

The Baptist Historical Society of New South Wales

Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting commencing at 7.30 pm
in the Faculty Lounge, Morling College, Macquarie Park, on Thursday 7 August 2008

Present: There were 24 members present as recorded on the attendance sheet.

1.0 Opening

The President, Rev Bruce Thornton, welcomed attenders and opened the meeting in prayer.

2.0 Apologies

Apologies were received from Rev Ron Rogers, Mr Bruce King and Mrs Bess Hayward. It was noted that Rev Rogers and Rev John Edmondstone were ill.

3.0 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 1 May 2008 were accepted as true and correct.

4.0 Reports

4.1 President

The President noted that he had reproduced one digitized copy of Alan Prior's *Some Fell on Good Ground*, and his own work, *Haste to the Rescue*.

4.2 Treasurer

The new Treasurer, Mr Michael Petras, tabled a statement of the Society's financial status as per the May issue of *The Baptist Recorder*. He was asked to investigate the option of allowing electronic transfers for member subscription fees.

4.3 Archivist

The honorary Baptist Archivist, Mr Ron Robb, presented a detailed verbal report including, inter alia, that the Archives had received the records of the Marrickville Bankstown East Hills District Baptist Association (from 1953 on); that a request had been received from Wales regarding information on Rev Seth Jones; that the Carlingford Baptist Church was to celebrate its jubilee anniversary and a fine history of the church had been researched and written by Mrs Irene McKilligan, titled *Purpose and Passion: Celebrating 50 Years of Carlingford Baptist Church*; and that research toward marking the 150th anniversary of the Wallsend Baptist Church (formerly Plattsburg Baptist Church) had commenced.

5.0 Address

The President introduced the speaker, Rev Dr Graeme Chatfield, who presented the third in a series of addresses on the Reverend George Henry Morling and aspects of the history and ethos of the Baptist Theological College of NSW from about 1937 to the early 1960s. He spoke from 7.50 – 8.50 pm, followed by questions from the floor.

The President then encouraged those present who had been College students during Morling's principalship to share their recollections. Rev Jim Kime, Rev Seton Arndell and Rev Bruce Thornton spoke, noting Morling's outstanding spiritual contribution, in public and in private, to New Guinea missionaries during a visit to the field; Morling's strong emphasis on the presence and work

of the Holy Spirit in Christian experience (“it was so important for us to understand what it meant to be indwelt by God”); and the grace normally used by Morling at College meals (“Bless us, Lord, and let this food strengthen us to serve Thee”). Justice Trevor Morling (G.H. Morling’s son) also shared his personal reflections on his childhood experience living in the College, including his perception of the Baptist Union’s attitude toward the College, and the view of some who were anti-intellectual and “wary of those with degrees.”

6.0 Next meeting

The next meeting of the Society was scheduled for Tuesday 11 November 2008 (Remembrance Day), when a special event was planned to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Armistice that led to the end of the First World War, including addresses by Brigadier Jim Wallace, Mr Michael Petras and Professor Bob Linder.

7.0 Close

Rev Jim Kime closed the meeting in prayer at 9.15 pm.