

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 INVERCARGILL, 1960

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the Mission centre. Brother Neale had compassion in his soul, and passion in his preaching which he retained until the end. The Home call came suddenly, but peacefully, on the 26th August, 1959.

Staff and General: The Mission Board of Management is grateful to its Board of faithful Trustees, Officers and consecrated staff. During the year Sister Gwenda Kennedy has become engaged to be married and will be officially resigning at the end of the Connexional year. We record our grateful thanks to Almighty God for her six years of faithful and consecrated service. Thanks also to Rev Gilmore for work at Mt. Eden Prison, Rev E. T. Olds and College staff and others for preaching service.

The Mission has reached a stage where it is impossible for one minister to carry the full responsibility of every Department and has invited the Rev. S. J. Spindler as associate minister, and this invitation has been accepted. A second Parsonage has been procured. If this arrangement is approved by the Conference the Mission will not press for a Deaconess appointment at present. Again we record our very real thanks to Almighty God, and all who have contributed so generously.

A. EVERIL ORR, Superintendent.
F. M. SOUSTER,
WALTER WOOD, Circuit Steward.
R. T. GARLICK, Hon. Secretary.
E. A. ASTLEY, Hon. Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Reports of Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin Central Missions and Wesley Church (Wellington Central) Social Services Trust be received and adopted.

2. Conference records its gratitude to Mr H. H. Johnson for his faithful and untiring service as Trust Secretary and Social Service Secretary of Central Mission work in Dunedin for 47 years.

3. That Conference, gratified to learn that the planning stage of the new Auckland Central Mission Building Scheme is nearing completion, congratulates Rev. A. E. Orr on the progress made thus far, and expresses appreciation of his devoted service toward this objective.

4. That appreciation be expressed to Mr W. Wood, who has retired after 27 years as Circuit Steward of the Auckland Central Mission and has fulfilled many other offices in the Church.

5. BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT:

Auckland:

Superintendent of Central Mission (Chairman), General Superintendent of Home Missions, Chairman of District, Revs. E. W. Hames, M.A., L. R. Gilmore, B.A., Dr. D. O. Williams, Dr. H. Ranston, Revs. A. J. Seamer, Wesley Parker and the Ministers of the Takapuna, Mt. Albert and Remuera Churches; Mesdames C. K. Wiggleworth, J. S. Caughey, W. Woodward, A. H. Winstone, R. Simpson, N. Mee, F. E. Sutherland, C. W. Firth, A. N. West and Keith Clark, together with the Circuit Officials and Trustees of the Mission properties.

Christchurch:

Revs. W. T. Blight, H. G. Brown, H. K. Brown, H. L. Fiebig, G. V. Thomas, A. K. Petch, Messrs L. S. Ayers, L. Butler, T. J. Chamberlain, F. G. Colechin, M. Couch, W. Couch, R. Ellison, N. J. Hillary, P. A. LeBrun, W. T. Lill, G. S. Salter, W. A. Hadlee, R. Thomas, plus Circuit Officials; Mesdames F. G. Colechin, J. Leask, R. A. Marsh, W. A. Megson; Doctors T. Enticott, T. Hurrell, S. C. Poddie.

III—Children's Homes

A—MASTERTON

There are now 34 children under our care. During the year there were seven admissions and six departures.

The resignation of Mrs C. D. Shoesmith as a member of the Management Committee was received with regret, and appreciation of her valuable services recorded.

Mesdames E. Roberts and A. Kay were welcomed as new members of the Committee.

Miss Margaret Hopkins who has been a member of the staff for three years will be leaving at the end of the year to be married.

Miss Rose Falconer completed her period of service for the Order of St. Stephen by serving for five months at the Home. She has now joined the permanent staff.

Considerable improvements to the interior of the Home have eventuated during the year. Play material has been donated, new tables purchased for the Dining Room, the Common Room painted, and the Staff sitting room completely re-decorated and carpeted. The painting of the roof will be attended to in the coming year.

It has been decided that the Home will in future be known as "HOMELEIGH".

The Committee again expresses appreciation to those people who opened their homes to the children during the school holidays, those who have contributed gifts and of financial support from the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, Trust Lands Trust, and Police Charity Day, also to our Honorary Physicians, Drs N. H. and O. F. Prior; to the Master, Matron and Staff.

B—AUCKLAND

This is our 47th year of Children's Homes work.

Our Family: At date we have in the home 36 boys and 17 girls. The preponderance of boys is a general feature in most Auckland Children's Homes.

The ages of those in Wesleydale range from 3 to 15 years, while the 3 boarded out all turned 16 years of age in 1959/60.

Health of the children has generally been good. The majority of our boys and girls of Brigade age attend and enjoy Brigade activities at Dominion Road Methodist Church. Twelve boys play in local soccer teams, and one girl plays in a local basketball team. Sunday schools at Mt. Roskill and Dominion Road are attended by our children.

Our Staff:

Mr and Mrs Riley from Gisborne joined us as Superintendent and Matron last July, bringing with them an enthusiasm for the work, which coupled with their first year's experience at Wesleydale is proving helpful to the work for the children. Other staff changes have been numerous for various reasons, but the behaviour of the children has been generally good.

Our Finances:

As our financial year does not end until 30th June, our final figures for the year are not yet available. However, tentative total revenue expenditure for this year is £12,150 compared with an actual of £11,476 for the previous year. The main reason for the increase is increased wages, because of our decision to have a Superintendent and his wife Matron part-time, where formerly we had a Matron. Expenditure is at the annual and weekly rates of £243 and £4/13/6 per child respectively.

Our Supporters:

Monetary donations account for 27 per cent. of our income, this comprising 13 per cent from the general public via the Auckland Community Chest giving, and direct donations to us, and 14 per cent from our churches, Sunday schools, etc., in our North Auckland, Auckland and South Auckland districts. Beyond this we get donations of clothing, sewing up of our materials, produce, food, etc. from our Church folk throughout the three districts, and from local Auckland firms and interested people. We also received a grant of £300 from the J. R. McKenzie Trust last year.

Our Ladies' Committee:

This is the 44th year of the activities of our Ladies' Committee. Their continued support is invaluable. Perhaps their major contributions this year were their annual fair and sale at our Home, and their assistance in running Wesleydale at the commencement of the year prior to Mr and Mrs Riley's arrival.

Secretary-Manager:

Sister Ivy Jones, M.B.E., J.P., retired last January after 14 years in this position, which was preceded by over 17 years in Maori Deaconess work for our Church. Mr R. K. Stacey was appointed the new Secretary-Manager.

Accommodation:

Wesleydale Home, opened in 1956, was planned in four dormitories, two on either side of the central block. The preponderance of boys recently has made it necessary for the youngest boys to be accommodated with the youngest girls in one of the girl's dormitories. At the present time our three to six age group accommodation is fully taxed, and our seven to eleven age group of boys is almost full.

During the year we have completed the residence for our Superintendent and Matron and their family. Its benefits are already being felt by them, and also in the good use they are putting it in giving the elder children in the Home short periods of staying at the residence, and experiencing living as a small family unit.

Children's Holidays:

We are grateful to many kindly folk who give our children hospitality at holiday times. While not wishing to particularise we would like to mention the help given in this way this year by some of the Rotary and Jaycee Clubs.

The matter of our Children's Homes work coming more directly under the supervision of the M.S.S.A. organisation is under consideration by the Board.

C—SOUTH ISLAND

With 64 children in residence we have the highest number for some years. There are 36 boys and 28 girls. Two boys are boarded out, one doing full-time University and the other University Entrance.

The health of the children has been generally good, and thanks are due to Dr J. A. B. Burn for his willing and co-operative service as Honorary Doctor.

The staffing position has been subject to normal fluctuations but has been satisfactory. The most important changes took place when Mr and Mrs W. Robertson resigned after two years' service with the Board. Opportunity was taken to express the thanks of the Church to Mr and Mrs Robertson.

Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott of Sumner, were appointed to the vacancy.

We place on record the valued services rendered to the Board and the Home by the Rev. A. O. Harris, who was appointed Secretary in 1949.

The Rev. H. A. Cochrane was appointed the new Secretary. The new Chaplain, Rev. H. C. Matthews, has taken up his duties and already has rendered valuable service to the moral and spiritual welfare of the children.

Intensive research has been carried out by the Board during the year evaluating the advantages and limitations of the present policy of the home and examining the Cottage Home system and alternative types of homes. The Recommendations and findings of the Board have been sent to the Conference Commission.

D—COMMISSION ON ORPHANAGES

(1959 Minutes, p. 168, No. 3)

INTERIM REPORT

1. During the year the Commission has itself given initial consideration to the subject and has assembled information and material from:—

- (a) Authorities administering Methodist Children's Homes in New Zealand;
- (b) Authorities under the auspices of other Churches in New Zealand administering Children's Homes and other services for dependent children;
- (c) The School of Social Science, Victoria University of Wellington;
- (d) Authorities under the auspices of the Methodist Church in the United States of America concerned with the administering of Homes and other services for dependent children;
- (e) Persons with active interest and experience in the care of dependent children under the auspices of the Church and under other services.

2. While the Commission is not yet in a position to come to any conclusions, some points are emerging from the evidence and opinions received so far, and these may well prove to be indications of likely findings and recommendations. They can be summarised as follows:—

- (a) While the traditional method of caring for dependent children in single large institutions, as used by the Methodist Church in New Zealand up to the present, was no doubt in accordance with current thinking on the subject when the present institutions were established, and while it has always reflected the desire and will of the Church to meet the urgent needs of such children, it now appears that developments which have taken place in thought and practice in this field can help our Church to provide more effective care for those dependent children.
- (b) Need for a thorough review and the likelihood that substantial alterations are required, are indicated as a result of—
 - (i) The great advances in knowledge and understanding in the field in recent years;
 - (ii) Considerable social changes affecting family life in New Zealand;
 - (iii) The tremendous development of social services for children, especially under the auspices of the State, in New Zealand during the last 25 years.
- (c) New services, already established and proved by other authorities, and which may well largely or wholly replace the present Children's Homes, are—
 - (i) A competent casework for families and for individual children, to provide sound diagnosis and skilled counselling in the children's own homes in appropriate cases;

- (ii) Foster homes within the membership of the Church, and skilled assistance to foster-parents;
- (iii) "Family homes" (caring for 6-8 children) for children with special needs, located in the ordinary community;
- (vi) (Possibly) a settlement of "cottage homes".
- (d) Regular consultation and co-ordination of work with that of other social services for children, such as Child Welfare and Child Health Clinics, to ensure that—
 - (i) The children referred to the Methodist authorities in the first instance, have their needs and situation understood as accurately as possible before a decision is made;
 - (ii) If the child is to be placed other than in its own home, the placement is made where its particular needs will be met best—which may or may not be with a Methodist authority;
 - (iii) Whatever the decision regarding each child, those who will care for him will know of and be helped to avail themselves of the best services available in New Zealand for his needs;
 - (iv) Experience and resources are shared with kindred services to the fullest extent possible.
- (e) As caring for and helping dependent children is recognised as a skilled task, it is essential that the Church should now establish a staffing policy. This would involve—
 - (i) The recruiting of staff who have personal resources adequate for such difficult and demanding work, and who are prepared to undergo the best training available;
 - (ii) Provision for training of staff. At least for key positions of responsibility, the Diploma of Social Science course at Victoria University (or other similar course overseas) merits consideration. In-service training on a systematic basis should be an integral part of the practice;
 - (iii) Because of the Christian basis of a Church social service, some special preparation and training, possibly with periodic "refresher" courses, should be provided. This could probably best be done under the auspices of the National Council of Churches.

3. The Commission will continue its work and will collect further material, information and opinions. It will also consult with authorities in the field for their advice and help. The Commission will keep in working contact with the Methodist Church authorities at present carrying out this work on behalf of the Church, and will at all times welcome their comments and contributions to its work.

The Commission hopes that its Report to Synods and Conference of 1961 will thus carry the conviction of those at present administering the work as well as of the members of the Commission itself.

(Order of Reference b.): The Commission has not yet dealt with the matter of administration. This can best be considered after the other questions of policy have been settled.

W. F. FORD, Convener.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Reports and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the interim Reports, "Commission on Orphanages", be received.
3. That the ministers at Dominion Road and Mount Roskill be appointed Joint Chaplains to "Wesleydale" Children's Home.

4. That Conference approve in principle the suggested scheme which would bring the Children's Homes within the M.S.S.A. organisation; provided that the interests of the Children's Homes are safeguarded by the appointment of a special Children's Homes Committee in each District.

5. That the Boards of Management be as printed on page 7 herewith.

QUESTION LIII.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference with regard to (a) The Order of Deaconesses? (b) The Training of Deaconesses?

Methodist Deaconess Board

ANNUAL REPORT, 1960

Deaconess House: With only two students in residence this year, the Board finds its responsibilities no lighter, owing to the full complement of 27 boarders in the hostel.

Both students have done satisfactory work, and in addition to their normal lectures have received permission to do additional studies, Miss Jenkin taking the University Entrance Course, and Miss Hammond the School Certificate English Course, both at the Technical College. In addition both young women conduct Bible-in-Schools lessons each week, and give some time to visiting and youth work in two city circuits.

The Board draws the attention of the Church to the splendid opportunity open to Methodist young women, who are coming to Christchurch to further their studies at Training College or University, to obtain excellent accommodation in the best surroundings the Church can offer in Christchurch City.

Staff: We report that at present Mrs Gauntlett, Lady Superintendent of Deaconess House is on leave in England, and we express grateful thanks to Miss A. Firth who had so willingly come to take charge of the House during Mrs Gauntlett's absence, and who has given excellent service.

House Committee Report: Following the major alterations and improvements to the House in 1958, the House Committee has pursued the policy of re-furnishing one or two rooms a year, as funds permit. Reserves of cutlery and china have recently been purchased, also 20 pairs of blankets. We are grateful for the many gifts of produce made to the House by the churches of the District at Harvest Festival time. We are especially grateful to the many Women's Guilds throughout the Dominion whose generous response to the recent circular was most gratifying. The financial help given by guilds in past years had enabled the Committee to provide a reasonable standard of comfort for the students in residence.

Lecturers: We express our appreciation to the lecturers who give weekly lectures in the following subjects: New Testament, Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A.; Homiletics, Rev J. D. Grocott, B.A.; Pastoral Theology, Rev. W. A. Chambers, M.A.; Old Testament, Rev. H. I. K. Hooper, B.A.; Theology, Rev H. G. Brown; Church History, Rev Phyllis Guthardt, M.A. The Board tenders its grateful thanks to Miss Guthardt for her work as lecturer, and sincerely offers best wishes for the furthering of her studies overseas.

Library: Additional volumes of the Interpreter's Bible, and books for the Biblical, Theological, Devotional and Biographical sections of the library have been added this year.