

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 Wellington
1971

Price: Fifty Cents
Procurable at the Connexional Office

Sister Shirley is becoming more concerned with the welfare of the guests at our Eventide Homes and this year has an increased administrative responsibility in the Home.

Mr F. W. Wilson, our Administrative Officer has taken over more of the administrative responsibilities in the management of the new building as well as in social service duties.

The Rev. S. J. West, our associate minister, has been more involved in social service work and during this year will be acting Superintendent for three months during the absence of the Superintendent. At the end of June, Rev. and Mrs Gordon are to travel overseas on long service leave. In June, 1970, the Superintendent attended three Conferences in Australia. These were concerned with the Care of the Aged, Central Missions and Lifeline.

A committee has considered a replacement for the Superintendent to be designated at Conference 1971, and to become Superintendent in February, 1973.

2. FAMILY CARE

Under this heading is now grouped most of the non-residential institutional care of the Mission.

This is administered jointly by a Board consisting of six Anglicans and six Methodists, appointed annually by the parent bodies, the Anglican Social Service Board and the Methodist Central Mission Board of Management.

Last year which was in the nature of a trial period proved most satisfactory and on the 1st April, 1971, the Board was established. Its first Chairman is the Superintendent of the Mission and in April 1972, he will be succeeded by an Anglican member.

The Director is Mr R. E. Walton, who was formerly a Child Welfare Officer, and has been working in Anglican Social Services for some time. He is assisted by Mrs A. Turvey. The centre is situated in the Central Mission office.

This year has seen increased counselling of people with various needs. Close liaison has been maintained with our Day Nursery and many families have been helped to stay together by using its facilities and when residential care is needed for children, the Waverley Anglican Children's Home and foster homes have been used.

As the work in the Centre has grown and we have had to establish our priorities we have seen the need for closer links with parishes and circuits. Without the support of people who can provide practical assistance it is difficult to meet the needs of those who come into the Centre.

3. INSTITUTIONS

A. Eventide Home and Hospital, Company Bay: At the beginning of the year a contract was let for a new boiler house to cost approximately \$45,000. This will consolidate the heating system of the home, which is spread over three boiler houses at present. We trust that this work will be under way shortly. When this is completed, it will mean that the home over the last few years, has been completely renovated and is now in every way in first class condition.

B. Wesley Manor: After a frustrating year with no permanent Matron, we have appointed Mrs E. M. Prescott as Matron. The position there at present is most satisfactory.

C. Wesley Hall Students' Hostel: Since its inception this has been an uneconomic unit and it had always been the Board's hope to extend. With rising costs, however, the optimum size of a unit increased almost yearly and an economic hostel would be at present

far beyond our resources. Furthermore, the Board of the Central Mission feels that although it was asked originally to take over the management of the Hostel, student accommodation is not really the concern of a Central Mission and should be considered rather by the wider church. Consequently, the Hall was closed down at the end of the University year.

At present the final negotiations are under way with the Department of Health to sell the building to the Cherry Farm group of psychiatric hospitals, so that it will be used as a hostel for the rehabilitation of men who are alcoholics.

We are very glad that this building will be used in future in this way.

4. OCTAGON BUILDING

We have now been in the Octagon building for almost a year and it has become one of the major landmarks of the city and is frequently mentioned in official circles.

The Mission recently opened a tea and coffee lounge in the new building. Called 'Mission Inn' it is one of the finest of its kind in the city and is operated commercially by a committee under the guidance of the Rev. S. J. West. Our young people are using the coffee bar on Friday nights for informal meetings, and it is hoped that it will be increasingly used in the evenings for Mission outreach.

5. CO-OPERATION

Each year sees more and more co-operation with other voluntary and statutory bodies. Through our Family Care Centre we have close co-operation with the Child Welfare Department, the Justice Department and other church agencies. We are represented by our officers on the Old People's Welfare Council, the Society for the Protection of Home and Family, and the Emergency Advice Service, where the Superintendent is a committee member and both he and the associate minister are directors.

D. B. GORDON, Superintendent.

S. J. WEST, Associate Minister.

F. W. WILSON, Administrative Officer.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Board for 1972 be as printed on page 6 herein.

QUESTION 42.—(c) Children's Homes.

THE AUCKLAND METHODIST CARE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN COMMITTEE

We record with sorrow the sudden passing of the Rev. A. Everil Orr our Legal Manager, and Mr Russell Garlick, Member of our Trust Board, both on 25th August, 1971, and praise God for their lives lived to His Glory.

Appreciation is expressed for the years of valuable service given by the Rev. R. F. Clement as Chairman of our Board, and we wish him well as he takes up his appointment as President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1971

In submitting this report we are continually aware of the needs of deprived children and unhappy families. We give thanks to God

for His guidance and grace in this field of service. We are grateful also to all those who have helped financially and in any other way. During the year 19 were admitted into care, and 18 discharged. Requests for assistance during the year number 138, and 57 families outside residential care have received counselling or assistance in various forms. During the year there have been requests from other agencies and Child Welfare. Temporary admissions number 10. Many miles of travelling and considerable time has been involved in this work.

STAFFING

We praise God for the very fine service of our Superintendent and Matron, Mr and Mrs Bowden, who with their staff continue to carry on a good standard of care and genuine concern for the children in Wesleydale. There are always changes of domestic staff. Throughout the year there have been periods when there has been no cook, causing heavy burden on the Superintendent and house mothers. The service of Mr L. P. Parker, as Social Worker have been retained for a further two years. Mrs G. Pratt has been appointed as office secretary following the resignation of Mrs J. Divers.

RESIGNATION

We place on record our appreciation of the work done by Mrs J. Divers, as Secretary-Manager, and record with thanks her devoted service to the work of dependent children.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

Women's Committee continues to give very acceptable practical and financial help.

PROPERTY

Wesleydale Children's Home: Notice has been served that this property or the greater part of it will be required for future roading and the Trust have made representation to protect our interests to the appropriate authorities.

Manurewa Family Home: This property at Hutt Road, Manurewa was recently purchased and plans for extensions to accommodate 8 children have been approved by the Church Building and Loan Fund, and is now awaiting reply to the application for a subsidy from the Child Welfare Department.

Leasehold Property: Valuations have been carried out on some of the properties at the request of the Lessees, and some have acted upon these and agreed to buy at valuation price. The Trustees are prepared to carry necessary terms, at current rates, for purchase where desired. Capital received from sales will be deposited with the Prince Albert College Trust, on call at good rates of interest.

INVESTMENTS

Investments maturing from some Government loans have been placed with the Prince Albert College Trust.

GRANTS AND LEGACIES

Grants and legacies from the Robert Ewbank Trust, Auckland Savings Bank, Gertrude Dadley Estate, E. Astley & Son, M. J. Mallach plus income from endowments and investments, have assisted in meeting the deficit in the Revenue Account.

The Board is concerned that the deficit in running the Homes under its care totalled \$22,004 for the year, which with administration expenses of \$6,101, gave an overall cost of \$28,105. Only \$15,731 was received in investment income leaving a balance of \$12,374, to be paid for out of capital resources. The Board is taking steps to improve its investment income but undoubtedly further substantial losses will be incurred in future years. We extend our thanks to the interested

people and Churches for gifts and donations received towards this vital work.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome to our Board three new members, Mr M. Copeland, Accountant, Mr Geoff Peak, Solicitor, and Rev. G. A. R. Cornwell.

M. COPELAND, Chairman.

MRS G. PRATT, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the title of this Committee become "The Auckland Methodist Children's Home Board".
3. That the Committee for 1972 be as printed on page 6 herein.

MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

REPORT TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1971

During the past year there were 10 admissions to Homeleigh, four of these being for short-term assistance. The average number of dependent children within Homeleigh was 26 in addition to which we continue to be associated with the social workers centred on Wellington and Palmerston North. Most of the admissions have come through these agencies.

We are grateful for the care of the children exercised by Mr and Mrs Jolly. We feel that the continuing family atmosphere achieved by them in Homeleigh is matched in few other children's homes. They have been with us for nine years now and have maintained this wonderful spirit throughout. Miss Jillian Pearce of Christchurch is working on the staff for 1971 under the Order of St. Stephen and her service is much appreciated.

Government subsidy was approved for the cubicles in the girls' dormitories. The alteration has proved most successful and is a further significant step in the renovation of the building which has now been in use for 50 years.

Arrangements are in hand for offering for sale seven building sections on the Herbert Street frontage. The remainder of the vacant land is to be retained.

The Masterton Central School was previously very conveniently situated but has now been re-sited about a mile away. This change has made it necessary to provide some transport for small children.

We face a serious reduction of income for the coming year. The connexional grant was reduced from \$4,100 (1970-71) to \$2,000 (1971-72). A reduction of over 50% for a comparatively small fund and at such short notice seems severe and warrants some explanation as to Conference policy towards the work among dependent children carried out by this Home and its associated field work. The allocation of \$2,000 compares with \$2,630 given by Circuits within our area in response to our direct appeal 12 years earlier. Our contribution to the cost of providing social field workers in the area will be reduced by \$500 for the coming year as a result of this position.

The continuing work of Homeleigh has been made possible by the support received from many sources. We acknowledge with thanks

the gifts received from Church and community groups and the financial support of Methodist people represented by giving through the Church Budget. In particular we record appreciation of the following grants:

Robert Gibson Trust \$1,400, J. R. McKenzie Trust \$500, Masterton Trust Lands Trust \$150, Manawatu Wairarapa Savings Bank \$50, N.Z. Broadcasting Talent Quest \$120, Masterton Lions Club \$50, Masterton Wesley Church for blankets \$125.

Mr W. H. Saunders has retired from the Management Committee after many years including 11 as Secretary. We thank him for the valuable service he has given.

D. H. SPRINGER, Chairman.
J. F. CODY, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Management Committee for the ensuing year be as printed on page 7 herein.

THE SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME BOARD

During the year we have continued to provide all types of Care for those needy children referred to us, as represented by the following statistics:—

Papanui Home: Children under care as at 30th June, 1970, 65; as at 30th June, 1971, 61. Admissions during the current year, 53; demissions, 57. It is significant to note that there has been a total movement of 110 children during this year as compared with 65 last year.

- Foster Homes: Children in Foster Homes as at 30th June, 1971, 14.
- Family Home: Children in Barrington Street Unit Family Home, 7.
- Counselling Services: There have been 27 families helped during this year, 72 children.

TRAINING

Sister Rona Collins successfully completed the Social Services Course at the University of Canterbury. With the relinquishment of this work by Mr J. E. Scott, Sister Rona has been appointed as the Social Worker to carry on this aspect.

MANAGEMENT

Both Homes have had changes at the commencement of 1971. In the Papanui Home, Mr and Mrs J. E. Scott left in January after more than 10 years of dedicated service. They have been replaced by Mr and Mrs G. Bostwick who are already making an excellent contribution. Suitable presentations were made to Mr and Mrs Scott.

In the Barrington Street Unit Family Home, Mrs E. J. Overton, the first Matron, found it necessary to resign during February, and Mrs L. G. Reed has been appointed here.

ALTERATIONS

The completion of the alterations and renewals in the Papanui Home means that the Family Units are now as self-contained as

possible, and operating independently of each other. They are functioning well and with more autonomy, which will make a difference in running the Home, as well as being better for the children themselves.

CAPITAL COSTS OF ALTERATIONS AND ERECTIONS

In the last three years, capital expenditure has totalled over \$88,000, including \$23,545 for the Barrington Street Unit Family Home. Further capital expenditure of over \$20,000 will be necessary during the current year to complete the alterations at the Papanui Home, a total of \$108,000.

Despite the unprecedented amount of legacies received during the same 3-year period, totalling \$48,000, and Government Subsidies of \$29,000 granted or promised, the indications are that the Board will need to sell investments totalling over \$20,000 to complete the financing of this capital expenditure. This will have a detrimental effect on the Board's future investment income at a time when the need for annual support from that income was never greater.

The Board is grateful to the Government for its substantial support by way of subsidy which has enabled the alterations to proceed. It also means that the Church is committed to the continuation of this work, for if we were forced to cease our work the amount of subsidies received would have to be repaid.

FINANCE

The Audited Financial Statements will be presented to Conference. The year ending 31st March, 1971, resulted in a further substantial deficit, the excess of expenditure over income being \$5,012. This was despite a grant of \$7,000 from the South Island Orphanage Investment Board. These annual transfers from the Investment Board now exceed the investment income and hence diminish the capital of the Fund.

During the year, and more especially since 31st March, 1971, the Children's Home finances have been under increasing pressure, and this situation is giving the Board considerable concern.

GRANTS

The Board gratefully acknowledges the support received from the South Island Women's Fellowships, and from individual donors. Special mention is made of the following: Sutherland Self Help Trust, \$1,000 towards capital costs of alterations; McKenzie Trust, \$834, this being Methodist share of the grant of \$2,500 to the Combined Children's Homes Appeals Board.

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 1972 be as printed on page 7 herein.

QUESTION 43.—(a) What are the Resolutions of the Conference in regard to: The Connexional Office of the Methodist Church of New Zealand?

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT OF THE CONNEXIONAL OFFICE

FINANCE

The Annual Financial Statements will be presented to Conference with this report. Expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1971