

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 DUNEDIN, 1950

CHRISTCHURCH
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Retiring Deaconesses.

The Board records its appreciation of the valued service rendered by Sister Ruth Fawcett, who has retired. Sister May Viney's resignation was received with regret, ill-health making it imperative for her to take this step. The best wishes of the whole Church are accorded these two servants in their retirement.

Appointment of Deaconesses (1949 Minutes, p. 119).

A committee from the Board has consulted with the General Secretary of Foreign Missions, the General Superintendent of Home Missions, and the Connexional Secretary regarding the method of appointing Deaconesses, and a report will be presented to Conference.

V. R. JAMIESON, Chairman.

A. F. COLLINS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That a committee consisting of the Deaconess Board, in consultation with the Trinity College Board of Studies, the F.M. and H.M. Boards, and the Secretary of the Board of Examiners, inquire into what possible changes may be necessary with respect to the curriculum for Trainees designated for Overseas and Maori work.
3. That the Deaconess Board be asked to keep in mind the provision of courses for lay workers in conjunction with Deaconess Training.
4. That Conference express appreciation of the services of the Lady Superintendent, Mrs. E. A. Linyard, M.A., and of the Lecturers.
5. That Conference express its appreciation of the work of Sister Ruth Fawcett on her retirement from the Deaconess work.
6. That the Deaconess Board consider during the year and report to next Synods and Conference the suggestion that when a Deaconess marries she retains her status in the Order, such status to be subject to periodical review.
7. (a) When offering for Deaconess work in New Zealand, candidates should normally be required to offer for General Work, but with the right of expressing preferences for a particular field.
(b) That as the new Law Book stipulates a time before which applications must be made, the Deaconess Board should adhere to such time and require all applications to be lodged before such date.
(c) That the list of Deaconesses recommended for appointment be drawn up by the Deaconess Board after consideration of the needs of the general welfare of the Church, due consideration being given to all spheres of service, namely, Circuit, City Mission Institutions, Home Mission and Foreign Mission.
(d) That the appointments be made by Conference through the Stationing Committee on the recommendation of the Deaconess Board after consultation with the General Secretary of Foreign Missions and the General Superintendent of Home and Maori Missions.
8. That the Board for 1951 be:—

The Chairman, of the North Canterbury District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of the Durham St., Rapanui and

Riccarton Circuits, Revs. H. E. Harkness, A. O. Harris, A. F. Collins, Messrs. A. A. Harrow, H. W. Beaumont, R. G. Pearce, A. G. Harris, F. G. Turnpenny, Mesdames R. Dudley, P. A. LeBrun, C. Colechin, H. W. Beaumont, W. McHarg, F. Crespin, J. E. Purchase, and the President of the Deaconess Association as a corresponding member.

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

(A) Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage Board

ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

In presenting the 37th Annual Report, we are deeply grateful to God for His guidance through the past year. With a deep sense of thanksgiving we record the work and life of the two Homes committed to the Board's oversight. The splendid health and evidence of growth, mentally and spiritually, in the lives of the children, is a reward for the time spent in caring for their welfare.

We give thanks for the devoted service of the Staff. Mr. Long, Housemaster, and Miss Grove, Matron, of "Wesley" Boys' Home. Miss Archer, Matron of the "Epsom" Girls' Home, and those members of the Staff who serve, cooking, washing, sewing, mending and cleaning for our large family. In these hands is placed the responsibility of caring for the children.

It is the aim of the Board and Staff that we should provide a real home for the children, and that these little ones who have been deprived of so much, should receive all the love and guidance we can give them. When the time comes that they must fend for themselves they will be well equipped to take their place as citizens of this fair land.

The Family.

Eighty-two children have been cared for during the year. Twenty-two have been admitted and sixteen left the Homes. At the close of this year we have 35 children at "Epsom" and 38 at "Wesley." Total 73. One of the older boys has started farming, and two of the girls have commenced work. The remaining thirteen have returned to the care of their own folk. Two of these children, who have been in our care for seven years, have rejoined their mother. She has been steadily saving to make a home for her son and daughter. Nine of our boys receive pianoforte lessons, thanks to the voluntary service of Mr. Roy Orwin of Mt. Albert. All the children attend Sunday School, Bible Class and Church. Mt. Eden Church Brigade and Cadet Corp are attended by a number of the girls. Ten boys attend Cubs, fourteen the Cadet Division of St. John Ambulance, and fourteen of the older boys attend the Young Men's Institute at Pitt Street. Fourteen boys play in the Home football team, and entered the Mt. Albert Church Competitions. The eleven-year-old and over receive instruction in Boxing and Gymnastics. This year Mr. Long has given strict attention to set periods for homework which has borne fruit in a marked improvement in their school work. The girls and boys have been greatly interested in their gardening plots, the girls cultivating flowers and the boys caring for eight vegetable plots and in this way helping to provide fresh vegetables for the Home.

The Girls' Hostel.

There are six girls in residence. They contribute to their keep according to their earnings, and keep their rooms clean. They greatly appreciate being able to remain, especially those whose small earnings make it impossible to pay a large amount for board.

Property.

Keeping two old buildings in repair is still an expensive item. The Building Committee has met and it is proposed to proceed with the new building, subject to certain alterations requested by the Health Department. When these are placed in the hands of our Architect, we hope to make an early start on the new Children's Home at Mt. Roskill.

The Ladies' Committee continue to do their noble work. The House Committees under the Leadership of Mrs. Wigglesworth and Mrs. Myers meet regularly. They give many hours inspecting the Homes and purchasing replacements and helping in every way possible to keep equipment and furniture in repair. The Committee under the leadership of Mrs. Chris Burton (President) and Miss Wagstaff (Secretary) keep the needs of the children before the Guild Ladies. We are grateful to the folk who patch and mend endless numbers of garments. The Board is most grateful to this Committee for the service rendered and for the splendid sum of money that helps clothe our large family.

Finance.

The cost must be well over £2 weekly per child. The rising cost of living has hit us very hard. Gifts of fruit, eggs, medical supplies, vegetables and food are most acceptable.

Bequests.

During the financial year we have received a total of £2606/10/6 in Bequests. Included in this figure are the following amounts: Messrs. E. C. Frost Estate £912/3/2, J. H. Hannah Estate £317/12/-, J. C. Waby Estate £452/13/9, Mrs. E. Nesbitt Estate £696/4/1, Miss A. Reid a House Property valued at about £700.

United Orphanages' Council.

We are indebted to the devotion and energy of this Council. This year we received £1072 as our share. We desire to express our gratitude to the Collectors who gave of their services on the Street Day Appeal.

Collector.

We have greatly missed the services of Mr. J. H. Whitburn, and are glad to report that Mr. W. E. Burley has consented to carry on this good work. In the few months he has been collecting he has brought in over £70.

Thanks.

Our thanks and appreciation are expressed to all who have assisted the work during the year. To Mr. F. C. Matthews who has given oversight to the Epsom grounds. He has spent many hours on the job and doing everything in his power to provide fresh vegetables for the children. We record here our appreciation of the work done by the Rev. E. T. Olds during the years of his Chairmanship, and are grateful that Rev. E. W. Hames was able to take his place.

We also desire to name the following:—Uncle Tom and the Friendly Road for providing Christmas treats and gifts, Mr. W. A. Oliver for recreational equipment for "Wesley," Messrs. A. Brown Snr. and Jnr. for their service in erecting a pig pen, Mr. J. Frew, Tuakau, for providing the pig, The Mt. Albert Men's Fellowship for erecting a new fowl house, Mr. Benfell and Epsom B.C. boys for repainting a room and iron bedsteads, The Westfield Freezing Co. for several loads of firewood, Junior Chamber of Commerce for toys, Warkworth Ladies for providing crates of eggs, The many Churches for Harvest Festival Produce, The Auckland Police and Farmers' Trading Co. for treat and presents, Miss L. George for coaching the boys in Elocution, Mr. R. Leather for leadership in Singing, Onehunga Methodist B.C. for Firework Display and evening, Mt. Roskill G.L.B. and Boys' Brigade for toys and supper, St. Helier's Brownies for toys, Mr. Carlson for providing ice cream at Christmas Party, Govt. Research Farm and Henderson folk for fruit provided, The Ladies' Committee who provided a gift for each child as well as the yearly treat of strawberries and ice cream, Mr. K. W. White, Chemist, for medical supplies, To Drs. S. Colebeck and J. Rule for their medical advice and care of the children in sickness, To those of our Church folk and other interested people who have opened their Homes and given the children a holiday. The Board and children say "thank-you" to these kind friends for their generosity and hospitality.

As a Church we are striving for the betterment of these needy and dependent children. The granting of the economic pension to the widow has made it possible for some mothers to hold on to their homes and families. Unfortunately there are circumstances where money has very little power. It cannot make a sick mother fit to care for her children; or provide the widower with the right woman to care for his motherless children and keep his house clean and cook his meals; nor mend the broken home that leaves the child insecure and without his rightful heritage of being a member of the family.

We turn afresh to this work among the orphans and needy children with the assurance that this is God's work and that we are supported by the help and sympathy of our people.

E. W. HAMES, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.

2. **Late Mr. D. E. Parton:** It is with great regret that we record the passing of Mr. D. E. Parton. His interest in the work amongst children and his services as Minute Secretary of the Board were greatly valued.

3. That Conference express its appreciation of the services of Mr. Long, Miss Grove, Miss Archer and the members of the staff of the Wesley and Epsom Homes during the past year.

4. **Board of Management for 1951:** Life Members: Mrs. W. R. Emerson, Mr. J. E. Astley, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faulkner. Chairman: Rev. E. W. Hames. Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy Jones. Lay Treasurer: Mr. P. Dellow. Ministers of Mt. Albert, Dominion Road, Epsom, Remuera and Mt. Roskill Churches, Revs. W. Walker, Walter Parker, A. Everill Orr, Fred. Copeland; Mesdames A. H. White, A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, R. G. Hemmings and

Miss C. E. Wagstaff; Messrs. F. Penn, A. L. Caughey, J. Tyler, R. T. Garlick, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Good, W. E. Burley, F. C. Matthews, S. Sayers, N. North. Chairman and Secretary of South Auckland District.

(B) Masterton Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1950.

The life and work of the "Home" has not involved very much of a spectacular nature during the year. The most noteworthy feature is that it has proceeded along very much the same lines as any normal Christian home. This indeed is the object of our Master and Matron and their staff in which they are fully supported by the Committee. It was recently affirmed that it is the desire of the Committee that our children live their lives and take part in community activity in the same way as other children coming from Christian families.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Wood have been welcomed to the Committee since the last annual meeting. There have been no other changes in personnel.

We are fortunate that there have been no staff changes and record with thanks the able and loving service of Mr. and Mrs. Bateup and Misses Fell and Potter. This is well borne out in the smooth running of the Home and interest taken in the individual needs of the children.

There are now 34 children in the Home—21 boys and 13 girls. Nine of these were admitted during the year and a number of new applications for admission are under consideration. Three of our family went out to private board, two to training college, and one returned to her parent. The three Samoan boys are now at the local College hostel.

The farm continues to be a source of interest and experience for the children and of nourishing dairy produce for consumption in the Home. The dairy stock now stands at seven, including a valuable pedigree friesian cow and heifer. These have been stated in the balance sheet at a nominal figure only.

The Home again benefited from the Police Charity effort, and we express sincere appreciation of the work of the Charity Committee and its supporters. £106/15/1 was received, and has been added to the recreational purposes fund along with a legacy of £100 from the estate of the late Mrs. James Elliott. The utilisation of this fund is receiving the careful consideration of the Committee, but unfortunately many difficulties have arisen and no definite project is yet in hand.

Other legacies amounting to £1244/13/2 were received as follows: Estate Henry Hutchings £882/7/1, Estate Thomas Meagher £50, Estate Miss Amy Nannes £100, Estate Miss Anne Pattrick £2/10/-, Estate Sir Charles Skerrett £9, Estate Charles Wagland £78/4/8, and a benefit of £122/11/5 under Miss Mary Parsons' trust. These have been credited to our Capital Funds held by the Wellington Board.

£8/1/1 income was received from Estate James Cocker trust for the purchase of bibles for the children, and £20 from the Masterton Trust Lands Trustees being the annual grant for school stationery and library purposes.

The Committee desires to express thanks to all who have supported their work throughout the year, in particular those who have provided holiday homes for the children, made gifts of produce

and clothing, and given very necessary financial assistance. Circuit collections brought in the record sum of £640/16/7, and donations £32/18/-. We wish to thank the members of the Wellington Board for their continued efforts on behalf of the Home.

We record the passing of the late Mr. N. R. Seddon with a keen sense of loss. His energetic and able service on the Wellington Board to the Church generally and in many public activities will be greatly missed.

We conclude our report in expressing thankfulness to God for what has been achieved in the interests of the children, and in seeking His help and guidance that they may be started on the right road in life.

Committee for 1951.

The following Management Committee is nominated for 1951:—Mr. A. K. Hodder (Chairman), Mr. D. E. Lyttle (Vice-Chairman), Mr. W. R. Nicol (Secretary-Treasurer), 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, W. G. Slade, and H. C. Wood, Misses M. Burton and L. Cocker, Messrs. F. E. Wells, A. H. Daniell, D. A. Barnes, C. D. Shoosmith, H. C. Wood, J. H. Conly, and W. E. Layton.

For the Committee,

A. KEITH HODDER, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That appreciation be expressed of the services of the staff of the Masterton Children's Home.

(C) South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

In submitting this brief Report of another year's service among the children in our Home, we would record our gratitude to God for His continued goodness and blessing.

Children.

The total number of children who have been under our care during the year, including those who have returned to re-established homes and those who have now found employment, is 73. At present the number in residence is 53—27 girls and 26 boys, the smallest number we have reported for a long time.

Health.

The general health of the children has been good, only minor ailments and accidents requiring medical attention. Dr. S. C. Peddie, our honorary physician, who has rendered us splendid service, is at present in England. His place has been taken, in the meantime, by Drs. J. L. Nicol and David E. Orchard. To these men we tender our sincere appreciation.

Staff.

There have been more than the usual changes in Staff this year, the Matron and Superintendent both tendering their resignations. Miss Barclay took up her duties as Matron in 1940 and thus, for about nine years, guided the inner life of the Home. During these years

she greatly endeared herself to the children. She was farewelled in October, carrying with her the goodwill of the Staff, the children and the members of the Board. The acceptance by Mr. G. H. Coley of another position in the city, necessitated his relinquishing his position as Superintendent of the Home. Mr. Coley has always proved himself an ardent and able advocate of the claims of the children. For his work at the Home and on deputations to the Circuits, we are grateful.

Both these positions have now been filled by the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. G. Howells, to whom we give the warmest welcome. Mr. Howells' previous experience in the work connected with Boys' Homes is proving invaluable. He comes to the position with a real sense of vocation and has already, by his evident sincerity, won the confidence of the members of the Board. Mrs. Howells is also taking her full share of responsibility in the Home. We wish them many years of fruitful service and of happy association with us. Other changes in the Staff position have been met satisfactorily.

Rev. E. Drake.

The long connection of Rev. E. Drake with the work of the Home has now terminated, and is worthy of more than passing comment. As a member of the Board for nearly 20 years and as Secretary for several years, Mr. Drake proved himself a true friend of the children and a wise counsellor and administrator. His sound judgment and understanding have been greatly valued and we express to him our grateful thanks.

Recreational.

Alterations have been made to the playroom to provide a gymnasium for the intermediate and older children. Equipment for this is needed. It is hoped that the amount we have in hand will be subsidised by the Physical Welfare Department on the basis of £1 for every £3 we raise. Mention should be made of the work of Mr. Ern Smith, known to the boys as Uncle Ern, who continues to arrange the rota by which leaders of the Bible Classes in the City come to conduct games among the children. These hours are eagerly anticipated by them. The Christchurch Rotary Club also continues to arrange monthly Picture Shows during the Winter months. This year the outing arranged by the Canterbury Automobile Association had to be cancelled owing to bad weather. We thank them all the same, because "it was in their hearts to do it."

Hospitality.

We would again express our thanks to those friends who, at Christmas time, open their homes to our boys and girls. Hospitality this last year came from places as far apart as Eltham and Invercargill. The practice of City Circuits arranging for the older children to spend a Sunday a month with our Church people is proving most worth while.

Gifts.

Individual mention of gifts received from Circuits and from interested people is hardly possible in a brief report, but special thanks should be given to Mr. Worner of Southbridge for the quantity of potatoes he supplies each year.

Finance.

It has been found necessary to look very carefully into the question of finance. The amount received from parents for maintenance is quite inadequate to cover the costs of food and clothing. The

amounts received by way of legacies this year is less than that which we have received for a number of years, and the Street Day Appeal was also less last year than formerly. On the other hand the general trend of rising costs has been felt this year in the Home, as will be seen in the financial statement, which shows a deficit on the year's working. We earnestly appeal to all Circuits for increased interest and practical support of this branch of the Church's work. The response from Circuits is very encouraging, but in order to meet our heavy expenditure increased income from our Churches is required.

Thanks.

To Conveners and Members of Committees, who have given unstintingly of their time and talent to this work during the year, we express our thanks.

The following Board of Management is nominated for 1951:—
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. Flesher, H. J. S. Harrington, W. S. Worner, A. A. Harrow, C. J. Palmer, F. A. Sheat, Mesdames M. A. Pratt, F. C. Thornton, R. A. Marsh, J. Black, and Miss D. Horrell.

H. J. ODELL, Chairman.

A. O. HARRIS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That appreciation be expressed of Mr. and Mrs. G. Howells and the Staff for their faithful and capable services.
3. That to facilitate a better financial return, the South Island Orphanage Board be asked to provide Circuits with their annual appeal literature considerably earlier than in the past.
4. That Conference expresses its appreciation of the work of Rev. E. Drake.
5. That Conference requests the Board to furnish South Island Synods with a list of financial contributions from Circuits and Home Mission Stations.
6. That in the Annual Report of the Methodist Children's Homes there be a statement of the number of admissions and discharges, and in the case of discharges there be a statement as to the type of work in which the young people become engaged, and that the Home Manager and Committee be asked to bring before the young people the needs and claims of Methodist Institutional work.

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

(A) Methodist Times Committee

ANNUAL REPORT, 1950.

Editorial.

The recent Conference decided to make the appointment of the Editor, a three-yearly one. The Committee expresses its appreciation of this action and policy, and feels that it speaks for the whole Church when it records its best thanks to the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., for another year of outstanding service. His associate also, the