

ORBITUARY - Alf J.

About forty years ago Alf was acquainted with the programme of Alcoholics Anonymous and the life of Alf has been devoted to the service of others through this programme ever since. Indeed even up to his life's ending (on 10th November 1985) he continued to advise and assist men and women who found themselves the victims of alcoholism. His dedication in this direction took him to homes, hospitals and prisons, many times on visits of mercy and many men and women now have cause to be most thankful for his efforts and work which he did freely and in the name of a "Power Greater Than himself". Much of his work and deeds of course will remain unknown and for which there are no earthly diplomas bestowed, nor were they expected by Alf especially.

The first New Zealand meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous was held in his home in Jubilee Ave. where he passed on (as was his wish) attended by a nurse who being well skilled in the nursing profession was double qualified, as she herself is a member of the Fellowship Alf helped so much to establish in New Zealand. He died as he was born and reborn - sober.

He played a very important part in the formation of the National Society for the Education of Alcoholism, advised at Government level on proposed legislation and recovery programmes, personally participated in community health programmes and met and hosted many visitors to New Zealand who were the pioneers in the work of A.A. Through his efforts help has been readily available on the North Shore for those who sought it for over forty years. The funding in a large degree was a very personal one.

As a dentist he freely gave his professional "Know How" on many occasions so as to enhance the appearances of those recently risen from the park, paddock and "gutter", penniless, friendless and sometimes toothless. Alf wanted no fuss. He publicly on many occasions acknowledged the support he received from his late wife Eve and his son Mark and his family. I am sure that he would wish it known that his brother-in-law Prof. "Jock" Caughey was instrumental in steering Alf to a recovery through AA and to a life of special service and dedication to his fellow man and women.

He lived respected and died very much regretted. He often quoted Micah 6.8: He hath shewed thee O man, what is good, and what does the Lord require of Thee, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God."

He often said:

- Miracle: A wonderful happening in which God prefers to remain anonymous.
- Beliefs: When a belief becomes a fact it is no longer a belief.
- Life: Was not meant to be easy but a challenge.
- Reasons: Do not look for reasons but rather acceptance