

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 NAPIER, 1949

CHRISTCHURCH

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1949

Donations	75
Grants—Home Mission Board	150
Foreign Mission Board	25
Fire Insurance	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	85
Contingent Fund	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	125
Estimated Deficit	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	11
								<hr/> £2,326

EXPENDITURE.

								£
Wages	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	750
House	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,200
Renewals and Repairs	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	100
Rates	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	65
Telephone, Stationery, etc.	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Interest	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	16
Insurance	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	25
Uniforms and Tuition	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	50
Depreciation	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	100
								<hr/> £2,326

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report, Financial Statement, and Budget be received and adopted.
2. That the Deaconess Committee consider the status and training of Deaconesses and report to next Conference.
3. That candidates for Deaconess training must be at least 21 years of age at the date of entry into Deaconess House, except in exceptional circumstances.
4. That when Committees are set up to interview prospective applicants for training at Deaconess House, such Committees be supplied by the Minister and Sunday School Superintendent of each applicant with data regarding character and Church affiliation.
5. That Question 47 be amended to read "What are the Resolutions of the Conference with regard to the Training of Deaconesses and of the work of the Deaconess Order?"
6. Realising the immediate need for trained Deaconesses for Circuits, City Missions, Foreign Missions, Home and Maori Missions, and Institutional work, Conference recommends that the claims of the whole Church for consecrated women workers should be presented to our congregations, women's groups and youth departments.
7. **Board for 1950:** The Chairman of the North Canterbury District, the Connexional Secretary, the Superintendent Ministers of the Durham Street, Cambridge Terrace, and Christchurch East Circuits, Rev. H. E. Harkness, Messrs. A. A. Harrow, H. W. Beaumont, R. G. Pearce, A. G. Harris, F. G. Turnpenny, Mesdames W. M. Dudley, P. A. Le Brun, C. Colechin, H. W. Beaumont, W. McHarg, F. Crespin, and a nominee of the M.W.M.U.

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

A.—MOUNT ALBERT AND EPSOM. ANNUAL REPORT, 1949.

In this 36th Annual Report, we review the year's work with thankfulness to God for the opportunity of service in providing for little

children and for the increased interest that is being taken in this important work.

Obituary.

It is with regret that we record the passing of Mr. Joel Hargreaves, who was a faithful member of the Board.

Staffing.

At present both Homes are fully staffed; but through the year we have had to face the problem of seeking for suitable people. There is a real and urgent need for Christian women to recognise the Children's Homes as a definite sphere of service, and there is the necessity for adequately trained women. The need of these children should challenge many young women who love children to offer their services in any capacity, that these little ones may be cared for by Christian people.

The Family.

At the end of the year 1948 we had 60 children in the two Homes. During the year the numbers have varied with 17 withdrawals and 19 admissions. At the close of this year there are 62 children under our care. Several of our older girls are studying music and are interested in Life Brigade, attend the Epsom Church, and enjoy the companionship of other girls at Sunday School, Bible Class and Youth Retreats. The boys take a live interest in the St. John Ambulance and have a soccer team in the Inter-Church Association. The smaller boys attend the Cub Pack at the Mt. Albert Church, while 15 of our older boys have joined the Y.M.I. at Pitt Street, where they receive gymnasium instruction and enjoy the Christian fellowship of other young men.

Hostel.

There are only five girls now in residence. During the year Eunice was happily married; Mavis, our eldest, celebrated her 21st birthday, and Elsie announced her engagement. They have been with us since very small children and the Hostel is home to them.

Health.

The health of the children has been very good. A few had measles and two boys had the misfortune to break an arm. This speaks volumes for the care and oversight given by our Matrons, Miss Grove at "Wesley" and Miss Archer at Epsom. Good meals, happy homes, and the love and care given to the children work wonders to the most neglected. We are fortunate in having two Methodist Christian women as Matrons. Our thanks are also due to our Medical Advisers, Drs. J. Rule and Stuart Colbeck.

Holiday Time.

All our children were able to go away for the Christmas holidays, with the exception of one rather too young to place. Who can express what these holidays mean to children who know no other home but an Institution! We are most grateful to our Church people who gave such splendid holidays to the children. Nine of the younger boys went to our Campbells Bay Health Camp and enjoyed themselves immensely at the beach. The older boys had country holidays on farms, and must have made themselves useful, evidenced by the "pay" they proudly brought home.

Property.

Our "Wesley" Boys' Home was opened in 1913 and Epsom Girls' Home in 1925. Not new buildings then, they have stood many alterations and additions and are expensive to keep in repair. For years the Board has been concerned about erecting a new Home on the Mt.

Roskill property, but for reasons beyond our control, delays have occurred. However, now that restrictions are easing, application is being made for permission to build, though the Board will have to face the problem of greatly increased prices.

Alterations and Equipment.

During this financial year we have had installed a Refrigerator and "Robot" Foodmaster in each Home, and a new washing machine at "Wesley." A tennis court has been provided at Epsom and the back yard asphalted. A good Gymnasium and Club Room has been built outside for the older boys at "Wesley," and the Board has subsidised the £6 raised by the boys to house their pets.

Finance.

During the year £1,064/16/6 has been received from Circuits and Sundry Donations. Maintenance received of £2,880 is quite inadequate for the food and clothing of the children, for quite a number of whom we receive only the Family Benefit of 10/- weekly, and the increased support of our Methodist people is needed.

Bequests.

During the year we have received a total of £2,102. A cheque for £500 has been received from the family of the late Mrs. Percy Winstone and £100 from the estate of the late Mr. F. Leach, nearly £700 from the estate of the late Mrs. Annie L. Simmonds, and a further £375 from the estate of the late Mr. Henry Wilson. We record our gratitude to all those who, in the past, have left provision for this worthy cause, and trust that others will continue to remember the children.

United Orphanage Council and Street Appeal.

The work of this Council has considerably eased the burden of finance. This year we received £1044 as our share. This appeal reaches many who would never give in the ordinary way.

Collectors.

Through ill-health Mr. J. H. Whitburn has found it impossible to carry on this work. For some years he has been most zealous in procuring donations and goods. Truly he is a real friend to the children. A new appointment has not yet been made; but there is urgent need for someone to come forward and offer their services. Miss E. Mason, who retired because of advancing years, still continues to interest her contacts and collects many donations.

Ladies' Committee.

This report would not be complete without reference to the outstanding service rendered by Mrs. A. L. Caughey, who has retired after ten years as President of the Ladies' Committee. Miss Wagstaff has been Secretary for eleven years and during this period she has worked faithfully and enthusiastically among the women of the Church. Mrs. C. J. Burton, who is a past Secretary, has consented to fill the position of President.

Grounds Committee.

The Epsom Committee, under the leadership of Mr. F. C. Matthews, is most faithful in giving oversight to all outside work. Unfortunately "Wesley" is without a Committee; but the Board is grateful to Mr. G. W. Turley, who gives many hours of advice and time to the oversight of the buildings and grounds.

Thanks and Appreciation.

Again we would express our sincerest thanks to all who have in any way assisted our work during the past year—to Uncle

Tom and the Friendly Road for providing Christmas trees and gifts, The Women's Institute and the Auckland Police for enjoyable picnics, the Farmers' Trading Company for treat and presents, the Junior Chamber of Commerce for a Harbour Trip to Oneroa, the Ladies' Committee who provided a present for every child, as well as the yearly treat of Strawberries and Ice-cream; Mrs. Hall, Miss Jones, Mr. Platt and Miss Braithwaite for supplies of fruit; Miss Harbutt who gave a prize for the best all round boy at "Wesley," the Travel Club for making clothing, the several Churches who gave their Harvest Festival offerings, to the many individuals and organisations for their generosity and hard work in planning to give the children joy and entertainment.

We need the prayers and practical interest of our Church membership if we are to provide and maintain adequately our Children's Homes. Surely God has set His seal upon this work. Did not the Master say, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven"?

The Board of Management for 1950:—

Life Member: Mrs. W. R. Emerson, Chairman: Rev. E. W. Hames. Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy H. Jones. Lay Treasurer: Mr. P. Dellow. Revs. W. Walker, Walter Parker, A. E. Orr, F. J. Handy, J. C. Draper, Wesley Parker, Mesdames A. H. White, A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, K. J. Rosser, W. H. Faulkner, Misses C. E. Wagstaff and D. Harbutt, Messrs. F. Penn, A. L. Caughey, J. Tyler, R. T. Garlick, 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.

E. T. OLDS, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary.

B.—MASTERTON CHILDREN'S HOME. REPORT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

This year's report covers a period of nine months ending 30th June, 1949, to bring our Annual Balance into line with other Church organisations as requested by Conference.

Children.

At the commencement of the period under review we had 32 children under our care. One boy and one girl have been admitted and we have also three Samoan boys living in the Home who have recently come to New Zealand under a Government Education scheme. These boys were admitted to help the Islands Affairs Department out of a difficulty in placing them and they will in due course be sent on to a secondary school hostel.

One girl was admitted to hospital and has not yet returned, and two boys have gone back to their parents, leaving us with a roll of 34 (25 boys and 9 girls).

In all fields of activity our children have given a good account of themselves. Two senior brothers have been appointed prefects at College, good results have been obtained in school and Sunday School examinations and the children have been engaged in the usual sporting and social activities. They have also entered fully into the life and work of the local Church and its Youth Departments. Several of the older ones and some who have left the Home have become Church members.

Visits from old boys and girls and in some cases of their families have been welcome. We are glad to know that their association with the Home has been renewed from time to time in this way.

Staff.

Our loyal staff have made the home life and cared for the needs of their large family with love and devotion. The quality of their work and influence on the children's lives is far reaching in results and they are to be congratulated on the good spirit and atmosphere which is evident in the Home.

Committee.

The Committee has functioned without change in personnel. A spirit of co-operation and friendship has pervaded its monthly meetings and the brief time spent in social intercourse with the staff at the close has been most enjoyable.

Bequests.

The sum of £727/1/8 has been received by way of benefit under wills and has been added to the Capital funds held by the Wellington Board. Over £700 of this amount was received from the estate of the late J. L. Martin of New Plymouth.

Finance.

We are very grateful to all supporters of the Home throughout the district from whom the sum of £568 was received by way of Circuit Collections.

The Committee is endeavouring to arrange for a deputation to visit some of the circuits each year in order to give our people a closer insight into the life and work of the Home and to stimulate the interest and support necessary to enable us to bridge the gap between normal income and expenditure which amounts to something over £330 for the period and would be considerably higher if the accounts covered a full year's working.

Swimming Pool.

As reported last year the Committee held approximately £84 for the provision of additional amenities at the Home. It has now been decided to create a fund for the construction of a Swimming Pool and this amount has been set aside accordingly. It is hoped that this fund will grow steadily and that to-day's vision may soon become a reality.

Farm.

The farm continues to fill an important place in the management of the Home, the value of farm produce consumed being estimated at not less than £180 per annum. The value of live stock is considerably understated in the balance sheet as some of the stock, including the pedigree "Tararua Butterfly" have been gifts to the Home. "Butterfly" was placed first in the production list for New Zealand junior 2 year old Friesians. Her calf is listed in the Friesian stud stock book as "Celdan N.F. Butterqueen".

The Committee extends sincere thanks to all who have rendered assistance in any way in the running of the Home. The children have benefited through financial support, gifts of food and clothing, holidays spent away from the Home and in numerous other ways.

Our grateful thanks is also extended to the Wellington Board for ready co-operation and assistance at all times.

We look forward to a further year in the service of the Master and His children.

Committee for 1950:—

Mr. A. K. Hodder (Chairman), Mr. D. E. Lyttle (Vice-Chairman), Mr. W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Manager), Mr. J. F. Cody (Assistant

Secretary), Dr. N. H. Prior, Rev. Dr. W. G. Slade, Mesdames J. H. Conly, C. D. Shoosmith, A. K. Hodder, D. E. Lyttle, and W. G. Slade, Misses M. Burton and L. Cocker, Messrs. F. E. Wells, A. H. Daniell, D. A. Barns, C. D. Shoosmith, H. C. Wood, and J. H. Conly.

For the Committee,

J. H. CONLY, Chairman.

C—S.I. METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME. ANNUAL REPORT, 1948-49

It is with a deep sense of thankfulness to God for many blessings that we present the 35th Annual Report of the work in our Home. The past year has been a particularly busy one, with many admissions and with a comparatively large number of children who have been discharged, some to relatives now able to care for them, and others to make their own way in the world.

Eighty-four boys and girls have been under our care during the past twelve months, and at the present time there are 54 living in the Home. In addition to this we have nine young folk who are working and who still remain under our jurisdiction.

In common with many other Church Homes throughout the Dominion staffing difficulties have caused us much anxiety for some time, and as a result a number of most deserving cases have had to be turned away through lack of adequate help. We are indebted to the Child Welfare Department for their generous co-operation on many occasions when we have been in difficulties. It is a matter of gratification that we are now able to report a marked improvement in the Staff position, several new members having joined us within the past few weeks. Miss Barclay continues to exercise a wise control over all the complex details surrounding the life of our large family, and the Board gratefully acknowledges their debt to her and all her helpers who so cheerfully and efficiently carry out their many duties. Special mention should be made of the splendid service given by Miss Doris King, who left us recently to be married. Miss King made a most valuable contribution as Senior Assistant and later Sub-Matron over a period of eight years, and her influence for good among the children has been most marked. At a special function held before she left, the Ladies' House Committee and the Board joined with the young people and Staff in making several presentations to Miss King as tokens of their love and esteem.

As a result of good food and a well-balanced life, the general health of the children has been exceptionally good over the months that have passed, but minor ailments and sometimes accidents come our way, and the generous help of Doctor S. C. Peddie calls for special mention. His co-operation has been of a very high order at all times, and we are most appreciative of all that he has done for us.

The influence of school life is, of course, of great importance in the life of any child, particularly of those educationally retarded. The Board gratefully acknowledges the splendid help that has been so freely given by the Headmasters and Teachers of the four schools attended by our children—Papanui Technical College, Waimairi, Heaton Street, and Normal.

Thanks to many kind friends the recreational life of the Home is well catered for, and various types of Sports and Club activities play an important part in the lives of the children. Mention should be made of the fine work done by the District Youth Council and

many friends in our Papanui Church. The older boys and girls take a vigorous part in the activities of the recently formed Circuit Tennis Club, and a number belong to other Sports bodies. The interest evinced in the Home by the Christchurch Rotary Club demands special acknowledgment. Playground equipment, generously given by members, will shortly be installed. In addition to this, a monthly Cinema Show is put on in the Home, much to the delight of the youthful audience. The Annual Picnic at Waikuku, organised so splendidly by the Canterbury Automobile Association, still claims pride of place for sheer joy in the minds of many of the boys and girls. This one day of the year is looked forward to for months.

Mention must also be made of the most effective hospitality scheme inaugurated some time ago. Members of our various City and Suburban Churches take the older boys into their own homes on one Sunday in each month, and the friendships thus forged prove in many cases to be of lasting value. Once again we rejoice that all our children were able to spend their summer holidays in the homes of kind friends. Hospitality was given in places as far apart as Otautau, Southland, and Palmerston North, and in widely scattered districts between. No thanks that could be given would do justice to the value of such an experience in the life of a child, and we are most sincerely grateful.

Financial responsibilities have been heavy during the year. Costs continue to increase, but we are thankful to our many friends for their generous help. The Combined Orphanages' Appeal held annually in Christchurch goes on from strength to strength. This last year saw the extension of its boundaries to include Ashburton and Rangiora, and we are under a great debt of gratitude to a host of helpers in the many Bible Classes and Churches, and also in the various business communities concerned. We also appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who help our work with gifts of produce and clothing. Many such items are sent in during the course of the year and prove to be of great value.

Many of those who made possible the establishment of our work have passed to their reward. They have left to us the continuance of a task that is, perhaps, second to none in importance in the sight of God. The difficulties that we face are considerable, not the least among them being the inevitable reflection in the lives of the children of the break-down that has taken place in so many homes. May we, in the Name of the One who called Little Children to Him, realise more fully, through our love for others, the full portent of John Oxenham's inspired words:

"Here, or hereafter we shall see it ended,
This glorious work to which our hands are set,
If from beyond, then with the Vision Splendid,
We shall smile back and never know regret."

The following Board of Management is nominated for 1950:—
Chairman of the District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace, St. Albans, Woolston and Papanui Circuits, Rev. A. N. Scotter, Messrs. H. de R. Fleisher, F. A. Sheat, H. J. S. Harrington, W. S. Worner, L. J. Dale, A. A. Harrow, C. J. Palmer, Mesdames M. A. Pratt, F. C. Thornton, H. Queree, R. A. Marsh, J. Black and Miss D. Horrell.

H. J. ODELL, Chairman.
G. H. COLEY, Superintendent.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Reports and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That Conference direct that the services on Orphanage Sunday emphasise the claims for financial support of the Orphanages.
3. That Conference places on record its grateful appreciation of the long and faithful service rendered to our Church by Miss Barclay during the past ten years as Matron of our South Island Children's Home. Her personal interest in the children under her care and her readiness at all times to place their interests before her own, won for her a warm place in their affections, and the high esteem of members of the Board.
4. That the Orphanage Boards be asked to consider the possibility of producing coloured films for publicity purposes.
5. That Conference expresses its appreciation to the staffs of the Children's Homes of their devoted service.
6. That Conference refers to the District Executives the possibility of recruiting leaders from the personnel of the Homes for the training of departmental leaders for our Church activities.

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

A.—METHODIST TIMES COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT—1949

Circulation. It is encouraging to be able to report that our circulation continues to increase. The figure now stands at 4242, an advance of 268 for the current year. This increase is spread fairly evenly throughout our nine Synodal districts and evidences a steady interest in our Church paper and what it stands for.

Editorial. We again express our appreciation of the work of our Editor, the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., and of his associate, the Rev. H. S. Kings. Their task is an arduous one but they have filled their office with ability and rendered conspicuous service to our Church through their work for our Church journal.

Policy Different people have differing ideas as to what should form the content of a church journal. Our consistent aim has been to provide a paper which does the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people. To meet the varied interests and outlook of our entire Church membership is not easy. It is therefore desirable that the paper should be balanced in respect to its material as well as being interesting, informative and uplifting. To satisfy everyone is impossible; but our increasing circulation would seem to indicate that the policy being followed has general approval and meets the needs of a large cross-section of our people.

Format. During the year under review, the paper has been reduced from newspaper size to magazine size and the number of pages increased from sixteen to thirty-two. District Synods had previously been asked to express their opinion on this matter. Their decisions were overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal which has now been put into operation.

Costs. Printing costs, like all others, are mounting steadily. The committee has foreseen this and sought steadily to anticipate inevitable effects. Although costs have risen our people have not been asked to pay more for their paper nor has the Contingent Fund been asked for a larger grant which would have to be borne by our people. We could provide a more expensive paper if our people desire it and if they are willing to pay for it.