

Church Matters

Keeping a link with the Sydney congregation



Living and Sharing the Gospel

November 2015

The sudden and unexpected death of Haydn has impacted family and friends. They gathered together for his funeral on October 8th. **Janice, Paul and Richard** spoke about the courage of a young man of 24 marrying **Pauline**, a widow, with four children. A marriage that lasted almost 55 years.

Hadyn Seymour Cooke 1936-2015

On their 50th Anniversary in 2010 we recorded:

Haydn and Pauline Cooke celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the 6th October. In 1958 Haydn was serving his compulsory military service for the RAF on the island of Malta. One night while dancing at the Phoenician Ballroom on a Saturday night he met a particularly attractive Maltese lady — who as it turned out was holidaying from Australia. One thing led to another and as his service time was about to expire soon he was back in the UK introducing Pauline to his parents.



They married and Haydn joined Pauline's family in Australia. Surviving all the challenges of an instant family, migration, two completely different backgrounds, Haydn and Pauline share the love for all their children: **Tony, Eilene, Marian, Janice, Richard, Paul** and their extended families.



Haydn had his own TV repair business and short wave radio was a lifelong hobby. In fact it was over the short wave he first came across *The World Tomorrow* many years ago.

Peter McLean used Ephesians 4: 1-2 to describe Haydn's life. He endeavoured to walk a life worthy of his calling. He was a humble and gentle man, patient, who was tolerant of others. Even though, like the rest of us, he had his weaknesses, he sincerely sought to please his heavenly Father, trusting in Jesus Christ as his Saviour with the hope of the resurrection.

An example of the love that Haydn and Pauline had for others was their support they gave to **Anmari Day** over many years. **Peter Brown** commented:

They were always there for her. When Anmari was in the mental health unit at Concord they would turn up like two angels. I remember fondly how uplifting it was for me when they would come into the room during some of the times I was visiting Anmari at Concord. Until the moments they arrived I would be exhausted, struggling to cope with the difficulties Anmari was experiencing.

We all share with Pauline and her family their sense of loss. We look forward to the day when we are all reunited in God's Kingdom.

Outreach to Kenyan Orphans

Recently **Rod** felt the need to let **Kalengule** know that the Wollongong church had approved of AUD2,500 to be sent to the Kenyan orphans. That night he received the following message from Kalengule:

God is awesome. He works in ways which are beyond our imagination. Let me share this with you.

Six hours ago, I was in a bus travelling from Chipata where I spent a night on my way from Malawi. While on the bus I got an SOS from **Pastor Rose** who is in charge of orphans and widows in Manyera area of Kenya. "The orphans have no food," she wrote. Since I was far away, I could only offer prayers and send a message to encourage and assure Pastor Rose about God's care and concern for the needy.

When your email came, I was getting ready to alight from the bus and walk home. I did not read the message until now. Here I am reading your message that money has been approved for orphans.

God is wonderful. He works in ways which point us to Him. Hallelujah! Thank you my brother for being a channel of God's love for the needy. Blessings.

Many times we do not know the significance of what we are doing. But we are to be attuned to where Christ is in this world and what he is doing. Thank God for this privilege.



Church Supports PNG Orphanage



Mt Wilhelm GCI made a presentation of blankets to help the orphans at the Mother of Life Centre. Some of these were also shared with the elderly and widows. When **Mark** and **Rod** visited, they were surprised after the welcome day activities and feasting with a procession of orphans and staff from the orphanage who came to present food to the church in appreciation for the blankets. It was formal in the sense the food was placed on a table and speeches of appreciation given by **Martin** and church leaders. Then followed more feasting after the already enjoyed "light" lunch.



The orphanage has many needs. An immediate one is to having running water to flush toilets and provide showers. Mark inspected the problem and came up with a gravity feed water supply from a water tank. This was the charity appeal at the Ulladulla Festival. Almost \$3,000 was raised. Thank you.

We plan to include the orphan children in the church's mini camps, family days and future SEP camps. We will also look at picking up good quality warm clothing for them from Goroka at a very cheap price.

Mother of Life Centre - A Work of Faith

Martin and his wife **Gertrude Teine** run the PNG orphanage.

The centre supports more than 100 boys and over 70 girls. This includes adults who are in higher grades or universities, lower grades to high school and technical colleges. Because of a lack of funding they cannot accommodate many. They receive nothing from the government or the local MP. Over 40 are accommodated at the centre, the rest are with their guardians.



The centre struggles to provide food and clothing, electricity for night studies and supporting bright student in further education.

Gertrude shared:

I am 33 years old. I am a teacher in charge of Irugle elementary school. We have 8 children as well as taking care of orphans and neglected children. Our income is farming, vegetable sale and income from my elementary teaching and sometimes from visitors who are willing to help. I have to feed my 8 children and the students living in the centre. That was a great challenging issue for my life with my husband.

We always bear in mind that we are doing good works for God's glory as it says: *Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done (Prov 19: 17).*

In describing the values of the orphanage, Martin wrote:

1. Everyday we, the caretakers, provide parental love for the kids in the centre, because parental love is a lifetime thing these kids miss.
2. We also have faith in God Almighty that God has a plan for every man he created, because God is LOVE and LOVE does not discount the poor, needy, neglected, homeless and orphans.
3. We are trying to show them that God loves them and we care for them until they become adults and fulfill God's plan in their lives in the future. As he says *"Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be"* (Ps 139: 16).

There is selfless giving at the centre. In 2008, the government recognized the school as a special boarding school and put the teachers on payroll. I might add they hadn't been paid for the last 6 months when we were there and even in the probational first two years. Everyone else is on a volunteer basis to keep the centre running.

Martin says "But as a team we enjoy keeping the centre going." The handy man who has 4 children works without pay. Martin's two sisters, married in nearby villages, seeing that centre needed a hand, came back voluntarily with their children and husbands to support Martin and Gertrude.

Martin wrote: Since the establishment of the project till now we have seen God intervene in many ways. We experience many gifts from individuals or groups in cash or kind. Praise God for that.

More on Web

Ulladulla Festival 2015 Services

If you are able to download the services from the cloud, please contact **Helen Callaghan** who will provide you with a link. A very simple process and immediately available.

If you want the services on MP3 (requiring only one disc) or CDs please contact **Wayne Garratt**.
