

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, 1955

---

*Price: Two Shillings and Sixpence*

PROCURABLE AT THE CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

---

Printed by WILLIS & AIKEN LTD., 125 Worcester Street, Christchurch



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

## **A—Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage**

**42nd ANNUAL REPORT — 30th JUNE, 1955**

The year under review has been a momentous one for the Board. The Foundation Stone of the New Children's Home was laid Sunday, May 2nd, 1954. Gradually the buildings have taken shape and should have been completed early this year. However we now await the finishing touches and the laying out of the grounds. Very soon we hope to have the children and staff in their new Home.

### **Obituary:**

We regret to have to report the passing of one of our valued Life-Members, Mrs Emerson. She opened the present "Wesley" Home in December 1913 and to the end she kept her interest in the work of the Home. It is with regret that she did not live to see the New Home opened.

### **Building Scheme:**

The contract was let for £58,000. The Board will require at least a further £12,000 for Architect's fees, furnishing, laying out of grounds, etc. The gratitude of the Board is expressed to Mr Russell Garlick, Chairman, the Secretary, Mr Gordon Matthews and the members of the Building Committee for the time spent in considering all the planning and detail necessary in such a big undertaking.

Mr Garlick's business training and ability have been a great asset. Mr J. G. Rennie has acted as Liaison Officer between the Board and the Architect and has given willingly of his experience and time. Mr Marshall, the Architect, has by his interest, done his part in watching expense and helping the Board to provide a worthy building.

### **£20,000 Appeal:**

The Board stepped forth in faith, believing that our people in Northland, Auckland, and South Auckland, would help us to achieve this goal. It was absolutely necessary that this amount should be forthcoming and it is with disappointment that we report that only £6,600 has been raised to date. The giving of many of our Sunday Schools, individual children and adults and groups in the Church has been most heartening. The fact that many of our membership have not been approached accounts for the poor response to the Appeal.

The Dominion Road Trustees very graciously released Rev. Allon Carr for a month's canvass of every Circuit in the South Auckland District. This personal contact brought a ready response and we are grateful to Mr Carr for this piece of service. In the other two districts the Board had to rely on the enthusiasm of the Minister and Collector to pave the way.

The *Publicity Team*, Rev. L. R. Gilmore and Mr B. R. Burton did an excellent job. Mr Burton prepared two splendid brochures and together they published and circulated three Chronicles, so that Ministers and Leaders were kept posted of the progress of the Appeal. Mr Gilmore wrote to Firms, Lodges and Clubs as well as to key business men, soliciting their help in this work among the children. Many individuals and groups have given willingly of their experience and time and to all these the Board is most grateful.

### **Committee Work:**

The *Building and Finance Committee* have met regularly.

The *Ladies' Committee* with Mrs C. J. Burton as President and Miss Wagstaff as Secretary have been planning the furnishings of their New Home. They have raised £562 toward the furnishings as well as £177 for the Clothing and Sunshine Fund for the children. The House Committees

have carried on their oversight and planning for replenishing linen and crockery. Groups of ladies from the Guilds have visited the Homes to mend and patch. This service so quietly given is not forgotten when rendering thanks.

The *Selection Committee* comprising four women and three men have admitted nineteen children and transferred three to Papanui Home. Sixteen have left the Homes.

*United Orphanage Council.* The Chairman and Mr C. K. Wigglesworth represent the Board on this Council. We record again our indebtedness to this body of men who continue to create interest among the general public. Our share this year from this source was £1,200.

### **The Family:**

The present roll for Epsom is 17 girls and 13 small boys. Seven being of pre-school age. Wesley has 28 boys from 8 years to 17 years. Total 58. The health of the children has been excellent and the School Reports satisfactory. The spirit in the Homes is most encouraging. Of a Staff of twelve all are Christian women and nine are Methodists. The example and concern of these women for the welfare of their young charges and their desire that every child shall know Christ as their personal Saviour, has made a totally different atmosphere in the Homes. The Board, Staff and children are most fortunate to have at the helm of the New Home, Mrs R. M. Butterworth. At present the Matron of "Wesley" she brings to the new position, a rich experience in Children's work and in Homecraft. In Miss Archer, who will Mother the girls, we have a devoted Christian woman and in Miss Southern, who will Mother the boys, a Christian young woman who loves her job. Every member of the Staff has pulled her weight and Miss Kiddle, a member of the Staff at "Wesley", is driving the Van and helping with the stock and garden. Board and Committees plan and provide but the success of the work lies in the hands of these devoted people.

### **Holiday Homes:**

The gratitude of the Board go to those kind folk who year after year open their homes to the children at Christmas time. Many happy friendships have been formed and Hosts have spoken well of their young visitors. The children cherish this link and profit from spending sometime in a family group. The Florence Finlay Holiday Fund continues to provide the children with a seaside holiday during the August vacation.

### **Collector:**

After several years without anyone to collect subscriptions and goods from the business firms, Miss I. Taylor responded to our Appeal. She has proved an excellent Collector and despite the many appeals being made she has brought in the sum of £130/12/6 in money and goods.

### **Van:**

Our 1936 Chevrolet Van, second-hand when purchased has given years of hard service. It became imperative that a new Van be purchased and we now have a new Bedford. The old Van was sold at a satisfactory price.

### **Thanks:**

Our thanks are expressed to everyone who has given time and gifts to the work. It is impossible to thank all by name but our gratitude is expressed to the Chaplains, Revs. G. Hanna and Geo. Brown. Also to Drs. Clifford James and H. J. Mail, the Honorary Medical Officers; to Mr K. W. White who still continues to donate medical supplies to "Wesley"; to Mr F. C. Matthews re his oversight of livestock and grounds; to Mr Percy Dellow, Lay Treasurer, who gives valued help to the Secretary-Treasurer in financial matters and Mrs R. G. Hemmings the Minute Secretary. Also to those who have sent parcels of clothing and gifts of jam, fruit and eggs and to the several Churches who continue to send their Harvest Festival Produce.

As this Report is written before the close of the financial year, it is impossible to state the financial position but at the time of writing there is



owing on the Building £18,925 and without extras, furnishings and the laying out of the grounds the Board is faced with a deficit of over £10,000. The two present sites will be vacated and taking the long view it is the desire of the Board to prepare and lease in sections, under the Glasgow Lease.

The work among the children is so worthwhile that the Board invites all who love little children to help them through this difficult period.

The earnest prayer is for the generous support of our people.

W. E. ALLON CARR, Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Chaplain be the Minister of the Mt. Roskill Church.
3. That Conference congratulate the Board on the completion of the new Home at Mount Roskill. Special appreciation is expressed of the work of the Rev. W. E. Allon Carr as Chairman of the Board, Mr Russell Garlick, as Chairman of the Building Committee, Mrs C. J. Burton, as Chairman of the Furnishings Committee, Sister Ivy Jones, Secretary of the Board, and Mr A. C. Marshall, the Board's Architect.
4. That the Board of Management for 1956 be as printed on page 12 herein.

## B—Masterton Methodist Children's Home

### REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1955

The Home family now numbers 23. There were three new admissions during the year and two children were returned to the Home after having been in foster homes for a period. Four children were returned to their mother for admission to another Home, one boy has been placed on a farm and one girl has been placed in a foster home with a view to adoption.

The Committee wishes to thank the Manager, Matron and their Assistants for their good services over the year and their zealous care of the children. It is with regret that we report the resignation of Mr and Mrs G. W. Thomas as Manager and Matron. Mr and Mrs Thomas have held these positions for almost two years and have made their own contribution to the life of the Home. We are sorry that the Home is to lose its "father and mother" so soon but we wish them well in the work they are taking up in the ministry of the Baptist Church. We again record appreciation of the loyal and devoted service of Miss Constance Fell. The Home lost another valued worker in the person of Miss Muriel McCormack who has entered Deaconess training. Mrs M. R. H. McMurtrie has recently joined the staff as cook and Mrs Barr comes in daily to assist with the housework. Both these ladies are giving loyal service.

Staffing of the Homes causes some concern at times but we are thankful that it has been possible to keep the full services of the Home available throughout. At the time of writing this report we are in search of a Christian couple with suitable qualifications who are prepared to enter this very demanding avenue of full time service within the Church.

After five years of office as Chairman, a position he held with credit to himself and benefit to the Home, Mr A. K. Hodder has handed over the reins to Mr H. C. Wood. Rev. R. Day, Dr. O. F. Prior and Mr A. S. Kay joined the Committee this year.

A paddling pool has been constructed which has proved of great benefit, a large playing area at the back of the Home is now being tar sealed

and a motor mower has been purchased. All these improvements were made possible through the funds provided by the local Police Charity efforts in recent years and we are very thankful for them. The Home received a further £131 from this source again this year.

The Committee has been encouraged by the increasing interest of the people of the Church. Circuit Collections reached the figure of £994/4/8, almost the target we had set. Gifts of produce and clothing have been received. Most of the children have spent school holidays as guests in private homes. This is beneficial to the children and a means of relieving our staff and we commend this avenue of assistance to our Church folk.

With income remaining almost the same as the previous year and some reductions in expenditure the financial position has improved. It has not been necessary to lean so heavily on the Wellington Board and our capital funds as was the case in the two previous years. We received £50 as part of a legacy from the Estate W. H. Denton and are grateful that friends of the Home continue to make provisions such as this in their wills. We also acknowledge the annual grant of £20 for School stationery made by the Masterton Trust Lands Trustees.

In conclusion we seek the support and prayers of our people so that we may be able to provide good conditions and facilities for the children in our care and so that our staff may be upheld in their ministry to the children's physical and spiritual wellbeing.

HAROLD WOOD, Chairman.

J. F. CODY, Secretary.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That the Master and Matron be thanked for their work.
3. That the Board of Management for 1956 be as printed on page 12 herein.

## C—South Island Children's Home

### REPORT FOR 1955

The review of another year of service among the children of our Home calls for heartfelt gratitude to God for His continued goodness to us. It also reminds us of our need of patience, wisdom and strength, beyond our own, in rightly directing and seeking to develop the faith and character of those under our care. It also calls for the continued and sustained interest of the members of our Church in South Island Districts. For such results as have been attained we give thanks to God and go forward.

Though the numbers do not vary greatly from year to year, there are a few more children in the Home than last year. The total at present stands at 57, made up by 34 boys and 23 girls. Admissions 14 and discharges 7, some of these latter going back to re-established homes, where one or other parent has re-married.

For several years School Reports have been encouraging. This year the results have been very gratifying, one will probably gain his University Entrance. He has no thought, however, of an academic career. Several older boys will finish their apprenticeship this year and it is worth noting that in no case has an apprenticeship been broken. From time to time these older ones visit the Home and it is good to feel that they like to do so, being sure of the interest of the Staff in their work and welfare. Not all have maintained Church connection, but even those who have not, seem to be facing life seriously, instead of being bits of drift-wood on the stream of society.



Various forms of sport are encouraged, the grounds providing ample room for them. One is captain of the school hockey team. The children also have garden plots in which they take a real interest. Hobbies of all sorts are followed, miniature brick building, stamp collecting, etc., as well as weird and wonderful constructions in the workshop. It is here that patience pays its dividends. In the Sunday School and Church our young people take their part.

In the recent Scripture Examinations our children did well, Shirley McKeon winning the Virtue Memorial Prize, as runner up in the Intermediate Section to the Gold Medalist, with 96 marks.

#### Staff:

Some changes have taken place this year, which, though not unexpected, have meant re-arrangement of duties within the Home and in the garden.

After 16 years of faithful and efficient work in the grounds and about the buildings, Mr D. Hawke has retired. His character and ability were such that, without noise or ostentation, he exerted a most salutary influence in the place. He played many parts, gardener, carpenter, mechanic, disciplinarian, kindly friend, and he played them well. His long service was fittingly recognised by the Board at a social afternoon, when he was presented with a cheque and afterwards by the Staff and the children at tea. We are sure of his continued interest.

We are glad to welcome Mr C. J. Patient as the new Gardener to replace Mr Hawke. Mr Patient comes to us as one familiar with our Methodist Church, accustomed to work on the land and with a lively interest in children. We wish him good success.

Mrs Clarke, after 5 years' willing and efficient service as Cook, has retired. Her place has been taken by Miss Webby and all of us feel that she has found her niche. Miss Wakelin has left us to take a place as Matron of the Y.M.C.A. Miss Bradley withdrew after two and a half years splendid service. Miss Young has recently joined the Staff as Assistant to Sister Rona in the Boys' Block. Miss Thelma Churchill, who arrived early in the year to give a year of service under the Order of St. Stephen, has fitted into the work of the Home 'as to the manner born'. We wish her stay with us could be protracted. Other members of the Staff, who are not mentioned in this Report, are giving splendid service.

#### Maintenance:

The work of maintenance on our buildings, though costly, is being attended to regularly. Exceptional items of expense have been incurred this year in very necessary equipment. The purchase of a Bedford light van, which has been under consideration for a number of years, is now an accomplished fact. It is proving an excellent investment. It has been converted to convey passengers (children) and is also most useful in collecting produce, etc., for the Home. The wonder is how we managed without it. A new rotary hoe has been bought, the old one, after many years of work, proved beyond repair. In the kitchen, a new food-mixer is lightening the labour of preparing meals. New Radio sets are needed on both the boys and girls Blocks. Can some kindly Methodist supply them?

#### Coloured Film:

The production this year of a beautiful coloured Film of the life of the Home, entitled "Room for One More" has won high praise from all who have seen it. It is the work of experts and should be of great benefit in making visible the day to day scenes of which it is difficult so to speak that they 'come alive'. In this enterprise we are indebted to Mr L. R. Beardsley who is chiefly responsible for it and who is freely putting it at the service of the Board. He has spared nothing in time, labour and expense to make it worthy of our cause. In this he has had the willing co-operation of Mr Norman France and Mr Lindsay Crozier, to whom we tender our grateful thanks.

The interest of Board members in the work, judging by regular attendance at meetings throughout the year, has been well sustained. In addition to this, each member of the Board is on one of the Committees which brings him or her to the Home at regular times.

#### Combined Appeal:

The Combined Appeal this year reached the fine amount of £1,324. Mention should here be made of the wonderful leadership given to the Appeal Committee by Mr J. L. Hay. He has been Chairman of the Committee since its inception and he has brought to it great devotion and enthusiasm. To him, more than to any other, we owe the fine team spirit which has been evident each year in our united efforts. Now that he feels the need to steady up, to leave much of his work to others, and before he actually retires from the Committee, we pay him tribute. May he find the only reward he looks for, the continued success of the Appeal and the "Well Done" of our Heavenly Father.

#### Thanks:

We extend our grateful thanks again to individuals and to groups of people who in various ways have assisted us during the year—Leeston friends for the Annual Garden Party, Ashburton for eggs and jam. The Rotary Club has arranged film evenings, Uncle Ern Smith his games evenings on Saturdays, the Savage Club and the Addington Workshops for Christmas Toys, the Automobile Association for the Picnic to Waikuku, and those responsible for arranging a visit to the Industries Fair. The children enjoyed all the good things provided for them, while at the Fair, some of our young hopefuls appeared—for the first time in their lives—in Television, much to the amusement of the crowd. The Master and Matron (Mr and Mrs Howells), the Assistant Matron (Sister Rona Collins) and all members of the Staff, continue to give of their best and we thank them.

Mention should also be made of the continued honorary services of Dr. S. C. Peddie and Dr. W. Pryor.

W. T. BLIGHT, Chairman.

A. O. HARRIS, Secretary-Treasurer.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That Conference express appreciation of the fine gesture of Mr L. R. Beardsley and his colleagues in making available to the Connexion the excellent colour film of the South Island Children's Home.
3. That the Board of Management for 1956 be as printed on page 12 herein.

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

## A—Methodist Times Committee

### ANNUAL REPORT 1955

Under the able editorial leadership of the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D. our Church Journal has brought to our people through another year a steady flow of interesting and informative material on a great variety of subjects. Devotional articles, insights into missionary enterprise at home and abroad, biblical and theological studies, review of work undertaken by every section of the Church, articles on international and current topics, news from our Churches—all this and much else has found its place in each issue, a high standard of excellence being steadily maintained.

The appreciation of our people is reflected in the fact that we record again an increase of 246 subscribers. The necessary rise in the subscription rate from 10/- to 12/6 per annum as at the commencement of our new