

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 AUCKLAND, 1956

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The Committee emphasises its conviction that there is a vocation within this sphere for qualified and devoted women. It points out that there is no clamant call on the part of our Church for women preachers, but there is a desire for Deaconesses.

The ministry which they are asked to fulfil is different in nature from that which ordained Ministers are called to exercise. The preparation must therefore be different also. While the training must have a Theological and Biblical basis, it should not aim to be primarily academic. Further, the fields of service open to Deaconesses in our Church are various, which indicates that to a core curriculum there should be added certain specialized studies. Our Deaconesses can enter the following spheres of service—Maori Work, City Missions, Social Service Institutions, Circuit Work or Overseas Missions.

The core curriculum at present consists of Theology, Bible Knowledge, Pastoral Theology, Church History, Homiletics, English and Psychology.

It is in the realm of additional specialized subjects that the Board feels that development is called for, not in respect to the basic theological training referred to above.

It has been stated in certain discussions that the standard required is not high enough both in respect to the entrance examination and of the training course, and also that certain limits are imposed because the lecturers are not specialists but circuit ministers.

It is pointed out that the training needs to be practical rather than academic. The ministers who are asked to do this work are always sufficiently qualified to carry through a general theological training to as high a standard as is necessary. What that standard will be must be determined largely by the qualifications of the candidates who offer and also by the nature of the work they will be expected to do.

Specialised training should be along three lines:

- (a) For Maori Mission Work.
- (b) For Circuit or other specialised work, where certain selected trainees could do a special one year course at Trinity College, when considered desirable.
- (c) For Institutional work—such as Children's Homes and Eventide Homes, to be attached to such an institution for a given period.

Stationing of Deaconesses:

The procedure at the present time is in accord with the Law Book, page 123, paragraph 31, which means that the list of appointments is made by the Board after consultation with the Departments and Circuits concerned, and is presented to the Conference after the Stationing sheet for Ministers and Probationers is completed. We believe there is no good reason to depart from this procedure. We would agree, however, that there is virtue in the suggestion that the list of appointments be made known to the Stationing Committee *for information purposes only*. From time to time there are Deaconesses who are able to serve the Church in a "supply" capacity, for either a Ministerial or Home Missionary appointment.

The question of stationing and control is under consideration by the Law Revision Committee.

A. K. PETCH, Chairman.
J. C. A. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That appreciation be expressed of the work of the Lady Superintendent and the Staff and Lecturers of Deaconess House.

3. Believing that the call to service frequently comes to young women earlier than 21 we recommend that candidates be received for Deaconess training as from 18 years of age and that this be referred to the Deaconess Board for consideration.

4. That the Board for 1957 be as printed on page 10 herein.

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

A—Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage

REPORT FOR 1956

With the passing of another year, the time has come for the Board to review the work for the children committed to the care of our Church. Throughout the year we have been deeply conscious of God's guiding hand and His continued goodness to us in all our undertakings.

Obituary:

Another of our valued Life members has been called "Home". Mr and Mrs W. H. Faulkner have been wonderful friends to Staff and children and to the last Mr Faulkner kept a keen interest in the work and rejoiced with us in the erection of the new Home. In his passing we have lost a valued supporter.

New Home:

For over a year we had anxiously looked forward to occupying the new building. In October 1955 the family moved in. Transferring sixty children and Staff with all their belongings was a difficult task. In addition there were cows, poultry and pets to move to their new quarters. Our grateful thanks go especially to the staff who packed all the goods and clothing and to those friends who supplied trucks and cars and helped in the move. The Ladies' Committee had performed the tremendous task of furnishing, purchasing and making the curtains and counterpanes.

The Official opening took place Saturday, 29th October. A Monster Fair, organised by the ladies, was held in conjunction with the Opening and it was estimated that over 200 people were present. Several members of Parliament honoured us with their presence and Dame Hilda Ross opened "Wesleydale", "To the Glory of God and for the welfare of children."

The Family:

The Home has a full complement. There are twenty one girls and forty one boys, making a total of sixty two. Six are of pre-school age. At the end of the school year our senior boy moved to the Trinity College Hostel where he could attend the University and study to become a secondary school teacher. The present senior boy is preparing for his University Entrance examination and has hopes of studying medicine. Eleven children attend High School and the majority are making good progress despite the change of schools. After seven and a half years of service Miss Archer tendered her resignation. In May 1948 she took the position of Matron at our "Epsom" Home and later became the "Mother" to the girls and small boys in our new Home. Her resignation was accepted with regret and we are grateful for the years of faithful service she rendered to the children who loved her. The efficient running of the Home and the happiness and health of the children depend on the staff. Mrs Butterworth, who has supervision of "Wesleydale" has given many years of devoted service for the children. The other members of the staff, ten women and one man are giving splendid service. Miss G. Robinson mothers the girls and small boys as well as having care of their clothing. Miss J. Southern is "Mother" to the boys eight years and over and also cares for their clothing. These "mothers" live in the children's quarters and have a most responsible position. We attribute the excellent spirit and happiness of the children to the co-operation of the staff.

The health of the children has been good and we are grateful in this connection for the service rendered by Drs D. R. Barker and P. C. Calvert.

Holiday Homes:

At Christmas time it is our aim to give every child a holiday. This has served the dual purpose of giving our children a holiday in a private home and of relieving the staff. The children have discovered "Aunts" and "Uncles" and as the time draws near they anxiously await the invitation they are quite sure will be for them. Our thanks go to those who open their homes to these children.

Collector:

The job of contacting business houses and others, soliciting their interest and support, has been ably carried on by Miss I. Taylor. A keen Methodist and a lover of children she carries on despite the competition met. During the year she has collected over £145 in goods and cash.

Committee Work:

The Trustees who control all our property have given serious consideration to the best use of the two properties once occupied by the old Homes. The buildings have been demolished by tender. The seventeen sections at Epsom have been leased under Glasgow lease. The Mt Albert property will be cut up and similarly leased when finance is available. The Trustees at present have this under consideration and a considerable sum has to be borrowed. It will be at least ten years before the Board receives any income from this source.

The Ladies' Committee:

The President, Mrs C. J. Burton, after eight years as President is resigning this position at the end of this year. Miss Wagstaff, who has been Secretary since 1937 still gives faithful service. The Board is greatly indebted to the ladies of this Committee who not only provide money and clothing but keep the need of the Home before the Ladies' Guilds. The House Committee, chaired by Mrs C. K. Wigglesworth, keeps in monthly contact with the Matron, helping her in supplying and replenishing equipment. The quiet service rendered by the groups who patch and mend is gratefully acknowledged.

The Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee has the important work of receiving all applications for admittance. During the year fourteen children have been admitted and nine have left the Home. It is impossible to accept all children applied for but every effort is made to receive the most needy cases.

The United Orphanage Council:

We again record our indebtedness to this Council, who by their enthusiasm and interest have kept this work before the public. The Board thanks all those who helped in the Street Day Appeal and we are grateful to Mr Wigglesworth who represents us on this Council.

We realise that our task would be impossible but for the generous support of our people. We thank those who have given produce and clothing and especially do we acknowledge the gift of Harvest Festival produce from the churches.

So many people have given of their time and labour that it is impossible to record them here. Some were acknowledged last year but we take this opportunity of thanking others. We express our gratitude to Mr and Mrs A. L. Caughey for their generosity in furnishing so beautifully the combined Assembly and Dining room.

The Mt Roskill Rotary Club for the complete set of tools for the boys and the provision of equipment for the girl's playing area. Also the gift of two floor polishers. To Mr and Mrs B. R. Burton for the gift of a drinking fountain and swings.

To Mr and Mrs W. H. Faulkner for furnishing the Matron's room

also to Mr K. Orams and Mr J. G. Rennie who have given oversight to the grounds and buildings.

To our Architect, Mr A. C. Marshall, who gave his wholehearted interest to the Plans and watched expense and as well gave gifts in equipment and donations.

We desire to pay tribute to the work and interest of the Chairman, Rev Allon Carr, and to Mr Russel Garlick, Chairman and members of the Building Committee. To Mr P. Dellow, Lay-Treasurer, who has guided the Board and kept it fully aware of our financial position. To Mrs R. G. Hemings, the Minute Secretary, who has recorded the business of the Board meetings.

This Report is written before the close of our year so that it is impossible to give our financial position. We are facing a difficult period as we have realised on all our investments and shares with the exception of one small parcel of shares, and our endowment legacies which amount to £3200. The interest from these, plus the Maintenance paid by the parents and the Family Benefit comprise our only certain Income. After this next year the Board will feel the benefit of the leasing of the Epsom property.

We commend this work to our people and ask that they do their utmost to help feed and clothe these young people committed to our care. It costs the Board over £2/15/- per week per child and we invite our membership to join with us in giving these children their opportunity in life.

RUSSEL T. GARLICK, Deputy-Chairman.

IVY H. JONES, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That Conference record its appreciation of the services of the Rev. W. E. Allon Carr as Chairman of the Auckland Orphanage Board during the last five years and for his guidance in the completion of the new Home at Mt Roskill.
3. That Conference express its appreciation of the work of those in charge of the Home.
4. That the Board of Management for 1957 be as printed on page 11 herein.

B—Masterton Methodist Children's Home

REPORT FOR 1956

During the year four children were admitted to the Home and one child left to live with relatives. There are now 26 children in our care including one girl who has commenced work in the P. & T. Department as a typist, but who is still living in the Home. There are also five children of staff members.

Mr and Mrs N. W. Lloyd were appointed as Manager and Matron in August 1955 and soon fitted in to their new sphere of work. However, after some months it became necessary for Mr Lloyd to give up outdoor work for health reasons and he has taken other employment, carrying on duties in the Home part time. There have been several changes in staffing but we are fortunate to have the continuing services of Miss Fell and Mrs McMurtrie. Miss Rita Stuart has recently joined the full time staff and other part-time assistance has been engaged in the house and in the grounds. The Committee is most thankful for the good work done by the staff and for the love and care they have shown to the children.

Mrs A. K. Hodder resigned from the Committee during the year but retains her interest in the Home and assists when opportunity offers. We

lost the services of Mr T. F. Mannell through his removal from the district and wish him well at Palmerston North. Dr O. F. Prior has been granted leave of absence from the Committee while furthering his studies in England and we are pleased to learn of his success thus far.

The maintenance of the Home has received close attention. The work done included floor covering for the boys' balcony, furnishing for an additional staff sitting room, heaters for staff rooms, auxiliary hot water service for the laundry, improvements to kitchen and store room and a new sealed unit for the refrigerator. Extensive fencing repairs were necessary to keep our paddocks stock proof. The question of replacing the old playshed is now being considered and it is hoped that a suitable scheme for carrying out this work will be adopted in the near future.

It has been necessary to make some new arrangement for local transport of children. In the past this has been provided by previous Managers' own cars for which they received an allowance. The Committee purchased an old model car to experiment with the changed situation without involving a heavy capital outlay. The needs of the Home have been met satisfactorily but, as may be expected, the vehicle is rather costly to run.

The Masterton Police Charity Day benefited the Home to the extent of £149/10/- this year. The funds will be utilised to provide additional recreational facilities including netting for the new court, the court itself having been provided from earlier assistance from the same source. The Police Committee has done a wonderful work for the children of the three Homes in Masterton.

The Management Committee was pleased to make the Home available for the Annual Deaconess Convocation held in the May School holidays. This was made possible through hospitality given to children in private homes enabling them all to be away from the Home during this period. There is a great opportunity here for our Church people, particularly those within reasonable travelling distance, to befriend the children. We find that it is of real benefit to the children to spend their holidays in the private homes of Christian people.

We thank all who have supported our work in many ways. In particular we would mention gifts of fruit, vegetables and preserves which have been a special feature this year. Large quantities of fruit donated gave our staff a very busy time and we are grateful to see the larder so well stocked with jams and preserves. We commend this avenue of practical assistance to Ladies' Groups within the Circuits.

The financial support from the Circuits was maintained at the same level as the previous year at £990, just short of our target of £1000. However, our costs rose quite considerably and we look forward to strong support for our next appeal to enable this work to be continued at a standard that is worthy of the Church. Maintenance fees payable by parents are kept under review and there has been an improvement in the income under this heading. However, in some cases little or nothing above the Family Benefit is available.

Notification of a legacy of £200 in the Estate of Miss S. E. Carver has been received with gratitude during the year. It is well for the Home that a fund has accumulated from similar bequests in past years as we are forced to lean heavily upon it from time to time.

We know that there is a worthwhile Christian work to be done for children in need who come under our care and we seek to express to them the love of the people of our Church.

HAROLD WOOD, Chairman.
J. F. CODY, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

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

2. That the Manager, Matron, Staff and Committee be thanked for their work.
3. That the Board of Management for 1957 be as printed on page 11 herein.

C—South Island Children's Home

REPORT FOR 1956

In presenting the 42nd Annual Report of the work of our Home, we would acknowledge the guidance and blessing of God in our labours. The work of the Home has proceeded with its usual thoroughness throughout the year, thanks to the capable and devoted supervision of the Master, Matron and Staff.

The number at present in the Home is 53, made up by 31 boys and 22 girls. This is almost the same number as last year, there being 13 admissions and 12 discharges. It is interesting to note that the family now includes five Maori children. The health of all has been good, there being no serious illness or accident. Dr S. C. Peddie continues to act as Honorary Physician and Mr L. J. Dale, Chemist, renders us good service.

School Reports:

The Reports from the Schools this year have given us cause for thankfulness, both as far as the general behaviour of the children is concerned and also their success with their school work. Four of those attending High School were 1st in their classes, two boys and two girls. One boy was captain of the hockey team, in which he exercised a splendid influence. For the signs of developing character and a right attitude to life, we are grateful.

Athletics:

At the Annual Outing, arranged by the Canterbury Automobile Association for the various Children's Homes of the City, our children acquitted themselves well, winning 3 out of 4 of the silver cups and the Peter Harvey Memorial Shield for the highest aggregate points.

Hobbies:

A Stamp Club is conducted regularly by Mr and Mrs Young and some of the children have splendid collections. One boy is an enthusiastic collector of matchbox labels and has correspondents in many parts of the world. Games evenings continue on Saturdays, arranged by Uncle Ern Smith.

Film:

The Film, "Room for One More", continues to bring the work of the Home to the notice of congregations. It is a moving, true to life, story.

Staffing:

While the key positions have been unchanged for some years, staffing generally is very difficult. We urgently appeal to those whose 'hearts God has touched' with a sense of vocation for such work, to assist us.

Marriages:

Several former inmates of the Home have married during the year and Mr and Mrs Howells, also Sister Rona have been present to convey to the happy couples the greetings of the Board.

Apprenticeships:

A number of our young men have completed and some almost completed their apprenticeships in such trades as Carpentering, Fitting and Turning, Motor Mechanics, etc. In seven years not one has caused the slightest anxiety or wished to break his contract.

Frequently on Sundays, we welcome former members of the Home, fine strapping young fellows and attractive young ladies, who show evident pleasure in coming back to us.

Street Day Appeal:

The Combined Orphanages Appeal this year realised approximately £1900.

The death of Mr W. C. Worner, of Southbridge, removes one who was a loyal member of the Board for many years and a generous donor towards the work of the Home. We record our appreciation of his service.

W. F. BLIGHT, Chairman.

A. O. HARRIS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That the Master and Matron, Staff and Board be thanked for their work.
3. That the Board of Management for 1957 be as printed on page 11 herein.

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

A—Methodist Times Committee

REPORT FOR 1956

Finance:

The financial statement for the year ending 31st May, 1956 reveals an excess of income over expenditure of £207 19s 7d. That is gratifying in that for the two previous years we operated at a substantial loss as a result of which our reserve fund was completely used up. Without the grant however of £200 from the Fire Insurance Fund the position would still be precarious.

Income from subscriptions shows an increase of £662 6s. 8d. accounted for largely by the higher subscription rate of 12s 6d instead of 10s. Advertising income also shows an increase of £48 18s 10d. On the other hand costs for printing, distribution and general charges also show an increase of £364 9s 11d.

Circulation:

Our circulation figure now stands at 5150, an increase of new subscribers over deletions of 25 only for the current year. It represents an increase of 77% on the figure of 1936. In May 1955 each circuit agent was supplied with 10 copies of the first issue for free distribution—just over 2000 copies being thus distributed. How many new readers resulted directly from this approach it is not possible to state. The actual number of new readers enrolled for the year is 418 but on the other hand 393 names were deleted through death, lack of interest and other reasons.

Editorial:

The Committee records another year of valued service rendered by the Editor, the Rev W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., the Associate Editor, the Rev C. P. Lucas, those who contribute regularly and those who assist as circuit agents.

From time to time, through Synods or directly, suggestions have been received in regard to material that might be included and procedure adopted. All helpful suggestions are gratefully received. It is not possible to implement many of them, while on the other hand, some such recommendations have been tried from time to time. For example it has been urged again this year that District news should be featured more, and the Circuit news columns reduced. The Editor has tried on many occasions to get Districts to appoint agents and to send regular contributions. With very rare exceptions it is just not done. Hence if news from within Districts is to be featured (as it ought to be) it has to be done through

the Circuit news columns. It has also been urged that more original contributions be encouraged from New Zealand sources. Here again it has to be said that the response to overtures in this connection has been most disappointing.

Future Policy:

The Committee has had some consultations with the Board of Publications concerning future policy. It had before it also the matter referred to the Boards concerned of possible action with respect to a joint publication with the papers of the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches. After preliminary consideration it was decided that no further investigations were warranted until the vote on the principle of Church Union is taken in 1957.

E. H. ANDREWS, Chairman.

H. L. FIEBIG, Business Manager.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That the Editor, Associate Editor, Contributors and Circuit Agents be cordially thanked for their valued services.
3. That the Board for 1957 be as printed on page 11 herein.

B—Board of Publications

ANNUAL REPORT 1955

A steady demand from Circuits for the various publications reveals the eagerness of the Church to extend the Kingdom through the printed word.

Crusade Publications:

At the request of the Spiritual Advance Committee, a Crusade Visitation leaflet entitled "The Hardest Thing in the World" was printed, but relatively few Circuits have used it extensively. Advent and Lenten Leaflets and the Prayer Calendar once more had a wide sale, though fewer copies of the latter were sold than last year. For 1957, we shall be including the International Bible Reading Association series of Bible Readings in the Prayer Calendar.

Also, at the request of the Spiritual Advance Committee, it was decided not to print a Crusade Poster this year, but to publish a series of four posters for use as Wayside Pulpits.

Other Material Issued:

Two "Wesleydale Booklets" in the Community Challenge Series have already appeared—"Pathway to Adventure" by Donald Soper, and "Reality in the Home" by Dorothy Thornley. "You and the Sects" by W. Selwyn Dawson is a very useful leaflet to arm our people against the infiltration of the sects.

Policy re "Methodist Times":

In consultation with the "Methodist Times" Committee, it was decided to delay investigation of moving the printing of the "Methodist Times" to Auckland until the proposal of amalgamation with the Presbyterian "Outlook" has been fully dealt with.

Audio-Visual Aids:

Experience has taught us that the publishing of printed material occupies all our time and energy, and it has been decided to drop the production of audio-visual aids for the present.

W. E. ALLON CARR, Chairman.

L. R. M. GILMORE, Convener.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report and financial statement be received and adopted.