

The following pages are an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Minutes of the Annual Conference .

The extract contains the reports to Conference for the following three Methodist Children's homes:

- The Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage, Mt Albert and Epsom
- Masterton Methodist Children's Home
- South Island Orphanage and Children's Home

The Methodist Church
of New Zealand

MINUTES

OF THE

**ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**

HELD AT CHRISTCHURCH, 1948

Price Two Shillings

Procurable at the Connexional Office

CHRISTCHURCH

Printed by Willis & Aiken Limited, 125 Worcester Street.
1948

(9) That the conduct of the Entrance Examination and of the final examination of the year of Deaconess House Students be under the control of the Conference Board of Examiners in consultation with the Board of Studies of the Deaconess Committee.

(10) That the question of the tabulation in the Minutes of Conference of the names of Deaconesses on Probation, those in residence in Deaconess House, and the Candidates received for training, be remitted to the Secretary of the Board of Examiners in consultation with the Secretary of Conference.

(11) That the Deaconess Committee consider the possibility of selected trainees being given a third year of specialised training in Auckland in order that advantage might be taken of facilities offered by Trinity College and the Maori Mission Centre.

(12) That the Deaconess Committee consider the matter of an allowance being made for Deaconesses when they commence probation.

(13) That the Committee for 1948 be: The Chairman of the District, the Connexional Secretary, Revs. R. Dudley, A. O. Harris, V. R. Jamieson, J. M. Blight; Messrs. A. A. Harrow, H. W. Beaumont; Sister Mabel Morley, Mesdames A. R. Witheford, R. Dudley and F. Crespín.

QUESTION XLVIII.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference respecting Connexional Orphanages?

(A) THE AUCKLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE. MT. ALBERT AND EPSOM.

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1947.

It is with a sense of deep gratitude to Almighty God that we review the past year's activities. In presenting this 34th Annual Report, we thank God for His unfailing guidance in all our planning and undertakings.

Obituary: It is with a profound sense of loss that we have to report the passing of Mr. W. Astley, who, by his interest and practical support, was a most valued member of the Board.

Trustees: This report would not be complete without mentioning the fact that the only remaining member of the original Trust, Mr. John Astley, despite his 87 years, is still an active member of the Board, and is wholeheartedly interested in the children's welfare.

The Family: At the end of the year 1946 we had 74 children in residence. During the year 96 children have been under our care, and at the end of the year our numbers stand at 70. Six attend Secondary School, and there are five below school age.

A great number of requests for admission have been before the Secretary and the Selection Committee, but our space is limited. Many children are suffering from the lack of home life because of broken homes. Unfaithfulness, death of the mother, shortage of housing, the misery of families living in one room, or in caravans and motor camps, all contribute to the necessity of finding a home for many little children. There is a tremendous need to be met. Although our Homes are not instituted to provide a home for all who apply, we thank God for the contacts made and the opportunity of comforting and helping many who are suffering real anguish and distress through not being able to establish a home for the family.

At "Epsom," the Girls' Home, we have six small boys and there are six girls in the Hostel who are now earning. It is a very happy Home, and the children have a real Mother in Miss Gladys Benton, with Miss Audrey Ching, a very capable Assistant Matron. Two of our old girls are on the staff, and we are proud that they in their turn are helping in this work for the children.

"Wesley" boys are mothered by Miss P. Grove, and in her the boys have one who has their welfare at heart. The staffing of this Home has proved most difficult, and after several changes we now have a full staff. We are glad to report there are six Methodists on the staff of our Homes, and we feel encouraged as we realise that gradually our young women are becoming interested in this sphere of service.

The Health of the Children: In both Homes we have had our share of sickness. Chicken-pox and other childish ailments kept several in bed. We had one case of appendicitis, one serious hip operation, and two had their tonsils and adenoids removed. Two were in hospital for observation. We are glad to report that all have recovered, and our sincere thanks go to Drs. Rule, Allan Knight and Colebeck, who watch the health of our children.

Maintenance: This year we have received from Subscriptions, Maintenance, etc., the sum of £6,741 17s 2d, while our expenditure amounts to £6044 4s 4d.

The rising cost of living presents a real problem. Gifts of fruit, eggs, clothing, medical supplies, books and games, donations in food and money make it possible for us to carry on. Such thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. Kind folk have given treats and entertainments, ladies from our Guilds have mended and patched, bottled fruit, and made jam. So many have given of their valuable time. Especially would we place on record the gratitude of the Board to the members of the Ladies' Committee. We would thank those who remembered our children at the Christmas holidays. All our children had homes to go to, and they returned refreshed and happy after the weeks spent in the homes of our people.

Some lonely and orphaned children have been remembered on their birthdays. To receive a letter and a gift makes all the difference to a lonely girl or boy. It is impossible to state the value of these services to the running of the Homes, and to the happiness of the children. They indicate a growing interest in the work, and to all these sharers we render our grateful thanks.

Street Day Appeal: In response to last year's Appeal for the Combined Orphanages, a large sum was raised, of which our share for the two Homes was £1064. We would record our gratitude for the money and clothing received through the Auckland Orphanages' United Council.

City Collector: Through the services of Mr. J. H. Whitburn we have received donations in cash £97 19s, and goods valued at £58 1s 2d.

Bequests received during the year total £7,416/7/10.

The total Income from Churches and Y.P. Organisations shows a decrease on the previous year.

In Conclusion we ask for the continued interest and prayers of those who are already supporters, and trust for an awakened interest among our Church members. The year ahead calls us to fresh endeavour. We go forward encouraged, believing that these children have been committed to our care, and that if we are faithful to our task, the Miracle of His transforming Power may be wrought in each young life.

Board of Management:

Life Member: Mrs. W. R. Emerson.
Chairman: Rev. E. T. Olds. Deputy Chairman: Rev. J. C. Draper.
Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy Jones.
Lay Treasurer: Mr. A. L. Caughey.
Revs. E. W. Hames, W. Walker, J. C. Draper, Wesley Parker, F. J. Handy, Walter Parker, A. E. Orr, Mesdames A. H. White, A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, K. J. Rosser, W. H. Faulkner, Misses C. E. Wagstaff, A. E. Rogers, and D. Harbutt, Messrs J. E. Astley, F. Penn, A. Williams, A. L. Caughey, J. H. Whitburn, J. Hargreaves, J. Tyler, R. T. Garlick, G. W. Turley, D. E. Parton, W. H. Faulkner, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, W. E. Burley, F. C. Matthews, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

Signed on behalf of the Board.

E. T. OLDS, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary-Treasurer.

(B)—MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1947.

Gratitude: It is with a deep sense of thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father that the Committee presents another report of the life and work of the Home which it is our privilege to serve. The continued evidence of physical, mental and spiritual growth in the lives of the children is ample reward for the time and effort required for this sphere of Christian service.

Committee and Staff: The past year has been one of sorrow and loss for members of the Committee and Staff, but with it has come a full measure of the Grace that is sufficient for every need.

During the year Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Whitlock and Mr. W. H. J. Watson have been transferred from Masterton and resigned from the Committee as a consequence. Mr. Whitlock, as a former Chairman, and Mr. Watson, as Assistant Secretary, have made an outstanding contribution to the smooth and efficient running of the Home over a period of years, and the thanks of the Committee are extended to them as well as to Mrs. Whitlock, for much willing work done.

Mr. C. R. Shoosmith has accepted the position of Assistant Secretary and already has proved himself to be both willing and efficient. Mr. A. K. Hodder has also joined the Committee during the year.

It is a pleasure to report that the staff remains the same, with Mr. and Mrs. Bateup and Misses Potter and Fell wielding a fine Christian influence through the work of the daily round and the common tasks. We thank God for their continued service in the interests of the children.

The Children: During the year there have been six removals and one admission, leaving thirty-five children in the Home at the present time; two of whom are working, eight at College, twenty-four at primary school, and one under school age.

Some of the children are interested in cage birds and poultry, and a large number of prizes have been gained at various Shows throughout the year.

The children have also taken an active part in Sunday School and Bible Class examinations, competitions and camps, and have achieved credit for themselves and the Home. Each year those who are ready are received into Church Membership, and this is a real tribute to the spiritual influence of the Home.

At School, College, and on the field of sport, they acquit themselves well, and altogether it can be said that they are highly regarded in the community life of the town.

The Buildings: At the present time the Home is being thoroughly renovated outside and inside, as well as adding certain furnishings and equipment which will make for an even more homely atmosphere, and facilitate the work of the staff. The cost of this work, which is the first major renovation in over twenty-five years, will be in excess of £2,000, and we are hopeful that those who are able will make special gifts for this purpose.

A Welcome Gift: As a result of a visit by the Wellington Police Pipe Band, arranged by the staff of the Masterton Police, the three Homes in Masterton each received approximately £70 to be used for the benefit of the children. In our case it has been decided to install a new wireless set with extension speakers in some of the main rooms so that the children can have a wisely guided benefit of this aid to their social, cultural and spiritual development.

Those responsible for this effort are hopeful of making it an annual event.

A New Venture: Since the release of the main portion of our land from military occupation, a cow has been purchased and another valuable pedigree cow has been given to the Home through the generosity of the Master, Mr. H. Bateup. In addition to a considerable saving in the purchase of milk, this new venture will provide another means of giving the boys a practical training in the care of livestock.

News-letter: A start has been made in sending a regular news-letter to Circuit Quarterly Meetings. By this means it is hoped to widen and deepen the now growing interest that is being taken in the affairs of the Home by individuals and Circuits.

Resulting from the resolution of the last Conference, we have also been in communication with the Home Committees at Auckland and Christchurch with a view to making the work of our Homes more widely known throughout the Dominion, but thus far no definite action has been taken.

Gifts and Bequests: During the year the Committee has been notified, through the Wellington Board, of gifts and bequests totaling £1,750. Worthy of special mention is the gift of £1,000 from Mrs. Grace Heighway of Hastings. These and further gifts will be a welcome addition to the capital fund of the Home which needs to be considerably augmented so as to release the Wellington Board from some of its financial responsibility and enable it to support other institutions which come within the scope of its functions.

In addition to the above, an unusual though very welcome bequest was received from the estate of O. M. Faull whereby a sum of £100 is to be expended in the purchase of books suitable for the cultural and educational development of the children. The books are being purchased by relatives of the benefactor and the arrival of the first lot of books makes us grateful for the gift and the wisdom of the choice which has been made.

Our thanks are also due to those individuals, Sunday Schools and Circuits which make regular contributions of produce and other gifts that are always both welcome and useful.

Finance: Income from Circuits last year reached the excellent total of £560. We are grateful for the continued giving of so many people of goodwill.

In these days of rising costs it might be helpful to point out that neither the Government Family Allowance nor any other maintenance fees received anything like covers the cost of keeping the children. For this reason the need for support from the Circuits is as great and indeed greater than ever before.

Thanks and Appreciation. The Committee is deeply grateful to those people who receive the children into their homes during the Christmas holidays. It is a tribute to the children themselves that so many ask for the same ones year by year.

The willing co-operation and financial assistance of the Wellington Board is also gratefully acknowledged, without which it would be impossible for the Committee to carry on its work.

The Future: We go forward into the future conscious of the privilege and responsibility which is ours in serving our Master in the interests of the children and bespeaking the prayers of all whom we represent in this work.

Committee for 1948: Mr. J. H. Conly (Chairman), W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Manager), Mr. C. R. Shoosmith (Assistant Secretary), Dr. N. H. Prior, Rev. W. G. Slade; Mesdames J. Elliott, C. D. Shoosmith, A. K. Hodder, D. E. Lyttle, J. H. Conly, Misses M. Burton, L. Cocker; Messrs. F. E. Wells, A. H. Daniel and D. A. Barns.

J. H. CONLY, Chairman.
W. R. NICOL, Secretary.

c. 33rd Annual Report of the South Island Methodist Children's Home

We give thanks to God for many blessings as we present our thirty-third Annual Report.

Thanks, too, for the devoted service of the loyal band of ladies under the leadership of Miss Barclay, our Matron, and also to that great company of friends who, loving children, make possible, through their continued support, the work that is being done in our Home in Papanui.

No greater reward can be imagined than that received recently when one of our old boys, returning from work in a country district for a brief holiday with us, came bounding up the entrance steps with outstretched hand, and the spontaneous greeting, "Gee, it's good to be Home again."

Through all the years it has always been the aim of those who have been so intimately concerned with the care of our children—that a real Home should be provided for those little ones who, through circumstances beyond their own control, were deprived of the care of a father and mother.

To-day we have seventy-three little folk in our family—but "little" is perhaps not the word that most suitably describes some of the strapping lads and lasses who have left school during recent months to strike out for themselves in the big world beyond our geographical boundaries.

Coming under our care in many instances when only three or four years of age, many of the children remain with us, and our responsibility for them continues until they complete their formal education and we are satisfied that they have so far established themselves in their chosen work that they can stand on their own feet.

Such work as this would be considerably more difficult were it not for the specialised knowledge and help that comes to us from many quarters, and the patience and devotion of a large number of friends who give freely of their time and energy in many different ways.

The Board would like to pay particular tribute to the unceasing care and advice that is given by Dr. S. C. Peddie, our Honorary Physician. In spite of the claims of a city practice, his services are always available, both in cases of minor accidents, and also when sickness comes to one or other of the youngsters.

Thanks to regular hours, good food, and a well-balanced regime, there has been an encouraging freedom from epidemics during the past year.

For the help and co-operation that comes from the staff of the Waimairi School and the Papanui Technical College, we are most grateful, and our responsibilities in regard to placing the children in suitable employment when school-leaving age is reached are considerably lightened by the valuable assistance given by the officers of the Christchurch Vocational Guidance Centre.

Spare-time activities for such a large group of children present some problems, but we have been ably and enthusiastically backed by a willing company of helpers in the Papanui Church, District Youth Council, and the Boy Scouts Association, in the training and oversight of Clubs and Scouts.

The Rev. R. W. Mayson assumed the responsibilities of Chaplain to the Home on being appointed to the Papanui Circuit in April of this year, and he has already given much time and thought to the needs of the children.

During the summer holidays it has been our aim to make it possible for as many of the family as possible to get away for a complete change. Quite a number of boys and girls are cared for by relatives, but others have been given an opportunity of spending a few weeks in the country through the kindness of many Methodist friends.

We do appreciate this help, and would commend to all who are in a position to assist in this way the needs of our little people. A holiday on a farm is an experience not soon forgotten by a child, and to spend some time in the environment provided by Christian men and women in their own homes is of tremendous value.

Thanks to the help and interest of the Christchurch Y.M.C.A., twelve of the older boys had a thrilling time at the holiday camp at Wainui, on Banks Peninsula, over the Christmas period.

It has been a matter of great encouragement to the Board that interest has been maintained in our work by so many friends throughout the South Island during the past year. A carefully planned itinerary had to be abandoned by the Superintendent through illness, but in spite of this, the returns from Circuits show an increase of over £170 on last year's figures.

As we consider the many claims made upon all Christian people in these modern days, we thank the Master that so many are mindful of our needs.

The Combined Orphanages' Appeal, recently carried through in the city and surrounding districts, met with a most generous response from all sections of the community.

The house-to-house collection undertaken by Bible Class members broke all records, and on the Street Day itself a larger sum was contributed than ever before. The share allocated to the Methodist Home was £1350—a splendid figure.

We are particularly grateful to the Combined Orphanages Committee for their devotion to the scheme, and also to the great number of people in the Churches, both young folk and those who are older, for the notable service that they rendered.

In spite of these encouraging features of the work, however, the financial position continues to give the Board considerable anxiety, as prices of food and clothing and the costs of essential services continue to rise.

The aftermath of war brings in its train the inevitable breakdown of many homes and the consequent suffering of children. We count it a Christian responsibility and privilege to play our part worthily as we seek to care for these boys and girls, but it can only be done through the love and goodwill of the Church and community. For the help that has been given in the past we give abundant thanks, and pray for its continuance.

It is a matter of considerable regret that, in spite of the many responsibilities that have to be carried out by Miss Barclay and her staff, there is the added burden and worry of shortage of help. After some months of comparative freedom from anxiety in this direction, we now find ourselves in a most serious position through several competent helpers leaving the Home to take up other positions.

To any young woman with a love for children and a sense of Christian vocation who is uncertain as to what service she can most effectively render in the work of the Kingdom, we commend the claims of our work.

Our report would be incomplete without reference to the magnificent co-operation that comes to us from the Ladies' Guilds of Christchurch Circuits, through their assistance in the sewing-room, where much of the necessary clothing is made up, and also the many gifts of toys, books, and most valuable produce that comes to us throughout the year. To one generous donor of ten tons of potatoes we give most hearty thanks.

The days pass all too quickly as one considers the needs of the young lives that are committed to our care, and we would ask for the continued prayers of all those who love the Saviour as we continue to guide the destiny of these His children.

The following Board of Management is nominated for 1948:—Chairman of the District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace, St Albans, Woolston and Papanui Circuits, Revs. E. Drake and A. N. Scotter, Messrs H. de R. Flesher, F. A. Sheat, H. J. S. Harrington, W. S. Worner, L. J. Dale, A. A. Harrow, C. J. Palmer, Mesdames M. A. Pratt, W. Cock, F. C. Thornton, H. Queree, R. A. Marsh, and Miss D. Horrell.

H. J. ODELL, Chairman.

GEO. H. COLEY, Superintendent.

RESOLUTIONS.

(1) That the Reports of the Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage, the Masterton Methodist Children's Home, and the South Island Methodist Children's Home be received and adopted.

(2) That the financial statements be received and adopted.

(3) That with a view to developing continuity in the spiritual oversight and guidance exercised by Chaplains, Conference requests the Chaplains of our Children's Homes to prepare a schedule of Chaplain's duties for submission to the various committees concerned.

(4) That the thanks of the Conference be tendered to the staffs of the Children's Homes.

QUESTION XLIX.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference respecting Connexional Literature?

A. METHODIST TIMES COMMITTEE. REPORT FOR 1947.

Editorship: In April of this year, the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., assumed the office of Editor in succession to the Rev. H. E. Bellhouse, who had rendered conspicuous service in that position for eleven years. Mr. Blight has quickly commended himself to the Church as Editor of its journal. His own contributions evince fresh-