

IN MEMORY - HARRY WINBUSH

We record with sorrow the death of our dearly loved Brother in the Lord Jesus Christ, Harry Winbush, on 30th May, 1990 at the age of 86 years.

Harry was brought up in a sincere, loving Christian home where the principles of the Bible were paramount and he was a devout follower of the Lord over his whole life.

He loved to study the Bible and to discuss it with anyone who wished to share his love of the word of God. Indeed, on the night that he was stricken with the stroke that was to end his life, the Tuesday evening class in his home had just finished a study of the Book of Revelation and he was eager to discuss his desire to write a treatise on this wonderful book of the Bible.

Although Harry was born in Melbourne, he lived his early years in Toora, Gippsland. It was there his parents, William Winbush and Bessie Shallcross, had met and were married in 1902. His mother's parents, William and Elizabeth Shallcross, were a major influence on Harry's life, as they were devout Christians and they assisted in instilling a love of the Bible in all their family.

With his Sunday School training by earnest Christian teachers, coupled with Harry's home influence and the learning of Scripture texts under the special guidance of his loving grandmother, Harry showed his desire to serve and please God right from a very early age.

That early training was always paramount throughout his life, perhaps not more so than at the time of his dearly loved mother's death in 1918, when Harry was 14 and the eldest child in a family of five children. Together with the unwavering leadership of and dedication to his family by his father, Harry responded with total loyalty during extremely difficult times.

He pursued his studies diligently and was awarded a scholarship from Brunswick Technical School for architectural studies at the Working Men's College (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology - RMIT). He was then able to complete his qualifications in Melbourne and later in England. When Harry returned to Melbourne, the depression had overtaken everyone and while he gained a position with the railways for a while, he was retrenched as he was the last one to be employed there. Although he was highly qualified, no work was available in Melbourne so Harry went with his bicycle to Hamilton, a small country town in Victoria, to ride around the area selling *Rawleigh* products to earn just sufficient to cover bare necessities.

Later he obtained work in Melbourne and also commenced his own architectural practice. He also lectured at the Prahran Technical School and then at RMIT, going on to become Head of the Department of Architecture and Building.

Harry married Jessie McKenzie in 1935; she was the daughter of Christians whom Harry had known all his life, and Jessie was a loving helpmeet until her death in 1973. They suffered a great tragedy in the loss of their baby daughter, Florence, who only lived for two days, but their very happy marriage lasted for nearly 40 years. They had built their home in Essendon near Jessie's parents very soon after their marriage.

There are so many aspects to his life that were notable but the most important were his life of dedication to God, his willingness to serve others, his humility, his love of a joke and his teaching ability.

His dedication to serving others was also shown in his membership of Rotary international for nearly fifty years and the high regard he was held in by his fellow members.

Harry was a long serving member of the Bible Class in Melbourne and showed a special interest in the younger members of the congregation. For many years he taught in the Sunday School and with the support of his wife Jessie, started a young people's class at his office in Melbourne and later on Friday evenings in his home and at the homes of various members. His caring attitude to the younger members and assistance in understanding the Bible has been appreciated by all those who were privileged to attend those classes.

Over the years he carried out many duties, including that of chairman of classes, taking of services and giving sermons, organising conferences and public witness work and his contribution will be greatly missed by the congregation.

In 1974 Harry married Dorothy Hoppen whom he had known since Sunday School days. Dorothy also had suffered the sad loss of her husband, Keith, shortly before Jessie's death. Their marriage gave them both many more years of happiness in sharing their lives together and in their Christian work. As well as the dedicated work that he did for all the meetings and Bible conferences for the congregation. Harry and Dorothy were fortunate to be able to visit brethren whom they loved in America and England. Harry's active and resourceful mind together with his remarkable memory, proved invaluable. In all his endeavours and he greatly appreciated Dorothy's ever-loving help and her hospitality, so that friends always received a very warm welcome in their home.

Our loving sympathy goes out to Dorothy and her family and to Harry's sisters in their loss, as well as to all who have lost a wonderful counsellor, guide and friend, but we know that his great Christian influence will always continue, and we rejoice that Harry has finished his course on earth.

At this time we feel that it is appropriate that we recall the words of the well loved hymn *Happy Day* which was also one of Harry's favourites.

HAPPY DAY

O happy day, that fixed my choice
On thee, my Saviour and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice
And tell its raptures all abroad.

Now rest, my long divided heart
Fixed on this blissful centre, rest
Nor ever from thy Lord depart
With him of ev'ry good possessed.

Yes, happy ev'ry day has been
Since I am his and he is mine
He leads me and I follow on
Directed through the Word divine.

Chorus

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away
He taught me how to watch and pray
And live rejoicing ev'ry day
Happy day, happy day
When Jesus washed my sins away.

A comment at a recent discussion possibly sums up Harry's nature best. When the topic of favourite verses arose, he said that his favorite verses were in Genesis and Revelation 22:20 and 21

and ALL the verses in between.

We all look to that great promise in Revelation:

"He which testifieth these things saith,
Surely I come quickly. Amen.
Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."