

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION FOUNDED 1896

General Office, 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

Tel.: 01 - 247 - 8280

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ACKNOWLEDGED

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Rev. J. Rodney McNeal.

Deaconess: Sister Eileen Knight.

Superintendent's Secretary: Miss N. Jones.

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Working Lads' Institute: 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1. Tel.: 01 - 247 - 8280.

Windyridge Farm Home: Nayland, Nr. Colchester. Tel.: OCO - 626 - 332.

Whitechapel House Hostel: 153 Tulse Hill, S.W.2. Tel.: TULse Hill 1391.

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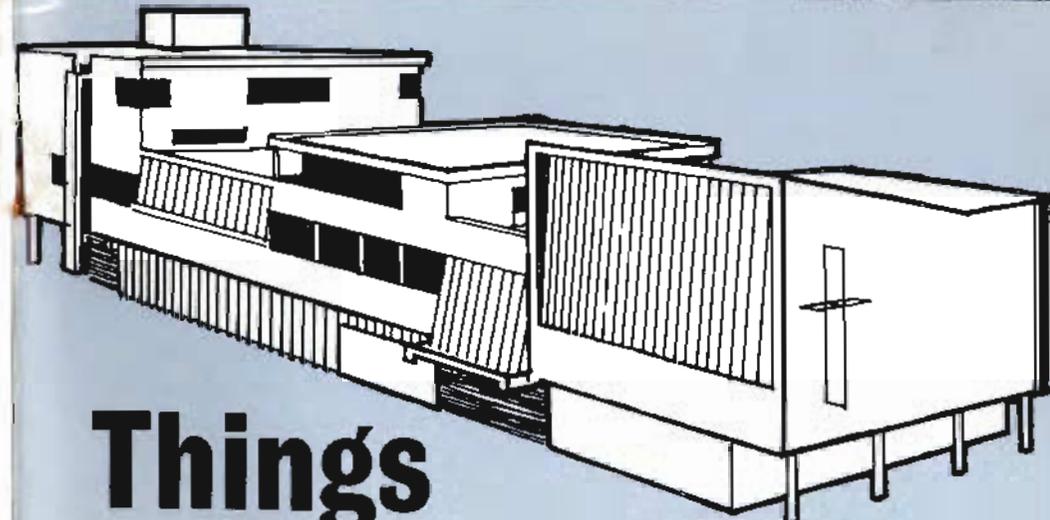
The Whitechapel Mission

Founded by Rev. Thomas Jackson 1896

Annual Report 1968



Things Present



Things to come



Photo: Kenneth Newman

The Mission recently celebrated its 72nd anniversary. Seen here after one of the commemoration services are: (L. to R.) the Rev. R. Gibbins of the East End Mission, the Rev. Frank Thewlis, of the Dome Mission, Brighton, the Rev. J. Rodney McNeal and the Rev. William Parkes.

Things Present Things to Come

THE MOST desperate misery can be lifted if there is the faintest glimmer of hope that one day, somehow, from somewhere there will be relief and some restitution for it all. Men suffering in prison or in pain or simply feeling the punishment of what seems to them to be an endless run of ill-fortune, look out of whatever is their present mire into a brave new world that will one day dawn for them. Hope truly springs eternal.

Much laughter is mingled with less mirthful occasions within the Whitechapel Mission. We therefore stand under no condemnation of being constantly moaning and groaning under an endless belt of burdens. But all who know the truth about our buildings and conditions will agree that of all Christ's workers we need the encouragement of not only the promise but also the fruition of a new day.

For fifteen or so years there has been the vision of a new Whitechapel. The Rev. Arthur E. D. Clipson like another better known but no greater visionary of a man "had a dream . . ." The Lord called him before it could be established into reality, but upon us the mantle has fallen.

Triumph seems to have long last gained over adversity as far as our own plans are concerned and we are now in a position to seek tenders for our new premises and stand at the threshold of our appeal for the necessary amount to complete the structure and contents.

On Tuesday, 12th November, we finally received the approval of our plans by the Greater London Council. It will be the task of the November meeting of the Executive to formulate the next stage of final costing and appeal arrangements. You will hear much more of this shortly. Meanwhile, pray about Whitechapel, talk about Whitechapel, further, talk up Whitechapel in preparation for the final assault towards our new buildings, which come wind or weather. Local Authority Committees, or anything else surely cannot be much longer delayed.

Lest our friends might form the impression that buildings, often the very bane of the advance of the Kingdom of Christ, are not only uppermost but almost the total theme of our work and efforts, let me hastily say that this is far from being so. The pages of this report speak truthfully of our doings and labours often at all our centres. If one looked for a brief total summary of the year I think I would want to say something like this: "Whitechapel - Advance among our work with men, and some with the children's work. Congregations slightly on the upward trend, all other departments steady. Youth work particularly difficult. Windyridge - A year of great difficulties, but 'the things to come' offer tremendous promise for this truly significant piece of Christian social care. Whitechapel House, Tulse Hill - A year in which we have truly been able to help dozens of lads who for one reason or another are in difficulties in London. Rarely has there been a spare bed and the work has received the praise and attention of a great number of organisations. This year, more than ever we have taken a very mixed group of lads including boys on probation, vagrants, the somewhat mentally disturbed, and those who are just in need of a roof over their heads. They have found more than a roof, indeed, a home and a family that deeply cares.

Do please go on upholding us in every possible way during these present times, and together, the Mission and the friends and supporters of the Mission will surely have the great joy of seeing mighty things that are to come. God bless you all.

William Parkes

URGENTLY REQUIRED. Someone willing to help on part time basis in the Mission office. This is now vitally necessary because of increased scope of office routine and the forthcoming appeal. Work is varied and interesting and a vital part of the Mission activity. Suitable remuneration can be arranged. This would be an ideal form of service for any active person with good office experience. **WITH SO MUCH TO DO THE NEED IS REALLY GREAT.**

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

I HAVE found myself recently preaching from a text in that strange little book of Esther. "Who knoweth whether thou art not come to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Esther may be an Arabian Nights story but this text could be appropriate for us all.

These are not easy days for the kingdom of God either in East London or anywhere else, but perhaps for that very reason we are challenged to a presentation of the gospel that is relevant 'for such a time as this'.

People who read our Mission report want to know what we are doing here – well, what are we doing? It may not be a vast amount in the East End's welter of social problems, but it is something. Our location here, next to the Underground, on Whitechapel Road opposite the London Hospital, does mean that this place is a kind of spiritual citizens' advice bureau.

I do not exaggerate when I say that no week passes without many callers seeking beds, food, counselling, friendship and many other things. We do our best, are often 'taken for a ride', but it is some little contribution to the many problems of East London.

I am sure that all the East End Missions are doing this same sort of work and we rejoice that we work in a closer unity than perhaps ever before – that surely ought to be so. If we haven't the suit for Bill Bloggs, they may have it down the road.

We have much to disappoint us – certainly no queues for Sunday evening, but to see 50 men coming at 5 o'clock or before on Sunday afternoon for a 6d. tea is quite a sight. Some come because it's a very cheap tea, some because it's somewhere to sit and watch television in comfort, and half of this number will worship with us on a Sunday evening. Men from Salvation Army Hostel or Rowton House – some unemployed or unemployable, some getting a gleam that we are trying to offer more than tea and buns, and Christian fellowship does begin to mean something to some of them.



A few of those who regularly come to us for tea and sandwiches each Sunday

On another line – we know there is a lot of alcoholism in East London. During the last year a little group of men and women, some with Church affinities, some not, have got together to do some work in the context of alcoholism. Sponsored by the Council of Social Service and growing out of the Tower Hamlets Council on Alcoholism, a little group have undergone preparation for personal counselling. An Information Centre has been established in this Borough and gradually from notices in doctors' surgeries, in social organisations, hospitals, etc., folk under the compulsive addiction of alcoholism come for advice, referrals to the best treatment and so often in desperation to find somebody to help. This work will grow in this Borough slowly and gradually – and it would seem as if the Borough Council does not any longer think we are inviting vagrants into the Borough but are ready to help those who have fallen in this terrible disease of alcoholism.

Probably it is true to say that preventive and educational work in the context of alcoholism has hardly started in this country despite the enormous social and economic costs which result from this particular illness, not to mention the human misery it imposes upon the sufferers and their families. One has come to learn that the alcoholic is not a social drinker who enjoys drinking, but a guilt ridden subject who hates himself and his way of living.

One brief story – a woman called here one morning – intelligent, attractive, with three bonny children. Her husband was a skilled carpenter who could earn £30 or more a week. He was a complete alcoholic – they lived in two rooms when with better habits he could easily have moved. They were a Catholic family – she had seen the

notice about the Information Centre. I got into touch with her priest and together we have been trying to help - a qualified doctor, himself a Salvation Army Officer down the road, tried to help medically and psychiatrically. I don't know what we can all of us do - it seems pretty hopeless at the moment. Alcoholics Anonymous can help a man so far but if he won't make some effort or can't, it is very difficult. We shall continue to try and let it be said that the priest and I became personal friends because we became involved in this man's problems. I have always felt from the ecumenical angle that if we could work together in the deepest social problems it would not be impossible to solve our theological problems too. One could tell many other stories of the toll of alcoholism - this is a grim 'disease'. Let us welcome the enlightenment and help that come from all quarters in respect to this grave problem.

But of course there is a lighter side to our work. For two years we took the children at Christmas with free tickets to Bertram Mills Circus. This year it wasn't there, but we managed to get 50 free tickets for the pantomim "Give a Dog a Bone" - it was an excellent show sponsored by the M.R.A. people at the Westminster. This year instead of letting the children nearly pull down the railway underground compartment we hired a bus and went in style and comfort. Likewise the coach load that went to the Poplar Mission to hear the ex-President, Dr. Morgan - many of our Sunday tea men came with us and seemed to enjoy the presidential sermon, not to mention the food afterwards.

It is a considerable joy to the ministers of this Mission to spend many an afternoon in the London Hospital. One can get very tired after three hours up and down those wards but it is refreshing, rewarding work and I think we have learned to love 'The London' and every courtesy and facility is offered to all Chaplains in their pastoral work there.

My wife and I never thought we should spend the last years of our ministry at Whitechapel - elsewhere she will speak of the work she and others do in the clothing store - but in retrospect, I don't think we should have liked to have spent it anywhere else.

It will be a good thing when these old premises are rebuilt - God grant that that may not be far off. Looking back we have known burglars here and literally floods and all manner of problems with gas supplies and some times we sing with Charles Wesley "From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect us wheresoe'er we go". But as Lord Soper once said and reverently, "We have had a lot of fun in the name of the Lord."

Will you remember us and all the East End Missions in your prayers and thoughts - perhaps we may all of us say with some truth in the East End that we came to the kingdom for such a time as this.

J. RODNEY McNEAL.

Clothes for the Needy

"YES! there are 69 steps - don't know how you do it", a visitor remarked as she sank into a chair the other day.

Sometimes at the close of a busy day, we too wonder - the bell always seems to ring when you've reached the top.

It is a privilege to act on your behalf as distributor of the clothes you send us. As the parcels are opened we often remark on the cleanliness of the garments enclosed.

My mind travels back across the years when as a young deaconess I had a much smaller clothes cupboard to look after. Many a parcel's contents had to be carefully scrutinised, times were hard and garments which we passed on had to be mended and cleaned. Not so today!

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you on behalf of our people for your generous response to our appeals.

Although the social services do so much for the needy today there are still many gaps and with your help we are able to fill them.

Only the other day, a bitterly cold one, a member of our women's meeting asked if we could find her a warm coat to replace the summer one we provided earlier in the year. Her need was met and I wish you could have seen her delight.

It is fairly easy to meet the requirements of our women although we never seem to have enough large garments or shoes, but it is not so easy to cater for the men.

We have a group of about 50 who come every Sunday for a 6d. tea and a fair proportion stay to worship with us, returning after service for the usual 'cuppa'.

May I again stress the need for men's clothing, especially shoes. We often turn men away because our shoe box is empty.

There are many avenues of service on this Mission and this is one of them. Most of us can afford a suit or a pair of shoes once or twice a year but there are many in this neighbourhood who can do little in that way on only about £5 per week.

Your prayers and your gifts of clothes both for men and women will always be gratefully received and somebody in need will benefit from your thought and care.

VIOLET McNEAL.

A BURNING QUESTION

Members of the Mission staff took the opportunity provided by November 5th to clear away accumulated lumber and rubbish, and the result was a 'sparkling' evening enlivened by flashes, bangs and shrieks as they together with local children and friends gathered round the bonfire, and entered into the remembrance of Guy Fawkes and his fellows.

Whitechapel Happenings !

SOME PEOPLE seem to be accident prone and Whitechapel Mission must be 'happening' prone, for while we would not go so far as St. John in saying "all the books in the world would not contain . . ." we can truthfully say that no one would believe the things that do happen here.

For instance, where else in a Methodist church – or any other church for that matter – would the scripture reading in two separate evening services be disturbed by first, one of the congregation falling out of the pew into the aisle because of sleep – or drink? And second (and this on the day of the 'big London demonstration'), a sound as of an explosion and the shattering of glass, whereupon everyone thought the 'protesters' had caught up with us – but no – it was only that a harder push than normal on a glass door panel had reduced it to fragments!

Weekends always seem to attract disasters of one sort or another – they just pile up – like a Saturday, in September, the day of the men's outing to Clacton, a Jumble Sale in the W.L.I. premises, and the week-end of the disastrous floods.

Pouring rain greeted us early in the morning – not a very happy omen either for an outing or a sale.

Then began the 'phone calls. Crockery needed for the trip as meals were to be served 'on board', hurried assembling of same; an hour or so later "Couch broken down – will arrive as soon as possible". Meanwhile men assemble at Brunswick Hall, in the rain. They must be told of delay. Back comes a message – in view of rain can we contact minister at Clacton to arrange for possible use of schoolroom. We try, but he's a new man, not living in the old manse. We phone a local colleague and obtain phone number. Yes, schoolroom available if necessary. Fortunately not needed – very little rain at Clacton.

Men leave safely, though late, still in rain.

Further message from Brunswick Hall. "There's a horrible smell coming up from the depths". It permeates the building. What can it be? Sewage? Yes! Inspection reveals one of the unused subterranean rooms swimming in black sludge and water. No doubt about it, must contact sewage people. Various phone calls to find right department, then joy, a promise of immediate attention. Promise fulfilled – trouble located – blocked manhole –leave workmen to clear and hope smell will have disappeared by Sunday!

Still raining! 2.30 to 4 p.m. Jumble Sale in full swing. All Whitechapel must be there. Takings good – sighs of relief – until someone notices entrance hall is flooded. Buckets, ladles, mops, all are employed and eventually dryness is achieved.

So ends Saturday. But still it rains and when Sunday dawns it's raining still.

Lunchtime over, preparations for 6d. tea must begin – but they can't – water coming in everywhere. Top and middle flats windows, where is it all coming from? We ascend 'to the heights' and find drips, drops and a miniature Niagara coming from and through the roof! Hastily assemble baths, buckets, jugs, cloths, anything to catch and soak up flood, and hope for the best. Descend to entrance – Oh, no! Not again! Yes – all too true – entrance hall swimming in water once more! Out come buckets and sweeping brushes, etc., and it is cleared, just in time for Sunday and first-comers for tea.

And so it happens. But not ALL weekends are quite so disastrous, though many are almost as frantic.

Take the Anniversary weekend, October 20th and 21st. A time of busy-ness, but of great joy, too.

Sunday congregations good, especially morning when Jonathan Aiden Rankin Parkes, the latest addition to the Mission 'family' was baptised by the Rev. J. Rodney McNeal. A happy ceremony and service.

Monday, many preparations to be made, but with the help of friends from elsewhere (and our best thanks to all of them) all goes well.

We meet for the afternoon rally and are delighted with the singing of Mrs. Parkes and the simple but effective message from the Rev. Frank Thewlis. How the ladies enjoyed him. He won their hearts.

A splendid tea – again thanks to those who helped with provisions. No sandwich meal this, but a real ham-and-tongue-and-salad-and-fruit-and-cream affair, thoroughly appreciated by all.

The evening meeting, again blessed by music, this time from soloist Miss V. R. Woodhead, whose powerful voice thrilled everyone, and organist Mr. Roy Greenslade, who stepped in at the very last moment.

Under the happy chairmanship of Mr. Peter McCubbin, a valued friend and member of the Mission executive committee, we heard from the Treasurer, Mr. F. C. Yelland, something of our financial state; from the Superintendent something of our building frustrations and hopes, and again from our speaker, the Rev. Frank Thewlis, who reminded us of the happiness of the Christian life and indeed cheered our spirits with his own joyous personality.

Even the financial side reflected the brightness of the weekend, the total being almost £20 more than the previous year.

Happenings – yes. Whitechapel is full of them, but happiness is there too. And even though our spirits may be dampened by rain – yes, it rained all day for the women's outing to Hastings in June, though the children fared better when they visited Ruislip Lido a week or so later, yet there is joy and at least some satisfaction in knowing that these premises, poor though they be, provide a place of blessing and comfort to many whose lives are drab and dreary.

N.J.

The House of Hope



WHITECHAPEL HOUSE remains the only shelter hostel of its kind in the whole of London, yet again we have had a year wherein bed space has been pushed to its absolute limit. Somehow, somewhere two more "living spaces" have been carved out of already full rooms and no part of our work more than Whitechapel House cries out for extension and new premises. Thus a further reason to see the re-building scheme quickly and happily completed.

Some ninety lads from sixteen to twenty years have passed through the house since January. At least half of this number have successfully moved to digs or their own bed-sitters having found in Whitechapel House the settlement and support that now enables them to strike out on their own. Not all make it, as frequent requests from boys to return for a period show, but very many do.

As we quite deliberately admit certain lads whose very case history tells us that they will need supportive understanding, encouragement, and tolerance, we do not deceive ourselves into believing that there is an instant mix remedy for all ills. Society, circumstances of birth, background, and many other factors combine to create tensions with certain lads which take all the care and understanding love in the world to resolve.

In the house community at any one time there will be young fellows who are on Probation, After-care from Borstal, Approved Schools or Detention Centres, former Local Authority or Children's Home lads, boys with a history of psychiatric problems, and those who just need a temporary home in London, or through a series of unfortunate

Our picture above shows some of the Tulse Hill Boys spending a quiet evening

At right — Harvest Thanksgiving display at Brunswick Hall



happenings find themselves without a roof over their heads. They come to us from many sources and there are a number who just ring the bell in hope. Our relations with the Ministry of Social Security, ever cordial, are as strong as ever, and more and more agencies look to us to lift their burden of "Just where do we find a bed for this boy . . ."

It is of course quite impossible to closely identify particular boys, but we have in the past few months received a boy into the Home who at four years of age was the witness to his own mother's murder. Subsequent rejection on the part of many has added to that dreadful experience in a most formative period in his life, and although he has steadied tremendously and is holding down work and building up real relationships with people, we know we have an awful long way to go. Physical deformity can mar personality to what is at times an appalling degree. If this goes hand in hand with a shocking family background, and constant difficulty in obtaining work, the result is often a young rebel unsure of a cause but wanting to hurt because he has been hurt, and unable for a very long time to accept proffered help because there must be a "catch in it". This very boy, indeed these very boys, for we have more than one such, are to be found even now in our House of Hope, Thomas Jackson Memorial Hostel, Tulse Hill.

ALAN SOUTHEN, Warden

What a great work this is. Do continue to help us so that we may help. Clothes suitable for young fellows always gratefully received.

Deepest thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Southen and all the staff for giving of their utmost in help and hope. Truly they are the only 'parents' that have any meaning to dozens of young men. — W.P.

THE SUPERINTENDENT SAYS THANK YOU to so many people that it seems invidious to separate the few. To his colleagues in the Mission thanks are not enough — special crowns should be theirs. To the workers at Windyridge and Tulse Hill, well done. For the support of the members of the Committees, sincere thanks. The ladies who help us at Christmas and at other times, and Mrs. Reynolds and Mrs. Parkes and the help that they give to Sister and Mrs. McNeal with the women each week must be mentioned. For the support of our loyal people in Whitechapel and loyal friends throughout the land and indeed across the oceans there is grateful thanksgiving.



Mrs. A. M. Southen, Whitechapel House Housemother, busy at the stove

A NEWCOMER'S IMPRESSIONS!

AS A VERY new member of the staff at The Whitechapel Mission I do not feel at all qualified to say very much about the situation as I find it here. Twenty years in the service of the Methodist Church has made me pretty 'shock-proof' and I've been in all kinds of appointments - but NEVER in a set-up like this.

My contribution, therefore, will be just impressions and comments. With all the plans for the future when we hope to move to new premises I can only hope it will be a 'shot in the arm' to so many who have grown weary and discouraged with waiting.

There are many who have ceased to come to our women's meetings because the stairs are too great a trial and the buildings unattractive, partly because of age and partly because of the constant fight against dirt - and in the winter - the cold.

One of the things that is so common in this area also is the appalling loneliness of so many men and women. It is not anything unusual to be told "You are lucky, you have friends". To bring light and life and friendship in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we serve is our desire, but it is a well nigh impossible task to get round so many who are shut-in, some not well, and some too afraid to negotiate the roads with the constant movement of traffic.

This seems a gloomy picture but there are many gleams of humour; there is real courage shown by many humble folk, to whom I pay tribute, and, of course, where there are young folk, not many I admit, but some, there is never a dull moment. I have never before superintended a Sunday School composed of 90% Irish Roman Catholics! The numbers are small - the school is chaotic and one might have six children one week, twelve the next and none the next, for there is absolutely no pattern to their Sundays and they have no sense of loyalty.

Nor have they any idea of giving - only getting. However, in the last few weeks we have tried to turn their eyes away from their own needs and to make them aware of the needs of others.

We have bought pictures in an effort to brighten the room where they meet, but a sombre scene is a picture from "Save the Children" and a graph to show how many bottles of milk our children can contribute to save others. This has aroused their interest and we hope will bear fruit which will be long-lasting.



Sister Eileen Knight

In the Sunday School we have had the help of John, a medical student, and Sheila, a physiotherapist, both from The London Hospital. John has just taken his finals, Sheila leaves at Christmas to get married. We wish them both much happiness in the future, thank them for their loyal support and regretfully say goodbye. We look eagerly to this great hospital for more students who will dedicate their gifts not only to healing but also to bringing young lives to a realisation of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, but we do realise that their time is limited and help transient.

Much good has been done in the past by faithful loyal workers, but we look eagerly to the future in the sure knowledge that the best is yet to be.

EILEEN KNIGHT.

Welcomes and Farewells . . .

MOST OF the comings and goings within the Mission have been at Windyridge (more about that elsewhere in the Report), but we do give a great welcome to the newly appointed Deaconess at Headquarters, Sister Eileen Knight. She comes with a wide experience of all types of appointments, and if we are to believe her, and of course we must, she says that already she feels part of a welcoming and united team, and has never been happier! In saying hello to Sister Eileen we have said goodbye to Sister Jackie, who now as Mrs. Bob Pitt is united with her husband in the arduous responsibilities of a very special families unit in Bermondsey. To Bob and Jackie our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

During the year Mr. G. T. Collier served as the Assistant Warden at Tulke Hill, leaving us in September to enter the Civil Service. We thank him for those months in which he stood alongside Mr. Southen. By its very nature the Assistant Warden's appointment at Whitechapel House has a high 'turn over' rate. It is a beginning for many who desire to enter into the social work field, but hardly able to provide a life-long tenure. Let me say here that we are always very pleased to hear of people desiring to enter this field of service.

THE REV. AND MRS. RODNEY McNEAL. It is far from farewell, thankfully, but before the appearance of the next Report, my colleague and his wife will have come to the point of retirement. There is a special phrase for this among the ranks of the Methodist ministry, we are by time honoured terminology said to have "Sat Down". All who know Rodney McNeal will know how far from the truth that will be. In his work in Whitechapel he will have left a legacy of care and concern that surely cannot be bettered by any man called to the work of ministering. Mrs McNeal has been a trojan too, and we shall never be able to thank them enough.

COVER DESIGN

We are again indebted to Mr. Michael C. Clipson for depicting the theme of our Report on our front cover. His artistic interpretation of things as they are and as we hope they will be is gladly and gratefully acknowledged and we extend to him our thanks.

CHANGES AT WINDYRIDGE



DIFFICULTY after difficulty, followed by difficulty seems to have been the lot of Windyridge in 1968. There are those who say that it is when some of the finest work for the Kingdom is being done, that "the old enemy" really starts to wrestle. So it would seem in our Probation Home. For long years the centre of some of the most progressive and truly rehabilitative work among young offenders, Windyridge has in recent months come under particularly difficult stress.

Without being too glib and all too ready to give the quick explanation there is no doubt that staff moves and great difficulties in finding immediate replacements combined to hurt us deeply for a period of several months.

Between February and June we said farewell to three tremendous workers holding key positions in the life of the Home, yet we were nowhere up to staff strength until the middle of September.

Mr. Terry Bilton who for nine years has served as Deputy Warden and Warden, felt the time had come for another type of appointment in February. Miss Catherine Craig, for four and a half years Deputy Matron and Matron, began her new work with a Local Authority Home in April. Mr. Don Seddon with us for four years as the Deputy Warden entered the Probation service after his marriage, leaving Windyridge in June. All three had given tremendous service to "The Ridge" and their departure, in spite of ample time given to find replacements found us without any. At that time no suitable candidates could be found. At the same time we know only too well that there must be a time when changes are necessary, not for the Home, but for the good folk who have given of their best years in a residential situation which is particularly demanding.

Little by little the staff picture has improved, and we thank God that we are now back to full strength. Furthermore, arrangements within the house have been so altered that for a time at least, it is possible to give an opportunity to serve to married couples with families. For too long this most natural and normal form of family relationship and work, so vitally important to lads who so frequently lack anything

like a stable family background, has been denied to us because of our inability to cater for such within the house itself. Although the present accommodation units are hardly ideal, at least they now exist, with the attendant possibilities of drawing upon a far wider choice of people willing and able to work in a Probation Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Dignan in the short time they were with us as Warden and Matron paved the way for the new housing system for the staff. With the very real possibility of a house for the Warden and Matron being erected in the grounds within the next few months, there will be yet another ease to the burden of lack of space.

Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Dawkins, together with their three boys, Gareth, Craig and Ellwyn joined us on September 1st as Deputy Warden and Assistant Matron. Thus we now have two Assistant Matrons, Miss Ruth Errington continuing with us. The Dawkins are active Salvationists and have served in the Ipswich Probation Hostel in a voluntary capacity. Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Beer, together with their daughter Jean, came to Windyridge later in September, where Mr. Beer will act as the second Assistant Warden with Mr. Frank Elwood. They have been extremely busy in the life of the Methodist Church in Devon, with special interest in the Boys' Brigade. May God richly bless these new workers and friends in all their work with us.

Words alone cannot convey the debt of gratitude that we owe to those members of the staff who battled so long and so hard with the situation during those long summer months when because of lack of help hours of duty would creep into days on end. Now that this is behind us, Staff, Committee, and all who have the work at heart, can hopefully say, "The best is yet to be". A great work, a healthy environment, a family relationship, this is the key-note that must be resounded.

The Garden Party and Open Day, and the September Harvest Thanksgiving, those well established and popular features of the Windyridge year, had to be dropped in 1968 because of the impossibility of tackling them effectively with such restricted staff resources. 1969 will no doubt see the restoration of these opportunities to see the house and grounds and meet with staff and boys.

In the course of the coming days there is a very strong likelihood of a considerable re-structuring of the departments in which the boys work. Far more emphasis will be placed upon Workshop theory and practice, and the Farm will likewise receive closer attention in some respects. More news of this next year.



Meanwhile to all the staff our thanks. Their supportive roles can only be undertaken as they are themselves supported. Let us do so in concern, interest, and prayer.

Doings . . .

Ruth Akers our American Mission worker was again with us for a number of weeks during the summer. Her help was tremendously appreciated. She has graduated from American University and is now teaching for a while in a Quaker School in Maryland. She tells us, however, that it may well be that as from next summer she will be a permanent resident in England.

The Superintendent had another highly successful mission and preaching tour of America in the Spring. He spent time in Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and Alabama. Although certainly not intended as a money raising visit our American friends contributed over £800 for our Re-building Fund. He has been invited again next year.

Every year the mileage on the Super's car seems to increase. This year he has been in travels often throughout many sections of the country conducting special services and Rallies. Not all of these occasions are directly associated with the advocacy of the Mission and its work by any means, but it does at the same time give an opportunity to meet with many of our supporters who "turn out". This gives us great heart and encouragement, and forges further links with those who for years have helped us.



Some of the West Indian children who have their own Sunday School on our premises

Our West Indian friends with their leader, Mr. Williams, still meet on a regular basis, and as last year the annual Rally when friends join them from all over London was a great success. They now have their own morning Sunday School.

In co-operation with the Rev. Robert Sommerville, of International Missions, we have again used one of our rooms as a contact centre

for local, Tamil, Urdu, and Bengali speaking Indians. Mr. Abrahams, a fine Indian Christian, is taking care of a small flock of his fellow-countrymen.

For the third year running we welcomed a group of International Theological Students working as a witness team in our area during the summer. Sponsored as a group by 'Operation Mobilisation' they included young fellows from Mexico, U.S.A. and Scandinavia.

From time to time, both on Sundays and during the week we have had visits from people who have read of the Mission and yet never seen its work close at hand. We always get the same reaction – that the challenges that we meet are even greater than our friends imagined, together with a strengthening of the conviction that we are in a significant and strategic position for witnessing and working with those who would never normally be anywhere near a Christian Church. Without fail visitors become stronger in concern and support.

One of Ours . . .

BORN OVER fifty years ago in a small rural community in East Anglia, she must have lived, or more fittingly existed, around Stepney for a number of years now.

There was a time when she had a series of rooms of a sort. Towards the end of this period they were a 'sort' indeed – no form of heating, in one no lighting of any kind. Trouble with landlords, difficulties with other tenants, and then there was just nowhere to go. For the homeless men of this area there is a Reception Centre across the river, if they can get there, or more often, if they are prepared to go there, but for the women there is nothing. Nothing that is if she is obviously in need of psychiatric help but will not accept it, a room but will not keep it, food but gives most of the little that she has away. Just such is this one who is ours . . . She must be nameless but to us she is very much a name and a person and a child of God in tremendous need, who as yet will not accept help. She comes again and again often incoherent and so unsure of what she wants (and then so often when she receives she insists on bringing it back), just hovering around a place where she knows there is an acceptance of her as a person but not sure whether she herself wants to be accepted. We ask each other, "Where will - - be sleeping tonight?" We do not know, but we do care. All we know is that tomorrow, or perhaps the day afterwards she will be here. She will hover and mutter and in her coming there will be a cry for help. But she is a person who asserts through it all a pride, a pride that hurts her deeply. Yes, she is ours – may God give us the key to make her realise that she is His, and that He can meet every need.

From the Treasurer

COVENANTED SUBSCRIPTIONS: A very simple way to make £1 do the work of 34, is by covenanting your annual gift, for anyone paying tax at the standard rate. Information and the necessary forms gladly sent on request.

BEQUESTS: Many folk have remembered us in their last instructions to their executors in the past. Have you thought about this yourself?

FUTURE INCOME: We fully anticipate that the financial needs will continue for many more years. Could you pass over by transfer **SHARES, STOCKS,** or any **SECURITIES** which we could hold in Trust and if desired you could decide the purpose for which the income was to be used.

Please let us know if there are any other ways in which you can help.

Any communications will be treated in the strictest confidence if you contact either the Superintendent or myself.

FRED C. YELLAND, Treasurer.

FORM OF BEQUEST BY WILL

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for the general work of the Whitechapel Mission, we append the following form of bequest.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH to the Superintendent for the time being of the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, 279 Whitechapel Road, London, E.1., for the use of the said Mission, the legacy or sum of £ (free of duty), and direct the said last mentioned legacy or sum to be paid within twelve months after my decease from the proceeds of my real and personal estate, but primarily out of my personal estate, and the receipt of the Superintendent shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

NOTE—The Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891, enables Testators to give by Will for the benefit of any charitable use not only pecuniary Legacies, but also tenements and hereditaments of any tenure. The Will must be signed by the Testators at the foot or end thereof in the presence of two independent witnesses, who must sign their names, and addresses, and occupations, at the same time, in his presence and the presence of each other.

If you have already made your Will, kindly add a Codicil directing a legacy to the Whitechapel Mission.

“Christmas is coming,
The goose is getting fat . . .”

— but we are not asking you to put a penny in the old man's hat!

A penny doesn't go far these days and we shall be spending pounds not pence as we begin to make preparations for giving. Christmas fare to many who otherwise will have little of it.

Wednesday, December 18th, will be the big day, when we shall invite members of our men's and women's meetings to share with us the joys of a real Christmas dinner.

The turkey, the pudding, the mince pies, together with all the etceteras will be there, and a parcel for each one present and we have no doubt they will be thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Good friends from other churches will again be with us to share the burden of work and for their help and encouragement we are most truly grateful.

The next day, Thursday, children and young folk will 'make the welkin ring' with their full enjoyment of the good things provided for them and we are quite sure the time-honoured phrase 'a good time was had by all', will once more be true.

Few of you will have the opportunity of sharing the delights of these days but you may all share in the provision that has to be made for these and so many other ways in which we seek to bring cheer into cheerless and often tragic lives.

As you enjoy the comforts of your own family circle, remember those who have none, and in thankfulness for your blessings, help to bring a blessing to others by sending a gift to our funds.