

**CENTENARY DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION
1983-2008**

SEED THAT BECAME CDF

It would be impossible to define when the concept for what is now known as CDF was born.

Men like the late Stan Vanham , “State Evangelist” during the 1950’s and 1960’s, worked very hard within Churches of Christ helping smaller churches and endeavouring to establish new causes.

Bruce Roberts, the Home Missions Director , set the goal of “Ten Churches in Ten Years” bringing about the fastest growth period since the ministry of Stephen Cheek in 1882. Col Smith followed Bruce.

For all these men, the major constraint to growth was limited finance.

The ICA scheme, brainchild of the late Cliff Coward, showed what could be achieved when church congregations trust each other enough to put their money where their mouth is.

CENTENARY YEAR DREAM

With the Centenary of Churches of Christ in Queensland approaching, the then current Conference Executive began to look for something that could be ongoing and of benefit to the whole of the Church’s ministry in Queensland.

One night, during a Centenary Arrangements Committee meeting, Allan Male challenged those present to dream about a special fund to celebrate the Centenary. One where people would give or lend their money with the interest to benefit the churches. In those days interest was running at 17%.

“A fund with \$1million would generate \$170,000 interest. That much would pay for a new building. Each new group of members could be given a place of worship debt free.” This had to be the way to go!

THE DREAM TAKES SHAPE

Some took a lot of convincing, but the idea did not go away and so it was, that Conference Executive recommended to the Centenary Conference the establishment of a Foundation, with the money to be used for the establishment and ongoing work of the Churches of Christ in Queensland. The members at the 1983 Conference embraced the idea and so the Foundation was formed. It would be called Centenary Development Foundation.

FIRST BOARD DIGS DEEP

The membership of the original board met on 8th March, 1984 - Horace Christensen (Conference President) was chairman; A. John Sheriff (Secretary); Len Brooks (Treasurer); A.C. Male and Noel W.T. Leitch. The Board began with nothing more than a name. They took great care in planning and establishment. So that they had some working capital, each member donated \$50 to establish a bank account.

FOUNDING MEMBERSHIP

A scheme for Founding Membership was promoted and was reasonably successful. To become a Founding member required a donation of \$100 and a Founding Family donation was \$250.

Charles Cole was the first Administrator whose task was to visit churches, inform them of the function of the Foundation and promote membership.

“TALENTS”

A 16mm film “Talents” was purchased to aid in promotion. In many cases Churches were still reluctant to give their support, bringing frustration to the Board and nearly bringing about the demise of the whole concept.

FIRST INVESTMENT

In the first year the total sum invested amounted to \$62,786 with a surplus of \$1500 for distribution to Conference.

The investment skills of Len Brooks, the first Treasurer, contributed to the success of the early years of the Foundation. Tribute must be paid to the Board in those early years, particularly to Noel Leitch, who was a Board member since the inception at the 1983 Conference and held the position of chairman of the board until his death on 1st November, 2005.

TREASURERS TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

John Godby followed Len Brooks as Treasurer from 1989—1993, with Rod Foster filling the role from 1993—2007. It was during Rod’s time that due to the Lord’s blessing and wise financial decisions that CDF emerged from a fledgling financial body to a significant player with an ever-growing investment base.

Rod was appointed the first Executive Director. In August 2007, upon Rod’s retirement , Brad Taylor was appointed Executive Director

DREAM FULFILLED

The dream of \$1 million invested with interest to assist churches was achieved in 2004.

LOANS

CDF offers loans to agencies, churches, their ministries and pastors. This provides many opportunities for churches that would not normally obtain a loan from a mainstream financial institution. Over the years numerous ministries and churches have been assisted both in Queensland and Interstate.

CHURCH GRANTS

An annual grant scheme was introduced in 1986 enabling churches to upgrade technology, train and equip for ministry and outreach.