

Thanksgiving for the life of

Ian Stillman



1 December 1950 - 25 May 2016

‘Grace be with you’

2 pm, Saturday 15 October 2016
Carey Baptist Church, Reading



Welcome

Rev. David Magowan (pastor, Carey Baptist)

Hymn: Amazing Grace

All

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home

The Lord has promised good to me
His Word my hope secures
He will my Shield and Portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

(John Newton 1725-1807)

Reading: Psalm 146

Jenny Bowles (Ian's sister)

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save.
When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;
on that very day their plans come to nothing.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the
Lord his God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything
in them - the Lord, who remains faithful forever.

He upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind,
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the alien and sustains the fatherless and the
widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

The Lord reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord.

(New International Version UK, 1984)

Personal reflections

Alison Phelps

Ian's sister

Geraldine Dunlop

Interserve worker at Nambikkai

Basil Howlett

Carey Baptist Church

David Buxton

British Deaf Association

Rev. Raymond Abernethy

Retired Pastor for the deaf in Belfast

Prayers

Rev. Selwyn Morgan (former pastor, Carey Baptist)

Hymn: How good is the God we adore

All

How good is the God we adore,
Our faithful unchangeable Friend!
His love is as great as His power,
And knows neither measure nor end!

'Tis Jesus the First and the Last,
Whose Spirit shall Guide us safe home,
We'll praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that's to come.

(J Hart 1712-1768)

Sermon

David Matthews (guest pastor, friend of Ian)

Reading: Nehemiah 1:1-2:8

Jenny Bowles

The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah:

In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.

They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."

When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven. Then I said:

"O Lord, God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and obey his commands, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel. I confess the sins we Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against you. We have acted very wickedly towards you. We have not obeyed the commands, decrees and laws you gave your servant Moses.

"Remember the instruction you gave your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the nations, but if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.'

"They are your servants and your people, whom you redeemed by your great strength and your mighty hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today by granting him favour in the presence of this man."

I was cupbearer to the king.

In the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when wine was brought for him, I took the wine and gave it to the king. I had not been sad in his presence before; so the king asked me, "Why does your face look so sad when you are not ill? This can be nothing but sadness of heart."

I was very much afraid, but I said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not look sad when the city where my fathers are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?"

The king said to me, "What is it you want?" Then I prayed to the God of heaven, and I answered the king, "If it pleases the king and if your servant has found favour in his sight, let him send me to the city in Judah where my fathers are buried so that I can rebuild it."

Then the king, with the queen sitting beside him, asked me, "How long will your journey take, and when will you get back?" It pleased the king to send me; so I set a time.

I also said to him, "If it pleases the king, may I have letters to the governors of Trans-Euphrates, so that they will provide me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah? And may I have a letter to Asaph, keeper of the king's forest, so he will give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel by the temple and for the city wall and for the residence I will occupy?"

And because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests.

(New International Version UK, 1984)

Nambikkai future

Elsbeth Dugdale (Ian's sister)

Prayer

Rev. David Magowan

Hymn: O for a thousand tongues

All

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! The name that charms our fears
That bids our sorrows cease
'Tis music in the sinner's ears
'Tis life and health and peace

He speaks and listening to his voice
New life the dead receive
The mournful broken hearts rejoice
The humble poor believe

He breaks the power of cancelled sin
He sets the prisoner free
His blood can make the foulest clean
His blood availed for me

Hear him he deaf, his praise ye dumb
Your loosened tongues employ
Ye blind behold your Saviour come
And leap ye lame for joy

My gracious Master and my God
Assist me to proclaim
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of Thy name

(Charles Wesley 1707-88)

Blessing

Rev. David Magowan



Refreshments

All are welcome to refreshments provided in the Carey Centre.

Please let us know you were here

It is wonderful you are here but it may be impossible to speak with each one. Please write your name and connection with Ian on one of the cards.

Donations

Any donations will be gratefully received by Friends of Nambikkai and channeled to India to facilitate the new direction of work amongst the deaf and to support Ian's family.

Thank you to...

Rev. David Magowan and all the Carey family for their warm welcome and generous hospitality, especially Basil & Margaret Howlett, Claire Roberts and John Seymour (music)

Helen Fuller (interpreter)

All contributors



*'May the Lord be with your spirit
Grace be with you'†*