



*One quick community service announcement! Tomorrow (Thursday, 21 May, 10:30am) at church is the **Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea**, organised by the Thursday Study Group. Please come along, and if you can donate – donate [HERE](#).*

Dear Friends,

As Melissa Lipsett of Baptist World Aid told the story of Anunita (pictured here) on Sunday, I found myself remembering an expression (and the story behind the expression) my family used to use.

When I was little, if you were tucked away in a corner with your nose in a book (my favourite place to be) or not joining in with family activities or household chores (I was occasionally guilty of this) my grandmother or mother, or one of my aunts, would say, *“What are you doing there, sitting up like Jackie Backhouse?”*

Or at least, that’s what I *thought* they were saying, but I realised, in my twenties and thirties, that I didn’t hear anyone else using this expression. So I asked my mother one day, and she explained that in my great-grandmother’s street in Pymble in Sydney there was a family with a child with a disability, and each day, they – not having other options at the time – would feed and dress him and put him in a chair on the back porch to watch what was happening in the backyard, and neighbour’s

backyards, all day. His last name wasn't 'Backhouse' after all. It was just a truncation of the phrase, 'at the back of the house'.

The fate of Jackie in the early 1900's was like Anunita, whose story Melissa shared on Sunday.

Anunita is ten and lives in Bangladesh with her parents, grandmother, and younger brother. She lives with multiple disabilities, and for a long time her family carried not only the practical weight of her care, but also the painful misunderstanding of a community that perceived her condition as a curse. Without access to therapy, support, or clear information, Anunita spent much of her time lying in bed and her condition worsened.

As a result of Baptist World Aid's '*Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and Vulnerable without Disabilities*' (ILPWDVD) project, however, a different future for Anunita began to open. Her mother joined a Disability Inclusion Group and learned about a nearby therapy centre, where Anunita could receive regular physiotherapy and where her mother could learn simple exercises to continue at home each day. Slowly, steadily, things began to change. Anunita's strength and mobility improved.

Today, as Melissa said, she can attend her local primary school—an extraordinary step toward inclusion, participation, and hope. Her story reminds us that justice begins with seeing the image of God in a child too easily overlooked, refusing to send her needs away, and building the kind of sustained, local support that helps a family not merely cope, but flourish.

Can I encourage you – again - to give generously to this program. Our Christmas Offering giving was extraordinarily generous and it would be wonderful if we could go some way towards that. If you would like a tax-deductible receipt, please use the web-based form - [LINK to THANK OFFERING FORM](#) or if you prefer direct deposit, the bank account details are below:

Account name: Canberra Baptist Church

BSB: 062901

Account number:10157437

Description: Surname Thank Offering

As Melissa said on Sunday after that challenging and wonderful reading of the story of the feeding of the 5,000: *"When we next hear the whisper, "Send them away," may we hear a louder voice: "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And when we are tempted to answer, "We have only...", may we feel the gentle invitation: "Bring them here to me." Then, as we bless, break, give, and gather, may we be able to say: "They all ate and were satisfied."*

Amen to that! Grace and peace,

Belinda