

insight

The YMCA is a Christian Movement:-

At its centre are Christians who regarding Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, desire to share their faith with others and make him known, believed, loved, served and exemplified in all human relationships. It welcomes into its fellowship persons of other religions and of none.

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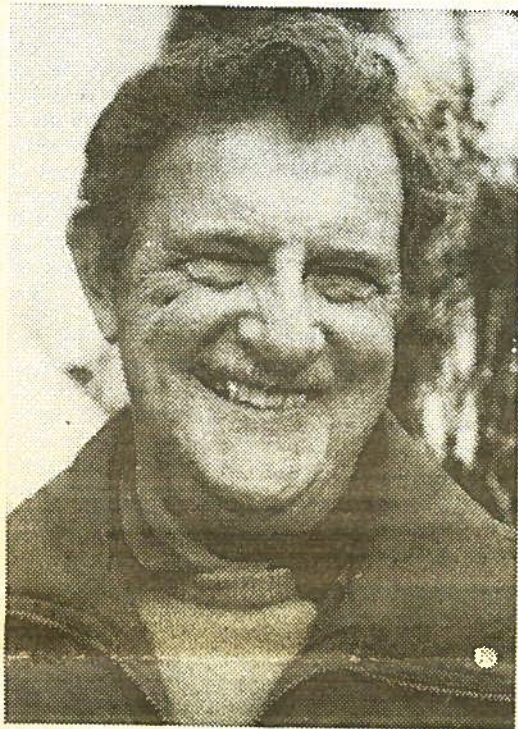
Jim Love, from Bellshill, Citizen of the World

Jim Love, former President of the World Alliance of YMCAs, honorary dishwasher of the Bellshill YMCA and so many things in between died on Friday, 26th January. Jim, aged 70, is survived by his wife Margaret, sons Archie and Jim and 3 grandchildren.

Jim served the YMCA in almost every capacity imaginable but always remembered his roots with the local Association which he loved above all others - Bellshill and Mossend YMCA. Throughout the years of his international travels, he always tried to be on hand on a Saturday to take his place in the rota with the backroom team in the snack-bar of the Bellshill Association. It was from these roots that he developed his great appreciation of the diversity of YMCA service throughout some 110 countries.

Derek Robertson, General Secretary of the Bellshill & Mossend YMCA, paid tribute by saying, "I think it would be fair to say that all at Bellshill are completely devastated at Jim's sudden and untimely death. Although Jim has been in semi-retirement from YMCA work he was never far from here and he was an inspiration to me and many others - not just in the YMCA but throughout our community. Our YMCA will never again be quite the same".

Jim first joined Bellshill YMCA as a boy footballer in 1940. He



soon joined the youth board as the football club rep and by 16 he was the president. Two years later he joined the main Board on which he was to serve for 50 years before "retiring" in 1994. Such was his and his colleagues commitment to the local work of the YMCA that when the Association redeveloped in the early 60's, Jim and some fellow Board members secured a bank loan using as collateral their own homes. Wherever Jim travelled around the world, he would always introduce himself as Jim Love, from Bellshill, Scotland, on behalf of the World Alliance - in that order!

Jim took early retirement from a post in teacher training in 1978. This allowed him to focus his energy into serving the YMCA including a spell as Honorary National Secretary of the Scottish YMCA. In

1981, fifteen years after his first YMCA international experience he was appointed President of the World Alliance of YMCAs at the World Council meeting held in Estes Park, Colorado. Shortly afterwards, in 1983 he was honoured with an OBE. Previously, Jim had served as a local Association Chairman and as a National Council Chairman of the YMCAs in Scotland. He had also chaired the European Alliance of YMCAs and had been the Chairman of the Refugee Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs. Until last year, Jim also served as a Board member of the flourishing Glasgow YMCA and committee member of Y-Care for which he was a most passionate advocate. During the late 80's Jim spent much time encouraging the re-establishment and initiation of new YMCA work in Eastern Europe. Indeed the YMCA of Siberia claims that it came in to being solely as a result of Jim passing through!

He had initially been a school teacher before moving on to teacher training. Even in retirement he maintained his links with the educational

world by continuing as a freelance writer, contributing mainly to the Longman group. His books were specifically designed to help children develop and improve their understanding of English, and he frequently used examples of things that he had seen on his travels. In fact, the punishing schedule of travel that he engaged in during his presidency also provided the opportunity for Jim to write a number of books while flying from country to country and city to city. Jim often remarked that international travel presented little hassle to a Scot with his name - he would always approach immigration and boldly declare "LOVE" - an apparently universally understood word - coupled with a broad smile!

Jim's death came suddenly following a stroke. However, he continued his active concern for the YMCA right to the end. In fact, the day before his stroke he was in conversation with the "insight" office discussing ideas for a possible contribution on the recent developments at Y Care. Jim was greatly troubled by the fact that it had been necessary to make cuts in Y Care and was intending to compose an article that would encourage local Associations to be active participants in supporting Y Care's work in order that the internationalist dimension of the YMCA would not be lost. During the conversation, Jim also mentioned that he was writing to a YMCA colleague who is now in serious personal difficulties. Indeed, it was a mark of the man that Jim was saying that it was really important that he did write because many of this colleague's friends no longer wrote. This was the Jim Love that so many people will remember. Masterful in the big occasion, superb in oratory but always having time for an individual.

Texellent move

The Texellent computer company, which owns the Futura hostel software program, is undergoing internal changes.

In the new structure, the company will operate as the trading company of Welwyn Hatfield YMCA. Everybody concerned sees this arrangement as a positive step towards ensuring the continuity of the Texellent service as well as an opportunity to further enhance the product by increasing the market share of

the system.

Around 13 Associations have already installed the Futura program and several more are in the pipeline. In the new structure, there will be significant developments outside the YMCA Movement with other hostel providers making use of the software.

It is understood that a major hostel operator is on the verge of signing up to the new system for use in its hostels throughout the country.

Problems with standing orders

Some APS members may have experienced difficulty in the payment of their fee to the APS by standing order.

This difficulty has arisen as a teething trouble during the transition of bank accounts. Banking arrangements were reviewed recently and some changes were put into place which would be more cost effective for the Association. As a consequence, some standing orders were not re-routed to the new bank account.

Those who have experienced problems will be contacted shortly. If you wish to assist the process, you can do so by paying your APS subscription directly to the Membership Secretary by cheque.

In many respects, paying by cheque is a more straightforward method for the APS as many old standing orders have not been updated to reflect the change in the Association's

membership fee.

The APS is investigating the possibility of collecting membership fees by direct debit which would involve prior notification to members about a month before the transfer is effected. This would get over the problem of fixed amount standing orders.

Another method being explored is for direct debits to be set up to local Associations.

Some members have enquired about the taxable position of their APS fee. It should be noted that they can claim their fee as a taxable allowance. For clarification, it is helpful to state on your tax return that the fee has been paid to the APS Association of Professional Staff of the YMCA and in brackets put Association of YMCA Secretaries. This is because on some tax registers the Association is still registered by its previous name.

£ OUCH!

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"insight" is the monthly magazine of the Association of YMCA Professional Staff of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The magazine is a forum for members to engage in debate and discussion where ideas and contributions concerning the YMCA can be openly expressed and considered. Consequently articles do not necessarily reflect the policies of the APS.

