



Movement of Christian Workers

Don Swan 1933 – 2009



Don was a lifelong member and enthusiastic promoter of the Cardijn Movements in all their various guises, they being the YCW, FSA and MCW.

He joined the YCW in 1954 in Greenwich and also became a member of the Labour Party and the Transport and General Workers Union. By 1959 he was working for the YCW and whilst doing this met Mary who he married in 1962. They had six children, Paul, Simon, Emma, Sarah, Luke and John.

After leaving the YCW he worked for a short time for a timber merchant in Birmingham before becoming an insurance salesman, a job at which he excelled and which he did for the rest of his working life.

Don was a member of Greenwich Council for 12 years between 1971 and 1982 and also served on the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) for 4 years. He was a great champion of education and served as governor on a number of local schools for much of the rest of his life.

Don was also Chair of Greenwich Careers Advisory Service and in that role together with

local employers, ILEA and the YCW started the very successful "Look at Work" campaign which ran for many years in Greenwich. In 1979-1980 he was elected Mayor of Greenwich and with Mary as Mayoress did great representative and charitable work throughout the Borough and beyond. His support for Charlton Athletic Football Club was widely known and occasionally the cause of much good natured banter.

Don lived a very full and successful life and will be sorely missed by his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Jo O'Brien, MCW Office Manager, attended Don's funeral and was humbled by the huge amount of people who were there to celebrate Don's life. Amongst the congregation were many ex-YCW's, from London and beyond, who came to pay their respects. The ex YCW's gathered around outside after the funeral and everyone had their own story to tell. As far as MCW & YCW were concerned we have a lot to thank him for; for his support over the years; often offering us his pearls of wisdom as well as assisting us financially. We will miss him. May he rest in peace.



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REVIEW

Issue 40 November 2009

General Assembly is Great Success

The MCW's two delegates have recently returned from the International Conversations and General Assembly of the World Movement of Christian Workers. These meetings were held in Nantes, France in October 2009 and were attended by delegates from 43 affiliated movements from every continent around the world.

The success of this world event highlights the fact that despite difficult times in terms of funding and other resources the movement is still vibrant as demonstrated by the enthusiasm and commitment of thousands of leaders and activists throughout the world.

In many ways, the Pope's recent encyclical 'Caritas in Veritate' echoes this reality. His insistence on people before profit and the primacy of the common good in economic affairs is at one with the views of Christian Worker activists. It is just a pity that the document will not be read or understood by many ordinary Catholics because of its complicated and complex language. It is also tragic that the majority of the leaders of the Church do not feel able to assist in the process of interpreting the encyclical so that it can be understood by many more people and acted upon.

Also included in this newsletter is an appreciation of the life of Don Swan, an activist throughout his life, who died earlier this year. Don was a faithful servant of YCW, FSA and MCW and was always an enthusiastic supporter of the Cardijn method. Our sympathy goes to Mary and family. May he rest in peace.

In addition we are advertising our National Day Conference and AGM which we hope many of you will attend. It is being held at HQ in London which may be more convenient for some than our usual venue. It is an important meeting as not only will a report be given on the WMCW's General Assembly but there will also be a discussion about the future of the MCW in England and Wales in the light of the current economic crisis and the General Election which will be held in the next six months. The National Executive Committee feel that the time is

opportune to invite views about the future direction of the organisation. In line with the experience of similar voluntary organisations the average age of our members is older than we would like and if this trend continues our very future is under threat. We know only too well that the movement has no divine right to exist and rather than let things drift it is felt that we should take stock and consult on the way forward. Let's hope that we can mirror the success experienced in Nantes and rebuild an Adult Christian Worker Movement in England and Wales.

**You are invited to the:
MCW National Day Conference
Incorporating the AGM**

on
Saturday 21st November 2009
at MCW Headquarters, St Joseph's, off St
Joseph's Grove,
Hendon, London, NW4 4TY
from 11.00am until 3.30pm

A light buffet lunch will be provided

The conference will focus on two items:

- A report on the main issues emerging from the WMCW's General Assembly held in Nantes in October 2009
- A discussion about the future of the MCW in England and Wales in the light of the current economic crisis and the General Election which will take place in the next six months

Paul Edwards and Jim Dearlove who were both present in Nantes will facilitate the session with a view to reaching practical conclusions

The conference is open to all members and those who are interested in learning more about our movement. Please advise MCW HQ as soon as possible if you are able to attend by telephoning 020 8203 6290 or email mcworkers@aol.com

The views expressed by contributors to MCW Review do not necessarily represent the views of the MCW

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Nantes General Assembly Report

Nantes in North West France was the venue for the International Seminar and World Assembly of the World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW). Representatives of 43 Movements from around the world came together for 10 days to talk about the work of their organisations. They also shared experience of migrant workers and globalisation which was the theme of the International Seminar. Below are a couple of photographs from the meeting. Our next newsletter will focus on this whole event.



Paul Edward, General Secretary WMCW with Marcel Quaracy preparing for the meeting



All the delegates attending the 2009 General Assembly

WMCW General Assembly 2009

A big thank you to all those who responded so generously to our appeal. We raised £2453 which enabled us to send two people from our movement to attend the General Assembly. We also contributed to a solidarity fund which meant that delegates from countries of the

South attended despite the high cost of travel from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

A special addition of the newsletter will be produced containing a report from the General Assembly which we hope you will find of interest.

Thinking of what to buy yourself or friends and family for Christmas?

Why not buy a 2gb USB memory stick and support the work of the MCW at the same time.

This unique USB has been produced to commemorate the WMCW General Assembly 2009. Its casing is made from recycled wood and as you can see from the picture below contains the MCW and WMCW logos as well as our website address.

These were produced courtesy of a donation from a member of the Movement and can be yours for only £11.00 including postage & packing.



Name:

Address:

.....Postcode.....

I would like (please state quantity) USB memory stick @ £11 each including p & p

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Please return to MCW HQ, St Joseph's, Off St Joseph's Grove, Hendon, London, NW4 4TY.