

Baptists honour our Queens

How Baptists have honoured Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth

12 September 2022

The death of Queen Elizabeth II has affected everyone profoundly. Feelings were similar the last time a Queen died. In the February 1901 issue of the Queensland Baptist, the outstanding minister of the City Tabernacle, Rev William Whale, wrote:

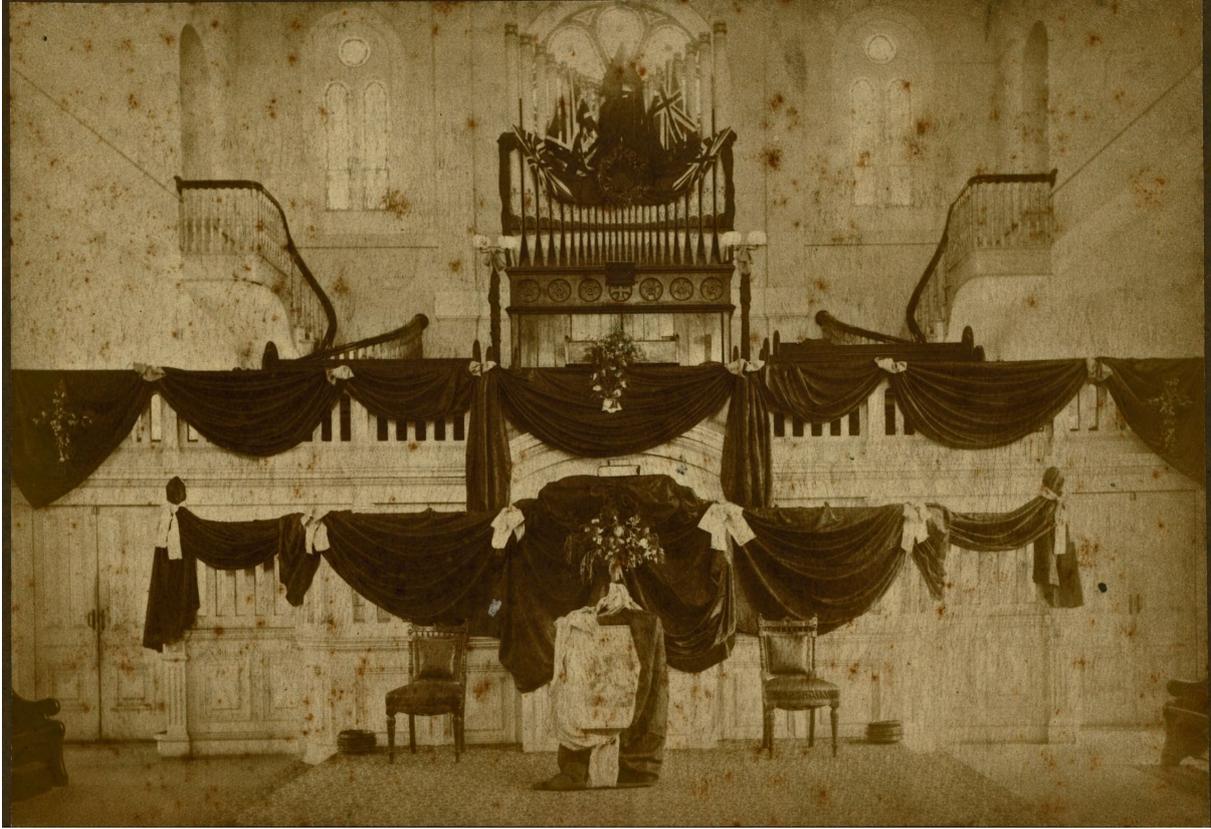
‘So magnificently has Her Majesty filled the high position and performed all its functions and discharged all its obligations, that the statue of the Queen-Empress must be of gigantic proportions.’

After discussing many aspects of her reign and the conditions of the day, he went on to say,

‘The wonder is not our noble Queen has, at length, yielded to the last enemy, but that for so long with such indomitable industry, courage and intelligence she should have borne the burden and heat of the day. [So] the curtain has fall on the great drama of the Victorian Era. ... Our faith looks upward through our tears, and we are assured in our hearts that the great King will greet Victoria with the welcome “Well done, good and faithful servant.’

The church held a special service in honour of her death, and the church was elaborately decorated for the occasion. (see photo)

*City Tabernacle Memorial Service to
Her late Most Gracious Majesty
Queen Victoria*



At the time of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, the Baptist Union issued a formal statement, which read in part, 'Baptists in Queensland have taken the opportunity to honour Queen Elizabeth II, to pray for God's guidance and to pledge their loyalty. An appropriate message was forwarded to Her Majesty on behalf of us all. We place on record our gratitude to God for such a Sovereign.'

That feeling of loyalty and pride was able to express itself tangibly with the first Royal Visit. The Queensland Baptist commemorated that event with a full-page royal portrait on the first page of the March 1954 issue and article inside by the President, Rev A H Brooks, headed, Baptists Welcome OUR Gracious Queen to Queensland. The article said, 'How extraordinary it is that one so young should have such a great influence. Yet perhaps this is not surprising when we consider the pledge she has given under God at Her Coronation.' He concluded, 'There was a time when the visit of a sovereign could bring with it foreboding, but today we are glad that it is possible for a reigning monarch so lovely and so good and

so spiritually alive to visit this distant realm, to bring to us the inspiration of her presence.'

The Queensland Baptist Women's Union joined in the spirit of the Royal Visit too. The secretary, Agnes Beeston, issued a statement endorsing the idea of making the day of the visit to Queensland as 'Family Sunday' and saying, 'May we make this Royal visit memorable in our State by very special Church Services.'