

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

ATKINSONS LONDON

# The Methodist Church of New Zealand

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Held at Wellington, 1953

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QUESTION LIV.—What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting Children's Homes?

## A—Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT, 1953.

In presenting this report of the work of the two Homes for the past year, we record our thankfulness to God for this opportunity for Service. Only the love of God in the hearts of men and women can sustain such a work. The Church believes that it is carrying out Christ's command to care for little children. Our work is relieving the State of the responsibility of caring for these little ones, but we believe we are giving them loving care plus a Christian home.

The only financial help we receive from the State is the Orphan and Family Benefits. Each child costs approximately 6/8 a day and after maintenance etc. is received the Church has still to find 3/5 per child per day. That is why we appeal to our Church membership to do all that they can to enable us to give the children a good start in life.

The Board is most grateful to the members of the Staff who care for the 60 children in our Homes. The two "Mothers," Mrs Butterworth and Miss Archer are dedicated to the welfare of the children, and with the other members of the Staff are doing all they can to help these young people who depend on them for their needs.

During the year we sustained a great loss in the passing of Mr J. Tyler. As a member of the Board and Chairman of the Building Committee we have lost a valued member. Ever ready to give of his knowledge and experience he piloted the new building scheme through its many set backs until the time when a new permit to build was granted. We would pay a sincere tribute to his memory.

### New Building Scheme.

Both our properties are sadly in need of repair, but now the new building is in sight we must press on toward the construction of the new Home. This year has been one of preparation and planning. The Board's Architect has been engaged on the drawings of the new Home which he hopes to complete this year. It is anticipated that a start will be made on the erection of the Home early next year! The Committee has been in close touch with the Architect over all the main questions involved and has watched all details carefully in line with modern usage and equipment.

### The Family.

There are 29 boys at "Wesley" and 10 small boys and 20 girls at "Epsom." The health of the children has been exceptionally good. During August all the children enjoyed a fortnight at the seaside. We thank the Central Mission trustees for permission to use their Health Camp. The holiday was financed from the "Florence Finlay Holiday House" Fund. All the children had a holiday at Christmas time, the majority in the homes of our people. We again record our appreciation to those who opened their homes in this way.

Several older boys are now working on farms. Three have been accepted into the Youth Farm Settlement Scheme and the reports received are excellent. It speaks well for the behaviour and willingness of these lads that some have started working for those who had given them holidays on their farms.

### Committee Work.

The Selection Committee has met several times giving full consideration to the many applications for admission. For the greater

part of this year the Homes have been full and many requests for admission refused.

The Ladies' Committee continue in their devoted service. Their House Committees meet regularly under the convenorship of Mesdames Wigglesworth and Myers. Officers and Executive have worked hard to stimulate interest among Guild members. As a result, warm knitted garments and used clothing are received, also weekly visits are made by many to mend and patch worn garments. All this service is invaluable and their interest is most encouraging to Board and Staff.

### Thanks.

Our gratitude is expressed to the Chaplains, Revs. J. C. Draper and Geo. Brown; also to Drs. Clifford James and H. J. Mall, the Honorary Medical Officers. The Matrons appreciate their unflinching readiness to attend the sick and for their sympathetic advice. To this we add the name of Mr K. W. White, Chemist, who for years has donated medical supplies to "Wesley." Mr F. C. Matthews gives continual oversight to the grounds and livestock at "Epsom." With the many changes of gardeners there have been insufficient supplies of vegetables but we are grateful for Harvest Festival produce and gifts of fruit, vegetables, jam, eggs and fuel.

### United Orphanage Council.

We record once more our indebtedness to this Council, who, by their enthusiasm, has created public interest in the work of the Homes. Our share of the Street Collection etc. was £992.

As this report is written before the close of our financial year it is impossible to state here our financial position. The Balance Sheet, which will be presented later will reveal this. We have received from new Bequests and interest from previous gifts the sum of £1,717/18/2.

We commend this work to all lovers of children and pray that more of our people will become interested and help us to erect and maintain worthy Homes for these dependent children.

W. E. ALLON CARR, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statement be received and adopted.
3. That Conference express its congratulations to the Board on the progress made towards the completion of its scheme for the building of a new and worthy children's home.
4. Board of Management, 1953-54.—Chairman, Rev. W. E. A. Carr; Deputy, Mr R. T. Garlick. 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, and the Ministers of Mt. Albert, Dominion Road, Epsom, Mt. Eden, and Remuera Churches, Mesdames A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, R. C. Hemmings, C. M. Myers, R. T. Garlick, and Miss C. Wagstaff, representatives of the Methodist Women's Guild Fellowship and Methodist Women's Club, Messrs F. Penn, A. L. Caughey, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, F. C. Matthews, B. R. Burton, G. Matthews, K. J. Orams, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

## B—Masterton Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1953

The family in the Home has been well cared for throughout another year. Each member of it, though deprived of the benefit of normal home life, has received the love and care of our staff and the happy friendship of the other children. While due attention has been given to the physical necessities of food, clothing and shelter and the general health has been good, other aspects of life have not been neglected. There are adequate opportunities for education and recreation. Those suited for and desiring it, are encouraged to continue with higher education. Vacancies in various walks of life are found according to the aptitudes of those ready to leave school. The children participate in a wide range of sporting activities. They are guided in the Christian way of life in a very fine manner within the Home itself and take full part in the Youth activities of the Church.

With the forthcoming retirement of Mr and Mrs H. Bateup and the recent resignation of Miss M. Potter, the Committee has become fully aware of the outstanding service given to the Home by its staff during the last ten years and of the great amount of work done by the small team. Although we sincerely regret their retirement, we give thanks to God for the love and affection shown to the children by Mr and Mrs Bateup, our Master and Matron. The well-being of the children under their care has always been their first concern and has been a heavy and continuous demand upon them. Miss Potter has done fine work in charge of the kitchen and we wish her well in her new sphere of service at "Wesley House," Picton. We are indeed fortunate that Miss C. Fell is remaining with us. Mrs. L. Coppel is welcomed as a recent appointment to the staff.

At present there are 20 boys and 13 girls in the Home. There were 10 admissions and 11 departures during the year. A number of those leaving were able to return to relatives. Two went to Training College and a variety of occupations have been taken up including that of pastrycook, clerk, printer, mechanic and shop assistant.

Rev. Dr. W. G. and Mrs Slade were farewelled from the Committee on their appointment to the St. Albans Circuit. The Committee was grateful for the interest they took in its affairs and the time given in frequent visits to the Home. Messrs. K. J. Orams and T. F. Mannell joined the Committee at the beginning of the year and Rev. R. F. and Mrs Clement more recently. Their presence in the Committee has been valued and helpful. Unfortunately we were soon to lose Mr Orams on his transfer to Auckland, but during a short time he found many opportunities to give practical assistance.

The Committee thanks all those who have in any way helped with its work. Many organisations and individuals have provided entertainment. Gifts of clothing and produce and much needed financial support have been greatly appreciated. To those who gave the children a holiday in their homes we say "Thank you." We also acknowledge the financial backing of the Wellington Board, which has been called on to a greater extent this year to bridge the gap between income and expenditure. We again confidently seek support from the people of our Church to meet this position.

The following legacies were received and remitted to the Wellington Board to be credited to the funds of the Home:—

Estates: T. A. Smith, £100; E. Wagland, £67/14/8; R. J. Double-day, £151/15/-; G. Jones, £46/14/-; E. Stewart, £25; J. A. Ordish, £100; M. P. Fischer, £388/3/-; J. W. Peacock, £100; M. J. Clarke, £100; and income from other estates £50/16/1. It is encouraging to find that so many friends have remembered the Home in this way. The Masterton Trust again granted us £20 for school stationery and £40/6/- was received from Police Charity Effort donations for the provision of additional amenities.

We seek God's guidance for the work that lies ahead and His rich blessing upon the children in the Home.

**Amounts received from Circuits:** The summary of returns is as follows: Wellington District £309/16/2; Hawkes Bay-Manawatu District £280/1/10, Taranaki-Wanganui District £169/8/10. Grand Total: £759/6/10.

A. KEITH HODDER, Chairman.

J. F. CODY, Secretary.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statements be received and adopted.
- 3.(a) That Conference extend greetings and appreciation to Mr and Mrs H. Bateup and Miss M. Potter for their work in the Masterton Home for a period of over ten years.  
(b) That Conference express its warm appreciation of the devoted service rendered to the Masterton Children's Home by Messrs W. R. Nicol, A. H. Daniell and Mrs J. H. Conly.  
(c) That Conference learns with pleasure of the appointment of Mr and Mrs G. W. Thomas as Manager and Matron of the Masterton Children's Home.
4. That the Management Committee be: Chairman, Mr A. K. Hodder; Deputy Chairman, Mr H. C. Wood; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr J. F. Cody; Committee, Rev. R. F. Clement, Dr N. H. Prior, Mesdames C. E. Archer, A. K. Hodder, D. E. Lyttle, C. D. Shoosmith, R. F. Clement and H. C. Wood, Misses M. Burton, L. Cocker and E. James, Messrs J. H. Conly, W. E. Layton, D. E. Lyttle, T. F. Mannell and F. E. Wells.

## C—South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1953.

It is with thankfulness to God that we present this Report of another year of service among the children of our Home. The changes which have occurred in the personnel of our Staff have been few and the number of children in residence has varied little. After almost a year with us, Miss Pilgrim resigned and her place has been filled by Miss Bradley of Shirley. That there have been so few changes in Staff is a witness to the happy conditions prevailing in the home.

For most of the year we had fifty-five children in residence, but as this Report goes to print there are fifty—29 Boys and 21 Girls. Their ages range from three years to sixteen years. We had only one admission and six demissions. Of the latter, John and Tony Kerr have returned to their mother who has remarried and Dorothy Youngman has returned to her father.

### Health.

The general health of the children has been good, except for minor ailments and accidents. In this connection Dr. S. C. Peddie continues to assist us as honorary physician.

### Church Connections.

It is encouraging to note the very definite interest of some of the older ones in the life and work of Church. The attendance of the children at the Sunday morning service is an inspiration to both preacher and congregation. In addition, a number of the older ones voluntarily attend the evening service.

### General Maintenance.

The cost of maintaining a property such as ours is very heavy. Early in the year, the Waimairi Council, together with the Fire Board, inspected the property and advised certain improvements to reduce the fire risk. With a ferro-concrete building, this risk did not seem to us to be great. Nevertheless, we have complied with the law. Smoke screen doors have been erected at the top of the stairs and a system of fire drill is being carried out. Repairs to the roof have been effected and a considerable amount of asphaltting has been done. The purchase of a motor-mower has proved a great advantage.

Mr Howells, with the capable assistance of Mr D. Hawke, keeps a careful watch on the grounds and gardens.

### Fruit.

The fruit yield has not been quite so good this year and it has been suggested that Orchardists might, if they knew of the need, considerably augment the supply of fruit. Careful watch is kept, too, on the best means of securing groceries, meat and other commodities for the table.

The Ladies' House Committee continues to watch the interior furnishings of the Home. Some mattresses have been re-wired and new ones purchased.

### Finance.

The Financial Statement shows that notwithstanding the most rigid economy, the year closes with a deficiency of £669. This is partly accounted for by some unusual expense, but chiefly by rising costs. We are glad to note that Circuits have shown increased interest in the work, with the result that their contributions are about £130 more than last year.

### Easter Camps.

The appeal of the Camps drew into their fellowship seven boys and six girls. The reports of these young people were good.

### Youth Conference.

About 200 Youth Leaders met for Conference in the Home during the recess. All reports are to the effect that it proved a most inspiring occasion. We hope incidentally, that it will serve to make our youth leaders aware of the fine avenue of service which the Home presents. Be that as it may, we were glad to place the Home at the disposal of such a group and such a cause. As far as the Staff is concerned, the Conference left a pleasant memory.

### Mrs Jessie Mackay.

It is fitting that a brief reference be made to the work of Mrs Mackay in connection with the combined Orphanage Appeal. Since the inception of the Committee in Christchurch, Mrs Mackay has been its capable and enthusiastic Secretary. All the Children's Homes in the City have benefitted by her labours during the past twenty-one years. Now that she retires from the work, we extend to her our grateful thanks and good wishes.

### Thanks.

We would tender appreciative thanks to Mr and Mrs Howells and all the members of the Staff for their untiring labours in the interests of the children. Because of what they do it is less an Institution and more of a Home than many smaller places we are familiar with. Thanks are also due to the Rotary Club for Picture evenings and their gift of tools, the Savage Club for toys and auto rides and to the Railway Workshops for Christmas gifts, etc.

We hope to maintain contact with the Circuits by means of biennial visits.

The Following Board of Management is nominated for 1954: The Chairman of the District, the Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace, St. Albans, Woolston and Papanui Circuits; Revs. A. N. Scotter and A. O. Harris; Messrs H. de R. Flesher, H. J. S. Harrington, F. A. Sheat, C. L. Palmer, A. A. Harrow, 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.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statements be received and adopted.
3. That appreciation be expressed of the happy conditions prevailing in the Home, due to the sterling work of Mr and Mrs Howells and their staff.
4. Board of Management for 1954: The Chairman of the District, the Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Christchurch East, Cambridge Terrace, St. Albans, Woolston and Papanui Circuits; Revs. A. N. Scotter and A. O. Harris; Messrs H. de R. Flesher, H. J. S. Harrington, F. A. Sheat, C. L. Palmer, A. A. Harrow, 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.

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

## A—Methodist Times Committee

### ANNUAL REPORT, 1953.

The Committee has pleasure in reporting another successful year, except that as anticipated in our previous report and detailed later herein, there is a large financial loss on the year's working.

Our circulation shows a nett increase for the year of 75 subscribers which from one point of view may be regarded as satisfactory, in that each year for the past twelve years a steady rise has been recorded. In that period our circulation has increased by 61%. This, of course, is only keeping pace with our growth as a Church but it also indicates a sustained interest in our Church journal. A circulation of 4,825 gives us a percentage figure based on Church membership of nearly 18%. It is not possible to say exactly how many homes that represents; but it would seem to indicate something in the vicinity of 50%. We are convinced that by consistent interested efforts within our Circuits more of the homes which are not in receipt of our Church paper can be made subscribers, and we