomba’s URC Cambridge], 16 December 1979
Notes

MAC 3/19 “Lord teach us to pray......” Luke 11. 1
Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

MAC 3/23 Ephesians Chapter I - Emmanuel [URC Cambridge] 2 January 1983
Notes

MAC 3/24 193rd Anniversary, Little Waltham [URC, Essex] [1983]
Notes
Notes

MAC 4  Undated Sermon notes and texts 36 items late 1950s-1984

I have added an approximation of date based on paper quality and size, choice of pen and ink by comparison with those in MAC 3, or date of recycled paper some are written on, but a degree of speculation in this must be admitted - PCS

MAC 4/1A-B  Ramsden Sermon [?University Sermon at St Mary the Great, Cambridge]- Church extension over the colonies and British dependencies - Acts 28.24 “And some believed the things which were spoken and some believed not”.
Sermon (well typed) and notes [c.1970]

MAC 4/2  ‘A Missionary Situation’, on the Santals of Bangladesh. 2 Kings. 7. 3-9
Notes [1970s]

MAC 4/3  Santals. Deuteronomy 10. 12-21a
Notes [late 1970s]

Notes [1970s]

MAC 4/5A-B  “What must we do; the works of God?” John 16. 13
Notes, with a revised version [late 1960s]

MAC 4/6  “For the Son of Man came to seek to save the lost.” Luke 19. 1-10
Notes [1960s]

MAC 4/7  Paraphrase of the Sermon on the Mount
Ordination of David Holt-Roberts (amended to Jim Neary)
Notes [1960s]

MAC 4/8  Luke’s Beatitudes
Notes [c.1982]

MAC 4/9  Points for discussion raised by the story of Jonah.  Jonah I. 1-2
Notes [c.1978]

MAC 4/10  Jeremiah - the Prophet who had to learn by the things he suffered. Jer. I. 10
Notes [c.1980]

MAC 4/11  “For the Son of Man is come to a seek and to save that which was lost”.Luke 19. 10
Notes [c.1955-60]

MAC 4/12  The Fatherhood of God.  Isaiah 51. 1-5a
Notes [1970s]

MAC 4/13  Job 19. 25-27
Notes [1970s]
MAC 4/14  “Whom shall I send? “2 Jer. I. 1-10, 17-end 
Notes [1960s]

MAC 4/15  “Are you to question what is to come?” Matthew 11.3 
December 16 at St. C’s [St. Colomba’s Church, Cambridge] 
Notes [c.1980]

MAC 4/16  “Pay heed to me, my people. My victory is near”. Isaiah 51. 1-11 Ist in Advent 
Notes [late 1970s]

MAC 4/17  “Am I my brother’s keeper? “ Matthew 25. 20 Genesis 4.9 
Notes and hand written sermon [c.1955-60]

Notes (3 versions, the latest marked as give at Emmanuel Church [Cambridge]) 
[c.1960-late 1970s]

MAC 4/19  The Omnipotence and Incomparability of God. Isaiah 40. 18ff. 
Notes [late 1960s]

MAC 4/20  God and the Nations. “From the rising of the sun, to its setting, my name is great among the nations…..” Malachi I. 11 
Sermon [early 1970s]

MAC 4/21  God and the Nations. “Truly I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation, one who fears Him and does what is right, is acceptable to Him” Acts 10. 34,35 
Sermon [late 1970s]

MAC 4/22A-B  Christianity’s relationship with non-Christian religions 
Lecture notes. Two version, the first on 3 pages, the second extended to 16 and noted as given at Westminster & Cheshunt College 2 April 1973, and repeated later in 1973-4

MAC 4/23  What is man? Psalm 8. 3,4 
Notes [late 1960s]

MAC 4/24  Parable of the wheat and the weeds. Matthew 13. 24-30, 36-43 
Notes [mid-1970s]

MAC 4/25  “The Messianic Hope” Matthew 11. 3 
Notes [mid/late-1970s]

MAC 4/26  “All this work together for good to those who love God”. Romans. 28 
Notes [c.1960]

MAC 4/27  Church Life in Britain Deuteronomy 8. 1-9 
Notes [early 1970s]

Notes [mid-1970s]

MAC 4/29  “But he would not drink of it, he poured it out unto I.L. “ 2 Samuel 23. 16 
Notes [early 1960s]
MAC 4/30 The purpose and the power of God. Isaiah 40.1
Notes [early 1970s]

MAC 4/31 ‘Church Life in Britain’ [particularly coming union of Presbyterian and Congregational churches]. Richmond Ministers [Richmond Virginia –cf report of his being there in Evangelical Times (online)].
Notes [1965]

MAC 4/32A-B “In the beginning, God” Genesis 1.1, Psalm 136. 1-16
Notes. Two versions, the probable earlier written on back of Silo instructions. Both amended for particular disasters [late 1960s, early 1970s]

MAC 4/33 Miracles in the Old Testament. Deuteronomy 13. 1
Notes [1970s]

MAC 4/34 Gifts and calling of God irrevocable. Romans 11. 29
Ordination of Eric Freeman, St Colomba’s, Gosport, undated
Ordination of James Breslin, Redland Park, Southmead, 8 October 1977
Notes - typed and hand written [1960s-70s]

MAC 4/35 The purpose and the power of God. Isaiah 40. Wrexham 10th Anniversary
Notes [c.1970]

MAC 4/36 Problems of evangelism in the modern World
[Incomplete pp. 1-3 missing]
Notes [c.1960]

MAC 5 Publications, Ancillary Material 4 items, 1961-84

Overseas News (Presbyterian Church of England) edited by Margaret MacLeod


MAC 5/2 Overseas News 1962

MAC 5/3 Overseas News 1963 - article on centenary in Rajshahi

MAC 5/4 Obituary of Revd. Alan MacLeod ‘Missionary and Ecumenist’, cut from The Times November 1984