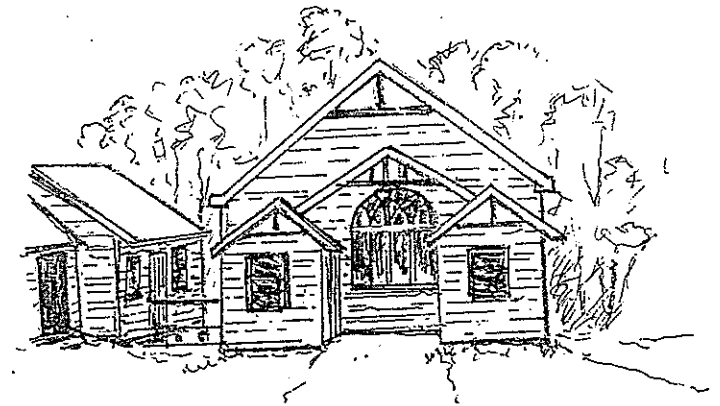


1913  
MALENY BAPTIST CHURCH  
1913 - 1988



1988

OUTLINE OF HISTORY OF MALENY BAPTIST CHURCH

1913 - 1988

The Maleny Baptist Church came into being way back in 1913, when a small group of Baptists decided to sever connections with the Maleny Union Church. A short explanation of why is that the Baptists asked for a full day per month in the Union Church instead of one night only, and they were refused. This was September 13th, and in the space of a few days so many donations were received that on the 16th of that same month, a meeting was called. This meeting comprised Rev. T.U.Symonds (in the chair), Mr. & Mrs. Eben Smith, Mrs. Roderick, Mr. & Mrs. S.H. Pattermore and Rev. A.B.Mursell. The decision of this meeting was to purchase Block 59 of Dixon's Estate for £75 (\$150). Donations continued to flood in, two of which were money to pay for meetings to be held temporarily in the School of Arts. Another was a Beech tree for timber, this tree was cut and hauled by bullock team to the present Church site, and it became the floor and ceiling. Mr. Sam Sallaway curved the timber in hot water to achieve the arched ceiling. Many, many people gave assistance. Those recalled by Miss Annie Smith were S. Sallaway, C.Rapp, Mr. Roderick and Mr. Bates. There

were others too, and all were voluntary labour. Imagine the joy of the congregation when they had their first service in this lovely new building, built for love of the Lord, by co-operation and much hard work. Outside cost of the building was £325 (\$650). Still donations continued to come, the seats which are Cedar, were given by the Wharf Street Baptist Church (now City Tabernacle). The windows also were donated. Our Maleny Baptist Church was the first Denominational Church in Maleny, followed closely by the R.C. Church.

Rev. A.B.Mursell was the first Minister, and here was a man worthy of special mention. He used to walk from Nambour to take services in Maleny! During the actual building of the Church, he was known as "Able-bodied"(A.B.) Mursell, a nick-name which no doubt is self explanatory. First Secretary was Mr. S.H.Pattemore, Treasurer either Mr. G.Brown or Mr. A. Hirst. Some records are missing, so facts from 1914 to 1919 were hard to establish.

The only means of transport for the pioneers was horses, the other option was walking. Early ministers had the same choice. (Yes, Rev.Mursell did buy a horse!) Consequently wet weather or lack of a full moon were regular deterrents from Church attendance. The Church also owned a horse for work in Maleny, and Mr. E. Smith loaned one for the work in Glasshouse Mts. and Coochin Creek. First lighting was with kerosene lamps, in fact, electricity was not installed until 1939, now we are all flourescent lit.

Of course, as now, the Minister had to have his stipend, and money was collected quarterly. The first collector was Miss Alice Rapp. Miss Annie Smith and Miss Elsie Butterfield rode horses to Witta and Wootha to collect donations.

The Church was responsible to meet £8 (\$16) per month to the Home Mission for the Pastor.

There were many centres included in Maleny outreach. As near as possible in chronological order they were - Mt. Mellum, Coochin Creek, Glasshouse Mts., Witta, Wootha, Boorobin, Curramore, Bald Knob, Conondale, Mooloolah, Kenilworth (where a Church was actually built about 1937 and transferred to the care of Cooroy in 1953.) A few services were held at Belli, and Beerwah Hall was a regular venue from May 1939. Meetings and visitation were also carried out in Woodford, Wamuran, Peachester, Caloundra, Montville and Flaxton. Open-Air meetings were held in Maleny, and in 1948 an Amplifier was purchased to assist with this outreach, in co-operation with other local Churches. Maleny Baptists have been very active in Religious Education in Maleny Schools (Primary and Secondary), also Conondale and Beerwah Schools.

The "manse" for early Ministers was a single room under the Church until Pastor C.J.Kajewski came in 1925 with his wife. Special accommodation had to be arranged by the Secretary. Around 1935 Mr. R.G. Walker made a tenancy agreement with the Church for his home on the cul-de-sac end of Miva Street, for use as a manse, and a phone was installed. In 1959 this home was sold, so a house in Teak Street was rented till the Minister became resident in Beerwah in 1968. The current Minister, Pastor Don McPherson, has his own home in Maleny.

The question of lack of finance raised it's ugly head many times over the years, but always the Lord blessed these folk with generous donations, interest free loans, and some quite healthy Sunday Schools and Ladies' Guilds who came to the rescue by helping to buy Hymn Books, assisting with Church maintenance and structural alterations. Sacred concerts, tea-meetings, bazaars etc., were regular

functions, and in later years, catering for pig and calf sales yielded a small but helpful income. The Church's first Bank Account was opened in 1920 with the E.S. & A. Bank in Maleny.

Apart from Sunday Schools in Maleny and some of the outlying areas, a Band of Hope was established by February 1920. Christian Endeavour meetings were commenced by Pastor Chisholm soon after, and in June 1926 Junior C.E. commenced. Many C.E. Rallies and Conventions were held in Maleny over the years. One as recent as July of this year was in the Uniting Church. Later on again special Young People's meetings were instigated, also Boy's Brigade, Girl's Brigade, and Life Boys, but unfortunately had to lapse in 1962 from lack of numbers. Bruce Morgan's Mission to Children visited the young people in 1982. Sunday School was the survivor. Many were the folk who gave of themselves untiringly to cultivate this vital area of Church work. Currently there is a very healthy and happy "Adventure Time" for the young people.

The 1914 - 1918 War left it's mark on the Church. A student Pastor, R. Lachlan, was sadly killed in action, and a Memorial Tablet was made in his memory, this being unveiled in February 1921. Anzac Day of the same year saw a tree-planting ceremony in memory of Church men who fell in the war, one planted by Mrs. Hirst on behalf of the Church, one by Mrs. Salloway for the Sunday School, one by Mrs. Bate for the A.I.F., and one by Mrs. Pattemore for relatives of fallen men. While speaking of war, in 1946 a Memorial Communion Table, with silver plate inscribed with soldier's names, was placed in honour of those connected with the work in Maleny Baptist Church who served in the Forces in the 1939 - 1945 War.

Music played an important role in the Church, although the first organ seemed to have had to be repaired with monotonous regularity! The first Organist was Miss Harding, and the number who followed in her footsteps are too numerous to mention. In 1938 a brand new Estey organ was donated to the Church by Mr. & Mrs. S.W.Walker, Mr. & Mrs. W.J.Walker, and Mr. & Mrs. R.G.Walker. This organ was sold to Mrs. Joan King in 1985 when an Electronic organ was purchased for the Church, so the Estey served long and well. There was an old Sunday School organ (probably the original) which was sold to Mr. Wolter when it was possible for the Sunday School to buy a piano. The Maleny Baptist Choir was formed in 1940. Appreciation of sacred music was catered for by having visits to Maleny by Christian Chords and the Youth Choir several times. Sankey's Hymn Book was used up till 1954 when the Baptist Hymnal was introduced.

Several Missions were held over the years as a witness to the district of the Lord's work in the Maleny Baptist Church. First was a Mission conducted by Evangelist J.C. Sloan in 1923. In later years there were Gospel Fisherman News Mission (1946), Gospel Wagon (1949). Rev. Jarvis of Sydney and Rev. M. Howard held a Mission in that same year. Visitation Evangelism was carried out in 1949. There was another Mission in May 1961 with George Francis from Youth for Christ and Pastor Ham from Joyful News Mission speaking. A Re-entry Mission was held in 1978, and in 1985 a "Crossover Maleny" Mission was conducted with D.Shepherd as the speaker, and Colin and Muriel Jones assisting. The Church also had Trevor Ross' Seminars on Stewardship and Christian Living. The Church members have commenced having annual Church camps to encourage a closer fellowship.

The first marriage was celebrated in the Church

in 1924. Mr. & Mrs. L.A.Cork were the happy couple, and they were presented with a Bible to honour the occasion.

After 21 years and some months, the Church was constituted and became a member of the Baptist Union of Queensland in March / April 1935. The first Diaconate meeting was held on May 10th, with Rev. J.C. Farquhar, President of the Baptist Union, presiding. Also present were Rev. R. Sayce, Union Secretary, and Pastor of the Church, V.C. Barnard. Pastor Barnard was received by Rev. Farquhar with words of encouragement in the Lord's work. Each member came forward to be received by the Pastor who gave a personal message to each one. The hymn "Blest be the Tie That Binds" was then sung, followed by a Communion Service. A Church Roll was commenced with each member signing before the meeting dispersed. That was a Saturday, the next Day was observed as a Day of Worship. Both morning and evening services were taken by Rev. Sayce. His morning address was on "The Ideal Church" - with the Upward Look, the Outward Look and the Forward Look. In the evening he spoke on "Portraits of Jesus". To quote from the Minute Book - "At the end of this season of blessing each went away feeling that we had enjoyed the Presence of God's Holy Spirit, thisfilling us with new hope and inspiration to go forward to do even greater things for Christ and His Kingdom."

Many Missionaries visited the Church with news and film evenings of the work they were doing here in Australia and in Overseas Missions. In return, Maleny - Beerwah gave two young missionaries to India, namely Miss Esther Buckley and Miss Emily Lord. Later in 1985 Maleny's Eric and Denise Barker, and their three children, John, Lisa and William, left for Baiyer River in New Guinea. Eric was Honorary Pastoral Assistant for

12 months prior to this while he was studying at the Baptist Theological College. Maleny has supported many Missionaries over the years, both prayerfully and practically. In much earlier times Mr. R.G.Walker was called from Maleny to study for the Ministry.

Structural improvements and additions featured well over the years. First on record seems to be the relining of the Baptistry in 1923 to prevent it's being a "sieve" as one Minister suggested. He happened to be living in the quarters underneath! The vestries were added in 1926. The two entry porches were added later. Mr. C.Rapp & Mr. Pattenmore featured largely in the work. Building of the Sunday School Hall was a major project from the commencement in June 1948 to "Opening" in October 1949, with final payment made in September 1950. Mr. J. Rapp was foreman for this job, with much voluntary labour to complete the task. The Hall in turn has been altered and improved, particularly the kitchenette and serving area. Amenities were added in 1983 under the Church building. There were many paint jobs through the years, but the latest interior face-lift and extension was in 1986. This made it possible to accommodate 106 people, and 30 chairs were purchased as well. Outside painting and working bees were numerous, in order to keep the building and grounds in neat and tidy order.

Cars took over from horses from around 1933, when there is a record of the Church paying the princely sum of £1/10/- (\$3) per month expenses. First car purchased by the Church was an A Model Ford, but it had to be replaced by a Hillman Minx Sedan in 1948, Maleny - Beerwah sharing expenses. This car finally "died" in 1958 after much T.L.C. from B.Skerman and C.Whitnall on a voluntary basis to try to extend it's survival. A Vauxhall Velox 1954 Model was then purchased. These cars were very busy between Maleny and Beerwah and outlying areas. Later Ministers came equipped with their own cars, the Church meeting necessary expenses.

Beerwah finally became a constituted Church in November 1958, the Walton Family having donated land for a Church in 1955. Ministers continued to work the two Churches together for many years, Beerwah growing to be the stronger Church. Maleny became autonomous again soon after 1980, both Churches now doing very vital work for our Lord.

Many and varied activities were introduced to create necessary vital interest in Christian work. Under the ministry of Pastor John Mills "Squash-In" cottage meetings started (popular with young and old). He also trained some of the young folk in Judo - the "oldies" toed the line in that period! "Bright Hour" Fellowship began for the Ladies, also combined Prayer Meeting and Bible Study for all, though it must be stressed that Prayer Meetings had always been an important part of all Church Worship. A Movie Projector was purchased in 1975, and a Duplicator in 1982. The latter was used for publication of a fortnightly Church Newsletter. The Church is also equipped with an Overhead Projector, P.A. System, Fans for summer and Heaters for winter comfort. Youth Exchanges as we know them to-day were commenced in July 1967, Maleny's first exchange being with Enoggera. Church Anniversaries were a special witness to the district, being celebrated ever since the Church's inception, with special Speakers and carefully catered meals, always by the Ladies' Fellowship. Christian Tracts have often been distributed as a Church Outreach. Ladies organised Coffee mornings in different areas, also Dinners and Coffee and Dessert evenings at the Hall, when friends are invited for fellowship and devotion. Men's dinners and outings are also well in evidence. A Church Library was established by Mrs. Denise Barker in 1981, and Book Stalls at Maleny Show are regular outreach work. Youth Clubs have been re-formed,

and Group Ministry instigated as a basis for Church growth, creating more opportunity for more caring pastoral ministry, Bible study, and outreach. Family Prayer Booklets, Prayer Partners and Prayer Chain, have brought members in closer contact.

In spite of many financial problems, the Church members very rarely said "no" to special appeals. The recipients of the support are far too numerous to mention, but currently A.B.M.S. figures highly in their support. Prayer support was always vital, and freely given - we know the importance of prayer support in every avenue of Church, community and private life.

This outline of Maleny Church history cannot be completed without paying tribute to four people who have been honoured with a special minute record of their outstanding efforts for the Lord's work in Maleny. First, Mr. Ern Skerman, who was Secretary for over 30 years. He also gave of himself physically and sacrificially for love of his Lord. When the Skerman family left Maleny in 1950, the Church lost Secretary, Treasurer, Len, and Organist, Gwen. Of course, positions were very soon filled with other devoted Christian workers. Mr. Les Smith served the Diaconate in several official capacities for many years, also giving of himself in practical ways by means of donations and loans. His daughter, Mrs. Joan King, also gave many years of devoted selfless work in the Church, in different times as Secretary, Treasurer and Organist. In her capacity as Treasurer, one story must be revealed. The Church collection was stolen from Joan's home between Sunday services and bank opening time on Monday. But, did Joan put that down to an unfortunate experience? No, Joan cooked and sold cakes for weeks to make up that money! Such was her sincerity for the Lord's work. The fourth person we recognise is Mr. Klaude Reyne who carried

through an untiring and endless effort for the Lord, both as Treasurer and Secretary, and Klaude has always been there and willing to do whatever he was asked or led to do. He has only recently resigned - current Secretary is Mr. John Wenn, and Treasurer Mr. Paul Knight.

From 11th to 18th September, 1988, we celebrate 75 years of work and worship in the Maleny Baptist Church, and again we honour all the pioneers of this work whose blood, sweat and tears were freely given to establish this unique building in which we worship, and more importantly to establish Christian growth in our area. There were many not mentioned personally, but if the reader was involved, or any member of your family, please know their efforts were sincerely appreciated, and all were blessed in the Lord.

May God bless our efforts for Him in this place. It is our prayer that the work of our Lord will continue in the Maleny Baptist Church for many future years.

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It is the wish of the writer to acknowledge with grateful thanks the assistance given by Miss Annie Smith and Mr. Gilbert Pattemore. Both of these folk have wonderful memories of the early days in Maleny. I could have listened to them for hours had time permitted. Their stories and memories made me wish I could have had 12 months to compile this history.

A Church is people, and the Pastor is simply one of them charged with a Ministry. The following list is included because historical links are often most easily made by referring to the Church's life during the Ministry of certain Pastors.

Ministers from 1913 to 1988:-

- |                        |                        |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Rev. A.B. Mursell      | Rev. F.J.C. Stone      |
| Rev. B. Kingsford      | Rev. H.L. McIntyre     |
| Rev. R. Lachlan        | Pastor R.E. Jarrott    |
| Rev. S. Newell         | Pastor P.C. Wolter     |
| Rev. Shaw              | Pastor E. Buckley      |
| Rev. Davison           | Pastor S.M. Kean       |
| Pastor S.E. Spies      | Pastor D. Hume         |
| Pastor A.J.C. Chisholm | Pastor M.M. Munro      |
| Pastor F.J. Pell       | Pastor R. Hohnke       |
| Pastor C.J. Kajewski   | Pastor D.J. Lowry      |
| Pastor C.W. Noble      | Rev. L.C. Beu          |
| Pastor B. Hohnke       | Pastor D.J. Cran       |
| Pastor F.E. Peffer     | Pastor M. Henry        |
| Pastor R. Schmidt      | Pastor G. Ferriday     |
| Pastor J.H. Harvey     | Pastor J. Mills        |
| Pastor C.V. Barnard    | Rev. R.J. Lawler       |
| Pastor H. White        | J. Bigg (Field Worker) |
| Pastor C.D. Gilbert    | Pastor M. Cooke        |
| Pastor R.T. Farquhar   | Rev. R. Wenn           |
|                        | Pastor D. McPherson    |

THE UPWARD LOOK

As we look beyond our 75th Anniversary, the church has a strategic ministry to fulfill in the area from Mapleton to Conondale/Kenilworth. The character of the whole area which the church serves has been changing steadily and in the last year, has experienced a boom in settlement. By God's power today's church must respond to the challenge of its day just as the builders originally did to theirs and those who altered the ministry-emphases and the building facilities from time to time did to theirs.

Recently, the church observed the first anniversary of an outreach meeting held twice a month at Flaxton. There is potential for an autonomous work to develop there, and the church is committed to its development before January, 1993. Such works can multiply when the home base is strengthened too. Membership stands at 38 including five absentees and the addition of new members continues although transfers will temper the growth.

Prayer, the Word, fellowship, hope, evangelism, compassion, sacrifice and hard work, both at home and abroad must ever characterise our life-long worship of God. Holding these in balance, the church here and everywhere must,

"Forget what lies behind and strain toward what is ahead... Press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called (us) heavenward in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:13,14

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." Heb.12:2

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Our sincere thanks go to Dorothea Ekert for her splendid work in compiling the historical outline under severe constraint of time. Thanks also to Klaud and Bev Reyne for the artwork on our publications and the Anniversary arrangements. Indeed thanks to each one who in fellowship of service has made an offering to God at this 75th Anniversary of His faithfulness.

Pastor