

### **Centenary of the first German Settlement in South Australia and the foundation of the Lutheran Church in Australia.**

The Centenary of the landing of the first German settlers in South Australia and the foundation of the Lutheran Church in Australia was celebrated in Tanunda on the 20th November by the unveiling of a memorial over the original tombstone of Pastor Kavel at the Langmeil cemetery. The erection of this monument for the leader of the first organized group of German emigrants to Australia on the anniversary of the day, on which a hundred years ago the ship "Prince George" on which they travelled anchored at the entrance to Port Adelaide, formed a dignified conclusion to the respect paid by thankful descendants to the German-Australien Pilgrim Fathers. These Lutheran pioneers had already been commemorated by the erection of a memorial at the Klemzig cemetery two years ago. Their spirit and that of Pastor Kavel lives on in the Evangelical Lutheran church in Australia, which throughout the 100 years of its history has never abandoned its efforts to preserve the German language, German manners and customs and the old German piety. The memorial works which have been written on the history of this church, and those in the course of being written are eloquent witnesses to this fact.

The impetus for the first organized German settlement in Australia was given by disagreements which broke out in the Prussian Church in the 20ies and 30ies of the last century. This caused 166 confirmed Lutherans from the village of Klemzig near Züllichau in the province of Brandenburg to emigrate to South Australia under the leadership of Pastor Kavel. A little way from the South Australian capital Adelaide they founded the first German settlement in Australia which was called after their home village Klemzig, of which a few clay huts on the bank of the Torrens River and the old

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*Quotation, with acknowledgment permitted.*

*"Of utmost importance is the development of will power*

***"Of utmost importance is the development of will power and purposefulness, and the cultivation of a cheerful acceptance of responsibility."***

***Adolf Hitler "My Struggle."***

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cemetery, on which the memorial to the first inhabitants of Klemzig was erected, are still preserved. Klemzig itself is to-day a suburb of Adelaide, in which only a few Germans dwell.

The inauguration of the Lutheran Church of Australia is dated from the 20th November, 1838, the day on which Pastor Kavel arrived in Adelaide with this small congregation.

Pastor Kavel acted as minister in Klemzig and in the surrounding settlements founded by German colonists between 1838 and 1841. In 1846 he made his headquarters in the congregation of Langmeil, which had been founded only three years previously. He passed away in Langmeil on the 12th February, 1860. The present day town of Tanunda is an extension of the original settlement in Langmeil.

The German community in Australia will always hold the memory of these German pioneers in honour.

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