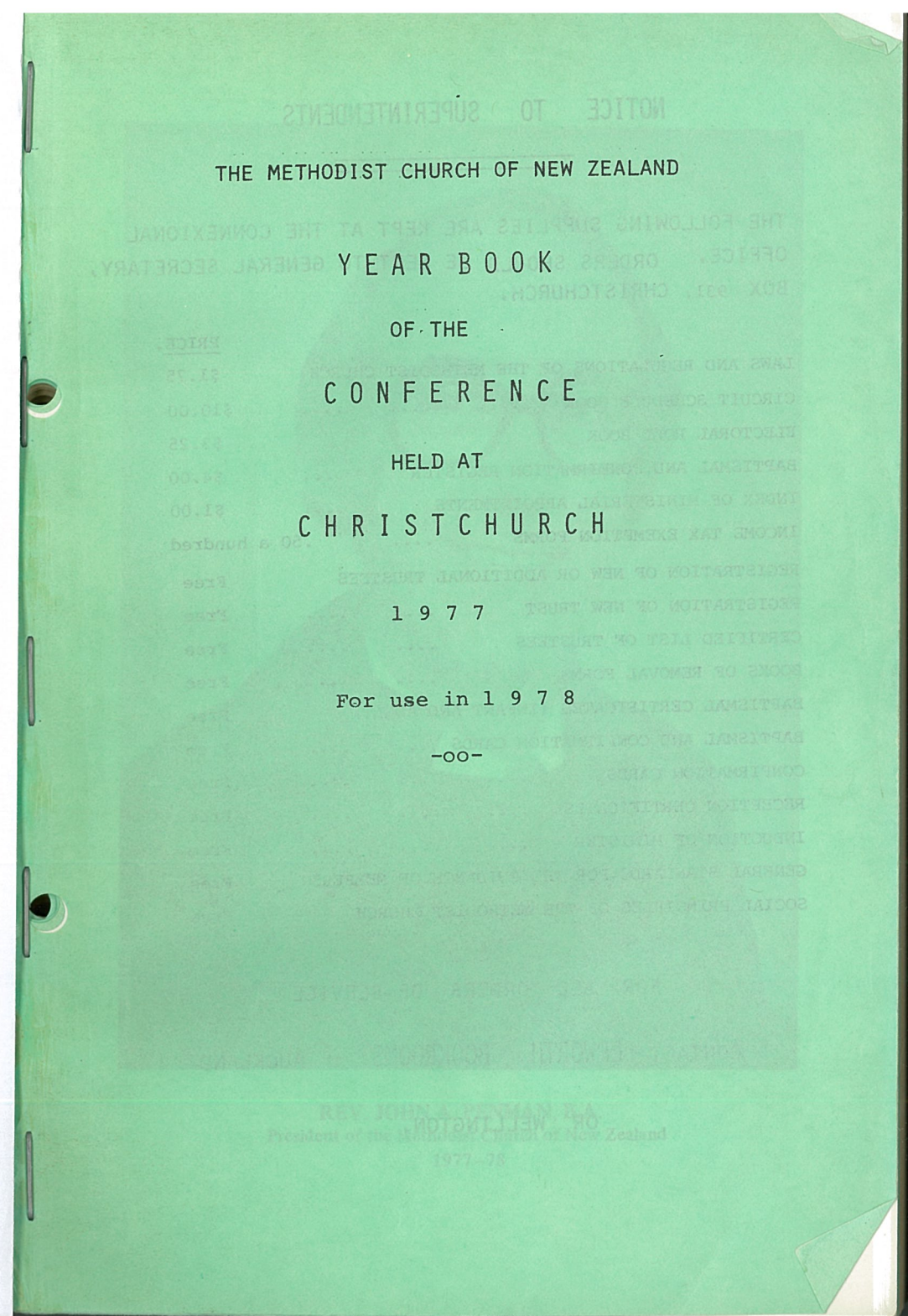


The following pages contain an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Reports and Resolutions of the Annual Conference

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



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

After discussion on the matter of establishing a Standing Committee on Social Services it was agreed "That the Board of Administration be requested to take some initiative with the New Zealand Methodist Social Service Association Executive to discuss the question of Social Work policies".

DUNEDIN METHODIST CENTRAL MISSION

A report relating to the proposal to unite the Dunedin Methodist Circuit and the Dunedin Central Mission was considered and it was resolved to support the principle of the amalgamation.

CIRCUIT INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL SERVICES

This matter was referred by the 1976 Conference to the Methodist Social Service Association. An interim report was presented to the Annual Meeting. The Committee was asked to continue its work and present an interim report for the 1977 Conference and to report to Synods next year.

SOCIAL SERVICE REPORTS

Reports were received from all Central Missions, Children's Homes and all related Social Service Centres.

CONGRATULATIONS

The M.S.S.A. congratulated the Auckland Central Mission on the completion of its new Social Service building "Open Circle". Members attended the official opening following the Conference.

A report of the establishment of Methodist Social Service work in Wanganui was received and the M.S.S.A. agreed to send greetings and to assure them of the support and backing of the Association.

SOCIAL WORK COURSES

A detailed description of the various Social Work training courses at New Zealand Universities has been prepared and is available on request to the Convener.

PETER A. STEAD, President
WILF. E. FALKINGHAM, Convener

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Annual Report and Statement of Receipts and Payments be adopted.
2. That the Rev. Wilf. Falkingham be reappointed as official representative and Convener of the New Zealand Social Service Association.
3. That Mr M.E. Lloyd be appointed Treasurer.
4. That the Board of Administration and the Methodist Social Service Association Executive confer regarding future Social Service policies and strategy.
5. That the M.S.S.A. Committee studying Circuit Involvement in Social Services be requested to continue its work and bring a report to Synod 1978.

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

AUCKLAND METHODIST CENTRAL MISSION

ANNUAL REPORT TO CONFERENCE 1977

AGED CARE:

Much of the work of the Mission continues to be in aged care. Over the past few years there has been an increasing tendency for the Health Department to feel that residential care should be reserved for the frail aged, with encouragement being given to older fit people to live, either in the community, or in sheltered housing such as supervised flats.

By and large this policy is good, provided the emphasis is not weighted so heavily on the physical needs of a person that we forget his or her social and emotional needs which may make residential care desirable.

In the Auckland M.S.S.A. area the Central Mission is responsible for the Everil Orr Home and Hospital in Mt. Albert, Auckland; Wesley Hospital in Mt. Eden; Aldersgate Flats adjacent to Wesley Hospital, which were opened this year, for 32 people; Kamo Home in Whangarei; Franklin Home in Pukekohe, while a separate Trust runs the Tamahere Home in Hamilton.

These Homes care for 269 people in residential beds, 64 in flats and 72 hospital patients.

Extensions will shortly be completed at Wesley Hospital for 30 more hospital patients and 8 more residential beds. It is hoped that after many frustrations we shall be able to call tenders before long for O Rongo Home, a 45 bed Home at Campbells Bay, Auckland.

A new departure has been co-operation with a builder of a block of 39 flats in Otahuhu where the Mission has agreed to administer Oak Grove Village, giving the people security and ensuring them of ongoing care. The Mission is not involved in any way with capital expenditure. This may well be a prototype for some of our future aged care work.

SOCIAL CONCERNS:

In recent years our social work has been greatly expanded with the establishment of Anglican Methodist Social Services and our increasing involvement in Lifeline and Liston Hostel. This has been extended further recently with the establishment of two homes for the care of lone women and the setting up of Friday Forum where a platform is provided outside the Mission to speak on relevant community and social issues. Our Committee has also made available finance to many voluntary Social Workers to enable them to work at the grass roots amongst the most needy people in our society.

CHILD CARE:

Although Wesleydale Home has been leased to the Social Welfare Department for other purposes, residential care is still being provided most effectively with two family homes. One at Sunnynook on the North Shore where nine children are cared for by house parents, and at Manurewa where house parents care for nine children. Tenders have been called for a new family home at Titirangi and as a new departure the Social Welfare Department and the Housing Corporation have made available for us a large new State house at Takanini which we will rent as a family home.

A number of children are being cared for in foster homes but perhaps most important of all two child care social workers and the Assistant Director of Anglican Methodist Social Services are doing preventive work to keep the family unit together, amongst a number of families whose children would formerly have come into care. The measure of our success in child care is not the number of children in our homes but the number we are able to keep out of our homes and in their own home.

JOINT PROJECTS:

Anglican Methodist Social Services - which was established several years ago continues to provide the social workers for the child care work of the Central Mission as well as doing valuable community work in the city and suburbs on behalf of both the Auckland City Mission (Anglican) and the Methodist Central Mission.

Lifeline and Inter-Church Counselling Service - Need for this service becomes even more apparent as they enter their second decade and the volume and scope of this work continues to increase. There are some 300 voluntary workers and last year they recorded 10,288 lifeline telephone calls and over two thousand hours of face to face counselling.

James Liston Hostel - continues to provide a haven and shelter for homeless and lonely men. It is controlled by a Trust of laymen from Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and Methodist Churches and men from combined Lions' clubs with the social service directors of the four churches as advisers. With the exception of the resident manager, the remainder of the staff are volunteers from the churches and Lions' clubs.

THE OPEN CIRCLE:

On the 20th August 1977 His Excellency, the Governor General, Sir Denis Blundell opened, and the President of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, the Rev. Peter Stead dedicated the Open Circle, which is a social service

building built on the site of the original Methodist Church which was erected by the Primitive Methodist Connexion in 1851.

The name derives from the large circular lounge with its welcoming open door to the community. On the ground floor, opening off the lounge are meeting rooms, a games room, and a coffee bar to seat 40 people. The ground floor will be used for the Christian Education work and various activities of the Central Mission, while the lounge and coffee bar will provide a place of rest and refreshment in the inner city.

The lounge is open seven days a week and for much of the time a befriender is on duty from the Inter-Church Counselling Centre. The first floor of the building is occupied by Lifeline, Inter-Church Counselling Centre, Anglican Methodist Social Services, the New Citizen Newspaper and the Ecumenical Secretariat on Development. The offices of the Auckland Methodist Central Mission are still in their former location in Queen Street. The cost of the Open Circle was approximately \$400,000 and of this a grant of \$235,000 as a result of the sale of Winstone Lodge was made towards its erection.

IN THE MIDST OF THE CITY:

The Mission congregation continues to provide a strong witness in the heart of the city with an evidently closer relationship developing over recent years between Samoan and Palagi members of the congregation and a greater appreciation of each others culture.

The church attracts many folk who wish to come in for a time of quiet or a talk with the Assistant Superintendent whose office is now located immediately inside the front door so that he may be readily available.

FINANCE:

For the year ended 31 March 1977 the Mission made an operating loss on its Homes and Hospitals for the aged and the child care division of \$81,971. After the reduction of depreciation which is an on cash charge of \$63,916 the cash deficit was \$18,055. To this is added grants which the Mission made for social work of \$77,836, the greater part of this being our share of the operations of Anglican Methodist Social Services. This means the net cash operating cost of care programmes for the year was \$95,891. The total operating expenses, however, for the Mission for the year were \$1,333,005.

CONCLUSION:

An enterprise the size of the Mission could not hope to make an efficient and effective contribution to the

MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME.

REPORT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

for year ended 30 June 1977.

At present we are caring for 20 children, after 3 admissions and 7 departures during the year. Our aim to rehabilitate families continues, and for the first time ever, all the families involved were able to care for their own children during the May holidays.

In December, we lost the services of our Manager and Matron, Mr and Mrs John Dubbeldam, and in June, Assistant Matron Miss Jean Shenton also resigned. We wish to record our appreciation of their very great contributions to Homeleigh. Mr and Mrs George Crawford are acting as relieving Manager and Matron, while the other staff are sharing the Assistant Matron's responsibilities most capably. We have also had Miss Jenny Dawson with us, under the Order of St. Stephen. We are greatly indebted to all these people, whose loyalty and co-operation has contributed greatly to the happiness and well being of the children. A permanent appointment of Manager and Matron has been made, and Mr and Mrs Bert Jackways take up their position during the August holidays.

There have been Management Committee changes too, resignations from Mr John Thompson and Mrs Dorothy Bebarfald.

A new activity for the Committee this year involved us in helping other Masterton Children's homes to host a seminar. This brought together people with common ideals from a wide area, and helped us to get to know better our local counterparts.

During this year an outside staircase was added to the building to meet Fire Regulation requirements. This had the desirable effect of adding a porch and separate entrance to the staff flat. A subsidy was received, and we await subsidy approval for further smaller alterations to comply with Fire Safety Regulations.

Many people have contributed in various ways to the life of Homeleigh, especially those who welcome children into their own homes for weekends and school holidays. We gratefully acknowledge the many small donations of cash and kind which we have received during the past year. The interest and concern of so many people from throughout the southern part of the North Island continues to encourage us.

The cost of the care we provide continues to cause great concern, and is under constant review. Each child costs about \$51 per week. In 1976 our deficit totalled nearly \$11000 or about \$9 per week per child. As a result of our efforts the gap has been narrowed but with inflation continuing unabated major fund raising and public support is essential.

We record appreciation of the following major grants and bequests:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Robert Gibson Methodist Trust | \$3000 |
| Est. J.H. Lyon | 3096 |
| J.R. McKenzie Trust | 800 |
| Masterton Lions Club | 200 |
| Masterton Trust Lands Trust | 200 |
| South British Guardian Trust | 1000 |
| Est. H.C.P. Broughton | 1100 |

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

SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

ANNUAL REPORT 1977

OUR FAMILY?

Our Homes continue to be filled to capacity. The latest numbers of children in care are:-

| | |
|--|------------|
| Harewood Road Home (divided into 5 family units) | 52 |
| Barrington Street Unit Family Home | 8 |
| Foster Homes | <u>30</u> |
| | 90 |
| Up to | <u>18</u> |
| Day Care Centre | <u>108</u> |

The children, often rejected and confused, come into our care from many sources, but the greatest proportion (almost three-quarters) are State Wards placed with us, children from broken homes, or management problems.

PREVENTIVE WORK?

Twenty-one families are currently being contacted regularly (63 children). Material support, counselling, help with management of children, and budgetting.

Sixteen additional families are contacted regularly, but are not at the moment in need of regular support.

Girls and boys who were formerly in our care are welcomed either on a social basis or to receive help and counselling.

Eight parent and child placements were made within the Home, using our caravan or guest room, while the families were homeless.

Four teenagers were given shelter in the same capacity until accommodation and work was found.

Ten children were placed in holiday homes (these children live at home with their own parents).

Eighteen children attended camps.

A family camp was arranged by members of a local Church for families in crises.

WHERE?

In spite of the inadequacies of some of our buildings, reports on official departmental inspections often make comments such as "bright and cheerful conditions", "the tone and standard are above average" and "staff and children appear to form excellent relationships".

Some fine foster parents assist, but more of such homes are always needed, especially in holiday periods.

The temporary Day-Care Centre is limited to a maximum roll of 18 children. We expect this year to commence building a new Centre, together with a Recreation Room for the older children. The new Centre will allow for a day care roll of over 30, but will require extra permanent staff in addition to the voluntary helpers.

Expert advice has guided the Board in the area of land to be reserved for the Home's use. The remainder of the property at Harewood Road is regarded as a revenue-producing asset, and the Board is negotiating for the lease or sale of the surplus land, to assist finances.

MIRACLES?

A follow-up on children who have passed through the Home revealed some very encouraging stories. Of one boy it was noted:

"...he had been placed in a series of foster homes... when he came to us his attitudes to other children were muddled and he wasn't prepared to make relationships with adults. But he has changed. It's not possible to know exactly how or why. There has been consistency of caring, patience and firmness, times of talking, and tears too; but no doubt it was love without rejection that helped make him risk trusting adults again. It's hard work taking what a disturbed, growing boy hands out, but it was worth it. He'll be happy with his new foster parents. He's known them for a while now and there's a real bond between them..."

WHO CARES?

We are extremely fortunate in the loyal, devoted care the staff bring to their duties. And the work of our Social Worker is of a very high quality (and quantity!).

Counselling work currently includes:-

- (a) families whose children are not admitted into care (8 families, involving 13 children)
- (b) families whose children have been in our care (29 families, involving 62 children)

However, there are also times when the services of professional agencies are used. Where necessary, children or parents or whole families have been referred to and helped by Child Health Clinic, Psychological Services, a Psychiatrist from the Department of Social Welfare, Ministers, Life Line Counsellors, Marriage Guidance Counsellors, Psychiatric Services at Sunnyside and Princess Margaret Hospitals and Private Psychiatrists - and Orthodontists.

ADMINISTRATION?

Allied to the land-use question is the matter of closer association with the Christchurch Central Mission. As a constituent part of the N.Z.M.S.S.A. the Children's Home already cooperates with and seeks to coordinate its work with the Mission. Discussions are continuing on possible advantages of a more formal amalgamation.

We record with regret the resignation of several Board members during the year - in particular the Rev. W.R. Laws and Mr H. de R. Flesher, both of whom during long years of service have given the Home invaluable help through their personal interest in the work and their wise and skilled advice.

WHO PAYS?

Frankly, the Government, through capitation subsidies and Family Benefits, provides 70% of our income. (Only one-fifth of all child care work is now carried out by voluntary services; the rest is handled by Government agencies.) Another 16% comes from parents' payments. The combined denominations' House-to-House Appeal produces 7%. The Board is very grateful to a number of Methodist Churches for their constant interest and generous practical support. Direct giving from Churches, in cash and kind, amounts to about \$4,000 - or 4% of our total income. (We do not at present receive any help from the Connexional Budget.)

It appears to cost \$27 per week to maintain each child in care. But this figure has been challenged as unrealistically low through not making an adequate assessment of such hidden costs as voluntary work, and unpaid overtime worked by our all-too-few staff. If hidden items were added in, our "cost per child" might be nearly doubled and come up closer to the national average cost.

HOW LONG CAN WE CONTINUE?

Last year, in spite of close control on expenditure, the Board ran at a loss of \$22,033 and once again this could only be met by transferring capital funds which were being reserved for development work. This is a process that can't go on indefinitely. The Board is being forced to ask how many years the work can be carried on at the present rate of run-down. The answer is dismayingly few!

The Board plans to visit Circuits to encourage interest in the work of caring for these needy children, and seeking financial support. Perhaps Circuits would include this as one item on their local budgets! Members of the staff would be glad to visit congregations to talk about their work, and its trials and triumphs.

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

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the South Island Methodist Children's Home Board for 1978 be:- Revs. W.A. Chambers (Chairman), W.E. Falkingham, C.J. Keightley, R.W. Widdup, Sister Rona Collins, Mesdames I.F. Read, A. Stackhouse, B. Surtees, Messrs N.P. Alcorn, A.J. Fraser, C.R. Hasseldine, L.G. Reed, G.H. Thornton, D.G. Watson, E.M.H. Watts.

QUESTION 43—What are the Resolutions of the Conference in regard to—

- (a) The Administration Division of the Methodist Church of New Zealand?

A. BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

At the inaugural meeting of the Board on 19 February 1977, Mr Geoff. Hill was unanimously elected Chairman. Five meetings have been held.

Early in the year it was clear that before the Board could carry out the intentions of Conference that it succeed the various existing Boards within the Connexional Office, Conference would need to pass additional enabling resolutions. As an interim measure for 1977, on the recommendation of the Board, the President invited members of the existing Boards to resign. This enabled the President to appoint members of the Board of Administration to membership of the existing Boards. The Board of Administration received from the members of these Boards valuable information and guidance and expresses appreciation to the Chairmen and members for the services they have given the Church.

As several existing Boards are Incorporated under The Charitable Trusts Act it is necessary that the Board of Administration be Incorporated under the same Act. The Constitution also must be approved. Resolutions are appended. All Synods supported these moves.

Whilst the Board gives consideration to the way in which it can fulfil its responsibilities for matters carried out by the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee, it has asked existing members to continue to serve. The Board has given to the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee full powers to act on its behalf.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Conference hereby authorises the President, on the recommendation of the Legal Adviser, to approve the Constitution of the Board of Administration.
3. That the Board of Administration be Incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 at Christchurch.

B. PROCEDURES TO ENABLE THE BUSINESS OF CONFERENCE TO BE TAKEN EN BLOC

The Board of Administration has consulted with Synods with a view to developing the existing en bloc procedures in use at Conference (often on the last day), on an experimental basis, at this Conference. It considers that these procedures could enable a wiser stewardship of time in that the Conference could give more time to discussing major concerns and strategy for mission.