

THE FIRST 25 YEARS

My task is to recount those first 25 years as I remember Burwood Church of Christ when I was young.

I was there from the beginning but did not make a sound until 3 weeks after

the inaugural meeting on 2nd May 1920. There were 5 families living in and around Burwood who were travelling back to their "home" churches at Lidcombe, Auburn, City Temple and Enmore. Their desire was to establish a church

in Burwood where their children could be trained in New Testament Christianity as they understood it, and to witness to that Truth. Mostly they were young with family and financial responsibilities and the normal working week was 5-1/2 days. World War I was just behind them and the GREAT DEPRESSION just a few years ahead.

TRANSPORT UNPAVED ROADS; HORSE-DRAWN DELIVERY CARTS FOR MILK, BREAD, THE "rabbito" and "clothes props" salesmen, horse-drawn cabs. The railway was through of course and I imagine the trams ran early on from Concord to Ashfield via Croydon Park.

There in the Council Hall off Condor St. I remember looking for God. The man was talking to Him but I could not find Him - not in the rafters, nor round the seats.. Well? I did not know then God is a Spirit and learning about him is a life long privileged journey. Then too, I recall Kindergarten there. Ina Stow was one of my teachers there and she died only last week.

The church grew steadily as we settled in the new building in Clarence Street. SUNDAY SCHOOL WAS BIG

when kinder chairs were ordered they asked for 30. Then there was the Big School of 8 or 10 classes (boys one side and girls the other and the Bible Class. There was plenty of activity through the year

a) Bible school exam - not compulsory but most sat for it and we earned many State prizes. Both teachers and scholars worked hard with extra lessons and learning passages of scripture by heart.

b) BIBLE SUNDAY A PROGRAM PROVIDED BY THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF SPECIAL SINGING AND PLAYS TO BE LEARNED AND PRESENTED ON

BIBLE SUNDAY.

c) ANNIVERSARY weeks of preparation of items and songs. Kinders presented their programme Sunday afternoon (very popular) and Big School sang their special songs, all sitting up in the tiers of seats on the platform, girls in new summer frocks, boys all spruced up too. In the hey day the Big School & Bible Class put on their programme one night in the week. *Sunday night.*

d) PICNIC EXCITEMENT AS WITH MUGS HANGING ON A STRING WE WENT IN LORRIES TO A PICNIC PARK FOR GAMES, RACES AND

FOOD. ON OCCASIONS WE TRAVELLED BY TRAIN TO PARRAMATTA PARK, AND A COUPLE OF TIMES BY FERRY TO RODD ISLAND.

e) CHRISTMAS TREE FOR THE KINDERS AND A CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR OLDER CHILDREN. AS HAPPENS THE WORLD OVER SUNDAY

SCHOOL NUMBERS INCREASED AS THE LAST 2 EVENTS DREW NEAR.

A1/ THESE EVENTS DREW PARENTS - (WE ALL WANT OUR CHILDREN TO BE CARED ABOUT) AND SOME CAME ALONG TO SERVICES AS A RESULT. SUNDAY SCHOOL ALSO OFFERED MEMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE GOD IN DEDICATED TEACHING. CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR WAS ESTABLISHED EARLY WHEN LLOYD PIPER WAS A JCE leader. This movement was a strong influence in training young people in regular prayer and Bible reading and hearing their own voices as they presented their Papers on a given topic. In the 1930s we had 3 grades - Juniors, Intermediats and Young People.

K.S.P; AND P.B.P CLUBS for boys and girls respectively were active and provided social and physical activity during the week. The Club Sports when teams from different Churches of Christ clubs met for a great day of competition

We had a church choir. For some years Lloyd Piper was the conductor and Edna Evans the organist. Yes, we used the organ to good effect. Other instruments were used too for special occasions such as anniversaries.

We had a Ladies Aid or Dorcas from the beginning. The women met for fellowship, spiritual growth, service to the church and sewing for the Boys' Home, missions and any local needs. There was a Relief Fund during the depression enabling the church to respond to very real basic needs in the community

It was during the ministry of J.R. LEACH, our first minister I gave my life to the Lord and followed in baptism and continued in a lifetime growth in Him. I had the ministry of all those depicted on the board and many dedicated Sunday School teachers, C.E. leaders and others. For all these and my christian home I thank God. Roy and I met here of course and for the great blessing our life together has been to me I THANK GOD

THE FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS WERE CRUCIAL IN MY LIFE. WHAT LOVE AND SECURITY I HAVE FOUND!