



Book Review:

William and Catherine

by Trevor Yaxley

This is the biography of the founders of the Salvation Army, and it is the account of what can happen when lives are completely given over to God.

In their early teens both William and Catherine gave their lives to Jesus Christ and accepted Him as their Saviour. Their commitment was whole hearted and complete and so began a deep desire in each of their hearts to see others find the salvation that they had come to know.

They became acquainted with each other in the years that followed and eventually came to realize that it was the will of God for them to marry and serve Him together. They fell deeply in love and remained so until they died.

The story that follows is one of self-sacrifice and service as they experience sadness, joy, challenge, success, persecution and often the miraculous. William was an evangelist at heart and he had a passion to see men and women saved from the destructive paths they were on.

After ministering in a number of places and leading many to salvation, William was lead to the East End of London. There his heart was broken as he witnessed the squalor and misery that the people lived in. He saw that the gospel needed to bring physical help to those who were hungry and cold as well as ministering to their souls.

So in 1865, what was eventually to become the Salvation Army began. William, with Catherine at his side, brought hundreds of the dregs of society to a knowledge and love of the Lord. He encouraged complete commitment in his converts and was able to use those same people to reach out to their peers.

The rapid growth of the organisation, while not without its problems, was truly amazing. Foundations were laid in those early days that have continued until today.

Read this story and it will challenge, encourage and inspire you.

This book can be borrowed from the Surfside library.

Reviewed by Shirley Peart