

1 CHAPTER ONE: EWS OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

1.2 History

1.2.1 Beginnings

Campaigners for Christ commenced serving with the Military Forces in 1940 and sprang from humble beginnings. In 1939, Campaigners erected a hut in the Melbourne Showground where people could drop in for a cup of tea and refreshment and listen to singing groups, a testimony of faith, relax and read literature or talk to one of the staff.

When World War II began, the Showgrounds became a transit camp and Engineers' School for the RAAF. Seeing an opportunity for service and Christian witness, Campaigners requested and gained permission from Defence authorities and opened early February 1940 to provide a service to the men. Thus began what became known as "Everyman's Welfare Service". The motto of Everyman's is taken from Scripture - Colossians 1:28, *"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."* (NKJV)

1.2.2 The Movement

During the early 1940s, the Holy Spirit had called men and women of like heart and mind to serve amongst and alongside service personnel and women throughout Australia and overseas. At "Everyman's Huts" on military bases and tea rooms established in major cities, service personnel could always find welcome spiritual and physical refreshment.

These men and women had great faith in their God. CCOMM Leonard E Buck travelled to the Malaysian Peninsular with a mobile van to serve RAF and RAAF personnel. He escaped with his life as he left Singapore on the last available ship. On arrival back in Australia, he enthused the Christian public to stand with Campaigners for Christ in providing a Christian welfare service to the Forces.

Mr Alex Gilchrist and Mr George Hall were building a Hut in Smith St, Darwin when it was first raided on 19th February 1942. They were evacuated from Darwin by train and were given responsibility for coordinating a trainload of women and children being evacuated to Melbourne.

During the war, Campaigners also posted women Representatives to Everywoman's Huts in camps, ministering to AWAS personnel. Many women staffed the city tearooms working long hours to serve the many Australian and Allied service personnel.

Since World War II Everyman's Representatives have served with distinction in Australia, Malaya, Singapore, South Vietnam, Cambodia, East Timor, the Solomon Islands and the Middle East, on

Defence bases in Melbourne, RAAF Base Amberley, Royal Military College, Woodside, Puckapunyal, Ingleburn, Liverpool, Wacol, Holsworthy, Singleton, Kapooka, Canungra, Enoggera, Darwin, Townsville, Amberley, Bandiana, Bonegilla, HMAS Kuttabul, Randwick and Sydney.

The message Everyman's carries has never changed. The Word of God is as relevant to the lives of service personnel today as it was yesterday. The memory of those men and women of faith and vision stimulates us to be men and women of our time, reaching those in our own generation (Hebrews 11:40, 12:2).

Further reference can be made to **"THEY ALSO SERVED"** - a study of the leadership of Everyman's Welfare Service, 1936-1996" (1998), and Professor Robert Linder's **Len Buck and the Founding of Everyman's Welfare Service** for a more detailed history of Everyman's.

1.3 Everyman's Today

1.3.1 Not-for-profit Company

Everyman's, as the continuing entity of the original Campaigners for Christ, is now a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, registered with ASIC (the Australian Securities & Investment Commission, ABN 61 000 348 550), the ACNC (Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission) and relevant state fundraising authorities across Australia. It has a Board of Directors responsible to the organisation and ASIC, the ACNC and state authorities.

1.3.2 Raison d'être

Everyman's Welfare Service is a Christian Organisation seeking to glorify God. Its motivational scripture is:

"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this *end* I also labour, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

Colossians 1:28, 29 (NKJV)

1.3.3 Vision

Our vision is: For Defence to have heard and experienced the message of Christ.

1.3.4 Mission

Our mission is: Living and proclaiming the message of Christ to Defence.

1.3.5 Core Values

Proclaim. We declare, announce, teach, live and commend the Christian faith through the ministry of evangelism and discipleship (Col 1:28-29)

Care. We care for the spiritual, mental and physical wellbeing of all people in Defence (3 John 2). We serve them providing for physical needs with a warm cuppa or a cool drink, often when people are in demanding circumstances. We also provide a friendly ear and helping hand when people are facing difficulties in life.

Persevere. We continue to faithfully proclaim the gospel and provide pastoral care over the long haul, knowing that our job is to be faithful and the Lord's job is to produce the growth.

1.3.6 Doctrinal Statement

It is the policy of Everyman's that we are all one in Christ Jesus and that our emphasis is to bring men and women, boys and girls to Jesus. We do not encourage the espousing of doctrinal emphases that could and would divide us and distract us away from our objectives. However, there are certain non-negotiable beliefs that we hold:

- There is one God, eternally existent in three Persons, Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit.
- God is Sovereign in creation, providence, revelation, redemption and final judgment.
- The Bible is divinely inspired and entirely trustworthy, and is supremely and finally authoritative in all matters of faith and conduct.
- The devil is a real and active being.
- Since the fall, all humanity is sinful and guilty, rendering themselves subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
- Jesus Christ, God the Son, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died a sacrificial death as our representative and substitute, was raised bodily from death, ascended to the right hand of the Father, from where He will return personally for all His own.
- The work of the Holy Spirit is essential to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, to convict him/her of sin, to grant him/her repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to accomplish the work of spiritual regeneration.
- The sinner is eternally justified, freed from guilt, the penalty and power of sin solely by God's grace, through exercising faith in Jesus Christ.

- The Holy Spirit indwells all true believers to teach them concerning Jesus Christ and to produce in them fruitful, Christ-like lives.
- The one holy universal Church, the body of Christ, consists of all true believers, all having functional ministries in the Church.