



# Evangelical Households and Ministry in Colonial NSW

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# 1. Evangelical Households in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century





The evangelical vision: to civilize and convert

Doubtless, this more favourable disposition to Religion in the female sex, was graciously designed also to make women doubly valuable in the wedded state: and it seems to afford to the married man the means of rendering an active share in the business of life more compatible, than it would otherwise be, with the liveliest devotional feelings; that when the husband should return to his family, worn and harassed by worldly cares or professional labours, the wife, habitually preserving a warmer and more unimpaired spirit of devotion, than is perhaps consistent with being immersed in the bustle of life, might revive his languid piety ...

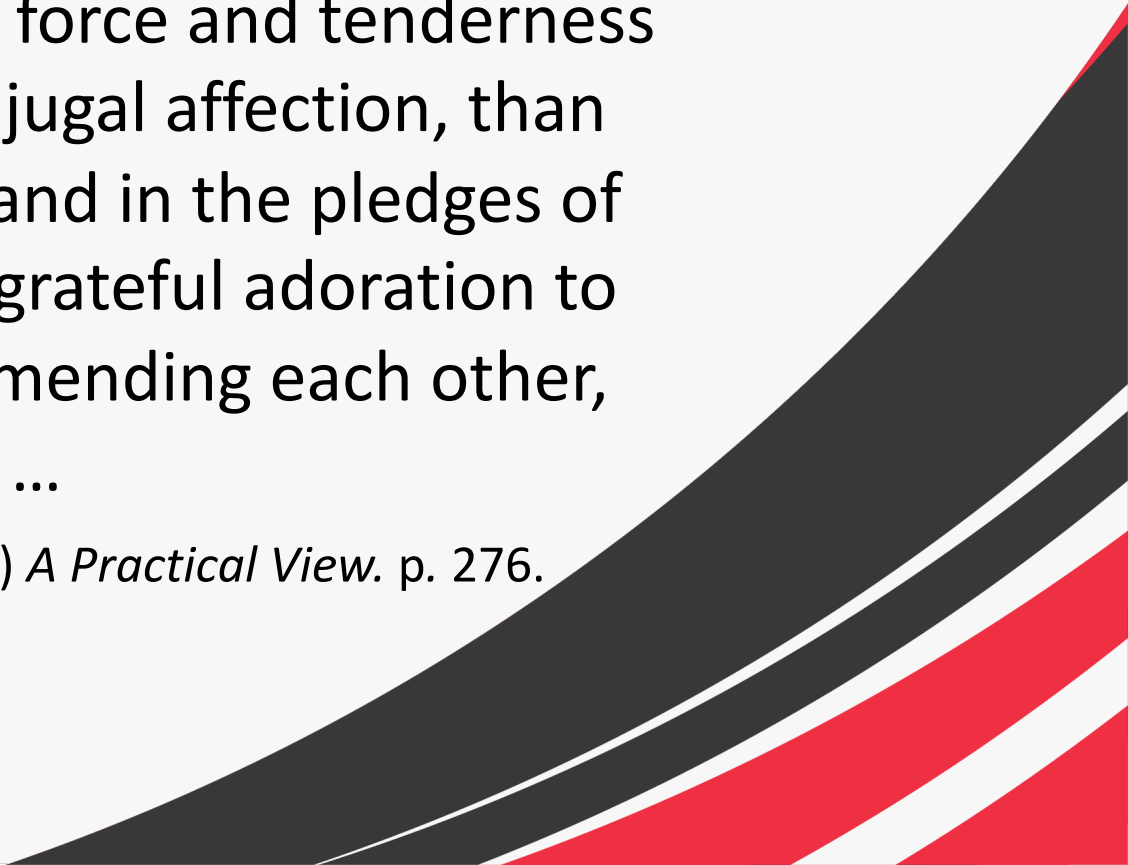
Evangelical view of marriage





... and that the religious impressions of both might derive new force and tenderness from the animating sympathies of conjugal affection. Can a more pleasing image be presented to a considerate mind, and that the religious impressions of both might derive new force and tenderness from the animating sympathies of conjugal affection, than that of a couple, happy in each other and in the pledges of their mutual love, uniting in an act of grateful adoration to the author of all their mercies; recommending each other, and the objects of their common care ...

William Wilberforce (1796) *A Practical View*. p. 276.



# Hannah More



## The ideal wife?

1. Manages the household: “study household good and good works in her husband to promote.”
2. Educated: “a friend, a companion, and a wife.”
3. Concern herself with the religious instruction of children.
4. Does works of charity.

Hannah More (1808) *Coelebs in Search of a Wife Vol. 2.*

## 2. The Marsden Household: Samuel (1765-1838) and Eliza (1772-1835)

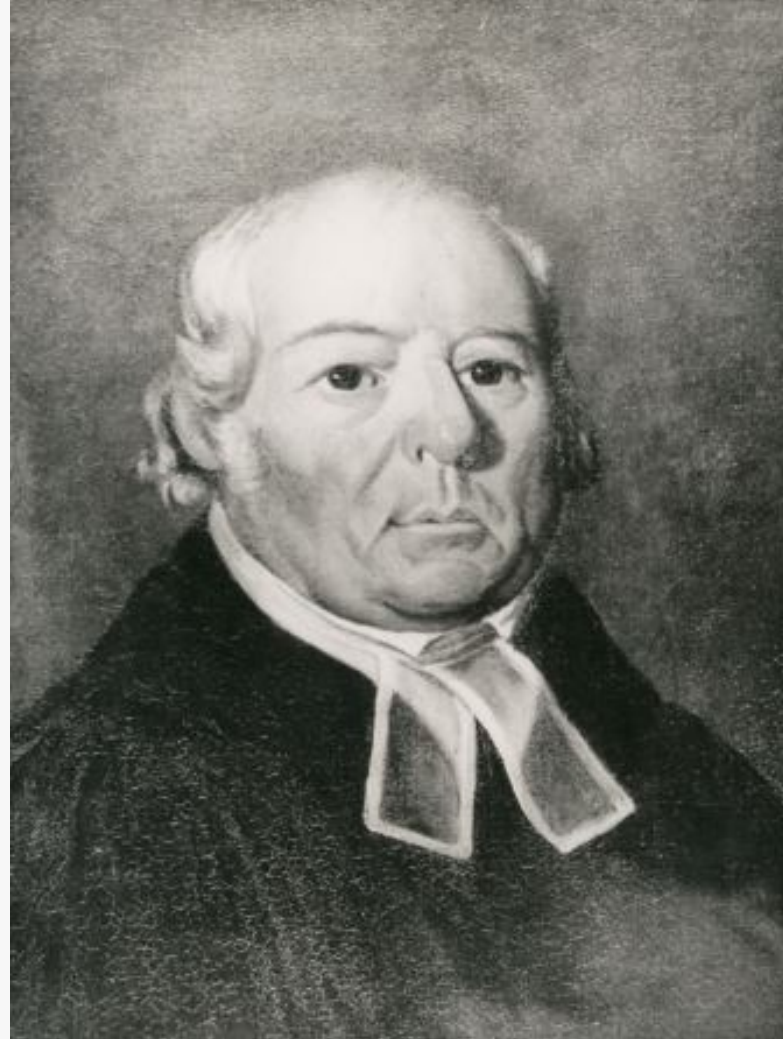


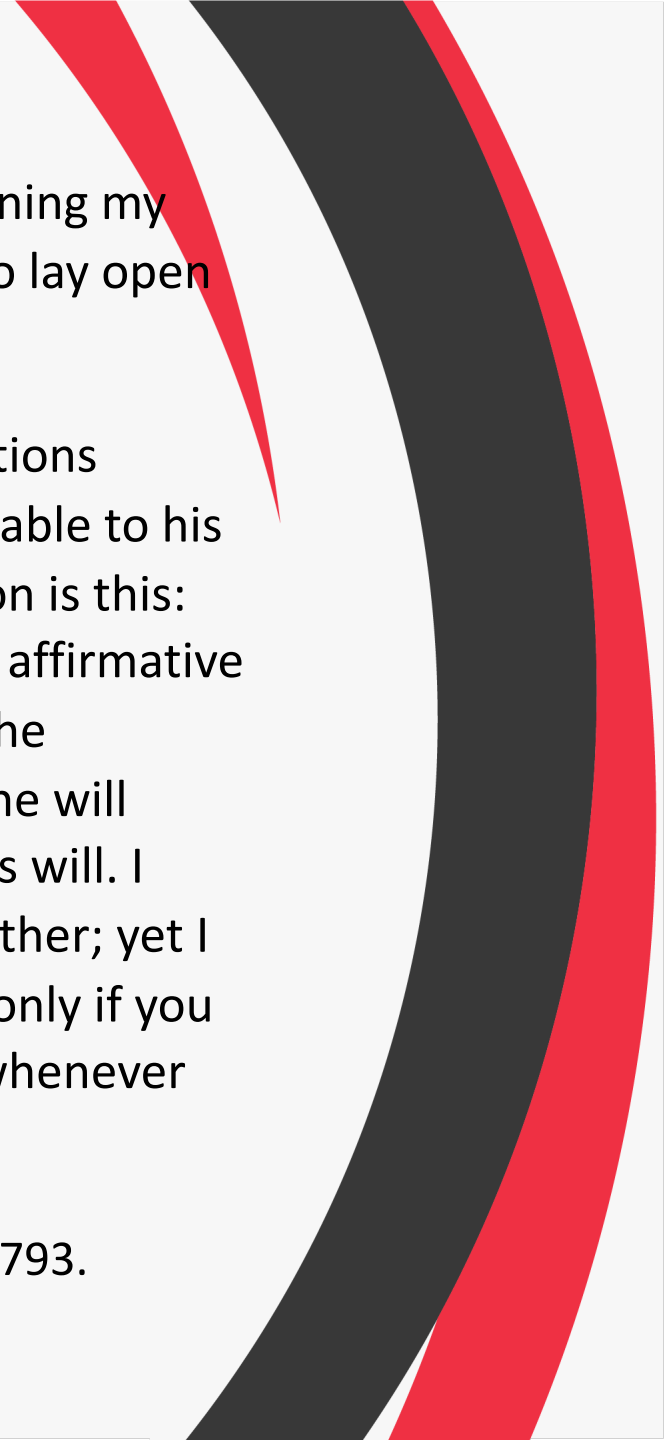
(Samuel Marsden is) ... Expressly formed by Providence to produce a most beneficial change and not only throughout the limited tract of New South Wales, but the vast extent of Australasia, to Christianise and civilise the barbarians that constitute its original inhabitants and to re-Christianise and re-civilise the hordes of wretched culprits that are vomited by our prison ships upon its shores.

*The Missionary Register, Dec 1809, 499.*



# Marriage (1793)





Dear Betsy... Since my lot is now, seemingly cast, and God appears to be opening my way to carry the gospel of his son to distant lands, the time is come for me to lay open my thoughts to you, which have long been hid in my own breast.

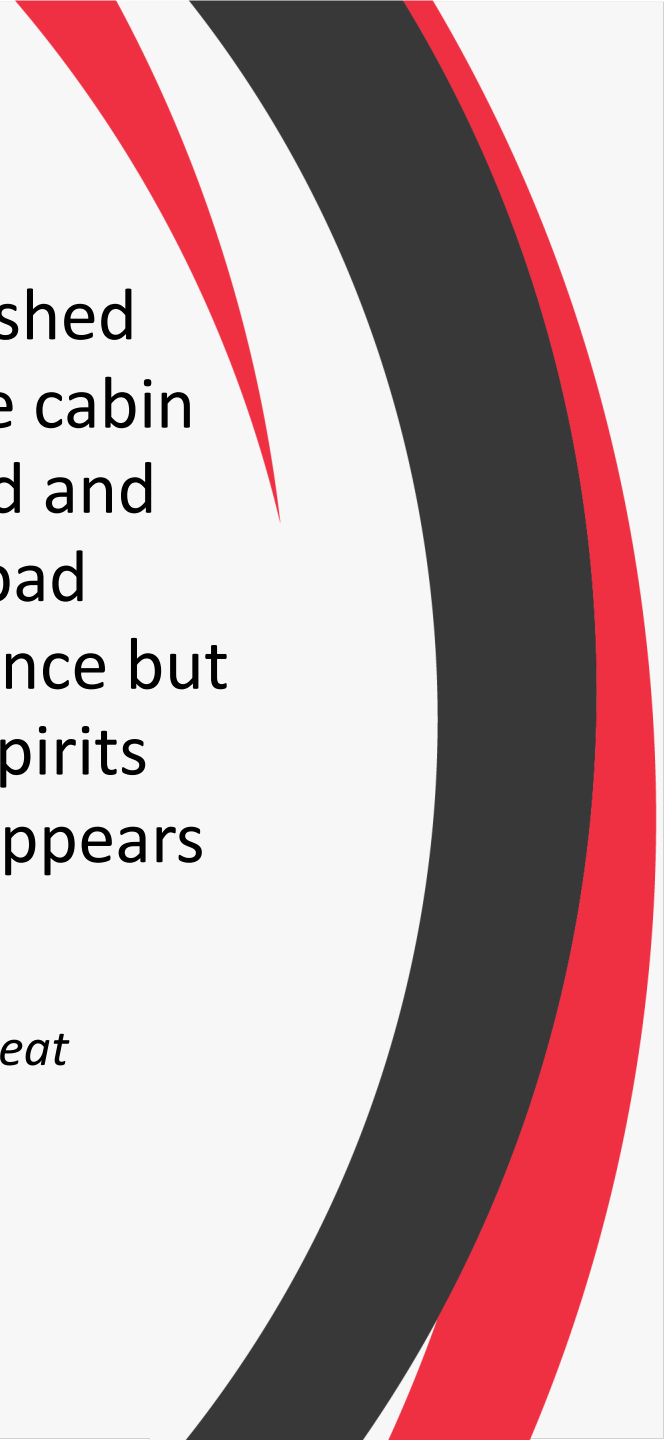
I shall venture to submit to your consideration the following important questions (praying at the same time that the Lord would enable you to answer it agreeable to his own will, and in such a way conduce to your happiness as mine.) The question is this: Will you go with me? If, upon considering the subject, you can answer in the affirmative and say 'I am willing', then my heart (as far as it is proper I should give it to the creature) and all I have are yours. I believe if it be for my good and his glory he will provide me with a helpmate, and if not he will give me a mind resigned to his will. I persuade myself I should be happy in the enjoyment of you more than any other; yet I do not wish to purchase my own peace at the expense of your comfort, but only if you think you would be happy. ... Then I cheerfully offer my hand and my heart whenever you please. I remain, dear Betsy, yours most affectionately, S. Marsden.

Marsden to Miss Fristan, London, 14 March 1793.

# Family

- Anne Marsden (1794-1885)
- Charles Simeon (1798-1801)
- Elizabeth (1799-1879)
- John (1801-1803)
- Charles Simeon (the second) (1803-1868)
- Mary (1806-1885)
- Jane Catherine (1808-1885)
- Martha Marsden (1811-1885)





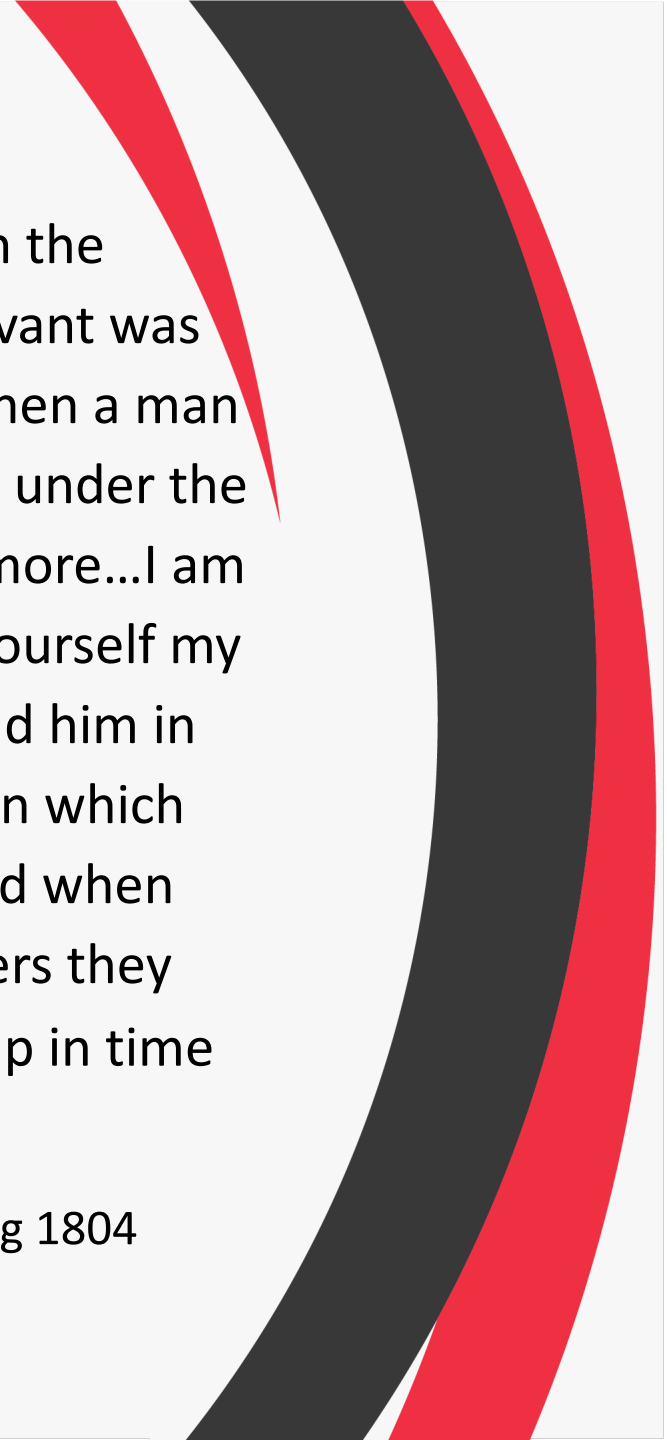
... the child was no sooner born when a great wave washed over the Quarter deck, and forced its way into our little cabin thro' the port hole, part of the water fell upon the child and also wet our linen etc. ....Mrs M, notwithstanding the bad weather, the damp linen, the wet cabin, and no assistance but such as I could give, yet she hath had a good day, her spirits have never been down her mind seems easy and she appears in a very fair way to do well.

Marsden's Journal 2 March 1794, quoted in Yarwood, *Samuel Marsden: The Great Survivor*, 29.





The Marsden home at Parramatta



You have no doubt heard what an affliction we have been visited with in the melancholy death of our dear little boy. We was going to the farm a servant was driving him and me in a single chaise. Mr Marsden was on horseback when a man twenty yards from our own home carelessly run a wheelbarrow directly under the wheel of the chaise and overturned it, and my dear child never stirred more...I am conscious that his was a happy translation yet dear Madam picture to yourself my feelings to have him in health and spirits and the next moment to behold him in the arms of death. I was wonderfully supported and had one consolation which the world cannot give neither take away. He who is faithful has promised when thou passest through the waters I will be with thee and through the rivers they shall not overflow thee. God is a refuge and strength, a very present help in time of need.

Elizabeth Marsden to John Piper, Aug 1804



Aboriginal Children





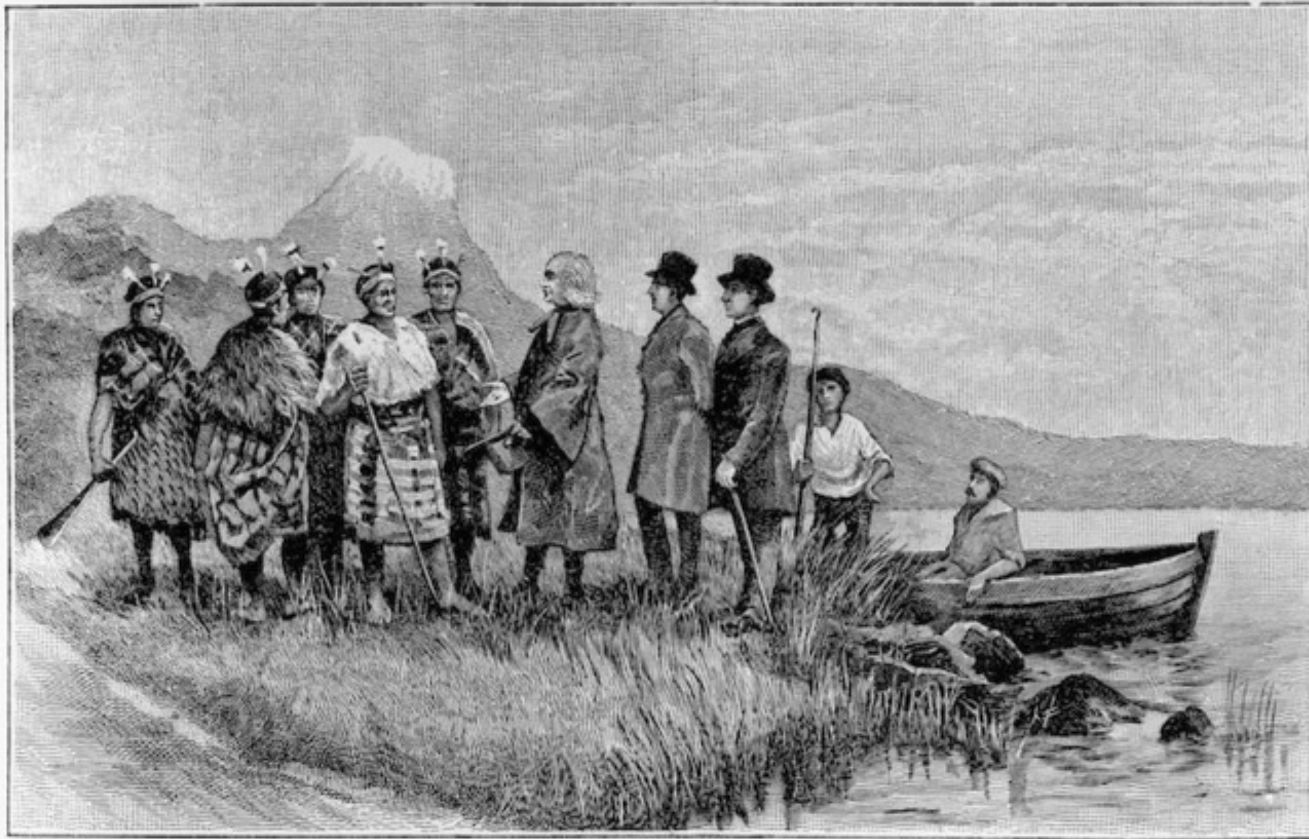
# 3. Ministry



St John's Parramatta 1803



# Ministry



Landing of Samuel Marsden at Bay of Islands, Dec. 19th, 1814.

# 3. The Hassall Household

Thomas (1794-1868) and Anne (1794-1885)







*Emancipation of the Negroes in the West Indies. U.C. Lodge, Ed.*





- Thomas (1794-1868)
- Samuel Otoo (1796-1830)
- Jonathan (1798-1834)
- Mary Cover (1799-1825)
- James (1802-1862)
- Eliza Cordelia (1804-1835)
- Susanna Marsden (1806-1890)
- Ann (1808-1891)
- Elizabeth (1810-1812).

The children of Rowland and Elizabeth Hassall



# Marriage (1822)

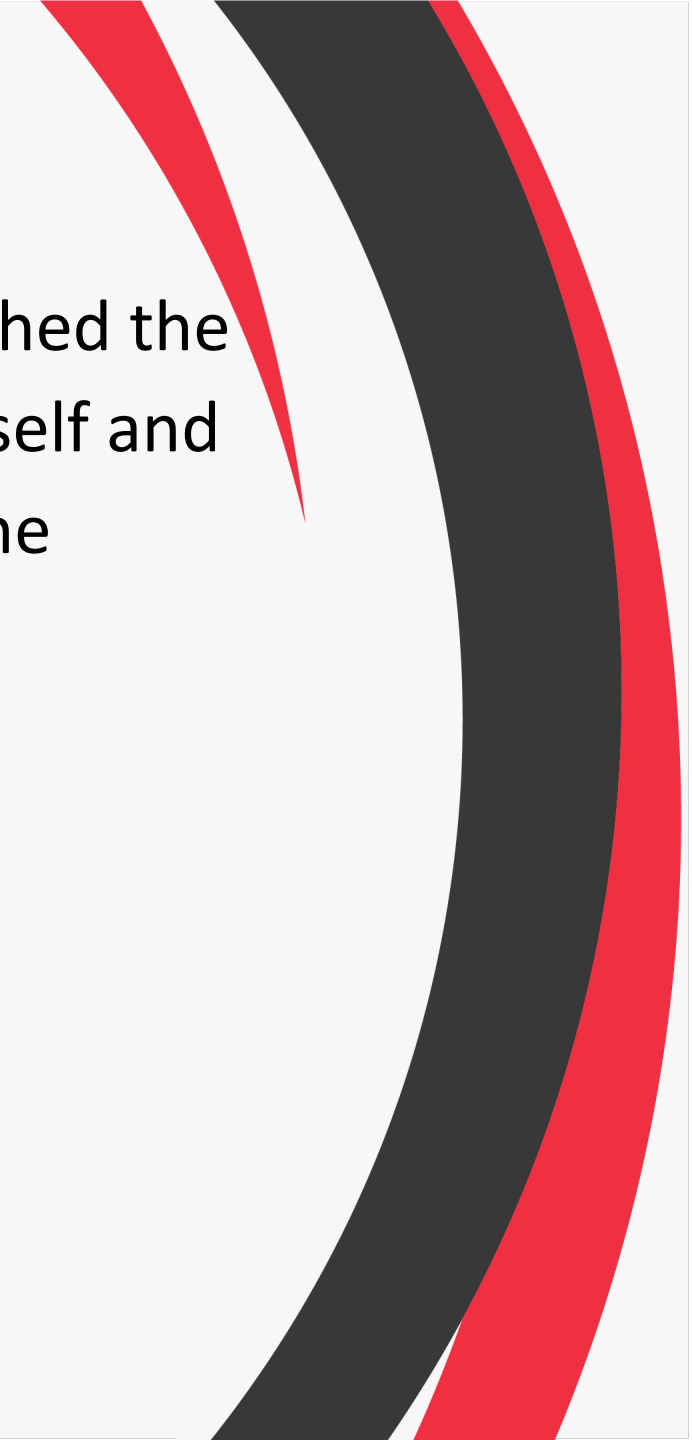


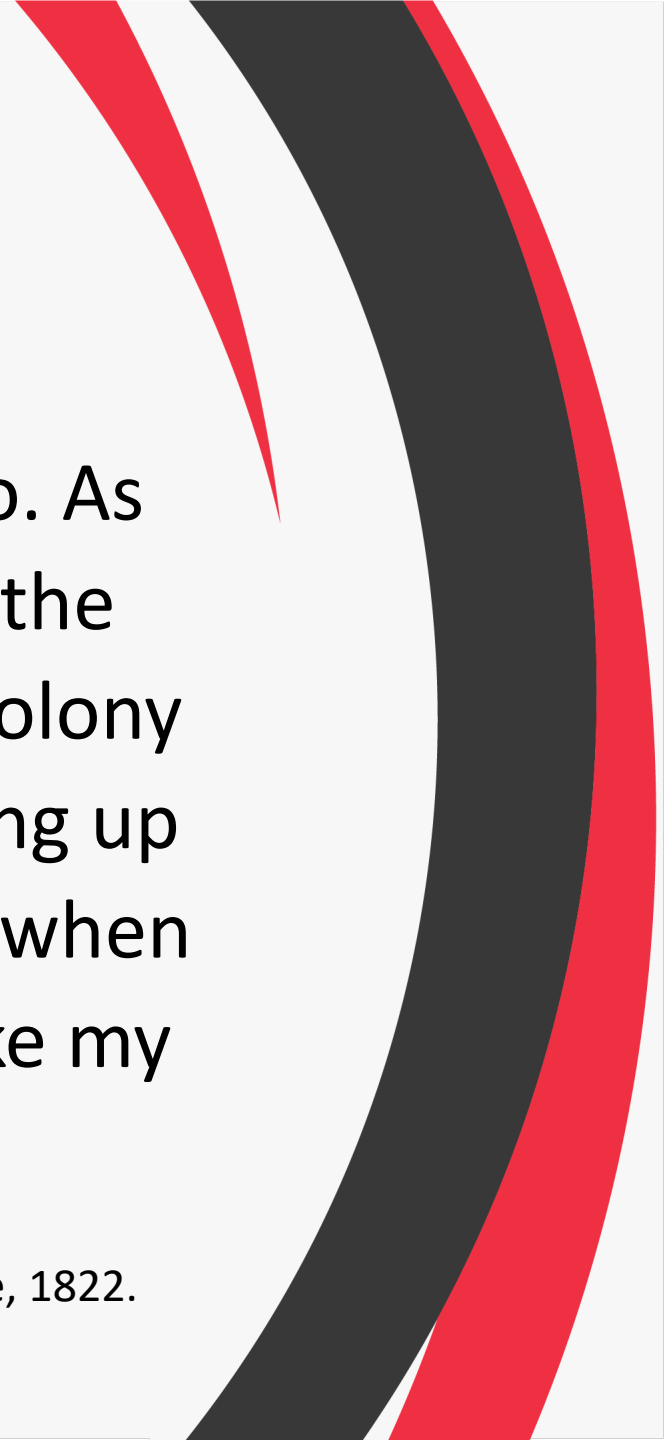


The First Sunday School Parramatta 1815

Has not the glimmering of the Sun Schools exertion reached the most distant parts of the world even to the Antipodes itself and shall we not fan it into a flame that shall not enlighten the Christian but the heathen world?

Thomas Hassall, "To My Friends", 1819.





The Rev. Hassall is well and promises to be a very faithful and useful minister of the gospel. He was married to my oldest daughter about a month ago. As they are both pious, and have for years walked in the fear of God, I hope they will be a blessing to the colony when my labours are ended. ...A generation is rising up to serve the Lord. It is no small satisfaction to me when I see my son-in-law and my daughter ready to take my place, should I be removed.

Marsden to the Secretary of CMS, Parra,. 26 June, 1822.



# Family

- James Samuel (1823-1904)
- Catherine Elizabeth (1825-1923)
- Marianne (1827-1911)
- George Thomas (1828-1910)
- Harriet Jane (1830-1910)
- Charles (1832-1919)
- Eliza Marsden (1834-1918)
- Emily (1836-1838)



# Ministry



Church at Port Macquarie



Denbigh, Cobbity

# Conclusions

- The changing role of women in the household and in ministry
- Ministry is facilitated by godly households
- The significance of children's ministry and the "the rising generation"
- The significance of family history, passing the faith down through the generations