



HE BORROWED A SHILLING

By Bill Pugh

Older Christians will have some memories of the depression years when so many were out of work. Sales assistants worked for an hour at a time in city shops, then walked the streets to be called as customers came in when they were needed. We were forced to live with grandparents, staunch members of the Church. In those days, we knew the local butcher and grocer well, in person by name, as friends. One Friday night there was a knock on our front door. It was the grocer's assistant

Vern, a lovely man with a family. Somewhat embarrassed he said to Grandpa, *"please can I borrow a shilling till next pay day?"* He lived in rented accommodation, travelled by train to work, and things were tough. Without hesitation, Grandpa gave him a shilling. Next Friday Vern, an honest man, came back with the shilling. Grandpa said *"put it to good use for your family!"* Gratefully, Vern went home. So many calls on our generosity, so many worthy causes challenge our stewardship.

Reflection:

In his Letter to the Corinthians, Paul gives important advice. "Each one should give, then, as he has decided, not with regret or out of a sense of duty: for God loves the one who gives gladly. And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7-8. 2.