

Neil Graham McLean JAN 5 2004. Mile End C of C

1. Welcome and Introduction.

Centuries ago the prophet Jeremiah wrote "The Lord is good to everyone who trusts Him. He allows us to experience times of sorrow, but His love for us remains sure and strong." Jer 3:12

These words about the Lord's love for us provide comfort and assurance as we gather this afternoon to bring our farewells and give thanks and praise to God for the life of Neil Graham McLean.

Neil's sudden and unexpected death while he was showing an overseas student around our beautiful Waterfall Gully, has deeply saddened all who have known and loved Neil, and share with him in his journey of life. Neil is the first of five children ^{in our family} to pass from this life and his sisters Dara, who has travelled from Qld to share with us today and Jean, not well enough to attend, and his brother Makedon and myself, while we sorrow, give thanks to the Lord for all Neil did, to bring joy, goodness, harmony and love in our family life. To Neil's immediate family - his wife Gwen, his children, - and their

spouses, Jim and Christine, Heather and Dennis, Andrew and Vicki, and the grand-children, Daniel, Luke and Olivia, Nathan, Michael and Sherrie, Matthew, Leon and Keith, and two great-grandchildren Charlotte and Jayden, ^{to everyone of you} we express our love and share in your sorrow. We also share your faith as you testified in the "Advertiser" funeral notice - "For ever with the Lord" And to that we can say Amen and praise to our Lord who does all things well.

This large gathering this afternoon is an expression of love, concern & sympathy, that so many people have for you. Our sincere prayer is "May the Lord of peace, give you His peace, comfort and strength in every way." READ COMMENTS.

Scripture For his whole life Neil, was actively involved at the Cowandilla Church of Christ, and it would have been very appropriate to have this Thanksgiving service there. But Mile End was chosen, because of the larger seating capacity, and the strong link between the two churches. Neil attended many gatherings here + and as a young lad in gymnastic classes.

Just

1. (CONT) At the conclusion of the service please adjourn to Blackwells across the road for a cuppa and share a while with Neil's family. Everyone is welcome to join in this time of fellowship.

Appreciation is expressed to Graham Biny for kindly officiating at the organ.

Just

2. Let us pray. "Thank you Lord for your gracious invitation. Come to me all of you who are weighed down with the strain and stress of life, all of you who mourn, Come to me and I will give you rest. Lord we come to you now and thank you for the peace and comfort you bring to us in our time of sorrow. Amen."

Just

3. We are reminded of God's constant love and care as we rise to sing "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Rev

4. Remembrances of Neil's life will be brought to us by his two sons Jim and Andrew and his grandson Luke who will speak on behalf of the grand-children.

Keith Holmes first ministry in South Australia was at Cowandilla and in those early years Keith and Neil shared a great deal in the life & witness of the Cowandilla Church. The family knew that Keith has many fond remembrances of Neil and he has delegated his son Graham to speak on his behalf. Graham in a very real sense represents so many of those young lads that Neil worked with in B.B. Thank you Graham.

We all have fond remembrances of Neil. As his brothers and sisters we remember with thanksgiving his love and commitment to family life. He was keenly interested in the McLean family heritage, and on his visits to Scotland made his way to the old McLean home lands in the Western Isles.

Our great-great grandfather Percival with his wife Christina and their 10 children arrived in South Aust from Scotland on the 463 ton vessel the Navarino on December 6, 1837. On 20 acres of land at what is now Marleston, he grew the first crop of wheat in Sth Aust. Later he settled at Strathalbyn where he died on October 10, 1855 and was buried at the Strathalbyn Cemetery. Many of his descendants were later buried there and Neil with his love for family traditions, made it quite clear to his family that this was to be the place for his burial. This morning his family carried out his wishes, with a simple grave-side burial service at Strathalbyn.

Neil attended the Cowandilla and Thorburn Primary Schools and Murdoch University College. His first job was in the office at the Farmers Union where he met Gwen. He left Farmers Union to join the army in W.W.II and served in a tank corp. While training in Queensland, he broke his neck when he dived into shallow water and for many months, most of his upper body was encased in plaster. On recovery and discharge from the army - Neil managed his own delhi in Pirie St and worked in real estate. In recent years Neil has taken a keen interest in providing for the needs of families in Thailand and India. He has opened his home to overseas students studying in Australia.

Last Monday, he took one of these to Waterfall Gully and in those lovely peaceful surroundings, Neil went to be with the Lord. As a family we remember Neil with love and deep appreciation for all he meant to each of us.

Judith

Let us ^{PAUSE} for a moment of quiet reflection, as we remember with thanksgiving all that Neil meant to us personally.

4. Let us share now in a prayer of thanksgiving. (Judith)

For all the blessings you gave to Neil, during his earthly journey, Father in Heaven we thank you.

For his humble and diligent ministry in the work and worship at the Cewandilla Church. Lord we give you our thanks.

For the way he devoted himself to living the message of Christ to young people, particularly to the lads in the Boys' Brigade. Father in Heaven we thank you.

For all you enabled him to achieve in church, community and the work place - Lord we give you our thanks.

For his deep concern for families in Thailand and India and overseas students studying in Australia. Father we thank you.

For all he meant to his family, and for all you enabled him to do in family life. Lord we give you our thanks.

For the truth that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God, and for your abiding comforting presence to all who sorrow, Father in Heaven we thank you.

Amen.

5. Let us pray the Lord's Prayer Judith

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom Come. Thy will be done on earth As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses. As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Just

6. Let us stand to sing the great hymn
To God Be the Glory - let ^{AS WE} sing together this
lovely hymn, ^{LET US GIVE} as we ~~give~~ God the glory for Neil's life.

Row

7. Scripture. The Scripture lessons will be read by
 two of Neil's grandsons, Nathan and Michael Close.
Nathan will read John 11:11-27
John 14:1-6

8. Message.

These passages of Scripture remind us that
Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and He has made
possible our eternal salvation, through His death on the
cross and resurrection, and has gone to prepare a place in
heaven for us.

All of this encourages us to put our faith and
trust in Christ, and welcome Him into our lives as Lord and
Saviour. Neil did this in the early years of his life and
was baptized at the Cowandilla Church of Christ.

When Neil made his decision to accept Jesus as his
Saviour, he began the wonderful never ending journey of
eternal life. We are assured of this for Jesus said, 'I am telling
you the truth those who hear my words (which Neil did) and
believe in Him who sent me (which Neil did) have eternal
life. They will not be judged, because they have already
crossed over from death to life. When Neil put his faith in
Christ, there and then he crossed over from death to life -
his journey of eternal life began, and now he has wonderfully
gone on to the far better part of that eternal journey.

He is Forever with the Lord.
When we're been there 10,000 years. Bright shining as the sun
We're no less days to sing God's praise. Than when we
first began. What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Jesus.
What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord

Thank you Lord that you are the resurrection
and the life. Thank you Lord that you are the Saviour of
all who put their faith and trust in you.

Thank you Lord for the life of Neil and for the
assurance that he is for ever with you. Amen.

9. Neil was a man who never sought to bring glory
to himself, but used his God given abilities to bring glory
to the Lord. It is appropriate that we conclude this
thanksgiving service by singing. This is the glory:

10. The light of Christ surrounds you, and leads you.
The love of God enfolds and blesses you.
The presence of God watches over you and gives you
comfort and peace.

Whichever you are God is.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of
God, and the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you close
to God the Father and to each other - this day and
forever more. Amen.