

Baptist The Recorder

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Baptist Historical Society
of New South Wales

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OUR NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 3 November 1994
in the
MORLING CHAPEL, EASTWOOD

Speaker: Dr C A Gluskie

Topic: The WILLIAM WHITE FAMILY OF STANMORE
A family significant in the history of NSW Baptists

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MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD 4 AUGUST 1994

The meeting was opened in prayer by the Chairman Rev E R Rogers at 8.00 pm with twenty-one members and friends present (details in attendance book).

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs J Burton, Mrs A Church, Rev J Edmonstone, Mr M Henderson, Mr B King, Mr R Petschack and Mr P Young.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held 5 May 1994, as published in the latest edition of The Recorder, were confirmed.

Correspondence

The Secretary, Mr O C Nannelli, advised receipt of the following correspondence:

- Royal Australian Historical Society — copies of their latest journals and magazine.
- Rev F Condon, Baptist Brisbane Tabernacle — copy of a magazine regarding street evangelist Jack Creagh.
- Evangelical History Association — receipt of a copy of their publication "Australian Dictionary of Evangelical Biography". Several members expressed disappointment at the omission of some prominent Baptist names from the book. It was agreed that a list be published in a later edition of The Recorder and that a letter be issued to the Association pointing out our concerns and enclosing a list of the names in question.
- Queensland Baptist Historical Society — letter seeking greater co-operation among all Baptist historical societies. It was agreed to refer this to the executive for further action.

General Business

The Chairman informed members that speakers had been confirmed for the following meetings, November (Mr C Gluskie, "Whites of Stanmore"), February (Rev P Kilkeary, "History of Rookwood Independent Cemetery"), May (Special 21st Year Celebrations) and August (Dr G Chatfield).

In respect of the essay competition, Rev Rogers said that information had now been sent out around Australia.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mr P Hayward, advised that the Annual Report had now been audited and that to date sixty-nine members had renewed their subscriptions.

Thalaba Celebrations

Mr H Watkin-Smith gave a brief report on his visit to Thalaba as part of the Church's 125th anniversary activities. A copy of the special publication produced as part of the celebrations was presented to the Society for its archives. Another project carried out was refurbishment of the cemetery.

Dr John Drakeford

At the invitation of the Chairman, Dr Drakeford former pastor of the Haberfield Church and currently visiting Australia from the USA brought a brief greeting and reminiscences of his time at the church.

Guest Speaker

The Chairman welcomed our guest speaker, Rev G Beckenham, who then addressed the meeting on the topic "Ministers of the Haberfield Church, men who shaped the denomination". At the conclusion of his talk several members of the audience asked questions and shared memories of their experiences at Haberfield.

Close

The meeting was closed in prayer by the Chairman at 9.25 pm.

The Pastors Of Haberfield

- Men Who Shaped A Denomination

"The Pastors of Haberfield — Men Who Shaped a Denomination!" A glance at the list of men who have pastored Haberfield Church will give you some idea why I thought such title may be appropriate.

Mr F. Robinson	1911-1914
Rev William Higlett	1915-1929
Rev Horace H. Jeffs	1929-1935
Rev John H. Deane	1935-1945
Dr John H. Drakeford	1946-1949
Rev Charles Gray	1951-1961
Rev Neil W. Adcock	1962-1967
Rev H. John Taylor	1968-1974
Rev Bernard G. Moore	1976-1978
Rev Geoff M. Whelan	1979-1982
Rev Greg R. Beckenham	1983-

If you then note the names of the men and women who have come out of these ministries you can begin to understand the effect the pastors of Haberfield have had.

Out of these ministries came names like Rev and Mr Cyril J. Moore; Rev Neville P. Andersen; Rev Dr Edward G. Gibson; Rev Ern R. Milson, Rev Eric G. Wykes; Rev R.H. Nowlan; Rev David G. Stewart; Rev and Mrs Keith W. Wilson; Rev John H. Edmonstone; Rev L.A. Cupit; Rev John D. Calvert; Rev and Mrs Doug Vaughan; Rev and Mrs Lawrie Cawley; Miss H. Smith; Mrs Joy Rongong; Mr and Mrs O. Cumming; Miss Eileen Tucker; Miss Betty Andersen.

To add further to the church's impressive effect upon our denomination you should note the number of men who have served our Union as its President and you will find the names of no less than seven men: John Deane, F. Robinson, Charlie Gray, Neville Andersen, Eric Wykes, Neil Adcock, and John Edmonstone.

Earliest beginnings—

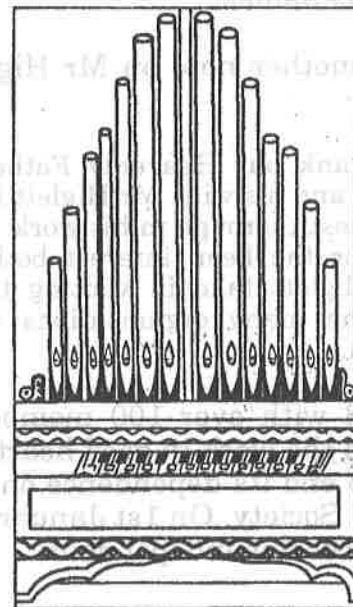
Mr F. Robinson

The Church had its earliest beginning when a group of Baptists from surrounding areas moved into the then new district of Haberfield. Following a request made to the Baptist Union a meeting was convened on Friday, 10 June 1910 and permission was granted to proceed in the formation of a Church.

Mr F. Robinson was appointed to take charge of the yet to be officially formed church. He had just completed his training at the Victorian College and Melbourne University and was ordained to the ministry at Haberfield at the morning service on 29 January 1911.

During Mr Robinson's time all the fundamentals of a Baptist church were formed.

Mr Robinson closed a very fruitful ministry in December 1914, with many people having been won to the Lord, and was succeeded by Rev William Higlett, the pastor who would lead the church to be finally self-supporting.



Finally self-supporting. William Higlett

William Higlett was born in London from an Anglican background. During the 1875 mission of Moody and Sankey he was converted and subsequently challenged on the subject of baptism, upon which he was baptised at what was then known as "Trinity Chapel", John Street, Edgeware Road. He entered Spurgeon's College in 1879, and subsequently in 1882 he proceeded to Toowoomba, Queensland, then to Albion, Queensland, and to Grafton, NSW, before being invited by the Home Mission Society to take charge of the then Home Mission Church at Haberfield on 1st January 1915.

The secretary of the Church at that time, Mr H.H. Cupit, wrote after Mr Higlett's first year:

We have much to thank God for in our past year's work. In His infinite love for His people God has indeed blessed us abundantly! The attendance of the night service throughout the year has been well maintained. We have gained 29 new members ... while losing only 5. The roll now stands at 88.

1916 was yet another good year in Mr Higlett's ministry at Haberfield seeing a net gain of 16 members with the roll standing at 99 names.

From another note on Mr Higlett it was said:

We thank our Heavenly Father for our pastor and his wife. Mr Higlett is methodical, most thorough in his work. We thank God for the keen interest both Mr and Mrs Higlett take in visiting the homes and the many organisations they take part in.

In 1918 with over 100 members on the role and the work in good heart it was decided to end its dependence on the Home Mission Society. On 1st January 1919 the church became independent.

Mr Higlett's ministry came to a close in July 1929 when he became the full time secretary of the Baptist Union, a position he had been fulfilling on a part time basis from 1916, and a position he would hold until 1937.



A most indelible mark— Rev Horace Harry Jeffs

Mr Higlett was succeeded by Rev Horace Harry Jeffs, a pastor who seems to have left the most indelible mark on the older members still present at Haberfield today. Mr Jeffs was an impassioned evangelist whose presence was felt very strongly in Haberfield's work. Record has it, that in the six years of his ministry Mr Jeffs baptised 106 people.

Mr Jeffs had held pastorates in Tasmania and Victoria during which times he had been President of their respective Unions. To add to the list of his contributions to the wider work of the denomination he had also been a Vice-President of the Federal Union, and just prior to his coming to Haberfield had just completed a three year appointment as State Evangelist of Victoria.

He and his family arrived in Sydney in September 1929 holding the pastorate for six years to 1935.

The Church entered a time of great blessing, many people responding to the appeals and the capacity of the church was severely taxed. It is, I believe, significant that at that time the prayer meetings were very strong. Many people came to pray and God honoured the prayers of His people with a great outpouring of His Spirit.

Mr Jeffs was described as, "a diligent indefatigable, industrious pastoral visitor, always welcome in the homes of the people".

Early in his pastorate Mr Jeffs started what was most probably to be his most significant contribution to our denomination, a Bible Class for young men. This met on Sunday afternoons and it certainly had far reaching effects on the lives of the young men. The class met in his own home as there was no room at the church. It was attended by some 15-20 young men. One afternoon this Bible class was addressed by Rev E.E. Watson, missionary on furlough from India, and as a result both Neville Andersen and Cyril Moore caught the missionary flame. The Rev E.E. Watson was himself a convert of Mr Jeffs' ministry at Launceston.

Our Baptists Denomination afterwards gained five ministers from this Bible Class:

Rev Neville Andersen, Cyril Moore, Eric Wykes, Ted Gibson and Ern Milson. Neville Andersen served on the mission field in India-Pakistan, was Dean of our own Theological College in NSW, and then Principal of the Bible College of Victoria, as well as pastoring a number of Churches. Eric Wykes is still influencing the lives of our people after pastoring a number of our churches where he always left his mark. Ted Gibson has been responsible for training men and women for ministry right around Australia having been Principal of Perth Bible Institute, WA, Principal of the Adelaide Bible In-

stitute, Vice-Principal of the SA Theological College, Principal of the Baptist Theological College of Queensland, as well as being a lecturer at the NSW Theological College. Ern Milson pastored churches in our own denomination as well as the Presbyterian and before his tragic death headed the Bethel Bible Study organisation in Australia.

Mr Jeffs conducted several missions during his ministry at Haberfield. At the close of one mission at Haberfield there was one service worth noting. It was a baptismal service with some 12 young people being baptised including Neville Andersen and Eric Wykes. Everywhere a chair could be put, there was someone squeezed in. People sat right up to the preacher's platform.

Another service worth noting during Mr Jeffs time was a New Year's Eve, Watch-night Service, which commenced at 7 pm and went through to midnight. Five of the young men from Mr Jeffs Bible Class each officiated for an hour. This started them on their preaching career.

Mr Jeffs concluded his ministry at Haberfield in 1935 when he resigned the pastorate and returned to his home state. His had been a rich ministry with many people responding to the appeals. The church membership had risen to over 200.



Years of great blessing— Rev John Henry Deane

Rev John Henry Deane accepted the Pastoral oversight of the work following Mr Jeffs departure. During Mr Deane's time he not only served as the Pastor of the Church but also as Vice-Principal of our College. The ten years spent at Haberfield were years of great blessing.

During Mr Deane's first year Neville Andersen was appointed to the pastorate at Randwick and Eric Wykes to Coraki.

Pastor Cyril Moore was already training for service in India and had the pastorate at North Auburn, and towards the end of 1938 the church proudly, although somewhat regretfully, farewelled the Rev Cyril and Mrs Edna Moore for missionary service in India.

Some twelve months later another val-
edictory service was held for Rev Neville Andersen as he too left for India.



The Church now entered a most difficult period of its history, with the world at war and many of our leading young people enlisting in the various services. It is interesting to note that at the end of the sixth year of Mr Deane's ministry there had been 74 baptisms and 130 new members added to the church.

At the 1943 Assembly Mr Deane became President of the Baptist Union of NSW and this saw the need of an assistant Pastor. The choice fell upon a young college student and Foreign Mission candidate, Pastor I.A. Emmett, who later went on to pastor churches in both NSW and Victoria, serve as a missionary to India and Pakistan, edit the "Australian Baptist", and again work in mission in PNG.

1944 brought sadness to the church and denomination with the news from India of the accidental drowning of Rev Cyril and Edna Moore, but the sacrifice was not in vain. As I understand it, the memorial service held for the Moores saw yet again the Spirit of God move with David Stewart and Keith Wilson presenting themselves for ministry.

Mr Deane was a practically minded man and was responsible for many changes and innovations which considerably helped and bettered the life of the Church and its organisations, including house parties and camps for young people. David Stewart was Youth Director at that time.

1945 brought to a close Mr Deane's ministry at Haberfield. Here is what the secretary at that time, Mr John Telfer, wrote:

Mr Deane was one of those rare and singular persons who declined to be dictated to, or stampeded into any course of action inconsistent with his high ideals and his acute sense of moral and ethical values. At times he was outspoken to the point of bluntness, and at the risk of earning unpopularity refused to deviate from his inflexible code of rigid honesty in thought, word, or action — yet he did not close his eyes to reason, and his discerning mind and unusual gift of perception enabled him to quickly sum up and appreciate other points of view.

When a church has had a minister for 10 years, as has Haberfield, the pastor's failures and inconsistencies, if he has any, soon become apparent to an always critical people, but in the case of Mr Deane, the deacons, members and adherents,

without exception, found new virtues and depths of character, and the fragrance of his ministry grew sweeter within the passing years.

Mr Deane, undeniably, has permitted his life to be permeated and enriched by the Spirit of God, and his exegetic discourses on this source of power in the Christian has won him fame and deep respect throughout Australia. In 1945 alone he was invited as a guest speaker to Upwey in Victoria, Keswick in Queensland, Sandy Bay in Tasmania, Pounawe in New Zealand and Katoomba in NSW

The Denomination owes the fine College property at Ashfield to the persistent and assiduous efforts of Mr Deane, and many of our young ministers owe more perhaps than they will ever know, to the part he played in preparing them for their life's mission.

On the day that the Church very reluctantly farewelled him some 30 or so members rose before daylight to travel to the flying base to say goodbye to the "finest pastor a church could wish for", and to watch the giant Sunderland Flying Boat take off to New Zealand where Mr Deane was to fill the Principalship of the NZ Bible Training Institute.

Preaching forceful and dynamic— Rev John Drakeford



It was largely through the influence of Mr Deane that the church secured its new pastor, Rev John Drakeford. It was noted in the Annual Reports for the year ending 31st December 1945, "While still unreconciled to, and unhappy at, the loss of Mr Deane, we nevertheless feel the

choice of chaplain J.W. Drakeford as his successor augurs well for the future of the Church".

Mr Drakeford joined the church in 1946 and quickly became popular, especially with the young people. His preaching was forceful and dynamic and the church prospered under his care.

In the Annual Reports of 1946 this was noted: "We desire to thank both Mr and Mrs Drakeford for their unswerving loyalty and for the persistent and tenacious determination with which they have endeavoured to present the Gospel".

It was during that same year Mr Drakeford arranged a series of special Sunday evening services. A "Won by One" campaign was introduced and the whole of the Haberfield district was canvassed giving house to house invitations. These meetings were well attended with additions to the church and Sunday School.

An unusual event from Mr Drakeford's time was a series of messages given by Dr F. Schwarz during 1947, a series that indicated even then the church's desire to meet its community's needs, and answer its questions. He spoke on such titles as: "Modern Medical Marvels", "Should A Doctor Tell?", "The Christian Blood Transfusion" and "Love and Marriage".

Dr Schwarz was to play a major role in the church at that time and worked with Mr Drakeford particularly with the young people using speaking classes to train the young people to be useful to the Lord.

Mr Drakeford's interest in young people was to lead him in 1949 to accept the position as Youth Director for the Denomination. During that time the BYF was commenced, an organisation which greatly enhanced the denomination's ministry to young people.

The pastorate at Haberfield was vacant for 12 months until Rev Charles H. Gray accepted the invitation to come.

Ministry flourishing— Rev Charles H. Gray

Mr Gray was a fine preacher and pastor who regularly visited the homes of his people encouraging them in their faith. He was renowned for sitting in the pulpit making a note of every person who was present and who was not. You would see him looking out over the congregation and actually see him counting. Those who were absent would be contacted the next day.

During Mr Gray's 11 years Miss Betty Andersen went to the Mission Field, Revs Keith Wilson and John Edmonstone commenced their pastoral ministry. Keith was to become Secretary of the Missionary Department of the BU of Victoria and later serve on the mission field in PNG as well as pastor a number of Churches in both NSW and Victoria. John was to pastor a number of our churches including a significant ministry at Northside from which he proceeded to become the Director of Home Ministries. Also during Mr Gray's ministry Revs L.A. Cupit and J. Calvert commenced their training. Tony, of course, went on to work as a missionary with ABMS and then to be Associate Secretary for Overseas for ABMS, before becoming the General Superintendent of the BU of Victoria.

Mr Gray took a leading role in the 1959 Billy Graham Crusade within the community. It is quite amazing the result that was achieved from that crusade for Haberfield. Mr Gray stated, "from 1st April 1959 15 have been baptised and a further 20 were receiving instruction and another 8 were still to be contacted. It would appear that between 30-40 new members would be received into the fellowship at the church anniversary".

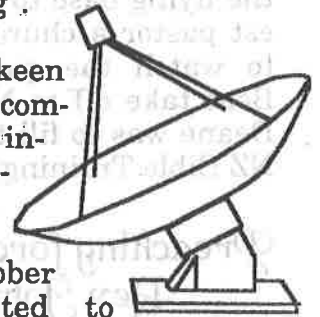
The ministry at Haberfield flourished under Mr Gray and the strain of accommodation grew leading to the plans for construction of a new church building being called for, a building that was to be completed in the next pastorate of Neil Adcock.

Ministry richly blessed— Rev Neil Adcock

Rev Gray was succeeded at Haberfield by Rev Neil Adcock who took over the pastorate in February 1962. Mr Adcock was a fine pastor who held the church together. He was prepared to get alongside of people rather than be seen as separate, or above. Only this past weekend Mr Adcock retired in Canberra from full-time ministry, the events of that weekend paying tribute to the outstanding ministry Neil and Joan Adcock have had, and the influence they have had for their Lord even within the halls of our Federal Parliament.

During Mr Adcock's time the church became involved in the Missouri Crusade, a very successful period of time with some 63 commitments, 30 of which were first time. Mr Adcock noted, "in over 14 years of ministry he had never experienced such a time of blessing".

Mr Adcock had a keen interest in mass communication, and increasingly both broadcasting and television recognised his qualifications. In October 1964 he was invited to present "The Sunshine Hour" from Haberfield Church by Rev Vernon Turner.



In the Church's Annual Reports of 1964 the secretary recorded this note:

Another year of faithful service has been given by our Pastor. Having completed 21½ years of ministry that has been richly blessed, Rev Adcock has had the joy and privilege of seeing many folk come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour. The morning services of worship have been most instructive and inspiring and the preaching of the Gospel at the evening service has found a ready response in the hearts and lives of many people. Four Baptismal services have been held and 24 people have been baptised, 19 of which joined the church. The membership stands at 215, an increase over the years of 20 members.

During Rev Adcock's pastorate Haberfield was associated with six people on the Mission field: Rev and Mrs Cawley in West Irian; Miss Robyn Gilchrist in Papua; Sister Eileen Tucker in New Guinea; Sister Betty Andersen in East Pakistan; and Mrs Joy Rongong in India; while Rev David Stewart became the second person associated with Haberfield to become the Principal of New Zealand Bible Institute.

Rev Adcock terminated his ministry on 14th January 1968, a very successful ministry, accepting a call to Flinders Street Church in Adelaide. In a note of appreciation to Neil Adcock at his final service at Haberfield this was noted:

The church at Haberfield remains as active and throbbing with vitality as it ever was, and if anything the work is on the ascendancy. No mean contribution has been made in this state of affairs by Mr Adcock, who has faithfully and assiduously striven in a variety of ways to keep abreast of the needs of the present day and age.

Preaching has been with vigour and faithfulness to the Scriptures; exposition with thoroughness and with purpose; care of the newly born in Christ with understanding; visitation of the sick and needy with sympathy. In all, an excellent pastor.



A strong pastoral emphasis.— Rev John H. Taylor

Rev John H. Taylor commenced his ministry in the church on 5th April 1968. During this ministry the church passed its 60th Anniversary. Rev Taylor's ministry featured a strong pastoral emphasis. John's own words were these: "The emphasis of my work has been upon the pastoral and preaching aspects of ministry. To always maintain this emphasis has proved time consuming and demanding, but very worthwhile, for God has ministered to people through it, and that, essentially, is the only reason for my being at Haberfield." John's pastoral ministry was to take him into Chaplaincy work at Qantas where many new contacts were made and some were added to the membership.

There were new ministries commenced during John's time including the taking of taped services to the older and sick members and a ministry to Yasmar Hostel for delinquent young people.

John, since leaving Haberfield has gone on to pastoral ministry in three other of our churches but his mark has been seen in his work on denominational committees and as Area Superintendent of at least two of the areas of our State.

A teaching ministry— Bernard Moore

The next two ministries at Haberfield were of a greatly different style. Bernard Moore was an academic, a teacher who would expound the word of God with great precision. He was by no means an evangelist, but he was called because the church at the time felt it required a teaching ministry and he was the right man, and he did provide a solidity to the church at that time.

*A very loving ministry—
Geoff Whelan*

Geoff Whelan on the other hand, was strongly evangelistic, and with his wife, Dot, had a short but very loving ministry before they retired to New Zealand where they still live today.

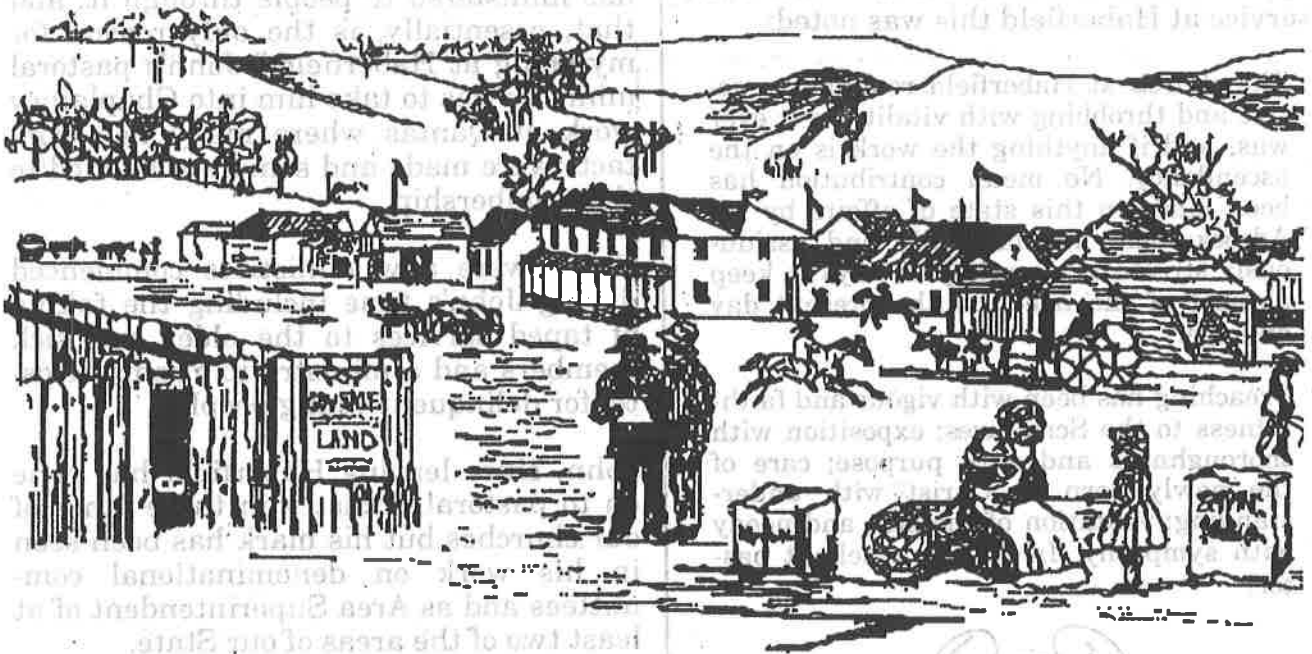
Mr Whelan had a concept of the church being a family and that is something that surviving members refer back to constantly.

The secretary at that time wrote: "The pastor has continued to exercise a most acceptable and profitable ministry".



As far as the pastors of Haberfield there is only one more, and that is myself, for which someone else can write the history.

G R Beckenham



THE ELPHICKS OF JUNE

In his address titled "The Riverina — a Nursery of Saints" in which he surveyed the spread of Baptist witness in the South-West of the State, Mr Gordon Young spoke of the loyalty of the Elphick family to the Junee Church. He said:

Junee is a town marked with two industries — farming and transport. When the Elphick brothers moved from the land at Gundagai and found other Baptists at Junee a Baptist Church was commenced. It has relied mostly on the Baptist Union for the supply of pastors but in times of economic shortage has been pastorless or has called on people without formal training. Local membership has been stable, the Elphick family supplying many of the members. The Church has been marked by deep and faithful prayer life of great vigour and unending attention to Sunday School and youth work. For example, in 1941 the Church operated an indoor Sunday School and two outdoor ones, at North Junee and South Junee.

The Church and the Elphicks

The Fiftieth Anniversary Report of the Church in 1987 had this to say of the Elphick family:

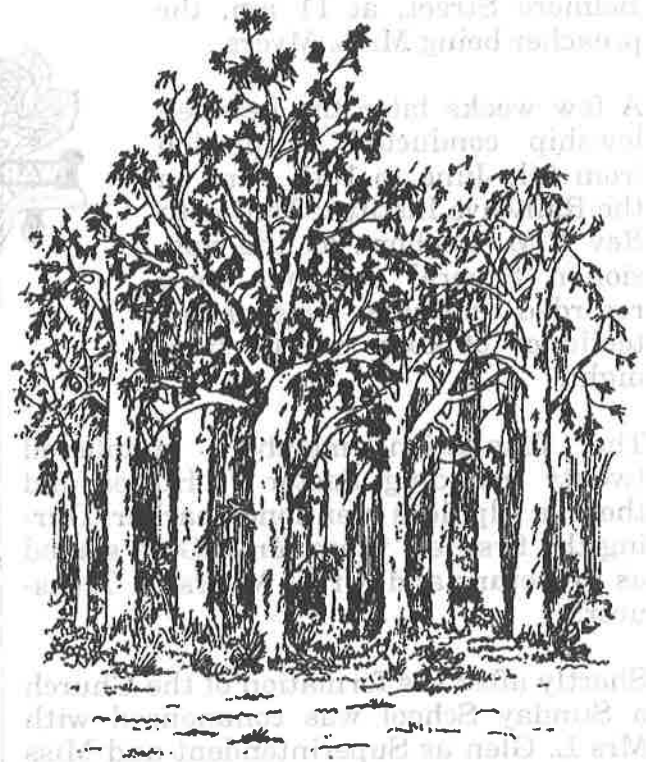
The Elphick family has played a big part in the life of the Church since its beginnings. Miss Stella Elphick (now Mrs Clark), Miss Anne Elphick (now Mrs Hanlon), Mrs Elsie Paton, Mr Joe Elphick and Mr H (Ben) Elphick were members from 25th July, 1937 (formation date) — Mr Ben Elphick being the only continuous member of our Church throughout its fifty years. Numbers in the Elphick family grew steadily until 1973 when fifteen out of a total membership of twenty-eight were Elphicks. Today we have six members of the Elphick family as Church members. In all those fifty years the Church has been blessed by the continued service of this family in positions which come to mind as Secretary, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, and teachers, Scripture teachers, organist, YP leaders, deacons and Auditor and the menfolk have been in the pulpit on many occasions. Thus, no doubt, you would agree that the Elphick family has played a significant part in the life of our Church.

Some Interesting Observations

As we look through the lists of Church Secretaries and Treasurers we note that the first Elphick to hold office was Mrs E. Paton, who served five years as Secretary and followed it with four years as Treasurer (1941-1949 inclusive). Mr Ben Elphick served three years as Treasurer and then from 1948 fifteen successive years as Secretary. A Mrs F. Elphick served twice as Treasurer, first for eleven successive years and later for seven years. A Mr Ted Elphick Jnr served in the 1960s for four years as Secretary.

Some Facts about the Church and its Progress

Rev W. Cleugh Black, Home Mission Superintendent, in his report to the 1936 Assembly gave details of his exploratory tour into the south-west of the State. He said: "At Junee a group of enthusiastic Baptists are clustering together for Christ's work under the leadership of Mr J. Glen, lately of Burton Street. Temora Church will care for the new causes at Cootamundra and Junee". In his report to the 1937 Assembly he reported the formation of two Churches on 25th June 1937, at Cootamundra in the morning and at Junee in the evening. The first pastor at Junee, Pastor John Howes, had commenced duty on 4th July and so was included in the first membership.



There is some documentation of events prior to the formation. The first recorded minute of the Junee Fellowship refers to the visit to Junee of Rev W. Cleugh Black in connection with his investigations into prospects for Baptist work in the south-west of the State. It was on 2nd September 1936 that in the Home of Mr and

Mrs Glen the Home Mission Superintendent, together with Pastor F.W. Evans and Mr Denyer, the pastor and secretary respectively of the Church at Temora, met with Mr and Mrs John Glen and Mr and Mrs L. Myers. The minutes state that:

"it was decided to continue the mid-weekly meetings that were being held up to this time and that Mr Glen would act as Secretary for the purpose of contacting the Home Mission re the Baptist Fellowship's formation in Junee". Unfortunately there is no note of the period of time over which the mid-week meetings had been held.

The next entry in the Minutes reveals that on Sunday 18th April 1937 the first Baptist Sunday service in Junee was held at the Masonic Hall, Belmore Street, at 11 am, the preacher being Mr L. Myers.

A few weeks later the new fellowship conducted a Mission from 6th June to 16th June in the Railways Institute Hall with Rev R.M. Leghorn as the missionary. Several decisions were recorded and there was an attendance of sixty on the final night.

The foundation members numbered twenty including Pastor J. Howes and the five Elphicks mentioned earlier. During the first few years Mr J. Glen served as Secretary and Mr L. Myers as Treasurer.

Shortly after the formation of the Church a Sunday School was commenced with Mrs L. Glen as Superintendent and Miss G. Myers as Kindergarten Superintendent. The Sunday School was soon to gain two experienced helpers in Mr and Mrs Tom Hagney who also were re-

sponsible for the commencement of Open-Air Sunday Schools in both North and South Junee. Mr Hagney was a railway man and had been appointed to the important railway centre of Junee for a time as other Baptist railway men were from time to time, each helping in the witness of the Church during their stay. The Hagneys were members of the Ashfield Church. On his first attendance at the services Mr Hagney was dismayed to find that the Church had no organ. He wrote to Ashfield indicating the need. On 10th December, 1937 the Church received the Hagneys as members on transfer from Ashfield and also received from Ashfield an organ to assist in their services. As well as his Sunday School work Mr Hagney succeeded Mr Glen as Secretary of the Church in 1940 for one year.

The first Church building was erected by a local builder for 630 pounds (\$1260). The total cost including furnishings came to 902 pounds (\$1804) and the debt at the time of the opening was 640 pounds (\$1280). The opening took place on Saturday 14th October 1939 at 2.30 pm in the presence of 100 people, of whom 80 stayed for an evening meeting. On the Sunday 50 attended the morning service and 60 the

evening service and a special Children's service was held in the afternoon. All five services were presided over and addressed by various denominational leaders: Rev W.H. Wingfield, President, Mr H.F. Jeskie, President in the founding year 1936-37, Rev W. Cleugh Black, Home Mission Superintendent, Mr F.W. Winn, Home Mission Chairman, Mr H.J. Morton, Home Mission Treasurer. In December 1968 a Hall was added to the building to cater for Sunday School and youth work. Since 1950 the Church has acquired, in turn, three manses, the last a new building opened in 1987.

