

OBITUARY

Most of this Obituary was written and organised by dad quite a few years ago.

Oscar Edwin Joppich OAM, was born in the depression years, at Booleroo Centre on the 31st March 1932, the third child of the late Wilhelm and Hannah Joppich. His sister, Sylvia and brothers, Clarence, Arnold and Norman all went to their heavenly home before him.

He was baptised in Zion Lutheran Church Wirrabara on 24th April of that same year by the late Pastor C.A. Weckert.

Confirmation studies were undertaken during the first year of secondary studies at Immanuel College. He was confirmed at St. Stephens Lutheran Church Adelaide 2nd December 1945 by the late Pastor J.E. Auricht (Principal) who based his address on John 14 verse 6.

On 4th January 1958 he was married to Irene Faith (nee) Schneider, in Christ Church Lutheran, Murray Bridge, by the late Pastor Leo Doecke. Their wedding address was based on Psalm 23 verse 1. The marriage was blessed with three sons.

Oscar attended Fullerville and Wirrabara Primary Schools. His secondary schooling was undertaken at Immanuel College and Adelaide High School. Adelaide Teachers College and Adelaide University were the venues for his tertiary studies in preparation for his life's calling as a teacher.

Oscar's first teaching appointment, in 1954, was to Meningie Primary School. It was during this time that he got to know Irene who had also attended Immanuel College. Leave from the Education Department was granted for two years immediately. This allowed Oscar to teach at the Katherine Lehmann School with Lutheran Mission in Papua New Guinea. So a little over a fortnight after their marriage, the newly-weds were in Wau, PNG. Katherine Lehmann School was a boarding school for children aged from 5 years to 14 years whose parents worked on the more remote stations of the expanding mission field of PNG.

Oscar returned to work with the SA Education Department in 1960. Because offers of promotion, when accepted, were quite frequent, he taught in nine different schools, both Area and Primary, throughout the State. These schools ranged from as far north as Leigh Creek, to Mount Gambier in the south. He served as Principal in six of these.

As a number of Oscar's teaching appointments were in out-lying areas or towns where a new congregation was being established he was expected to take some of the supporting roles. He held many positions within the various congregations such as Chairperson, Pastoral Assistant, Sunday school and Confirmation teacher, Kid's Club Convenor, Lay Reader, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

After retiring in March 1991 from the Education Department, a call to manage the Goroka Lutheran Guest House in New Guinea was accepted. During the two and a half years in Papua New Guinea, National Managers and Staff of the three Guest Houses – Goroka, Madang and Lae were tutored to handle their various responsibilities with a minimum of assistance.

Early in 1996, the L.C.A. Overseas Mission Board again requested that Oscar return to the Katherine Lehmann School at Wau, where he had taught in 1958-59. The overseas supporting missions had withdrawn their support for Katherine Lehmann School and a local mining company wished the school to continue. Oscar's role during that six month posting was to assess the viability of such a venture and to effect necessary procedures in order to make such happen.