

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

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The Methodist Church  
of New Zealand

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MINUTES  
OF THE  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE

Held at HAMILTON, 1964

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*Price: TWO SHILLINGS and SIXPENCE*

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#### 6. Thanks:

The work of the Central Mission could not possibly be carried on without faithful service not only of full-time staff, but also of many voluntary workers who give of their time and their talents in serving the Church in this way. We are grateful to God for the privilege of working with them.

D. B. GORDON, Superintendent.  
G. F. PASCOE,  
H. C. VINCE, Circuit Stewards.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Reports of the Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin Central Missions and Wesley (Wellington Central) Social Services Trust, be received and adopted.
2. That Conference express its appreciation of the services of the Rev. A. E. Orr to the Church and community.
3. That Conference record its appreciation of the work of Rev. B. H. Riseley in connection with the Wesley Church Social Services.
4. That Rev. W. E. Falkingham be thanked for his services and especially for his work in the inauguration of the Life-line movement.
5. That Conference congratulate the Superintendent, Staff and Trustees of the Dunedin Central Mission in their proposed building scheme.

#### BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1965

##### 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, Rev. Wesley Parker and the Ministers of the Takapuna, Mount 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, LL.B., 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:

The Chairman of the District, Revs. H. G. Brown, H. K. Brown, W. T. Blight, W. A. Chambers, J. D. Grocott, W. S. Dawson, R. G. Bell, T. Shepherd, P. D. Ramsay, Dr. M. A. McDowell, Messrs N. G. Hillary, A. Southey, A. Clark, W. A. Hadlee, F. T. Bartley, R. Thomas, T. J. Chamberlain, G. D. McSkimmon, L. J. Butler, R. Anderson, W. Couch, G. S. Salter, B. C. Bascand, W. T. Lill, G. M. Couch, Drs. S. C. Peddy, and T. Enticott, Mesdames M. Leask, W. T. Blight, W. S. Dawson, R. Anderson, W. Couch, R. G. Bell, G. N. Couch, J. Yarr, Miss P. Caukwell, together with the mission officials and Ministers.

#### QUESTION 52—

### III—Children's Homes

#### A—AUCKLAND

##### Annual Report for Year ended 30th June, 1964.

It is our privilege and pleasure to submit this 51st annual report of the work for the children under the care of the Auckland Methodist Children's Home Board. We continue to acknowledge the guiding of our Heavenly Father and His continued goodness through

the many folk who continue to take an interest in the children.

During the year we have cared for 39 children and at the end of June, 1964, there were 8 children actually in residence at Wesleydale. There are two others at Kurahuna Maori Girls Hostel, and one boy at Wesley College. One boy and one girl are at the special schools at Otekake and Richmond and they return to Wesleydale in their school holidays. In addition, 20 children are living in 12 foster homes in Auckland suburbs, Tauranga, Morrinsville, Hamilton, Greenhithe, and Matakana; a total of 33 under our control. Four children returned to their parents and one was adopted out during the year. One girl is in a nurses home training. It should be realised that the majority of children under our care are from broken homes.

A full time qualified Social Worker was appointed by the Board and she took up duty at Auckland in January, 1964. Her duties have covered contact with all foster parents and giving advice in many cases where needed, together with interviewing folk who desired children to come under our care. Miss George has also made visits to Methodist people who through their ministers have offered as foster parents.

The present trend of care for children seems to be not so much for long term care but on a short term basis while the mother is recovering from excessive work in caring for her children and in some cases a mental breakdown. Most other denominations are finding that this type of child care is necessary and increasing. Owing to the small staff at Wesleydale it has not been possible to do this short term care but the Board has approved in principle of these short term children being cared for and advertisements have been placed for additional suitable staff.

The policy of placing children in suitable Methodist foster homes is continuing and many of our children are still happily settled with their foster parents and are receiving loving care in their upbringing.

The annual accounts are under action and we expect that they will be in a satisfactory condition, mainly due to grants from the Connexional Budget, Government capitation fees, family benefit receipts and grants from the Auckland Savings Bank, the McKenzie Trust Inc., and the Ladies Committee.

We appreciate the continued practical interest of many folk who have continued to support the children's work with monetary donations and with gifts of clothing. We acknowledge with thanks the gifts of sewing materials and new clothing which are required not only for the children at Wesleydale but also for children in foster homes. We receive help from the general public via the Auckland Community Chest through the Auckland United Orphanages Council.

During the long Christmas vacation many kind church folk offered their homes for holidays for the children and all our children were looked after in this way.

The Ladies Committee continued to take an interest in the Home and although they have not had a great deal to do, the furnishings at Wesleydale have been kept up to date and replacements provided where necessary.

Wesleydale Home opened in 1956, is a very fine building and it has been the policy of the Board during the year to keep it in good condition by regular maintenance so that the appearance of the buildings is always good. The grounds are in good condition. We acknowledge with gratitude the interest and help of those who have supervised the grounds and buildings.

The Board has under action what use should be made of the Wesleydale buildings and property now that so few children are actually in residence.

In 1963 the Children's Home completed 50 years of work for the children but we were not in a position to arrange any special celebrations. However, this year 1964 through the activities of the Ladies' Committee special 51 years' celebrations are under action for the first week in August, 1964. There will be a Reunion Buffet Tea and evening in the Pitt Street Methodist Bi-Centenary Hall on the Saturday night, a Thanksgiving Service at the Pitt Street Methodist Church on the Sunday morning, and an informal afternoon tea at Wesleydale on the Sunday afternoon. Already a number of very early members of both the girls' and boys' homes have advised us of their intentions to be present.

We look forward with confidence to the continued support of Christian folk in caring for the children through the foster homes and in special hostels and schools and through our family homes. Funds will still be needed for this work and to maintain smaller base family homes for the children not placed in foster homes. Especially will this be so as our short term work develops.

G. C. RIDDELL, Chairman.

## B—MASTERTON CHILDREN'S HOME

### Annual Report, 1964

In presenting this Annual Report, we do so with an increasing sense of our responsibility for the welfare of the children committed to our care. We record our thankfulness to God for this opportunity of service.

Our present family of 28 is made up of 14 girls and 14 boys. Amongst these are four boys from the Tokelau Islands; and although far from their families, they have settled into their new environment most satisfactorily. A few of the children are here only temporarily, mostly until their parents have found satisfactory accommodation.

We regret the resignation from the Management Committee of Mr and Mrs A. Kay, Mrs E. Roberts and Mr W. Churchill. They have all given valuable service, and appreciative reference to their work has been recorded.

Care of Dependent Children: While continuing to support the appointment of a case worker for this area, the Committee has become cautious about any rapid implementation of some aspects of the new policy on the care of dependent children. In particular, it is felt that in any service provided by the Church, we should seek to avoid separating from one another children of one family. Foster home placement is at a disadvantage in this respect, and while a case worker may find other forms of assistance which may help to keep a family together, the Committee feels that there is a definite need which is at present being well filled by "Homeleigh." Although the provision of family homes is contemplated, it appears that no such steps should be taken in this area without a further close examination of the result of such enterprises in other areas, particularly in view of the fact that we are already operating a comparatively small unit.

The Committee would again like to thank all who have assisted in any way, especially those who have opened their homes and given the children such a good holiday at Christmas and other times. It is a wonderful experience for these children to be taken into a private home and cared for by Christian people.

To all who have contributed gifts of produce and clothing, and for the financial support from the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, the Police Charity Day and others, we would express our grateful thanks.

We would record appreciative thanks to our Manager and Matron, Mr and Mrs Jolly, for their untiring labours in the interests of the children. We are sure that because of their devotion and care, this is indeed a real Home to many of the children. Our thanks, also, to the other members of the Staff who help in the care of our large family.

We express our thanks to God for what has been achieved in the past and seek His guidance during the coming year.

A. D. GRIGGS, Acting-Chairman.

W. H. SAUNDERS, Secretary.

## C—THE SOUTH ISLAND CHILDREN'S HOME

### Annual Report, 1964

The work of the Home continues to meet a growing need in the community and we report one of the most important years in the life of the Home. At the present time there are 47 children in the home and 12 in foster homes and the demand for admissions is with us constantly taxing to the full the present capacity for accommodation. The Board's policy of receiving children on a part-time basis continues to meet a very great and growing need, while the Master's Counselling Service has proved beneficial in the solving of many family problems, and 8 families have been reunited and an additional 18 families representing 41 children were assisted to the extent that the families were kept together, when otherwise these children might have been admitted to the home. Altogether 138 children have been received either into the home or into Foster Homes. It is a fine record of service of which the Church can be justly proud.

**Staff:** We have a fine staff record of service, the average length of service being six years. The establishment of family units has given an increased sense of service, and staff members have responded well to the new policy. There have been no changes in family mothers since the establishment of family units. This is most important as a basis of security among our children. We are grateful to all staff members for loyal and devoted service and especially to our Master and Matron, Mr and Mrs E. E. Scott and the Assistant Matron, Sister Rona Collins.

**Property:** The buildings are in good order and all maintenance is attended to by the Board as necessity arises.

**Policy and Administration:** It is the declared policy of the Board to continue to function within our present buildings, and two family units are resident in each wing, and the middle block is used as an administration centre and receiving home. In the not distant future the Board will need to consider the setting up of a separate family home. Negotiations have been proceeding between the Board and the Christchurch Central Mission and it has been agreed to sell 1.6 acres for the purpose of the erection of an Eventide

Home. Negotiations between the Board and the Central Mission are continuing.

**Vice-Regal Visit:** Lady Fergusson visited the home on May 28th and met all members of the staff, inspected the buildings and met the family units. It was a most pleasant occasion for staff and children. The visit received publicity on both Radio and Television, and Lady Fergusson commented upon the homely atmosphere she encountered.

**Jubilee:** The Golden Jubilee of the Home was celebrated on 11th and 12th April. We were privileged to have both the President and the Vice President of the Conference with us for the celebrations. Over 300 former residents of the Home were together for the functions, some of these being original members. There were many generous testimonies to the high value of the home across fifty years.

**N.Z. Association of Social Workers:** A branch of the New Zealand Association of Social Workers has recently been formed, and members of the staff are eligible for membership. It is felt that the association will give added strength to those engaged in Child Care work.

We conclude this report in a spirit of confidence and optimism. The Church is engaged in a valuable piece of service and a great and growing field lies ahead.

H. C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.  
H. A. COCHRANE, Secretary.

#### RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Reports and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Rev. H. A. Cochrane, who has served as Secretary to the South Island Board for five years be thanked for his services.
3. That the following be referred to the M.S.S.A.:
  - (a) That implementation of the new policy on the care of dependent children be deferred insofar as it may concern the provision of family homes in the Wellington District or the closing of the Masterton Home, until the operation of the new policy in other districts has been reviewed.
  - (b) The conflict between "the declared policy" of the South Island Childrens' Home and the Conference policy on the care of dependent children.

**QUESTION 53.—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, 1964.

### A. REPORT OF BOARD:

The Board has watched with a great deal of interest the commencement of the 'Warden Policy' with the appointment of Rev W. A. Chambers, M.A., as Warden of the Deaconess Order from the beginning of this year. Already we see signs that this was a wise decision of the Conference. While the Warden is chiefly concerned with the training of the two students in residence, he has already visited the Youth Conference and four Easter Camps with a view to presenting the claims of the Order to young women. He has also made useful contacts with Deaconesses in the field, and has been

well received. The Board is confident that the continuation of the appointment of the Warden will greatly benefit both the Deaconesses and the Church.

**House Committee:** We would again express our very real appreciation to the Women's Guilds, now part of the Women's Fellowship, for their generous assistance with refurnishing the House. Through their help both vestibules have been re-carpeted and the entrance hall relined, giving a very pleasing entrance to the House. This year we aim to replace a very worn-out piano, and, as soon as funds permit, will commence refurnishing the students' rooms.

Because the Budget makes payments for running expenses and maintenance of the building alone, we look to the newly formed Women's Fellowships for support, as there is still much to be done to bring the House to the best standard of accommodation which we would desire for students.

### B. REPORT OF WARDEN

This report covers the five-month period which has elapsed since the appointment of the Warden. During this time efforts have been made to gain as much information as possible about the Deaconess Order both within this country and also overseas. All approaches to persons and institutions in a position to supply information have been very cordially received, and the information gained has made it possible to see the New Zealand Order in a wider perspective.

#### THE DEACONESS ORDER

**Membership:** At present the field strength of the Order is 23 persons of whom one is a Probationer due for dedication this year. While smaller numbers of Deaconesses serve with the Overseas Mission Department, in New Zealand Circuits and in Methodist institutions, over half of the total strength of the Order is working on the Maori Mission field.

**Type of Work:** The type of work being done by the Deaconesses is primarily of a pastoral character. From a survey made during the year, each Deaconess in the Maori Mission work has had upon her visiting list an average of 239 families. Apart from visitation, the survey reveals that the major function of the Deaconesses in both Maori and European Circuits, is of an educational character. In the Maori field it is predominantly at the Sunday School level. In European Circuits it is mainly at adult level. Next in importance is the area of group leadership which again in both Maori and European Circuits exceeds by far the opportunities of preaching. Only one Deaconess in both Maori and European Circuits has regular preaching appointments. From the point of view of the training of Deaconesses, it is apparent that pastoral care, religious education and group methods must be adequately provided for in the curriculum.

At the present time nurses and other professionally trained women find little opportunity to use their skills for the Church through the Deaconess Order. Overseas information suggests that this need not be so.

**Convocation:** Opportunity was taken during the May holidays to attend the Deaconess Convocation. This was both enriching and informative and a very real opportunity to come to know the members of the Order.

**Personal:** During the year Sister Airini Hobbs has retired after serving the Church through the Deaconess Order for 35 years; Sister Anne Wilson has celebrated her 21st anniversary in the Order; Sister Gladys Thomas has been elected President of the New South Wales