

Newsletter

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Please remember brothers, this newsletter should not be read out at congregation meetings or placed on the congregation notice board

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IN LOVING MEMORY:



**William Bull
(1932—2015)**

Bill can only be described as a loyal, faithful man. His parents were Christian people who learned the Truth when Bill was just a young child. He always said the many people in his life gave him a heritage that caused him to be the final man we came to love and respect. Three of those mentioned at his memorial were:

His father's love of God's word and value of its advice was seen through reading it daily, an example Bill followed all his life.

His mother was a very hard working lady who, as well as working to help provide for the family, also spent a day every week caring for her grandparents. Despite caring for these responsibilities, she still made the ministry her priority, even doing

75 hours per month.

A circuit overseer who used to take Bill as a young man to visit those in the congregation. No matter how late the time, all were visited, an example of loving concern for the brothers that never left him.

Bill was baptised at 17 years of age. He willingly took on roles of congregation servant, circuit overseer and, by the age of 37, a district overseer at one of Britain's largest international conventions to date, held at Wembley, London in 1969.

THE CARER

Bill's wife Dorothy was diagnosed with renal failure in 1965 and given 10-15 years to live. During the next ten years she was still able to support him in the travelling work but in 1975 Dorothy suffered complete kidney failure, bringing drastic changes to their lifestyle. (*See Awake! 8 January 1985, pages 18-22*) Bill set up home and cared for his wife who needed dialysis three days a week for almost twenty years.

After Dorothy's death, Bill got involved with HLC work visiting doctors in Britain and Europe. He was based in the Czech Republic focusing on the needs of the brothers in Eastern Europe who, because of illness, required support.

THE TRUSTEE

Bill volunteered to assist us at Jah-

Jireh after the Charity was established in 2000. He worked tirelessly with the board of trustees and was a great spiritual support whenever difficulties arose that required a loving, caring, but mature approach to succeed. He supported the brothers in Czech Republic in their efforts to care for their elderly brothers and sisters, doing the same in Canada, South Korea and more recently, America.

Bill would visit our homes in the UK, encouraging the managers and their staff, while also spending time with the elderly brothers and sisters, (some of whom he had known from his youth) who now needed help in their old age.

He also did whatever he could to raise awareness for our new home to be established in The Medway Towns, in Kent, meeting with many brothers and sisters to explain the charity and how Jah-Jireh operates.

THE FRIEND

What a delightful man to have around, always joyful and happy, he loved to relate stories, especially sharing experiences from his youthful travels in the circuit work. He had a great sense of humour, often telling jokes and making us laugh, memories we will treasure. He was a smart and dignified man, well respected amongst his peers and much loved by all.

His final words to us a few days before he died was his familiar expression whenever we parted company:

"FARE THEE WELL!"

We eagerly await his company once again.



Although unnoticed at the time, 1 August 1985 was the beginning of life for Jah-Jireh. It started with providing care for one dear sister, Ida Eccles. At 79 years of age Ida was still racing around the territory on a moped but after a life time of dedicated service, she had no family or relatives to support her. It seemed inappropriate to place such a sister in a worldly care home after a life time of keeping separate from it. *(See the Watchtower 1 Dec 1985 page 26)*

In the beginning the idea of providing a facility exclusively for brothers and sisters and staffed exclusively by brothers and sisters seemed improbable to some. Although it has not been without difficulties we are proud to say we are still



Blackpool renovations 1996

JAH-JIREH: THIRTY Y

here after 30 years and we feel that this has been down to Jehovah's blessing and the support of many loyal helpers.

At present we employ approximately 200 brothers and sisters helping us care, on average, for 180 elderly ones. Over the 30 years we estimate a few thousand have been cared for including anointed ones, circuit overseers, missionaries, special pioneers and regular pioneers of which the majority were with us right up until their death. It brings us great joy to know we served them with dignity right to the end in a loving, peaceful environment.

Our objectives for this relief care are tied up with 2 Corinthians 9:11-15 which has three principles: **1) Bring glory to Jehovah, 2) Provide well for their needs, 3) Help them to maintain their spiritual routine.**

Jah-Jireh finally became a charity in 2000, after many years of working with lawyers and the Charity Commission. This was a personal objective of the original founders of Jah-Jireh to ensure the permanence of the arrangement in the event of their deaths.

There have been many changes over the years. Originally we started out to care for our spiritual mums and dads in an informal homely setting, but due to changing care needs and greater demands on the service, we now have an arrangement that has in nature become very clinical.

We have risen to the challenges demanded of us and have striven to move with the times, training staff in NVQ's at different levels of care including management. We have provided equipment and facilities that have given us the tools to do the job and as a result we have acquired excellent reports from the legislative regulators of care (CQC/CSSIW) that has brought praise to our God Jehovah.

Many comments from elderly ones we have cared for over the years have said how safe, secure and loved they feel being amongst their brothers and sisters.

The big difference of course is being able to carry on their spiritual routine, being encouraged by daily texts, meeting preparation, family worship, meeting attendance, JW Broadcasting and opportunities to do the

YEARS OF SUCCESS

ministry. Some have helped out with the literature cart, and others even able to auxiliary pioneer, bringing them personal satisfaction.

What will the Future Bring?

The future is very much an unknown quantity. As you have probably ascertained from the news, the care industry has very serious difficulties. The legislative regulators have become much more aggressive, making greater demands on the service while reducing finances, added to which is the even greater burden of raising the minimum wage, a very real pressure on the care sector including hospitals, doctors surgeries and even child daycare. You may have noted, there are also concerns about the shortage of nurses and carers in the UK.

Our prayer is to continue until Jehovah says it's finished and we were greatly encouraged by the reminder at our recent convention to keep focusing on Jesus and not on any trials that may come our way.

May we ask you also to keep us in your prayers so that we might continue supporting our elderly ones in any way we can during their "calamitous days".— Ecclesiastes 12:1

Donations

No doubt you understand how important your donations are to the charity. Thank you so much for your continued generosity, by means of which our work is able to continue.

For more information on the current care situation please use the link below to access Quality Compliance Systems (QCS) website and read this article by National Care Association (NCA) leader Nadra Ahmad OBE.

www.ukqcs.co.uk/the-care-industry-is-sick-and-needs-urgent-attention/



Blackpool 2013



Enjoying an afternoons entertainment, Blackpool



Family worship, Leyland

SHARE THE CARE

We appreciate the many demands on our brothers time. We are hoping to put a "SHARE THE CARE" programme in place where brothers and sisters, including young ones, could spend just a couple of hours a month visiting our senior brothers and sisters at Jah-Jireh. At the same time maybe help with a few practical tasks such as tidying the garden, a little painting etc. If you are able to SHARE, or have some skills to SHARE please call: **Jeff Stacey 07885 306640**

“I HAVE NEVER LOOKED BACK”

The war was over! From 1945-1948 I was in a refugee camp in Austria. The British government was the first country to offer a home and work to refugees and so I came to England at 18 years of age on the understanding that, as a refugee, I could stay and work for twelve months and then return to my family in the refugee camp.

However, circumstances changed and I was not allowed to return. Plans were made to close down the camps and the American government had stepped in and offered all able-bodied young people, who were fit for work, the opportunity to emigrate to the USA. Consequently, my mother and my three sisters accepted this offer while I stayed in England.

Before I got to know about Jehovah, I tasted the world! In 1956 when I was twenty-six years and six months old, I learnt the truth in Paddington, London. I was so happy, all my questions were answered, and the resurrection hope and life in paradise was so appealing to me. To not grow old and die, I thought was absolutely wonderful.

I was baptized in Cardiff in 1957. I immediately embarked on “vacation pioneering”, as it was then called. Two months into my pioneering, I realised that I could go regular pioneering and in 1958 I attended my first international convention in New York and after 10 years I was reunited with my mother and three sisters. They had found a sponsor for me in America but I refused because I was afraid I

would have to give up pioneering if I moved. Whilst thanking them for their kindness, I explained how important pioneering was to me and I returned to England.

In 1959 along with my first pioneer partner and her mother we went to serve where the need was great, in Hamilton, Scotland. Then, later that year, I transferred to a new assignment in Wigan, Lancashire where I was invited to volunteer as a replacement for a special pioneer in Dublin, Ireland.

This assignment was to be for two years. It was recommended that special pioneers take a break after this time to rest and recuperate because the territory was challenging and hard. I did, in fact, remain in my assignment from 1960 until mid-1963. In July 1963, I was invited, along with a Canadian missionary, to stay in New York Bethel for the duration of one week, in which time I was able to attend the international convention.

On my return, I was given the option of going to Lancashire, Yorkshire or Worcestershire. I was keen to remove myself from the mining areas so I opted for Worcestershire because I was told it was a county renowned for its fruits. Jehovah certainly blessed my ministry, as special pioneers we had to have 10 bible studies per month. I was privileged to assist



more than 10 bible students to get to know Jehovah. Interestingly in those days the society required that at least one of the 10 bible studies would dedicate themselves. So we had to work very hard.

From the age of 26 years until now... I have never looked back. I have never desired to taste again the things of the world, and indeed the only thing I ever ‘tasted’ was dancing at the London Palladium!

Now advanced in years, at 85 years of age, I feel I need help. I heard of Jah-Jireh and applied. Two weeks after this Jehovah heard my prayers, I am very humble and grateful to Jehovah and Jah-Jireh staff. I feel safe among my brothers and sisters who dedicate their life and time to Jehovah... and their brothers, I am not alone anymore!

- Sister Alma Hochtli.