

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 NELSON, 1952

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CHRISTCHURCH

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1953

9514	7	4	40	4	0	1126	5	3	731	13	1	197	10	7	1281	10	3	6532	19	11
Totals																				

To our Chaplains, Revs. J. C. Draper and Geo. Brown, to Drs H. J. Mail and Clifford James for medical advice and care.

To Mr F. C. Matthews, who not only gives oversight to the Epsom grounds, but purchases all live stock needed. He also supervises the care and maintenance of the van.

To the many friends who provide outings, holidays, fruit and provisions. The officials of Churches who donate their Harvest Festival produce. Especially do we thank our Church people and friends who open their homes to the children at Christmas time.

These Homes exist because the need exists. It is the work of the Methodist Church to keep the doors of these Homes open for those who qualify for admittance. It is an opportunity for service for all our people and a challenge to our Church membership to provide the necessary money to enable us to provide shelter, food and clothing. These children depend on us for their all.

W. E. ALLON CARR, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

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

2. That the M.S.S.A. be asked to give consideration to the future policy of Children's Home work including the most suitable size of Children's Home units.

3. **Board of Management.**—Chairman: Rev. W. E. Allon Carr. Life Members: Mesdames W. R. Emerson and A. H. White, Mr. J. E. Astley and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faulkner. Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy Jones. Lay-Treasurer: Mr. P. Dellow. Revs. E. W. Hames, W. Walker, Walter Parker, A. E. Orr, F. Copeland, A. H. Scrivin, the Ministers of Mount Albert, Dominion Road, Epsom and Remuera Churches, Mesdames A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, R. C. Hemmings, C. M. Myers, Miss C. Wagstaff, Messrs. F. Penn, A. L. Caughey, R. T. Garlick, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, F. C. Matthews, N. North, B. R. Burton, Gordon Matthews, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

B—Masterton Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

The Committee is grateful for the opportunity for service which is afforded through the Home and thanks God for what is done from year to year in nurturing and training the young lives who are members of its family.

The service rendered by the Master, Matron and staff is outstanding and to them must be given most of the credit for what is achieved.

We now have 20 boys and 14 girls in the Home. During the year there were eight admissions and 11 departures. We are pleased to report that almost all those who left were able, through changed circumstances, to return to parents. Of those entering employment in the period under review one girl has taken up clerical work, another is a companion-help and two are telephone exchange operators. The boys have taken up grocery, plumbing and farming positions.

The annual accounts show total expenses for the year to be

almost identical with the previous year. Maintenance fees collected and circuit collections were higher than previously. In view of prevailing conditions the cost of running the Home (about £88 per child per annum), is considered to be satisfactory.

The drives and a portion of the yard have recently been tar sealed. A small garden tractor and implements have been purchased and put to good use. Preliminary plans have been prepared for the construction of a new room for recreation and general purposes, which it is hoped will ultimately be of considerable benefit in the everyday life of the Home in relieving the over-taxed common room.

Legacies of £1,110 from the estate of the late Mr George Jones, and £1,000 from the estate of the late M. E. Chowen, were received and, together with £94/12/6 income from various estates, were remitted to the Wellington Board for credit of the capital funds of the Home.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge with thanks the response from church people to its appeal for increased contributions. There was also a splendid response to the call for holiday homes for the children at the Christmas and New Year period. The Masterton Trust Lands Trust grant of £20 for school stationery is acknowledged with appreciation. Many friends of the Home have given assistance in various forms and to them all we are very grateful.

We record with appreciation the services rendered to the Home by Mr C. D. Shoosmith, who has resigned from the Committee for health reasons. Mr Shoosmith was a real friend of the children and gave freely of his time for their benefit.

The following Management Committee is nominated for the ensuing year: Mr A. K. Hodder (Chairman), Mr D. E. Lyttle (Vice-Chairman), Mr W. R. Nicol (Manager), Mr J. F. Cody (Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. R. F. Clement, Dr. N. H. Prior, Mesdames J. H. Conly, A. K. Hodder, D. E. Lyttle, C. D. Shoosmith, R. F. Clement and H. C. Wood, Misses L. Cocker and M. Burton, Messrs J. H. Conly, A. H. Daniell, W. E. Layton, T. F. Mannell, K. J. Orams, F. E. Wells and H. C. Wood.

A. KEITH HODDER, Chairman.

J. F. CODY, Secretary.

RESOLUTION.

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

C—South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

In presenting this Report of the work of our Home for the past year, we would record our thankfulness to God for His goodness and for the measure of success which has attended our efforts. Only the love of God can inspire and sustain such a service as this. We are deeply grateful, too, for the spirit of dedication to the highest which is being shown by all the members of the staff. Mr and Mrs G. Howells continue to show a real concern for the welfare of the children. This is reflecting itself in the general atmosphere and kindly discipline of the Home. There have been a few changes in Staff personnel. Miss Melville, who returned to us during the year, has again had to relinquish her position. Miss Dale, who was assist-

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TOTALS																	

ing for some months in the Boys' Block, has also moved on. Mr L. Riley, our very efficient gardener, has resigned. Up to the present his position has not been filled. To these workers, who gave of their best for the Home, we tender our grateful thanks.

Children.

At the present time there are 59 children in the Home, 34 boys and 25 girls. In age these range from three to sixteen years. Several children have been found permanent homes, where, we believe, they will be well provided for and given their opportunity in life. This has come about through the practice followed at Christmas time of arranging for holiday homes for the children. On the whole the health of the children has been excellent. To Dr S. C. Peddie, our Honorary Physician, we are greatly indebted for his ever ready services.

Ministerial Visit.

The Home was recently visited by the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon Mr Bodkin, and Mr McAlpine, M.P. Both expressed themselves in the highest terms of commendation of the Home. This was afterwards conveyed by letter to Mr Howells. Such visits must be productive of good.

Committee Work.

The various Committees, which have the oversight of work at the Home, have met regularly, giving valuable time and service. The Building Committee keeps a watchful eye on the maintenance of the property. This year very considerable renovations have been necessary, with more to be done next year. The Ladies' House Committee looks well to furnishings. Their deft touches lend brightness to dorkers that would otherwise be dull, while their suggestions concerning what might be done lead to efficient and progressive work. The Grounds Committee keeps watch over gardens, pastures, and playing fields. In addition to what is home-grown, much is donated to assist in feeding the family. To the kindly donor, who for many years has given sufficient wheat for the fowls, we express our thanks. Also to those friends who year by year donate potatoes, eggs, jam, etc., we say "Thank you."

Entertainment.

Members of Rotary and the Savage Club have continued their good service in providing outings and entertainments. Mr Ern Smith and members of the Bible Classes have continued to arrange for games evenings. The service of the Bible Classes has been outstanding in connection with the Annual Appeal. Their house to house canvass has been thorough, with excellent results.

In all and above all our aim is to win and hold the children for Christ. Some of them have found the Saviour during the year. For this we thank God. May they prove in years to come that "His service is perfect freedom."

Thanks.

We express our thanks to those who provided holiday homes for the children; also to Mr W. Worner, retiring member of the Board, for his devotion to the children for many years.

The following are nominated as members of the Board for 1953: The Chairman of the District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Cambridge Terrace, Christchurch East, St. Albans and Woolston Circuits, Revs. A. N. Scotter and A. O. Harris, Messrs H. de R. Flesher, H. J. S. Harrington, F. A.

Sheat, A. A. Harrow, C. L. Palmer, P. B. Birkett, R. Barnett, Mesdames M. A. R. Pratt, F. C. Thornton, R. A. Marsh, A. Black, B. M. Hodder and Miss D. Horrell.

W. T. BLIGHT, Chairman.
A. O. HARRIS, Secretary.

RESOLUTION.

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

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

A—Methodist Times Committee

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

Circulation.

The Committee is able to report another successful year's operation. Our circulation figure now stands at 4,750, a nett increase of 100 for the year.

We again emphasise the fact that while circumstances may differ, intensive activity within our Churches can almost invariably result in a substantial increase in the number of contributors. Recently a Church which previously had 47 subscribers, which was an average proportionate figure for its Church membership, sent in the names of 34 new readers, making a total of 81. In one Home Mission Station there has been a steadily increasing enrolment each year for the past four years with the result that there are now 46 subscribers, that is 44% of the membership, which must mean a paper in almost every home in the Station.

Question 8 in the Law Book agenda for Quarterly Meetings provides the opportunity for consideration of this matter. It is to be regretted that in many cases this is either completely ignored or passed over all too quickly. It cannot be stressed too strongly that a Church membership which is steadily being informed by its Church journal is a spiritually richer membership and a more vital force. Ample evidence of that fact abounds within our various circuits. In this connection we do ask that Quarterly Meetings give every support to the circuit agents who are rendering us such valuable service. This will perform a dual service. It will bring to more members the benefit to be derived from their Church paper. It will assist in meeting the increased cost of production referred to later in the report.

We again present a percentage table to indicate the position in our Synodal Districts:

Auckland	13.29	Wellington	15.77
South Auckland	16.03	Nelson	17.17
Taranaki-Wanganui	17.58	North Canterbury	16.37
Hawkes Bay-		South Canterbury	18.35
Manawatu	18.00	Otago-Southland	15.12

Finance.

Increasing costs constitute a seemingly inescapable problem. As indicated in our report to last Conference we anticipated that increased revenue from subscriptions and advertising would enable us to meet during the current year rising costs of printing and distribution. Fortunately that expectation has been realised and we closed the year with a small credit balance of £5/12/6.

We are now faced with still greater charges in respect to the