

The following pages contain an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Reports and Resolutions of the Annual Conference

The extract contains the reports to Conference for the following three Methodist Children's homes:

- The Auckland Central Mission
- 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
1976

Price: \$1.00
Procurable at the Connexional Office

In considering Resolutions 2 and 3, it was decided to set up a Committee in Christchurch with Mr Cedric Radcliffe as Convener to gather information from Circuits and to present material for discussion to the M.S.S.A. Executive. It was agreed that the Central Missions and Social Service Centres have a facilitating role and should make resources available to local Churches.

Redundant Properties:

It was agreed that when being asked for permission to sell redundant properties the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee be requested to raise with the District Property Advisory Committee or the Joint Regional Committee whether such land or property could be used for new Social Service ventures by Central Missions or Social Services Trusts.

Development of Social Service Work in Circuits:

Information about local Churches involved in Social Service work was tabled and proposed developments were noted. It was decided to gather information from all Circuits undertaking or planning Social Service activities.

Social Service Report:

Reports were received from all Boards and Committees responsible for Social Service work throughout New Zealand. These reports are incorporated into the Reports of each M.S.S.A. Area and are printed separately in the Agenda.

Overseas Reports:

The Reverends D. B. Gordon and D. S. Mullan reported on the Australia-New Zealand Missions Conference and the Convener reported on Drug Rehabilitation and new forms of Aged Care in the United Kingdom.

Election of Officers:

Convener and Official Representative: Rev. Wilf. E. Falkingham.

Treasurer: Mr E. C. Flyger.

Representatives to N.Z. Council of Christian Social Services: Revs. W. E. Falkingham, J. A. Penman and D. B. Gordon.

Thanks to Charitable Trusts:

The following Trusts have generously supported our Social Welfare work throughout New Zealand and we record our appreciation:—

The J. R. McKenzie Trust.

The Sutherland Self Help Trust.

The Todd Foundation.

The J. B. S. Dudding Trust

and also Savings Banks in all the provinces.

G. E. HILL, Vice-President, Chairman.

WILF. E. FALKINGHAM, Convener.

RESOLUTION

1. That the Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments be received and adopted.

QUESTION 42—(b) Branches of the M.S.S.A.

AUCKLAND METHODIST CENTRAL MISSION

ANNUAL REPORT TO CONFERENCE 1976

STAFF

With the exception of the resignation of the Matron of the Everil Orr Homes there have been few changes in senior staff this year. Mrs M. D. Jones who had previously been the Assistant Matron of the Everil Orr Homes took over from Miss Z. M. Miller as Matron in June 1976. Mrs T. M. McKenzie became Matron of the Franklin Eventide Home when it opened in August 1975.

We are fortunate indeed with the calibre of senior staff which we have in all departments.

AGED CARE—GENERAL

Our management Board will be studying carefully the special report of the Health Department on "Accommodation and Service needs of the Elderly" which was published on 30th June, 1976.

In many ways it is a criticism of the direction which church social service agencies have taken over the years in their tendency to emphasise institutional care. Although we could make a good case for reasons for past policies, we must take heed of warnings given and must surely welcome more research which is taking place regarding elderly people and their place in society.

As the state provides more financial help, voluntary agencies will need to be prepared to accept more guidance from the state and especially in regard to the assessment by regional geriatricians, of prospective residents for rest homes and patients for geriatric hospitals.

Church Social Service agencies will undoubtedly need to change their direction from concentrating upon building residential homes and hospitals to providing more in the way of sheltered housing and residential clubs for the aged. Many of these could, with the support of our social service agencies, be set up in blocks of say ten to a dozen residents near to local churches where members could provide support and care and show interest and friendship. Our congregations too with their growing emphasis on building community could greatly assist various domiciliary services in their efforts to keep more elderly people living in the community.

There will always be the need for institutions for some people. Church geriatric hospitals, provided they have adequate paramedical services such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy and are closely in touch with general hospitals, should continue to care for long-term geriatric patients as well as those who after rehabilitation will be able to return to the community.

Residential homes are tending to become havens for many frail aged and this process will continue although there must always be a place for some who while still comparatively fit physically need, for social reasons, residential care.

Health Department policy seems to be moving towards having many confused elderly people who are at present in psychiatric hospitals, returned into the community. This is a worthy ideal but unfortunately, many of these are simply moving from large state institutions into private rest homes where in many cases little is done

to help in their rehabilitation and recreation. The Church must investigate more ways in which it can help these psycho-geriatric patients.

The State on the other hand must recognise that if church agencies are being asked to care for an increasing number of frail residents in their homes, then some kind of subsidy such as one which was suggested by the 1967 Board of Health Committee for all patients over 80, should be speedily instituted.

Everil Orr Homes

There are 186 beds in this complex and the average occupancy is approximately 178. This is because there are usually several people away on holiday, and one or two in public hospitals. We have recently instituted a physiotherapy service and plans have been passed by the Health Department to build an occupational therapy room. The average age of those in residential care at present is 83.

Costs continue to rise and over the year there was an overall increase in expenditure of \$118,145 of which \$91,432 was made up by increased wages. This has necessitated a rise in fees but the Mission subsidises any person who through lack of capital or income is entitled to receive from the Social Welfare Department an additional benefit. People in this category are subsidised so that nobody receives less than \$6 per week pocket money.

Wesley Hospital

Our occupancy rate continues to be approximately 100 per cent. This is because we have an urgent waiting list and a bed is filled usually the day it becomes vacant.

At long last the 30-bed extension has started, and for this we received a very keen tender price from McKerras Brothers Limited who have done so much work for the Mission. As well as the 30-bed extension the Government has granted an additional subsidy for extensions to our occupational therapy and physiotherapy block.

We have maintained our fees at \$70 per week over and above the Government subsidy for the past year because we are most concerned that far too many elderly people see their life savings whittled away through long hospitalisation. Nevertheless, we cannot maintain the fees at this rate for very much longer as our loss on Wesley Hospital for the year ended 31 March, 1976, excluding the amount allowed for depreciation, was just on \$14,000.

Kamo Home—Whangarei

This Home, which is an ideal size for a catchment area the size of Northland, continues to provide an excellent service for the

people of that area. At the present time we are examining the possibility of building flats for the elderly on the site.

Tamahere Home—Hamilton

Although the Tamahere Home is run by a separate trust it comes within the oversight of the Auckland area M.S.S.A.

Franklin Eventide Home—Pukekohe

The Governor General, Sir Denis Blundell, opened this Home for 30 residents on 23 August, 1975 when approximately 700 people were present. The final cost to open and purchase the Home was \$490,357 of which the Government provided a subsidy of \$285,000. The people of the Franklin area pledged themselves to find the balance of something over \$205,000 and at 31 March, 1976 they had raised \$155,000, leaving a debt at that date of \$50,000 which is being underwritten by the Mission. This is being steadily paid off.

Esplanade Road Flats—Auckland

Work on these 26 single and 3 double flats for the elderly is well under way and it is expected that residents will occupy them early in the new year. The final finished cost excluding land will be just on half a million dollars. The people are being invited to give the Mission a free of interest loan in exchange for an occupation lease for life or, alternatively, the Housing Corporation has offered generous finance on a table mortgage of up to \$10,000 per flat or a total of \$290,000. Both of these options are being taken up.

Campbells Bay Home—North Shore

The Government has made available a subsidy of \$562,500 for a 45-bed Home on the site of the former Health Camp in Campbells Bay. Working drawings are now progressing and it is hoped that we may be in a position to call tenders before the end of the year.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

A year ago, the Board of Management established a Social Concern Committee to investigate the needs of people in Auckland. The first project was that of providing accommodation for women who need some help to cope with life. A house was purchased and since September 1975 has been occupied by four women. There is also a room available for transient people.

Recently a house was purchased in Mt Eden which, when renovated, will provide flats for those moving out of the house and "finding their feet" before caring for themselves back in the community.

The Board of Management also gave this committee a grant of \$5,000 to be used to help voluntary Social Workers with their out of pocket expenses. So far over \$2,000 of this has been allotted. Grants were also made to four people doing the Community Studies Course at Auckland University.

CHILD CARE

On the 1st July, 1976 the Methodist Children's Home Board merged with the Methodist Central Mission and the Board became a Child Care Committee of the Central Mission Board of Management. This Committee will be under the Chairmanship of Mr M. C. Copeland, the former Board Chairman, who is also a member of the Board of Management of the Central Mission. We would remind the many friends who have assisted our work in the past that donations may still be given to child care through the Central Mission. Continuing support will be needed because of the costly nature of this work.

During this past year Wesleydale Home has been leased to the Government as a Social Welfare Home while a new family home at Sunnynook has been opened. At present we have two family homes and are planning a further home at Titirangi. We have a number of children in foster care while a new emphasis is being placed on preventative work, by our two social workers. Our senior social worker, Mr Keith Hayes, has recently been awarded a Nuffield Scholarship.

JOINT PROJECTS

ANGLICAN METHODIST SOCIAL SERVICES

The major part of our non-institutional social work is carried on as a joint effort with the Anglican Church through Anglican Methodist Social Service. At present we have working in the city centre a director, chief social worker and two other social workers one of

AUCKLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOMES BOARD

INCORPORATED IN THE REPORT OF THE AUCKLAND
METHODIST CENTRAL MISSION MANAGEMENT BOARD

MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30th JUNE, 1976

The Need:

The Committee started the year under consideration with a review of the objects of the Home. It was found that (1) there is still much need for a Home of the type at present being run; (2) the Committee was encouraged to continue the work which they were doing with family groups and with children in the five to 12-year-old age bracket; (3) consideration needs to be given to the building of family units and motel-type units for adolescents.

Although there are few "orphans" these days, the number of children in need seems to be on the increase. Eleven children have been admitted during the past 12 months and there have only been seven departures, leaving us with 25 children in residence at the end of the year.

A real concern is the need to provide suitable accommodation and supervision for graduates of the Home as they take up employment and make their way into the wider world. Two school leavers this year and another five or six in the next 18 months highlight this problem.

The Staff:

The Committee records with appreciation the continued loyal service of our Manager and Matron, Mr and Mrs John Dubbeldam, in what has been a difficult year of staff movements and reorganisations.

Staff members continue to serve with dedication, endeavouring to provide each child with the time and affection necessary for individual growth.

The Management:

Appreciation was expressed to Rev. Bruce Hosking on his departure and we were pleased to greet Rev. Peter Glensor. The resignation of Mr Doug Springer after 12 years service (including six years as Chairman) on the Management Committee has been received with very much regret.

The Property:

All property is in good condition. The new staff house was occupied by the Manager and his family in January of this year. Some sections remain unsold in the subdivision. However, in view of the current economic conditions, no concern is felt.

The children's cubicles have been modified to provide a transit area which can be used by either boys or girls according to the current need. A new 90 cubic feet cool room has been installed, providing a much needed addition to storage space.

The Means:

The rapidly rising cost of living is reflected in this year's accounts and expenses are constantly under review. Wages, stores and clothing are the areas most affected.

The work of Homeleigh has been helped by many who have shown their interest in practical ways and particularly by those who have opened their homes to the Children during the school vacations.

Our work is dependent to a large extent on the financial support of Church and charitable trusts. In particular, we record appreciation of the following grants:—

Robert Gibson Methodist Trust	\$3,000
McKenzie Trust	\$700
Masterton Trust Lands Trust	\$200
Masterton Lions Club	\$200 of Sports Equipment
Masterton Rotary Club—Sports Equipment	
Estate M. F. Ryan	\$100

D. A. PRATT, Chairman.
B. D. SMITH, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Management Committee for 1977 be as printed on Pages 5-9 herein.

SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

ANNUAL REPORT 1976

WE ARE STILL ALIVE AND ACTIVE

April 1914	First House opened to care for 12 children.
1934	Present site in Harewood Road bought.
November 1934	Present buildings opened.
1965	Present buildings extensively renovated and divided into family units.
August 1967	Barrington Street Family Home opened.

Projected Developments:

- The erection of a Day Care Centre.
- Building of a Recreation Hall for the children.
- Establishment of an additional unit at Harewood Road.

Numbers of Children in Care:

In "family units" at Harewood Road	48
In the Barrington Street Cottage Home	8
In foster care	30
In the Day Care Centre	10
TOTAL	96

The primary task of the Board is the care of children. Today there are 86 children who in varying ways come under the care or oversight of the South Island Children's Home and there is steady pressure for the numbers to increase. Some children are referred by Government or Voluntary Welfare Agencies; others simply arrive on the doorstep. But all are in need of care; or are "at risk" in the community; or, with their families, require understanding and

guidance. No child is worked with in isolation from its family unit, and such work involves many hours of counselling and help. It has been particularly gratifying to be able to give a home to whole families because of the policy adopted by the Board in 1967, thus saving the children from the anguish of having to be parted from brothers and sisters as well as from parents.

A small day care centre is already operating, but in very cramped quarters. This caters for six pre-schoolers from the Home as well as ten from the community. The criterion for admission is the need of the child, not the convenience of the mother. Approval in principle is awaited from the Government for the establishment of an enlarged and more adequate Centre. It is also hoped to provide a recreation room in due course to cater for the needs of all age groups of children in care; and, when space can be made available, to establish an additional "special purpose" family unit at Harewood Road.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated and stable staff who are making good use of the staff training courses available, especially those offered by the Technical Institute. The work is demanding and there is increasing need for staff to be well qualified. The Board is seeking, through its salary scales, to give some recognition of the acquiring of suitable skills.

The cost to care for each child is around \$25 per week. Income is derived from contributions from parents, the Family Benefit, Government capitation subsidy, income from investments and bequests, and donations. For several years the work of the Children's Home Board has received no grant from the Connexional Budget, although child care work is carried on by authority of Conference and on behalf of our Methodist people. Last year the Board ran at a loss of \$15,000. This had to be met by transferring reserve funds which were being husbanded for capital developments. In effect the Board has been out of pocket by at least \$3 per week for every child under care. This year the gap is widening even further.

It is hoped that in the near future it will be possible to lease a large part of the vacant land on terms favourable to the Board and useful to the Church and the community. This would help very considerably towards meeting running costs, and enable more of the legacy money to be put towards the provision of a Day Care Centre and a Recreation Hall. Help in the form of gifts of money or legacies is regarded as an investment in the future of young New Zealanders.

W. A. CHAMBERS, Chairman.
N. P. ALCORN, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That the Board for 1977 be as printed on Pages 5-9 herein.

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

A. REPORT OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management of the Connexional Office has met on 12 occasions during the year and has been involved in discussions with the Special Committee appointed by the 1975 Conference to

define the Church's hopes and expectations of the Finance and Administration Division.

Financial Position:

The Annual Financial Statements are presented to Conference along with this Report. They reveal an excess of expenditure of \$3,795 over income compared with last year's surplus of \$23.

The Finance Manager commenced his duties in the Connexional Office, Christchurch on October 22, 1975 and quickly set to work to familiarise himself with the Funds administered by this Office. In the absence of the General Secretary on sick leave from November 1975 to February 1976, Dr D. J. Janus willingly and ably attended to much detailed work in co-operation with Mr E. G. Heggie who was appointed Interim Assistant Secretary by the 1975 Conference.

The Board of Management has again had to contend with rises in costs, especially wage increases. The salary of the Finance Manager was met in full for the period November 1975 to June 30, 1976. The total amount spent on wages and salaries was \$46,549 and was partly met by grants from the Thorndon Property Account over the past three years, totalling in all \$9,598. The Board is grateful for the consideration shown to it in this way by the General Purposes Committee of the Conference.

The Office has benefited greatly from the voluntary assistance of Mr Cedric B. Radcliffe and the large volume of work undertaken by Mrs Wynne Walter at a nominal remuneration. Rev. Ralph E. Patchett, a supernumerary minister, has also done much faithful and efficient work. The Board is greatly indebted to Mr Eric G. Heggie for his willingness to travel weekly from Wellington to Christchurch in order to supervise the administration of the Office. Had it not been for this—and other help from ministers and laymen in and around Christchurch—wages and salaries would have cost the Church a good deal more in 1975-76.

The Board has been pleased to welcome to the staff Mr B. C. H. Rains as Accountant and appreciates his contribution as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

With the increased volume of work and the additional staff required, the Board decided to take over a larger suite of offices on the second floor of Epworth Chambers. The renovation and removal were well planned and supervised by Mr C. B. Radcliffe and the Board thanks the staff for its understanding co-operation in this time of unsettlement.

In the light of all this, the Board has carefully reviewed its appropriations for 1977-78 but seeks the permission of Conference to vary same should circumstances make it necessary.

With some reluctance the Board has asked for an increased allocation from the Connexional Budget for 1977-78 as it realises that some circuits/parishes are undergoing serious financial strain. However, realities have to be faced and if the Church's hopes and expectations of the Finance and Administration Division are to be met, the Church must make proper provision for staffing and equipment.

Removal Expenses Fund:

The total cost of removals for the year ended June 30, 1976 was \$9,913. The grant from the Connexional Budget was \$14,000 and the excess of income over expenditure was \$3,869. This meant that the deficit in the Fund has been eliminated, leaving funds of \$1,379 available.

The Board attributes this encouraging position to the efforts