

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 1966

*Price: Five Shillings, Fifty Cents
Procurable at the Connexional Office*

(d) **Kawerau Falls Holiday Camp**

We would agree with those people who are agitating for staggered holidays. We cannot cope with the demand to use the home-stead and cabins at Kawerau Falls during December and January, but there is plenty of accommodation available at other times of the year. Because of other Social Service commitments, the only improvements which we can effect at the present time here must come out of income. We are most fortunate in having as voluntary caretakers Mr and Mrs J. Patey who for the past 18 months have most efficiently cared for Kawerau Falls.

(e) **Glenwood Anglican/Methodist Old People's Home, Timaru**

Since this Home was opened two years ago, it has fulfilled a most useful function in South Canterbury. The Trust Board is already considering plans for extension.

(f) **Dunedin Citizens' Day Nursery**

During the year our Trust decided that the Day Nursery should not be located in the new building and alternative premises were sought. Consequently, through an arrangement with the Wesley Church Trustees, the Day Nursery has moved permanently to Wesley Hall, Hillside Road, which is one of the finest Methodist Halls in Dunedin. We believe that the arrangement will be most satisfactory to all concerned. We have purchased a property next door to provide a playground, and plans are being made for a new toilet block.

3. **GOODWILL STORE:**

The Goodwill Store, under the voluntary management of Miss C. Uren and her team of ladies, continues to supply a need in the city by providing good secondhand clothing at reasonable prices.

4. **OCTAGON BUILDING:**

During the year certain amendments have been made reducing the Tower Block to seven storeys but increasing the available accommodation on each floor. This means that the new building is planned to contain two floors of shops, a hall to seat 300 people being also included on one of these floors, and a tower containing seven rentable office floors. The estimated cost of the building is £375,000. Working drawings are almost completed, and we plan to call tenders early in 1967.

Final negotiations are at present being made regarding loan money and many interested enquiries have been received regarding tenancies.

5. **FINANCE:**

As ever, we are grateful to the many well-wishers who have helped us financially during the year by donations. We are particularly grateful to those who make possible from a financial angle the work of the Dunedin Citizens' Day Nursery, namely the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board, the Otago Savings Bank, the Otago Hospital Board and the Dunedin City Council.

No work of this magnitude could be carried out without the loyal co-operation of many people. This has been willingly given by members of the staff, by Committee members, Church members and indeed the whole Church in our Social Service area. We are grateful to God for the privilege which is ours to serve in this sphere.

D. B. GORDON, Superintendent.

G. F. PASCOE,

H. V. VINCE, Circuit Stewards.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the M.S.S.A. present to Conference a uniform policy regarding financial support for Hospital Chaplaincies.

QUESTION 52—What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting Children's Homes?

III.—Children's Homes

A— Auckland Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1966

This is the 53rd Annual Report of our work for children under the care of the Auckland Methodist Children's Home Committee. We humbly pay tribute and express our gratitude to God for His guidance throughout the year.

At the end of June 1966 there were 42 children under our care and supervision, 20 of whom were actually in residence at "Wesleydale"; one girl is at Kurahuna Hostel, two boys at Wesley College, one boy and one girl at special schools at Otakaike and Richmond. There are 17 children in 11 foster homes.

In January of this year Miss J. E. Boniface was appointed as Social Worker to the Committee, and has done a very fine work, with her time fully occupied in contacting the foster parents and the children living with them. A great deal of time is also well spent in interviewing people who desire their children to come under our care. This work is also extended to interviews with prospective foster parents, and in visits to parents in their own homes, with the hope that the particular family might be maintained as a united family.

The Committee has given much thought and discussion to the request of the Child Welfare Division that they might obtain a long lease of "Wesleydale" property. It has been decided that such a lease cannot be granted, and that the present buildings at "Wesleydale" be made available as a Reception Centre to accommodate approximately 20 children, and that one wing of the present buildings be adapted to accommodate approximately another 12 children as a family unit.

A new home on the Milford Road property will be proceeded with as soon as satisfactory financial arrangements can be completed, with a view to operating it as a family home.

As will be seen by the summary earlier in this report, the policy of placing children in suitable Methodist foster homes is continuing to be implemented.

The willing help offered by many of our Church members in the North Auckland, Auckland, and Waikato-Bay of Plenty Synodal Districts made it possible to give all of our children a good holiday home in the Christmas period, and quite a number of them also had similar holidays in the recent May vacation. The sincere thanks of the Committee is extended to these good friends.

The interest of the Ladies' Committee has again been evidenced in their attention particularly to the furnishings of the "home", and this help is greatly appreciated by the committee.

In May of this year an appointment as "master" at "Wesleydale" was made. Mr M. J. Smith was appointed as "master" and his wife also on the staff, and already their influence on the general behaviour of the boys and girls has been evidenced by a very much improved general attitude towards the staff and the spirit of the "home". They are both dedicated to the task they have undertaken.

We look forward with confidence to the continued support and interest of Christian folk in our three Synodal districts, particularly in regard to the use of foster homes where practicable, being certain that God has blessed us in the work in the past, and that His call is still urgent for devoted interest in the lot and life of these younger ones.

R. F. CLEMENT, Chairman
PERCY DELLOW, Secretary

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Auckland Committee for Care of Dependent Children for 1967 be as printed on page 7 herein.

B— Masterton Methodist Children's Home

30th June, 1966

Annual Report of the Management Committee

Children cared for in the home has varied between 23 and 30, coming in as far afield as Hawera and Wellington. We have continued to care for some short term emergency cases as well as the long term family care which has been the basis of the work at Homeleigh for many years.

We have two children placed in foster homes under the care of the home, with arrangements for the adoption of one being under way.

Twenty-three children have revisited us during the year, some on more than one occasion. On the whole, children who have passed through Homeleigh have made successful, and in some cases quite outstanding places for themselves in life and have spoken of their appreciation for the start given them here at Homeleigh.

Mr Doug. Springer runs sheep on the property and we have six horses and ponies ridden by the children. The standard of riding has been of sufficiently high merit to have had some success in local club events.

Rev. Ken Toomer visits the home each week, joining in the games and activities with the children. A very valuable association has been formed.

Recent reports from the headmasters of the schools attended by the children indicate that good progress is being made and in the field of sport they have done particularly well while their attitude and behaviour is excellent.

Further coordination of the work among dependent children in the Area has been achieved through the work of the M.S.S.A. Area Sub Committee. The Social Workers based on Wellington and Palmerston North have been recognised as serving the home as field agents and will channel all cases for foster home placement through the Masterton Children's Home Committee which is the sole local body for care and supervision in the M.S.S.A. Area. The two social

workers are assisted by an advisory committee incorporating the manager of the home and chairman of the Home Committee forming the Sub Committee under the Central Districts M.S.S.A. Both social workers, Mr Duxfield and Mr Baber have worked in full cooperation with the Home Committee and have at all times been anxious to assist the management in any way.

We are pleased to report that extensive improvements including a new heating system and modernisation of kitchen and bathrooms, are almost completed. This will add greatly to the comfort of the children and staff. The Home Committee appreciates the interest shown in this work by the architect Mr Neil Inkster and the Child Welfare Division.

The Home Committee would again like to record its thanks to all those who have assisted in the work of the home, with a special word to those who have cared for the children over school holiday periods.

We record appreciative thanks to the Manager and Matron, Mr and Mrs Jolly, whose untiring labours, devotion and attention have made Homeleigh a real home indeed for many under their care. Our thanks are due also to the other members of the staff for their help in the care of this large family.

We pray God's continued blessing and guidance during the coming year.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Board for 1967 be as printed on page 7 herein.

C— South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1966

It is with a very real debt of gratitude to God that we present this report. This has been a year of consolidation and of advance as the Board has continued to further the full programme of child care. The following statistics will give some idea of the continuing need for all the care that is being provided and that will be given in the future.

In 1965 there were 56 in the Home, together with 13 in Foster Homes, a total of 69. During the year there have been: Admissions, 99; Demissions, 115, all of whom have been returned to Parent or Parents, except 2 adopted. Three families, totalling 9 children, returned to re-united Parents.

There are now 56 in the Home, of whom: 13 have been in the Home for more than 3 years; 17 have been in the Home for from 1 to 3 years; 15 have been in the Home for under 1 year; 1 child is in Hospital (long term).

There are 12 children in Foster Homes, of whom: 5 have been in the Foster Home for 3 years; 3 have been in the Foster Home for 1 to 3 years; 4 have been in the Foster Home for under 1 year. During the year 23 Foster Homes have been used for 33 children, and 2 of these children have been adopted.

Case Work: The above figures reveal something of the excellent

case-work that is being carried through so efficiently and successfully by the Master, Mr J. E. Scott. Placing children in Foster Homes, adoptions arranged, children re-united with Parent or Parents, and children returned to re-united Parents, are all the result of much fine work done by Mr Scott. In addition, and what the figures do not reveal, is the number of children who never enter the Home because of successful counselling work that has been done. The Church and the Board are grateful for all that is being achieved in this way.

Board Membership: During the year we have lost several valued members. The Rev. A. O. Harris, after many years of service to the Board as a member, as well as being Secretary for a time, passed to his well-earned reward at his death. The Rev. W. T. Blight, another with many years of service as member, and as Chairman for a period, resigned. The Rev. L. T. Norwell left the Board on his transfer from Christchurch. The Board regrets the loss of the services of these members.

To replace them the following appointments were made: The Revs. Dr M. A. McDowell, O. L. Christian and R. W. Widdup. We have been glad to welcome these new members, and the Board is also considering the matter of further lay appointments.

Pre-School Centre: This continues to function most successfully. During the year new materials have been purchased in assisting this work. The Board is hoping to provide better accommodation for this work shortly.

Staff: The position here continues to be very satisfactory, with longer terms of service being given on the average. Members of the Staff attended Social Service lectures during the year, centring round child care and management. These have been of great help. There is also one trainee on the staff who gains practical experience by relieving Family Mothers of the Family Units on their days off.

Outside Groups: A large proportion of the children are able to attend outside groups for youth activity and recreation. 62 children have attended such groups as Scouts, Girls' Brigade, Ballet, Music and the like, these proving most helpful to their development.

Assistance has been given by outside groups such as the Masonic Charitable Trust and the Papanui Rotary Club in addition to the facilities of the Home and other work. The Board has been most grateful for the provision of Hot Boxes for meals, and a paddling-swimming pool in the grounds for the children.

Renovations: Preliminary plans have been drawn up, and are now in the hands of the Welfare Department for comment, for interior alterations and modernisation of the present Home. The Board has felt for some time that there was a need to bring the facilities of the Home up-to-date with other Homes of this nature. There is also the need to modernise some of the furnishings, and for the replacement of the heating system with equipment that will heat the whole Home. In addition, with the present care conducted along the lines of Family Units within the building, these need to be made as self-contained and independent as possible. Though this may prove costly, the time has come when these alterations are necessary. It is hoped that subsidy will be available, and application for this has been made.

New Family Unit Home: Final plans and specifications have been drawn up for the Home to be built in Barrington Street, and have been approved by the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee. These have been forwarded to the Welfare Department, and we are awaiting their decision regarding subsidy before proceeding with the calling of tenders. We hope to be able to do this fairly shortly.

With these two matters of importance before us we look forward confidently to another year, knowing that this needy work among the children demands the best that we can provide for them. We believe that God is guiding us and blessing us in this work.

H. C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.
O. T. WOODFIELD, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Board for 1967 be as printed on page 7 herein.

QUESTION 53—What are the Resolutions of the Conference with regard to (a) The Order of the Deaconesses? (b) The Training of Deaconesses?

Methodist Deaconess Board

ANNUAL REPORT, 1966

During the year there has been consideration of policy and of the development of the Hostel work in Deaconess House. There have been 27 boarders and 2 Deaconess Trainees in residence. The significant change during the year was the resignation of Mrs G. Gauntlett after 14 years' splendid, devoted and constant leadership as Lady Superintendent of Deaconess House. The Board was very appreciative of all that Mrs Gauntlett has done over these years, recognising her devotion, her mature wisdom and loyalty in her carrying out of this office. The Board held a function to express appreciation to her, and made a presentation on behalf of the Church.

We also received the resignation of Mr F. T. Bartley who has been a very able Treasurer of the Board since the end of 1961, and the Board placed on record its indebtedness to Mr Bartley.

Appointments: After a brief interim appointment of a Lady Superintendent who resigned, the Board unanimously appointed Miss Judith Ford as Lady Superintendent and is most appreciative of her able fulfilment of that office. Miss Ford's personality and devotion has already endeared her to the Hostel residents and the Board. The Board is seeking an Assistant-Matron. We have been most ably served by Sister Ada Lee as a temporary appointment, and express our very great appreciation to her.

Mr Roger Flesher, whose name is well known to Methodists, was appointed Treasurer in place of Mr Bartley and is giving a considerable amount of time and able oversight to this aspect of the Board's work.

The House Committee has given time to consideration of the uniforms of the Deaconess Trainees and has been most faithful in other matters relative to the domestic life of the house and the Board is most appreciative.

Property Committee: Considerable interior improvements were made which have greatly enhanced the usefulness and attractiveness of the building. Discussions have been held with the adjoining property owners concerning access and the decisions made will improve the value of our property. The Board has appointed a sub-committee to examine the issues arising from the transfer of the Teacher's College and the University to the Upper Riccarton and Ilam locality. Policy matters of this kind are being considered in consultation with relevant committees of the Church.