



Speech by

**JULIE ATTWOOD**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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Hansard 22 March 2001

**CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY**

**Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommamey—ALP) (6.57 p.m.): It will be a great day tomorrow when I am able to turn the sod on stage 1 of a magnificent future \$5.4 million complex for the Cornerstone Christian Family. I first made contact with members of this church in 1996 and was impressed with the cultural diversity of the congregation. There were many people from many ethnic backgrounds—Chinese, Vietnamese, Bangladeshi, African. This is a church of many peoples and it looks forward to continuing to grow.

The history of the church is itself a bit of a miracle. Cornerstone Christian Family started in February 1987 when Pastor Percy and Diane Campbell came from Singapore to plant a baby church in the western suburbs of Brisbane, Australia. Percy and Diane were sponsored by two Anglican churches in Singapore, St John's, St Margaret's and Church of Our Saviour.

Before migrating to Australia, Percy was principal of Tung Ling Bible College in Singapore and was deeply involved in church renewal through the Anglican and Methodist denominations. He said—

They were very fruitful times and we give thanks to God for the generous spirit of the Singapore churches in sending the Campbell family and supporting the new baby church.

The church grew quickly, with a vision of making disciples and planting churches, and today there have been 33 churches planted from the mother church—in Thailand, Philippines and Australia.

In 1989 the then two year old church began looking for property or land to give the church a stable home, but after two years and hundreds of hours of searching all attempts proved fruitless. During a Mother's Day service in 1990 the guest speaker, Reverend Gordon Gibbs, from Sydney, shared with Percy that there was a clear vision of a block of land nearby. He described the old, broken down buildings on the land and said that 'this would be ours within a period of three weeks'. To be brief, within three weeks of thinking that they would get some land, 9.5 acres of land unexpectedly came up for sale and it was identical to the guest speaker's description. In just the last week, Brisbane City Council has informed the church that it is in favour of the building proposal.

Cornerstone Christian Family is a multicultural cell group church which has blessed many countries. Looking back at the church's roots, we see that their South-East Asian brothers and sisters planted a fertile seed of faith in this country. It is now time to raise finance to build the church, to provide a magnificent temple for use in the western suburbs. We look forward to a great future and a great facility for the Cornerstone Christian Family in a beautiful setting. There will be opportunities for people from all walks of life—

Time expired.

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