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**Title:**

Address for the Testimonial Dinner for the Rev. Erwin Vogt

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ADDRESS BY DON DUNSTAN, PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA, FOR THE  
TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR THE REV. ERWIN VOGT.

26th FEBRUARY, 1971.

MR. CHAIRMAN,  
YOUR GRACE,  
MY LORD BISHOP,  
PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE,  
REVEREND GENTLEMEN,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

WE HAVE COME TOGETHER TONIGHT TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ONE OF  
ADELAIDE'S FRIENDS, THE REVEREND ERWIN VOGT.

AND I AM PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO DO THIS IN A TWO FOLD WAY -  
AS THE PREMIER OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT - AND AS A PRIVATE  
CITIZEN OF THIS CITY.

PAGE 2.

IN BOTH ROLES, AND IN MY POLITICAL CAREER GENERALLY, THERE  
HAVE BEEN COUNTLESS OCCASIONS ON WHICH THE PERSUASIVE HUMANITY  
AND COMPASSION OF ERWIN HAS BEEN MADE PLAIN.

HE HAS BEEN AN AUTHENTIC LEADER OF HIS CHURCH, A CONSCIENCE  
TO HIS CITY, AN ADMINISTRATOR OF WISDOM AND IMAGINATION, AND  
A MAN OF HIGH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLE.

THERE ARE OF COURSE COUNTLESS ANECDOTES CONCERNING HIS DRIVE  
AND INITIATIVE IN THE MINISTRY. IT IS STILL TOLD OF HOW IN  
HIS EARLIER DAYS HE RODE A MOTOR BIKE WITH CONSIDERABLE ZEAL -

IN FACT HE WAS KNOWN TO SOME AS "THE MISSILE ON THE MOTOR BIKE", WHEN WORKING IN THE MALLEE AREA AND ON THE WEST COAST DURING THE DEPRESSION.

HE HAS ALSO ALWAYS BEEN A PERSUASIVE CHRISTIAN LEADER, AND IT IS TOLD OF HOW ONE YEAR DURING THE DEPRESSION HE SENT CHRISTMAS CARDS TO EVERY PERSON WHOM HE THOUGHT WOULD BE LONELY IN THE TOWN WHERE HE WAS WORKING.

THE TOWN ALCOHOLIC WAS MOST IMPRESSED, AND HE AND ERWIN BECAME VERY FRIENDLY. AND SO WHEN IT WAS DECIDED TO BUILD A CHURCH IN THE TOWN (IT WAS, I UNDERSTAND, BUILT VERY HURRIEDLY, WHILE THE BUDGET-CONSCIOUS SUPERINTENDENT WAS OUT OF TOWN) THE ALCOHOLIC CAME TO ERWIN AND VOLUNTEERED TO STAY SOBER FOR AS LONG AS WAS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO SLAKE THE LIME FOR THE BUILDING.

IT IS NOT TOLD WHETHER, HAVING PERFORMED THIS FUNCTION, HE RETURNED TO SLAKING HIS THIRST.

AS A PROBATIONER, ERWIN ALSO MADE HIS NAME AS A TREASURER, A MATTER IN WHICH I TOO HAVE A DISTINCT INTEREST.

HE SET A VERY HIGH STANDARD BY PRESENTING A CREDIT BALANCE TO HIS QUARTERLY MEETING, DURING THE DEPRESSION, A TIME WHEN CREDIT BALANCES WERE VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN.

IT IS NOT SAID HOW HE DID THIS - BUT I WAS WONDERING EARLIER THIS WEEK HOW HE DID IT.

WAS IT A TITHE ON THE TITHES?

BUT TO MORE SERIOUS MATTERS.

PAGE 5.

DURING ERWIN'S 22 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE CENTRAL METHODIST MISSION, INCLUDING 19 AS ITS SUPERINTENDENT, WE HAVE SEEN THE MISSION GROW AND PROGRESS, AND EXTEND ITS INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

DURING THIS TIME ERWIN, AS MISSIONER, WORKED CONSTANTLY IN THE CAUSE OF THE AGED, THE SICK, THE NEEDY AND THE UNDERPRIVILEGED.

THE MISSION'S BUDGET DURING THAT TIME GREW FROM \$60,000 TO OVER \$1M., AND IT NOW HAS AN EMPLOYED STAFF OF 330, AND OVER 400 VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

IN THE PAST DECADE OR SO, ALL OF US IN PUBLIC POSITIONS HAVE OBSERVED THE DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR COUNSELLING AND FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES AND HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY ERWIN'S BELIEFS THAT PASSIVE AND AMELIORATIVE CARE IS NOT ENOUGH.

PAGE 6.

WE HAVE ALL OBSERVED HOW UNDER HIS DIRECTION, FOR INSTANCE CARE FOR THE AGED HAS DEVELOPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMUNITY, AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS PHILOSOPHY APPLIED AT BOTH ALDERSGATE AND THE MURRAY-MUDGE SETTLEMENT AT GLENELG, WHERE THE AGED RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY AS POSSIBLE, TO ENGAGE IN PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY, AND BE WHERE HELP IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE IF THEY NEED IT.

HIS CONCERN FOR THE TOTAL CARE OF THE INDIVIDUAL CAN ALSO BE SEEN AT LENTARA HOMES FOR CHILDREN, WHICH NOW CARES FOR SIXTY BOYS AND GIRLS. THE PERIOD OF HIS SUPERINTENDENCY HAS SEEN THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF LENTARA FROM A HOME RUN ON AN INSTITUTIONAL BASIS TO ONE WHICH IS BASED ON COTTAGE FAMILIES, WHILE INCREASED COUNSELLING HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO ENDEAVOUR TO RESTORE CHILDREN TO FAMILY SITUATIONS IN THE COMMUNITY.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT UNDER HIS SUPERINTENDENCY WAS THE FURTHERENCE OF COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION OF THE ALCOHOLIC.

THE FOUR STAGE REHABILITATION PROGRAMME IS UNIQUE IN AUSTRALIA. THE FIRST STAGE IS THE NAZARETH CRYPT WHERE HOMELESS MEN CAN FIND ENCOURAGEMENT AND FRIENDSHIP; THE SECOND IS KUITPO COLONY, FIRST STARTED BY THE MISSION FORTY YEARS AGO, WHERE MEN WHO CAN BE REHABILITATED ARE GIVEN AT LEAST THREE MONTHS TRAINING AND TREATMENT. THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES AND INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING ARE PROVIDED FOR EACH MAN BY SOCIAL WORKERS AND RESIDENTIAL STAFF ON A GROUP PLAN.

SHAFTSBURY HOUSE (A HALF-WAY HOUSE) AND KOSTER HOUSE (WHICH PROVIDES LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION) ARE THE FINAL STAGES IN REHABILITATION.

FROM HERE THE MEN RETURN GRADUALLY TO SOCIETY, BUT WHILE THEY STAY AT SHAFTSBURY OR KOSTER THEY ARE IN REGULAR AND CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOCIAL WORKERS.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE MISSION'S WORK TO WHICH ERWIN HAS A CLOSE INTEREST IS LIFE LINE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED SEVEN YEARS AGO AND NOW HANDLES APPROXIMATELY 3,500 SERIOUS CALLS A YEAR. AND IT WAS UNDER HIS DIRECTION THAT THE NEW MAUGHAN CHURCH AND MISSION OPENED IN 1965, PRESENTING ADELAIDE WITH A CITY MISSION CENTER OF WORLD CLASS.

PAGE 9.

ERWIN WILL BE KNOWN TO MANY THROUGH HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH MASS MEDIA, ESPECIALLY WITH RADIO THROUGH THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING NETWORK.

DURING HIS SUPERINTENDENCY HE HAS ALSO BEEN THE CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS OF SKA - AU - RM, AND DIRECTOR OF ADS-7, AND HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF MODERN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ASSISTANCE THEY CAN GIVE THE CHURCH AND ITS MISSION HAS MEANT THAT SKA, IN ADDITION TO BEING A STATION WHICH PROVIDED POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT, HAS ALWAYS HAD A STRONG TRADITION OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

PAGE 10.

AND SO, TONIGHT WE COME TO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU ERWIN FOR THE GREAT WORK YOU HAVE DONE IN THIS CITY AND FOR THE FRIENDSHIP YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO ALL OF US.

IF YOU WOULD ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE WITH A MOST  
I HAVE SINCE 1952 MAINTAINED A VERY KEEN INTEREST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOTES, AND YOUR,

AND SO, TONIGHT WE COME TO PAY TRIBUTE TO YOU ERWIN FOR THE GREAT WORK YOU HAVE DONE IN THIS CITY AND FOR THE FRIENDSHIP YOU HAVE EXTENDED TO ALL OF US.

IF YOU WOULD ALLOW ME TO CONCLUDE WITH A NOT EXCESSIVELY LABORED PUN - I HAVE SINCE 1952 MAINTAINED A VERY KEEN INTEREST IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOTES, AND YOU, SIR, ARE ONE VOGT THAT HAS FAR MORE THAN ONE VALUE.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE LABOR PARTY AND I BELIEVE THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY, MAY I THANK YOU FOR YOUR MINISTRY TO US OVER 22 FRUITFUL YEARS AND FOR THE EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE SHOWN US.