

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 CHRISTCHURCH, 1962

Price: TWO SHILLINGS and SIXPENCE
Procurable at the Connexional Office

Legacies and gifts received during the year—Kirkland Estate, £700; Routley Estate, £4000; Craig Estate, £64/17/7; Nathan Estate, £747/8/-; Thornton Estate, £285/10/2; J. R. McKenzie Trust, £300; Izard Trust, £200; Mrs Hampton, £500; Soroptimist Club, £100.

We are grateful to God for the steady if not spectacular development of our work in the Wellington area.

ROBERT THORNLEY, Chairman.
B. H. RISELEY, Director of Social Services.
T. M. STEPHENS, Secretary.

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. That appreciation be expressed to the Superintendent (Rev. A. E. Orr), the staff and officials of the Auckland Central Mission for the very fine accomplishment in planning and commencing the erection of the new building, and their effective service rendered in the Social Service Field.
3. That appreciation and confidence be expressed to the Ministers and staff of Dunedin Central Mission for their continued service in all aspects of the Mission's work.
4. That appreciation be expressed to the Superintendent and staff of Christchurch Central Mission for their continued service in all aspects of the Mission's work.
5. That appreciation be expressed to the Minister and staff of Wesley Social Services, Wellington, for their continued service in all aspects of the Mission's work.

Boards of Management

Auckland: Superintendent of Central Mission (Chairman), General Superintendent of Home Missions, Chairman of District, Rev. E. W. Hames, M.A., Rev. 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. Eden and Remuera Churches, Mesdames M. Spurge, I. Sweetapple, E. Mills, and Miss E. Booth; Messrs C. K. Wigglesworth, J. S. Caughey, W. Woodward, L. Moor, A. H. Winstone, R. Simpson, N. Mee, C. W. Firth, R. T. Garlick, A. E. Hayman, E. A. Astley, J. Trenwith, A. N. West, and K. Clark, together with the Circuit Officials and Trustees of the Mission properties.

Christchurch: Revs. W. E. Falkingham, D. W. Edmonds, L. T. Norwell, H. L. Fiebig, W. S. Dawson, W. T. Blight, H. G. Brown, H. K. Brown, G. V. Thomas, L. V. Willing.

Messrs N. G. Hillary, A. Southey, A. A. Dingwall, R. E. James, J. E. Colchin, T. J. Chamberlain, R. Thomas, G. S. Salter, W. Couch, R. Anderson, R. Mitchell, W. T. Lill, L. Butler, Miskimmin, B. Bascand.

Drs. T. Enticott, S. C. Peedie, N. Greenslade, T. Hurrell.
Mesdames M. Leask, W. T. Blight, F. G. Colechin, L. Lewis,
M. A. Megson, R. Anderson, and W. S. Dawson.
Miss Caukwell, plus all Circuit Officials.

III—Children's Homes

AUCKLAND.

We submit with pleasure our 49th Annual Report to our Church and to our many friends. We have cared for an average of 54 children, ages 3 to 17 years, throughout the year (53 in preceding year). Our children have been helped in many ways by many people and God has blessed such help and our work.

Children Returning to Parental Care

In accordance with our policy that natural parents shall as soon as practicable resume care of children with us from broken homes, we gladly report that 10 children returned this year to parental care in 5 homes, and in 3 cases the parent had again married.

Foster Homes

We now have 16 children in 12 foster homes at Tauranga, Morrinsville, Hamilton, Papakura, and Auckland suburbs, compared with 6 children in 4 foster homes a year ago. In the majority of the foster homes there are also natural or adopted children of the foster parents and these children have accepted happily their foster brothers and sisters. We record here with gratitude our appreciation for the grand care being given by the foster parents to our foster children.

Visits and Visitors to Wesleydale Home at Radnor Road, Mt. Roskill

Wesleydale Home is open to individual and group visits. Groups from outer Auckland areas and provincial centres often bring and have their lunch in our grounds or dining-room. Many of our holiday hosts collect and return our children at Wesleydale and in cases where this is not done, our staff endeavour to make personal contacts when possible. We value and enjoy these personal contacts.

Our Staff

Mr and Mrs Riley, Superintendent and Matron, have completed three years at Wesleydale. In addition to their work there with the children, they are linked continually with the foster children and foster parents; also the natural parents, whether their children are at Wesleydale or in foster homes. We are indebted to Mr and Mrs Riley and the staff with them for the sound understanding and care given to the children, and for the children's good health.

Holiday Hosts

Although the holiday hosts and hostesses have had personal thanks, we wish here to express again our sincere thanks to more than 60 holiday homes, from Taumarunui, Taupo and Kawerau to Kaitaia, so kindly opened to our children in the various school holidays. Changes of district, the friendships made, and being able to holiday in family units, are all beneficial in so many ways to our children.

Thanks to So Many Interested in our Children and our Work for Them

Our work is supported in so many ways by friends and supporters, to whom we give our thanks. Financial contributions have come from many sources and very valuable assistance is given by many over a wide area in sewing and knitting of clothing, by gifts of clothing, food and produce, toys, children's books, etc.

Voluntary assistance is also given in sport, social, cultural and religious aspects of the children's lives. Our report gives us another opportunity to express our appreciation of all this kindly Christian help.

Kindred and Interested Organisations

We have appreciated active links and friendships with the Auckland Orphanages United Council, Child Welfare Division of the Education Department, Social Security Department, Children's Homes Boards of other Denominations, the Protestant Home at Whangarei, Heritage, Rotary, Residential Child Care Association, Mt. Roskill Primary, Intermediate and Grammar Schools, and Wesley College.

Financial

Our year's accounts are now being audited. We would just say here that the need for care of dependent children is such that this year's revenue income, although spent prudently, is fully expended. Details will be published in the Conference Minutes.

Obituary

This year two of our Life Members, Messrs J. E. Astley and F. Penn, passed on. We pay tribute and give thanks for their services in former years.

Resignations

During the year we received with regret resignations from Board membership of Mrs R. T. Garlick for family reasons, and Mr C. E. Goode for reasons of age and health. Our thanks to them for many years of assistance to our work, and good wishes for them in the future. Mr R. T. Garlick, our Chairman for almost six years, resigned from this position in February, but we are pleased that although he has now added responsibilities as President of the Auckland Law Society, and we congratulate him on this honour, he is continuing as a member of our Board.

The Future

Conference 1961 approved in principle the changing to a new policy of foster and family home care, replacing present institutional care by the three Methodist Children's Homes. Boards, and Synods and Conference 1962 will consider a further report from the Commission on Children's Homes recommending the early implementation of the policy.

With 16 foster children in 12 foster homes already we have made a modest start on change over to the new policy, but if as seems likely, Conference 1962 approves of implementation, we will make considerable further progress during the coming year.

1962/63 is our Golden Jubilee year in caring for dependent children, and our Board has already given some preliminary consideration to suitably celebrating, honouring and paying tribute in 1963 to what has been done by many for so many children in the past half-century. We look forward to continued loyal support by so many interested friends of the children, and also by new friends, so that we will be able to meet the opportunities to help as many children as possible in our 50th year.

G. C. RIDDELL, Chairman.
R. K. STACEY, Secretary.

MASTERTON CHILDREN'S HOME

We now have 27 children in the Home. This is the lowest number we have had for some years. In addition one girl is in a foster home and one boy was returned to the Home after an experimental period. We are pleased to report the health of all the children as excellent. Staff—Mr and Mrs Lloyd, who had been Manager and Matron for six years, found it necessary for family reasons to resign at the end of 1961. The Committee was deeply

appreciative of the love and care bestowed on the children and expressed their thanks in a tangible way. Mr and Mrs Allan Jolly of Auckland were appointed to succeed them. They have settled in well and although handicapped by a shortage of permanent staff are exercising a fine influence with the children. Miss Lorraine Clark has been appointed Assistant Matron and is giving faithful and devoted service. The recommendations of the Commission on Children's Homes were approved in principle by the Committee, and representatives from this Committee attended the Consultation in Wellington in May. In anticipation of the expected changes that will take place in the care of children Mr Allan Jolly is to attend a Child Welfare Officers' course at Lower Hutt, and Miss Clark will attend an Institutional Staff Conference at Palmerston North.

Maintenance costs at the Home over the past few years have been fairly high but the Committee has followed a policy of repair and replacement where necessary and the building is now in quite good order with an excellent appearance.

The Committee again expresses appreciation to all who have assisted in any way with the work, especially in provision of Holiday homes for the children. Gifts of clothing, produce, financial support and grants from the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, Police Charity Day and Trust Lands Trust have all been very acceptable.

We also again thank Dr. O. F. Prior for his unfailing attention when needed. To Mr and Mrs Allan Jolly and the staff the Committee is also grateful for their influence and the love and care bestowed on the children. We pray God's continued blessing and guidance during the coming year.

JOHN GRUNDY, Chairman.

W. H. SAUNDERS, Secretary.

SOUTH ISLAND

The number of children under our care has fluctuated from month to month, due to the Board's policy of placing certain of our children in Foster Homes, and whenever possible returning children to their rightful home and also endeavouring to maintain a case-work and counselling service which aims to keep homes together and so retain children with their families when otherwise they would come into our home. The following figures submitted to the Board give some indication of the overall situation. Number of children in the Home: 47. Number in Foster Homes: 7. Temporary residence given to 8 children and 1 baby cared for day by day pending suitable arrangements by the father. An evicted family of four children cared for over a period of one week, making a total of 67 children who have come under our direct care during that one period. In addition contact is maintained with those who have left the home and are working and those who have been reunited with their families, as well as regular contact with those in Foster Homes. This involves a further 40, so that the Master reports in one particular month that in one form or another we have cared for 107 children and young people. This largely sums up the position as reports come to the Board quarter by quarter.

Case Work and Counselling

One of the most valuable spheres of services has been the development of a case-work and counselling service which the Master, Mr J. E. Scott, recognizes as perhaps the most important facet of his task. Mr Scott is well fitted for this type of work and has been greatly used in sorting out the many problems of home and family life as they come to him, and his follow-up work with those who

have left the Home has been an indication of the great need there is for the development of this service in the life of our Social Services. We believe that a great field of opportunity lies open to us along these lines.

Staff

We are happy to report the continued valuable services of Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott as Master and Matron, and Sister Rona Collins as Assistant Matron, and they have proved once again their value to our work. In addition we are fully staffed in all departments of our Home and are privileged in having such loyal service from our staff. The Board has expressed appreciation to the Gardener, Mr Fraser, for his excellent services to the Board and the Home.

Garden Party

The Board is happy to make the property available for the Conference Garden Party to be held in November and we are confident that Conference Representatives from other parts of New Zealand will appreciate the high standard of our property and the maintenance of our buildings.

Commission on Children's Homes

The Board was pleased to send three representatives to the Consultation in Wellington in May and as a consequence has benefited by this first-hand information and knowledge of the proposed new policy for Children's Homes, and is studying the position very carefully in order to determine the best manner in which to implement the policy.

We present our report this year with a sincere expression of gratitude to our staff, to the Circuits who have continued to show an interest in our work and the many firms, organisations and individuals who assist in so many ways to make our work easier and the life of the children happier. We report with appreciation the gift of play amenities made available by Lions International with the support of the South Pole Lions Club attached to the U.S. Naval Support Force, Antarctica. A further gift of a paddling pool has been proffered by the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Papanui and Belfast. These and many other gifts, along with the offer of holiday homes for the children, make the task a very pleasant and rewarding one, and gives encouragement to those engaged in the task of child care.

H. G. BROWN, Chairman.
H. A. COCHRANE, Secretary

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Reports and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Boards of Management be as printed on page 7 herein.

Commission on Children's Homes REPORTS TO SYNODS AND CONFERENCE, 1962.

1. Consultation:

As approved by last Conference (Minutes p. 172 No. 36) a consultation between representatives of the three Boards and their staffs, invited experts from the University and other child care services and the Commission to consider the practical implication of the policy recommended by the Commission and adopted in principle by the Conference, was held in Wellington on 4th and 5th May, 1962. Those present were:

Rev. E. S. Hoddinott (Chairman), Mr G. C. Burton, Miss L. M. Hodder, Rev. W. F. Ford (Commission members), Rev. W. E. A. Carr (Corresponding Commission member), Messrs R. T. Garlick, R. K. Stacey, S. Riley (Auckland Board), Rev. J. Grundy, Mr W. H. Saunders (Masterton Board), Rev. H. A. Cochrane and H. C. Matthews, Mr J. E. Scott (Christchurch Board), Mr H. de R. Flesher (Legal Adviser), Rev B. H. Riseley (M.S.S.A.), Dr J. H. Robb (Consultant School Social Science), Mr J. Morrison (Consultant Christchurch Diocese), Mr J. G. Luckock (Consultant Child Welfare Division).

The representatives of the three Boards indicated that the Boards each had accepted the new policy in principle.

Special attention was given to the case-work service; the place and different function of foster and family homes in meeting the needs of two groups of children; the importance of training for the staff—whatever methods of care are employed; the reception procedure; the scope for co-operation between the Church and other agencies—both state and voluntary-working with dependent children; the effect of the recommended policy on finances and property; and the practical steps which would be taken in giving effect to the policy.

Case-work Service:

The consultation agreed that a case-work service was basic to the whole policy and should be the first step taken. This involves the appointment of competent full-time persons who work in a diagnostic and counselling capacity with the child, its own parents and, in cases where the child leaves its home, with the foster parents or family home parents.

Reception Procedures:

In discussion with those who had experience in working under the proposed methods of care it was seen that a case-work service would lead to a new reception procedure that would make reception centres of little practical use. A competent case-work service would reveal the type of care necessary for each child and would make arrangements for appropriate placement without recourse to a reception centre. Admission to such a centre, even temporarily, could be unnecessarily disturbing to any child. Arrangements usually can be made for relatives, neighbours, or other welfare agencies to care for the time being in emergency cases.

Finance:

It was agreed that on the approximate estimates which were made at the consultation, financially the new policy was within the reach of the Boards. The transition period when the present institution is emptying, may present some financial difficulties and need some special provision.

Recommended Steps for Implementing the New Policy:

The consultation agreed on the following steps. It was recognised that the timing of these would vary from Board to Board but that Nos. 1-7 would need to be taken approximately in that order.

(1) Interpreting the new methods of care to Church people and public

The visible institution draws financial support more easily than less spectacular, even though more effective, methods. It should be stressed that the new policy means the Church will be helping more children and parents and doing it more effectively.

(2) Selection and training of case-worker

If the present master is to be the case-worker he will need to differentiate between his role of case-worker and father to children in the institution. Short course training will be required. He should work in consultation with a trained case-worker.

(3) Foster Homes

The number of these will be limited by the time of the case-worker available for oversight and counselling of foster parents and children.

(4) Admissions to present institutions could cease as:—

- i. Case-work will keep some children in their own homes.
- ii. Foster homes will care for some children.
- iii. Emergency cases, seriously disturbed children and those of very low intelligence could be cared for by other agencies.

(5) Provision of Family Homes

Perhaps two in both Auckland and Christchurch and the possibility of one or two somewhere in the Wellington area.

(6) Disposal of present institutions

It may be possible to use these properties for some other social service work within the Church, Government, or Local Bodies, e.g., Hostels.

(7) Consultation

Between Boards, staff, and consultants in child care should continue from time to time as required. This should be both on a personal local level and also specially convened consultations similar to this one.

(8) Administration

It was decided to recommend to the Annual Meeting of N.Z.M.S.S.A. that the Children's Home Commission continue for the time being as a committee of the N.Z.M.S.S.A. on the Care of Dependent Children.

(9) N.C.C. Convened Consultation should be sought. It would consist of those in all denominations caring for dependent children, together with other Social Welfare agencies. Its purpose would be to secure co-operation in such matters as staff training and a better coverage of the Dominion with Church social service agencies caring for dependent children.

2. Commission's Further Comments

- (a) As the Boards each have accepted the policy in principle and as the steps for its implementation have been agreed upon as indicated above, the Commission considers that Conference should now adopt the policy and refer it to the Boards for their action accordingly.
- (b) As case-work is the foundation of the adopted policy and its practice, at least one case-worker competent to carry out the work will be required at each headquarters. Each Board will need to consider whether its present Master or other member of its staff will be able, possibly with some short term special training and help, to carry this responsibility adequately at least during the transition period. Alternatively, the Board will need to secure someone else competent to do the work before it attempts to operate the policy. If a trained and experienced case-worker is available in the locality for consultation and guidance, that would be valuable especially in the early stages.

- (c) The M.S.S.A. will need to adopt a staffing policy for the recruitment and training where necessary, of case-workers sufficient to carry out the work at adequate standard.
- (d) In accordance with the decision of last Conference that the Church's care of dependent children be brought under the M.S.S.A. and in order to ensure that the transition to the newly adopted policy is made with the desirable consistency in standards and practice, the Boards should consult with and obtain the concurrence of the M.S.S.A. in all major changes in their methods of care and in establishing the case-work service. These would include appointment of case-workers, arrangements for training of staff, setting up of family homes and disposal of property. It is of the utmost importance that thorough preparation precede each step in implementing the policy and that changes be made only when staff and other resources adequate for one new method of work involved in the change are available.
- (e) To conserve and keep available for the Church's use, especially during the transition period, the knowledge and experience gained in doing its work, the Commission is willing, if Conference desires, to continue for the time being as a committee of the N.Z.M.S.S.A. on the Care of Dependent Children.
- (f) During the ensuing year the M.S.S.A. in consultation with the present Boards should consider what types of administering authority in each centre of operation is required and report to next Conference. The Commission recognises that, because of the location of the present Board and other circumstances special consideration will have to be given as to how and by whom the policy should be implemented for the Southern part of the North Island at present catered for by the Master-ton home.
- (g) Finally the Commission wishes to record its appreciation of the co-operation shown by the Boards and staffs. Their real concern for the welfare of these dependent children and their desire to find the most effective way of caring for them has greatly assisted the Commission in its work.

L. M. HODDER
G. C. BURTON
E. S. HODDINOTT
B. H. RISELEY
W. F. FORD (Convener).

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the report be received and adopted.
2. That the Conference adopt the policy as set out in the Commission's report to last Conference (1961 Minutes, pp. 171-2).
3. That the Boards of the Children's Homes proceed to implement the policy in consultation with the N.Z.M.S.S.A., and with the prior concurrence of the N.Z.M.S.S.A. in major matters such as the appointment of case workers, staff training schemes, establishing of family homes and basic home units, and disposal of property; and

That in order to act on this recommendation, the three Boards consult with their district M.S.S.A. Committee in establishing a special sub-committee on the care of dependent children in their district. (see 1961 Minutes P. 175, resolution 3d).

4. a. That the N.Z.M.S.S.A. report to next Conference on:
 - i. The most suitable type of administering or supervising authority in each centre of operation under the new policy.
 - ii. A staff recruitment and training policy for the case-work service and care of dependent children.
 - iii. The progress made in implementing the policy.
- b. That the Children's Home Commission continue for the time being as the Committee of the N.Z.M.S.S.A. on the case-work service and the care of dependent children.

5. That a grant of £100 be made from the Contingent Fund to enable the Commission to consult personally with and to assist the Boards during the year.

6. That Conference expresses its warm appreciation of the leadership given by the Children's Home Commission in guiding the Church into this new policy for child care.

QUESTION LIIL.—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, 1962.

The Board: Since our last report, the Chairman of the Board, the Rev A. K. Petch, removed from the District. We pay tribute to his strong leadership during the last ten years.

At the first meeting of the Board, the Rev H. C. Matthews was appointed Chairman.

During the year, the Treasurer, Mr H. F. Arnold, found it necessary to resign, and we pay tribute to his excellent services during the past six years. The Board is most fortunate in that Mr F. Bartley has taken up the work as Treasurer.

Meetings of the Board have been held every two months, while Committees have given detailed attention to various aspects of the work.

Deaconess House: We began the year with seven students, but owing to ill-health Miss Alys Sharp was not able to attend, and her resignation had to be accepted. During the year, Miss Elva Harris entered hospital for treatment, and was not able to sit for the mid-year exam.

Satisfactory work has been done by the students. In addition to the regular curriculum they have taken lessons in Maori at the W.E.A., and in car maintenance from Mr H. F. K. Hayman; a course in home nursing; and have made contacts with various kinds of social work in Christchurch.

During May, the annual Deaconess Convocation met in the House, with twenty Deaconesses present. Many matters affecting the work were discussed with the full Board, and a refresher course of four lectures was arranged in Bible Study, Theology, Pastoral Psychology, and the Problems of Personal Relationships.

The Church is fortunate in the continued valuable service rendered by Mrs Gauntlett as Lady Superintendent.

House Committee Report: The Guilds throughout New Zealand have responded generously to our Renewals Fund Appeal, contributing £305 9s 11d, and their donations make possible the gradual refurbishing of the House. The Committee is truly grateful for this valuable assistance.

The furnishing of the Chapel was our first commitment. This room now has a most worshipful atmosphere.

A new study table with formica wood-grained top, which can be folded down when not in use, is the latest acquisition for the dining room.

Our special objective for this year is the purchase of additional chairs for the Chapel, and the replacement of furniture which has become obsolete.

Lectures: During the year the Rev W. T. Blight has continued to give general supervision to the studies. The following lecturers have conducted weekly classes: Pastoral Psychology (1½ hours) Rev C. H. Raynor; Church History (1 hour) Rev L. T. Norwell; Theology (1 hour) Rev H. G. Brown; Old and New Testaments (3 hours) Rev W. T. Blight; Homiletics (1 hour) Rev J. D. Grocott. In addition the Rev Grocott gave instruction on Scripture Teaching in Schools.

Honours: Congratulations are extended to Sister Margaret Nicholls on the award of the M.B.E., and to Sister Rita Snowden on being made a Fellow of the International Institute of Arts and Letters.

Deaconesses In The Field: Since our last report to Conference, Sister Erena Browne resigned in order to marry, and Sister Lorraine Flowers married an Australian Missionary.

There are nineteen Deaconesses at work in New Zealand, with three supply appointments, and two in the Solomon Islands. Their reports reveal a wide variety of work in our Circuits, Missions and Social Services. Our Church would be infinitely the poorer if their witness were to cease. We owe a great debt of gratitude to these devoted women.

Personal: We record our sense of loss at the passing of Miss Anne Firth, who during Mrs Gauntlett's recent visit to England supervised the work of the House with such efficiency.

Worship Centre: During the year, the scheme for a worship centre as reported to last Conference developed into one for a Chapel within the House. Some extensive repairs which had become imperative merged into a more ambitious scheme; and while they proved expensive, the repairs effected a great improvement to the building, and the chapel has fostered the spiritual life of the residents. The chapel has been enriched by many gifts in addition to the £100 donation from the M.W.M.U. as reported to last Conference. At the annual Convocation, the assembled Deaconesses expressed their delight at this improvement. Acknowledgement is made of the services of Messrs. W. Melville Lawry and A. A. Harrow, to whom we owe a real debt of gratitude in this connection.

Warden: We report that there are no candidates for training as Deaconesses this year. This is a serious reflection on our Church, and a matter of deep regret to the Board which has taken special steps lately to bring the claims of Deaconess work before the whole Church. Moreover the Board has secured this year a worthier training of the Deaconess Students.

We have an increasing need of women workers. At present we are not meeting this urgent need. Missions (both Home and Overseas); City Missions, Circuits, Social Services on a wide front are calling for women workers; and in Deaconess House we are equipped to train volunteers. This is one reason why the Board