

68

The Children's Home and  
Mission

GOLDEN JUBILEE  
LINKS

1899 ————— 1950



"Take care of him (them) ; and whatsoever  
thou spendest more, when I come again I  
will repay thee."

Luke 10. v. 35.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of  
the least of these My brethren, ye have done  
it unto Me."

Matt. 25. v. 40.

2

# THE CHILDREN'S FOUNDED

---

*Headquarters:*

8-26, Crescent Road,  
South Woodford, E.18.  
Phone: BUCKhurst 2702.

HONORARY WORKERS:

Pastor and Mrs. HERBERT WHITE, Directors.

*Headquarters—South Woodford:*

Mr. and Mrs. VICTOR WHITE  
Miss L. DOWSETT (Sister Joan)  
Miss M. GAMBLE (Sister Muriel)  
Miss D. HAMMOND (Sister Ann)  
Miss B. HIBBERD (Sister Beryl)  
Miss G. WARNER (Sister Gladys)

*Branch at Tiptree:*

Mr. and Mrs. EWART WHITE  
Miss E. HARRIS (Sister Eileen)  
Miss D. HARRIS (Sister Dorothy)

*Farm at Tiptree:*

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. WHITE

*Medical Officers:*

Dr. DAVID SMITH, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)  
Dr. W. ERIC MATHIE, M.B., Ch.B.  
Dr. CAREY BAKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Dental Surgeon:*

Mr. STEPHEN SMITH, L.D.S., R.C.S.

*Chiropodist:*

Mr. A. C. THOMPSON, M.S.S.Ch.

*Box Secretary:*

Mr. W. PARKER

*Auditors:*

Messrs. FRANCIS NICHOLLS, WHITE & CO.

3

# HOME AND MISSION.

1899.

---

*Branch and Farm:*

Church Road, Tiptree,  
Colchester.  
Phone: Tiptree 113.

TRUSTEES:

A. E. Evans, Esq.	Mrs. E. C. L. Roberts.
D. J. Hutton, Esq.	F. C. Stark, Esq.
Victor G. Levett, Esq.	J. R. Stark, Esq.
Miss E. K. Marsh.	James Stokes, Esq.
Rev. K. C. Parkinson, M.A.	W. A. Warwick, Esq.
F. J. Pollard, Esq.	Pastor and Mrs. Herbert W. White.

WORKING PARTIES:

(Voluntarily Inaugurated).

Shoeburyness Gospel Hall  
Ashley Hall, St. Albans  
Old Independent Church, Haverhill  
Tebworth Road Mission Hall, Tottenham  
Alexander Hall, Westcliff  
Latimer Hall, East Ham  
Fulbridge Hall, Maldon.  
Westminster Chapel.

SHOEBURYNESS BOOT FUND:

Secretary: Miss Terry, 94 High Street, Shoeburyness.

BANKERS:

Midland Bank Ltd.





November, 1949—The Reunion.

This photo, taken by the press, shows us welcoming the "Old Boys and Girls" on arrival—Mr. W. T. Cowling, who left us in 1911, is seen shaking hands. He told the reporter present: "I have been back to the home every Christmas since 1911 and do this because I was happy at the Home. I think it is the best in existence and is well and truly a Home, not just an institution."

We were much encouraged by this time with "Our Family" and would ask you to join in prayer with us for those who have left.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

*Whoso offereth Praise glorifieth ME.—Psalm 50, 23.*

Our Fiftieth Year culminating in our Golden Jubilee Meetings on June 10th, calls for real praise from all our Prayer Partners, including those who labour day by day in this Work for the Lord.

Special Gatherings were held on November 19th, 20th and 21st, 1949, as November 20th, 1899 was the Foundation Day. On Saturday, 19th, we held a re-union meeting and a company of our "Old Girls and Boys," some with their husbands, wives and children, gathered in our Florence Barclay Memorial Hall for the afternoon and evening. Many happy memories were revived as "Old and New" mingled together. After much reminiscing, all, including our present Family, adjourned to the Dining Hall for tea, after which we spent a riotous hour or so with games. To complete the Re-union we assembled to watch a demonstration given by some of our boys and girls, entitled "The Real Presence," followed by Family Prayers.

On Sunday, 20th, at the request of the Rev. H. J. L. Hunter, Minister of the Woodford Baptist Church, I was invited to take the morning service, our children occupying the choir seats and singing several pieces. My son, Victor, gave the children's address. A good company gathered and it was a pleasure to have with us the Mayor and Mayoress and some of the members of the Borough Council. A Baptismal Service was held in the Evangelical Free Church, Abridge, in the evening and two of our senior girls (twins), at their own request, were baptised. The Church was full for this very happy occasion and a blessed time experienced.

Monday, 21st, brought these special meetings to a close, when "Sound Films," kindly given by Mr. Sidney Irons were much appreciated.

We indeed feel that ours is a great privilege in being called to serve the Lord by caring for boys and girls—there is much we can do for them and much more that only He can do. It was a real joy and encouragement to meet and hear of many who are serving Him and teaching the Truth to their children. Continue to pray for us that He may magnify His Name even through us and the children He has given us to tend may be fully fitted, spiritually, mentally and physically when the times comes for them to leave.

God bless you—thank you for all your help and prayers.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all our "Prayer Partners" a New Year full of blessing.

H. W. W.



## "OUR DAY"—10th June, 1950. The 20th Annual Gatherings.

### AFTERNOON MEETING.

In view of the expected increased attendances at our Golden Jubilee Celebrations, the Holy Trinity Church, South Woodford, was placed at our disposal by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. S. J. Burling. He read the Scriptures (Acts 4 from v. 13) and the Rev. H. J. L. Hunter, minister of the Woodford Baptist Church, followed with prayer.

The Chairman, Mr. Victor Levett, who has been a friend of the Home for nearly 50 years, was in reminiscent mood and the 5 minutes allotted to him was spent in recounting some of the incidents of previous meetings which included an interesting reference to Mrs. Florence Barclay who for many years was a welcome visitor to the Annual Gatherings of the Home. Mr. Levett expressed his pleasure at being present and wished for Mr. and Mrs. White and all associated with them in the work, God's richest blessing in the future.

Mr. VICTOR WHITE gave the following Annual Report:—

"It does indeed give me great pleasure to present to you on the afternoon of this special day the 50th Report of the Children's Home and Mission—Woodford and Tiptree.

This is "Our Day"—"Our Golden Jubilee" and in the words of the psalmist we would say—"Praise ye the Lord; O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good." It is not my intention just now to look back further than 1st May, 1949; father will be "reminiscing" here this evening, and telling of the wonder of our God who has in no uncertain measure enabled the Home to keep to the three original aims since 1899:—

1. To help children in need.
2. To be used of God in pointing the boys and girls to Him, that they might accept Him as personal Saviour, and
3. To prove to the world that, by relying upon Him alone for all our needs, God does hear and answer prayer.

Before entering into the happenings of the past year, may I firstly thank the Rev. S. J. Burling for so very kindly allowing us to use this church for these Anniversary Services. As some of you know we have for many years met at the George Lane Baptist Church, just round the corner, but in view of the anticipated larger gatherings this year, we prayed that God would open up the way for us to have a larger church, if possible, here in Woodford. We wanted to spend our 50th birthday "at home." God answered our prayer. The Rev. Burling was most willing to let us have this church and has been very helpful regarding all the arrangements for this day. The Church and adjacent hall, with all necessary facilities have been freely lent and we are deeply grateful to you and all your co-workers. May God abundantly bless you in your work for Him here. When we first considered holding these Meetings in a larger church, we had a chat with the Rev. H. J. L. Hunter, of the George Lane Baptist Church, and in his usual gracious way he agreed that this change would be advantageous, and he readily placed the Baptist Hall at our disposal for teas as heretofore.

Our thanks are due to all who are helping to make this a great day, and especially to the women folk who have been preparing the tea—a no mean task and a very essential one.

We give a very warm welcome to our Chairman, Mr. Victor Levett, who has known the work for very many years; to Dr. Martyn Lloyd-

Jones, our guest speaker; to Mr. Bruce Flegg, our soloist, and the accompanist, Miss Greta Parkinson; to Mr. Whitford, our choir master, and to Miss Geary, the organist. May His blessing be upon you all as you serve Him here to-day.

The past year has been one of blessing, fraught with problems and difficulties 'tis true, but it is also true to say that He has enabled us to overcome. God has taken care of us—quite a large family really, one of the old-fashioned ones about which we hear so much to-day and see so little. At the close of the year we had 48 children and six staff at Woodford; and 25 children and four staff at Tiptree, plus three staff on farm, making a total of 86 all told!

During the year two of our staff left us for health reasons after many years of service, and we would like to place on record a sincere appreciation for all their valuable help. In answer to prayer two other ladies offered their services, one from Llandudno and another from the vicinity of Portsmouth, and both are proving a tremendous help to us. We praise God for these two real answers to prayer and we would very sincerely say "Thank you" to all the staff for their devotion and loyalty to the work.

The well known passage of scripture from Matthew, chapter 6, which reminds us of God's care for the birds of the air and lilies of the field, emphasises God's interest in every detail—surely our experience. All who have the privilege of being a member of our large family have proved that when He takes control of a life or a Work, He takes over in a truly fatherly way, never for one moment letting us down; always ready and willing to listen to our every supplication, comforting and blessing.

During the year we have received 23 children at Woodford and seven at Tiptree. Twenty-one have been sent out from Woodford and eight from Tiptree, thus we have helped 741 children since 1899. We are expecting three more children at Woodford next week. What about those who have left? Where have they gone? Seventeen have returned to a parent or relation because of altered circumstances; one child was transferred to a special school, another, in connection with the Ministry of Pensions, to a Foster Home, and two at the age of 17 left us to take up work elsewhere. Here is a letter from one of the latter:—

"I have been here just a week, but I miss you all very much. Most of all I miss daily morning and evening prayers. I have settled down fairly well now and I've found a very nice Baptist Church where I have joined the Y.P.F. Where I work I am the only Christian, but I am trying to let my light shine, so I need a lot of prayers. I know without asking that you are praying for me. I feel I must thank you for all you have done for me. I might have been anywhere if it hadn't been for you. I am very deeply grateful. One thing I am sorry about is that I won't be able to come to the Annual Meetings, but I shall come to see you as soon as I can."

Her father writes also: "Thank you for the way you have cared for my daughter and my other children for the past six years. I cannot thank you too much for the way you have sent her off in her new life. I don't think she will ever forget it. I think she will be happy and get on well, which is my same wish for the others when the time comes for them to leave you. Thank you again for all you have done. God bless you all."

We are pleased to be able to tell you that many have kept in touch, not only those just mentioned, but several who were with us away back in 1900—some are here to-day. It has been customary each year to quote from some of the letters received from old boys and girls—may I just read a few extracts to you now:—



*From Perth, Australia:—*

"We were pleased to get your letter and 'Links' and shall be thinking of you on June 10th. We should both have loved to have joined with you, and wish you every blessing. We still have lovely memories of you all. We hope you will have a nice sunny day and a big crowd there. Give our love to all we know. We love to read the 'Links.' It takes us back to our happy days spent with you, which we often talk about. Write again soon. With love from your old girl and boy. We were married thirty-one years on the 10th May."

Both husband and wife were in our Home and it is a joy to us that all these thirty years they have kept in touch with us.

*From an old girl:—*

"Thank you so much for invitation to the Reunion on 19th November. I shall hope to be with you together with my husband and daughter. What a marvellous work you have done. I often give thanks to God that I had your wonderful Christian training whilst I was young. Life would certainly have no meaning without it. . . . I very often think of us children at evening prayers and the lovely hymn singing. Time is flying swiftly by. They were happy days. All my love to you all and God bless you."

*From a Hospital Nurse:—*

"I should love to have come to the Reunion but unfortunately, owing to exams, etc., I am unable to leave the hospital for any length of time. However, I shall be with you in thought and prayer, asking God's blessing to continue on your wonderful work. From one who has benefited greatly from your help and kindness in the past. With love from an old girl."

*From an old boy:—*

"Hope everything is going smoothly after the Reunion. Gee-whizz—the Sisters must have worked hard to get that lovely tea they prepared for us. I have cut the piece out of the paper showing a photo of some of the lads, and put it in my album. I offered up thanks to our heavenly father for the opportunity of being under your care when I was a kiddy. . . . I am settling down nicely in my new job. I think it is marvellous how the Lord maps the circumstances out for us. Now here is something that will please you all. Next Sunday I am going to be baptised. I have given deep thought to the matter for quite a time, and I feel that baptism is a necessary step in the life of a Christian. Last Wednesday a few of us went to a Church at Enfield and I gave my testimony. God bless all at the Home."

*From one of our old girls (she and her husband have been called to a Church in Lancashire). She says:—*

"There is a glorious opportunity here. Our one desire is that souls shall be saved amongst the children and adults. We feel God is going to bless and use us for His glory. I know you are and will continue to pray for us. We are praying much for you. Sorry we cannot be at the Annual Meetings, but we have to take our holidays later and will come to see you then. Our united love to all. I remain as ever one of your old girls who dearly loves you and will never forget you. I feel miles away from you now, but thank God we can always meet at the Mercy Seat."

*Another old girl writes:—*

"Am afraid I shall not be with you to-morrow as I am not at all well. Am so very disappointed as I had looked forward so much to

seeing you all again, especially on this great day. Shall be thinking of you all and wishing I was there to say how grateful I am on behalf of myself and all the children you have befriended and cared for all these fifty years. Many thanks and love."

There are many more letters we could read, but time will not permit. All through the year there have been visits from the old girls and boys—they love to pop in for a cup of tea and a chin-wag.

It is fitting, I feel, to give a word of special thanks to our "Aunties," two Christian ladies who have for several years been keenly interested in our work and not only keep in touch with the girls now with us by frequent visits, outings, parties, etc., but they correspond with those who have left, giving help and advice to them.

Another friend, a gentleman this time, helps us tremendously in various ways—sorting out the good from the not-so-good toys received at Christmas and at other times; interior decorating; gardening; furniture moving, and also by giving up at least one evening per week to entertain the seniors with games, etc. From this games evening has developed a small, but very efficient table tennis team which has won most of the competitions with outside table tennis teams from local churches. We are deeply grateful to this friend, and also to a lady friend who is teaching two of our girls music; and another who gives up an evening each week to take a class in dressmaking. Of course it is not possible to mention individually all who help, but we do sincerely appreciate every service given and pray that all may receive His blessing. Our working parties too have been very busy again this year, helping us with gloves, pinafores, pullovers, and the other things which go to clothe children.

Details of gifts in kind and financial help will be given in our special Golden Jubilee "Links." If you are not on our mailing list and wish to receive a copy, kindly give your name and address to one of the stewards.

I will just give a brief list here of some of the gifts to give you examples of the types of goods received and the varied places from which they come. You can then praise God with us for the way He continually moves hearts to send just what we are needing. It's lovely to be able to prove to others in a practical way that God does hear and answer prayer—that He really is alive!

50 pairs socks from Toronto.

Tins of soups, etc., from a local friend.

Large rocking horse from Brentford.

Several loads of firewood from Seven Kings.

150 food parcels from Australia each containing:—

1 tin jam

1 tin dripping

2 tins meat

1 packet pastry flour

1 tin full cream dried milk.

1 colossal stick of rock—2 ft. long, diameter 5 in.—with large box sweets and several parcels of clothing from U.S.A.

Large consignment of shoes and sandals.

Friesian cow from Devon (to Tiptree, of course).

200 plastic plates (especially strong) from a firm in Walthamstow.

Several gallons of milk each week for several months from Chigwell.

47 harvests from various churches.

Toys, etc., for Christmas from 33 churches.

Furniture, household linen, and the house of a friend in Leytonstone who died recently.



Regarding finance, Mr. Stokes will be giving us details this evening. Here is just a layman's general view:—

Receipts for year	...	...	£4,586 0 1
Expenditure	...	...	£5,916 12 7

To cover the excess expenditure over income we had to transfer £1,200 from the Deposit Account which, together with the balance from the previous year, left us with a balance of £25 0s. 2d. in the Current Account to carry forward into this year. Our Deposit Account stands at £2,339 5s. 5d., and £3,476 6s. 3d. for the forward move.

One very interesting feature among the many is the new record reached for the Boxes—£187 18s. 2d. We do sincerely appreciate the real interest of our Box Secretary, and thank you—all who have given.

About the activities of the year:—

1. The Woodford staff and children spent three weeks last August at Tiptree, and we were indeed happy to have this time together as a "complete" family. During our stay we were able to visit the sea, revel in the country and generally enjoy the change of air and scenery, fruit, etc. We visited Walton, Little Holland, Mersea, Maldon and other places.

2. Later some friends took all the children (and myself) in private cars—I believe our neighbours thought it had been raining cars that morning—to Upshire, a pretty country village not far from Epping. We had a grand day enjoying games and competitions, and of course, lemon squash, etc.

3. Throughout the summer the children went swimming, played cricket, visited local parks, Epping Forest, and many places of interest in London. During the winter the boys played football and the girls netball. Our lads at Tiptree did well in their football, and our Woodford girls won most of their netball games.

4. Saturday, 19th November, the day previous to the actual Golden Jubilee of the start of the Home, we held a Re-union, about 60 old boys and girls coming along. We had a very happy time and in the evening the children presented a demonstration entitled "The Real Presence portraying Martha and Mary's sincere deep love for the Master, who, having died, yet lived!" This little demonstration has been presented several times since.

On Sunday, 20th November—"THE DAY"—we had a special service in the George Lane Baptist Church at 11 a.m. Our children sang one or two special hymns and father gave the message. The Mayor and some of the Councillors of the Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council were present. In the evening we travelled *en bloc* to Abridge Evangelical Free Church where we had a very happy anniversary service, at the end of which Mr. White had the joy of baptising two of our girls. Mr. Gilbert will give a report on the Abridge work in a few moments. This was a great day of rejoicing and one which all of us will remember.

5. Christmas—the "Children's Season"—how true! We were not able to get together for this but all at Woodford and Tiptree had a great time. Many churches, chapels and mission halls sent toys—three turkeys came from different places—two dozen jellies—and last, but not least, late on Christmas Eve when the staff were feeling weary but happy, a large consignment consisting of 200 mincepies, numerous iced cakes, jam tarts, etc., arrived.

Several of the old girls and boys were able to spend this time with us, making it a real "family gathering," and one of the highlights of the week-end was the visit of the London Zoo first thing on the Monday morning in the form of friends dressed in large animal suits. Some of the younger children were apprehensive—is this a nightmare or real—and the seniors, putting on a brave face, were well and truly chased

under and over the beds by the tiger, wolf, jumbo and last, but not least, the policeman in full uniform. Father Christmas paid us a visit whilst we were gathered in a large circle, cross-legged, singing the old carols by candlelight.

6. During January and February we had several parties on our premises and the children also were invited out.

These are only some of the happenings.

Not only has God graciously answered our prayers for physical well-being, but also our sincere prayers and wishes for our children's spiritual welfare—that they may learn to love and serve Him. Five have given their lives to Him, several who are "old campaigners" now, have grown tremendously, taking young people's meetings at home and in several different places outside.

As you know we have morning prayers with the children, followed by staff prayers and, then in the evening, family prayers. Our two girls learning music are able to help us with the musical side. Monday evenings a class is taken by one of the staff—an advanced course on the Young Sower's League work, Bible Study, and several of our senior children voluntarily attend.

On Wednesday each week, at Woodford, and Tuesday each week at Tiptree, the Young Sower's League meeting is held, led by members of the staff in both places. Since the commencement of the Y.S.L. the children have won 24 certificates, 19 New Testaments and eight Bibles for answering questions on the Bible. There will be a presentation of one of these Bibles this afternoon.

Sunday is spent, as it should be spent, in God's House. In the morning the children go to the Baptist Church and Congregational Church, in the afternoon they have their own Sunday Schools and in the evening sometimes to other places of worship. This year some of the children sat for the Scripture Examination and we obtained one honours certificate, 10 first class, seven second class and six third class certificates.

Time is up and I must stop. Having given a report of this kind it is always easy to recall afterwards the things that ought to have been said, but have been omitted and so on, but whatever has been omitted this afternoon I must say this—God started this work, God has, is, and will continue to support, providing we who are workers together in it are in His will and controlled by Him—and to all who are "Prayer Partners," pray as you've never prayed before that He will bless, not because of us, but even in spite of us—that these boys and girls may be helped—that *all* may be won for Him and that the world may see and realise that God IS!

God bless you all—thank you for coming—thank you for listening, and may all receive such a blessing here this afternoon and again as we meet this evening that our one desire may be to please Him.

Mr. A. M. GILBERT reported on the work of the Church at Abridge. He said: "On Easter Sunday of this year it was my privilege to be seated with the congregation at the Free Church at Abridge: that service was being taken by a young lady. To some of us who sat in that congregation this was a great occasion, for that young lady had been one of our own scholars, and is now in membership with us.

"One evening my wife and I arrived home feeling rather tired and weary. At 10.30 we were just sitting down to supper when the phone rang. When I answered, a voice said: 'Do you think you could do with two Australian evangelists at Abridge in a fortnight's time? We should be pleased to arrange for them to come.' We felt that this was indeed a call from God: and we said 'yes' there and then. The first evening of the campaign there were very few present, but during the remainder of the week we were packed out with people, especially young people. God did wondrous things for us. A new fellowship was formed of those who came out for Christ



during that campaign: and they are bearing a wonderful testimony for Him. God is indeed blessing the work. Our boys and girls did extremely well in the Scripture Examination this past year.

"Come and pay us a visit at Abridge, and see for yourselves what God is doing."

Dr. W. ERIC MATHIE briefly reported on the health of the children in the Homes. He paid tribute to the work done by the Sisters, and in particular to Sister Ann, in nursing the children who were sick: her nursing experience had proved a great asset to the Homes, and had saved them a great deal of time and trouble.

#### Dr. D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

I count it a very great and real privilege to be asked to take part in this Golden Jubilee celebration of this very notable work, and I am sure that I am voicing the feeling of all of you who are here this afternoon when I say that.

I have been considering very seriously, and, indeed, prayerfully, during these past weeks what I ought to say which would be most profitable on this occasion, which I regard as a very remarkable occasion. It is an occasion which should give us all very much food for thought. This is no ordinary event: it is no ordinary anniversary. I feel that there is a profound lesson for us to be found here if we take the trouble to discover it. I believe this is something which we must approach from the standpoint of true biblical teaching and doctrine. Mr. White himself is going to give a review of the past fifty years. And he, I take it, is going to select what he regards as some of the most significant and important experiences through which God has led him in connection with this work. I am simply going to try to put all that into what I regard as its biblical context. I do hope that someone will be able to prevail upon Mr. White to write a book, not only of his experiences, but particularly upon the teaching which he feels is to be derived from what God has done in and through him. For it is a man like Mr. White who alone can write with authority on the subject of prayer, and on some of those principles which govern that vital matter of prayer. What I am going to do is to ask you to look with me at the work in general, and as a whole, in order that we may see where exactly it comes in in the whole context of biblical teaching.

What is this work? What is it that has been happening here for the last fifty years? What does it mean exactly? What is its real significance for us as Christian people? I think we have got to face those questions. If we go away saying "Mr. White is a wonderful man. This work is a marvellous work"—if we stop there, I would say that we have not really looked at it as Christian people should look at such a work. It is our business to derive from it certain great lessons. For I am certain that God has raised up this man, and this work, in order to address a particular message to the whole Christian Church. So I ask, What is the real significance, and the relevance of this work?

Now it is important that we should face these questions for a number of reasons. For we cannot truly praise God for this work, we cannot ascribe praise to Him in the right way, unless we understand the nature of the work. So, as I have said, it is important for us to face these questions in order that we may truly understand the nature of the work itself. One of the most important reasons why we should face these questions is this—that there is a real danger connected with a work like this. When I say "danger" what I mean is this. There is always a danger that people should set out to try to imitate Mr. White, and people like him. I have met a number of such people in my experience of the work of the Christian Church, people who think they have been

called upon by God to be second George Müllers, or second Hudson Taylors or second Herbert Whites—and their work has just ended in disaster. There are certain people who, when they hear of such a notable work as this of Mr. White's, seem to get the impression that the whole thing is so simple, and because it seems so perfectly simple, they attempt to start something on similar lines, and think that all is going to be well: and their failure just brings the Gospel into disrepute, and is dishonouring to our Lord Himself.

What is this that has been happening? How are we to understand this remarkable work which has been going on for half a century? I have already given what I regard as my own explanation. We have to place our good friend, Mr. Herbert White, into that category which includes such notable people as George Müller, and Hudson Taylor, and many others whom I could mention, men who have been called of God to found wonderful Orphanages for children, and others who have been prominent in connection with Foreign Missionary work.

Well, to me, there is only one adequate explanation to account for this wonderful work, and that is the explanation that is given in 1 Cor. 12, where you have the Apostle Paul dealing with what he called Spiritual gifts. He gives in that chapter a list of the various gifts which the Holy Spirit can give to the believer. I would call your attention to the one mentioned in verse 9, "*To another faith by the same spirit.*" You remember how it reads in its context. "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom: to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. *To another faith by the same Spirit*: to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. To another the working of miracles: to another prophecy: to another discerning of spirits: to another divers kinds of tongues: to another the interpretation of tongues." "*To another faith by the same Spirit.*" Now there, it seems to me, is the biblical and theological background.

But the question at once arises, What does faith mean here? Obviously it does not mean saving faith, because every Christian has saving faith. But here is a "faith" that is only given to some. To some are given that faith which is necessary in order to exercise the gift of healing. He speaks of them as separate gifts. The Apostle speaks of the faith which is necessary to work miracles: the gift of miracles has its own special gift of faith. It seems to me that there is only one explanation in regard to this gift of faith, and that is that it is a special gift which is given by the Holy Spirit to certain individuals within the Church to trust God implicitly, directly, and in a simple manner. This is a gift imparted by the Holy Spirit to certain people. So that what we are considering together this afternoon is this remarkable and astonishing gift which has been given to our friend, Mr. White, and which he has thus exercised for these past fifty years.

Now let us look at this gift in the light of the teaching of the Apostle in this chapter. It is really a part of his great doctrine of the nature of the Christian Church. He pictures the Christian Church as a Body, and in the Body there are various members—hands, and feet, and tongue, and so on—all these various members are part and parcel of the one great Body. As we consider this special gift thus manifested for these fifty years, we must think of it in that way, as part of the life of the whole Church. And immediately certain things strike and impress us.

The first thing is the wonderful perfection, and the symmetry which are to be seen in the life of the Body—two hands; two feet; the fingers—all this perfect plan, and proportion, and symmetry. Now, says the Apostle, it is exactly like that in the Church of God. God dispenses His gifts in these various ways. To one man is given the gift of speech; to another the gift of song; to another the gift of organisation; another



is gifted in prayers; some have special gifts of friendship, and understanding, and sympathy. When you begin to look at the Church like that you see what a wonderful thing the Church is. You see how God, in His infinite wisdom, has so ordered everything in order to produce this wonderful symmetry and perfection.

But let me go on to deal with something more important still—which is the lordship and the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit in this matter. It is the Holy Spirit Himself, according to the Apostle, Who chooses these special gifts to be bestowed upon various people. The members of the Church at Corinth were tending to become divided: they were forming groups among themselves. Some who possessed outstanding gifts tended to look down upon those with lesser gifts; and those with the lesser gifts were jealous of the people who possessed the more notable gifts. And thus the life of the Church was being marred, and spoiled, and threatened even with ruin. And the Apostle wrote this chapter in order to give to these people a true conception of this wonderful symmetry in the life of the Church. That is seen most clearly in the fact that it is the Holy Spirit Himself Who decides in this matter of gifts. He is the sovereign Lord. We must always remember that.

The next point that emerges is that the Holy Spirit chooses whom He wills to be the recipients of these different gifts. The Holy Spirit, in His sovereignty and lordship is constantly springing surprises upon us. Who would have thought that a bank clerk was to be chosen and selected to do a notable work like this! One would have thought that, perhaps, some great dignitary in the Church would have been selected. But, no, the Holy Spirit places His hand upon one who was following an ordinary simple calling in life. I think we see here the wonderful romantic element—we see the romance of the work of the Holy Spirit. It is an astounding, it is an amazing thing, this lordship of the Holy Spirit thus being exercised. But He not only makes His choice of the man, but He chooses a particular gift to bestow upon him. And to our friend He gave this remarkable, and outstanding, and notable gift which is described in this chapter as “the gift of faith.”

This takes me to the next principle, which is, that we must all of us always rejoice, not in our particular gift only, but in the fact that we all together belong to the one Body. That is the thing to glory in. Some of us have very ordinary gifts, what the Apostle describes as “the less comely parts” of the body. Some appear to be mere nobodies. But the great thing to remember is that we are in the Christian Church, that we are all in the body. And upon the less comely parts we ought, therefore, to bestow the more honour. So do not be concerned about your gifts, whether great or small, as about the fact that you have the high privilege of being a member of the mystical Body of Christ.

And this brings me to my last point, which is this. Because what really matters is this membership of the Body, we all of us are entitled to rejoice in those astonishing and unusual gifts which are given to some of our brethren. We can all feel a sense of personal glory and pride in the work to which God has called our brother, and which God has enabled him to do, because we belong to the same great Body, and thus we have the privilege of sharing with him in the glory that emanates from this wonderful work. There, it seems to me, is the setting of a work such as this.

Why did God raise up His servant to do this particular work? What is its real purpose? I give you a few headings which you may think out for yourselves.

A work like this is a proof in and of itself of the Being of God. You cannot explain this work apart from God. You cannot explain the astonishing miracles and happenings that have taken place in connection

with it, the wonderful answers to prayer—they cannot be explained adequately, and in any other terms, apart from the Being of God. I know there are those who would try to explain some of them psychologically: but you will find every time that such explanations fall short. There is only one adequate answer—and that is the fact of God. This work is proof of that.

This work also proves to us the power of the Lordship of God over the whole of life. This work is a proof to us that God can control people's thoughts, and their intentions, and their inclinations. There are many things that have happened in connection with this work which prove that. Let me give you an illustration of that from the Old Testament. Do you remember that interesting thing we are told in the Book of Esther of how a great king could not sleep one night. Now it was because that king could not sleep that night that Mordecai, and Esther, and the Jews were in the end saved. There is only one answer. It was God Who kept that king awake. And in a work like this we know there have been those who have suddenly begun to think of Mr. White, and have felt they ought to send him a gift for his work, or do something to help him to carry it on. God works like that. Down in the very depths of our personality we know that He controls our whole being. And this work of Mr. White's is a demonstration of His lordship over the whole realm of our life.

Then I find that this work is proof of the truth of the Scriptures. The Scriptures teach us that God does act in this way. We read there of those who have been led by God to take up some special work for Him: and I believe that in this work of Mr. White's we have a verification of the truth of the Word of God.

Also it seems to me that it is a wonderful proof of the truth of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, and of our re-birth. No man could have been enabled thus to rely in simple faith upon the promises of God if the Holy Spirit were not in him. To the natural man such a work of faith would be but nonsense: no man in his senses would ever undertake such a work. But to a man born of the Spirit, and led of the Spirit, such a work becomes not only possible, but actual. So here, as Paul puts it, we have this remarkable demonstration of the sovereign activity of the Holy Spirit, not only in the Church, but in individuals, thereby proving that everything that Scripture teaches concerning the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is demonstrably true.

My final conclusion is this. Are we not led, as we contemplate all this, as we think of God and His wonderful ways with men, to worship Him, and to ascribe all the glory to Him? Here we have a proof of the greatness of God, and His condescension in being concerned about details. I was reading recently that someone said that we sometimes forget that God is not only Father, but He is also Mother. What he meant was this: that God is not only great in might and in power, but that He is concerned about details, about the small things of life. And you get those two things coming out in a story like this. We stand in amazement as we contemplate His power, and His love, and His condescension.

The next thing which I feel must be emphasised is the encouragement and the strengthening which we must all experience as we come into contact with a work like this. If your faith is not strengthened as you listen to this story then there must be something radically wrong with you. As Christians we should be encouraged to believe in God, and to trust Him more fully, to believe His Word, to rely upon it, and be assured of what the Holy Spirit can do, in and through us, if we but yield and surrender ourselves to Him.

Lastly, the consideration of these particular gifts, of which the Apostle



speaks in this chapter, should lead us on to think of that "more excellent way." These gifts are, indeed, astonishing and wonderful; but there is something even more wonderful, and that is the graces of the Spirit. The love of the Spirit should dwell within each of us, and is not given merely to some people, and not to others: but is something that we should all possess—"faith, hope, and charity, these three: and the greatest of these is charity." Thus we are led by a contemplation of the gifts of the Spirit to the wondrous love of God which is at the back of them all, that love which by the Holy Spirit He sheds abroad in our hearts. I am sure that no one would be more ready to agree with this final emphasis than Mr. White himself. The main function of this work in the last analysis is thus to bring us to contemplate God in all His glory, and might, and power, and, above all, His love, and to desire that we may know that love in our own hearts, and may reflect it amongst boys and girls, and men and women, and may become more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ in Whom this wondrous love of God was to be seen incarnate when He was here on earth. We are privileged to stand together in wonder, and amazement, and in worship, as we consider this wonderful thing that God has done through His servant, and by means of which His blessing has come, not only to many boys and girls, but to the whole life of the Christian Church.

## EVENING MEETING.

The Holy Trinity Church was again crowded for the evening meeting, which was presided over by the Rev. A. W. Goodwin-Hudson. A special address was given by Mr. Herbert White on "These Fifty Years," which was the outstanding feature of what was a truly remarkable gathering. At both meetings the children from the Homes were present, and their sweet singing added much to the enjoyment of the Golden Jubilee celebration. The Rev. K. C. Parkinson, M.A., read the Scripture, and offered prayer.

Mr. JAMES STOKES presented the Financial Report. He began by saying that it was not his purpose to give a resume of the financial aspect of work during the past fifty years, for that would, undoubtedly, take too long. "Possibly Mr. White will have something to say about that later. Let me give you a brief statement about the general position: the detailed accounts will appear in *The Links* which will be published later on, and you will then be able to see for yourselves the exact items. I think it is worth while recording that throughout the fifty years of this work's existence, never once have the figures been on the wrongside at the end of the year. Throughout the whole of these fifty years God has supplied all the needs of the work. Sometimes, of course, faith has been tested, but deliverance has come.

There are what are termed invested funds, amounting to £8,825. This represents the property owned by the Homes. There are the houses and Hall in Crescent Road; the buildings at Tiptree comprising the main building, the laundry, and the farm land: and also a bungalow which has been given. The whole of this property is freehold: it is vested in a Trust Deed, and that Trust Deed is registered with the Charity Commissioners: and so the whole of the property has been properly protected. The Trustees, of which I am privileged to be one, number thirteen. If I may at this point, I would like to pass on to Mr. and Mrs. White, and the workers, the hearty congratulations of the Trustees in their having achieved such a grand record of service for the Master. As Trustees we do not, in any way, interfere in the work of the Homes. That is not our task. We are just the legal furniture, as you might say, which is required by the Charity Commission in order to put the property which belongs to the Homes on to a proper footing.

The total income during the year has amounted to £4 586 0s. 1d. The donations are down by some £550. But God always provides in some

other way: and whereas the legacies last year were £113, this year they amount to £960. The expenditure has gone up: we all know about rising costs of living. Owing to the fact that our income has not met the expenditure of the year it has been necessary for us to draw on money we had on deposit at the Bank. Here again we see the hand of God in that there are funds available on which we can draw, the amount withdrawn in the current year being £1,200: but there still remains a sum of £2,339. There is also another special Fund donated by a friend for extension work at Tiptree amounting to £3,476. The principle of the Home is that no appeal for funds shall be made, and I hope you will not interpret what I am saying as an appeal in this sense. We are here to make this financial statement because we want you to know that God is true to His Word, and that He does provide for the needs of His people. As and when money will be spent in any forward movement, that is a matter which is resulting in some deliberations at the moment: but in due time we hope to be able to advise you concerning that. We place these few facts before you for your prayerful consideration, and we pray that God will bless you in your giving—we pray too, that the Home may continue its great work and may know more of the blessing of God resting upon it.

The Rev. A. W. GOODWIN-HUDSON, speaking from the chair, said: "I am glad to be here with you to-night on this important anniversary. On such an occasion I am reminded of the children's hymn 'I think when I read that sweet story of Old, When Jesus was here among men,' because fifty years ago Mr. White came across little children who seemed to belong to no one. You know there are many people even to-day who treat children as if they did not belong to the Lord Jesus. You remember that He said: 'Whosoever receiveth one such little one in My name, receiveth Me.' That, perhaps, might be regarded as the Magna Charta of the Homes, whose 50th birthday we are celebrating to-day. It must be over twenty years ago now that I first met Mr. and Mrs. White: it was at a C.S.S.M. Mission. I was very young then and although we played hard we also worked hard in that Mission. As there are so many young people here to-night, I want to say to you, Don't think just because you are young you have to sow your wild oats, if you do, do you know what you reap? You reap wild oats. Seek and serve the Lord Jesus Christ while you are young and God will bless and guide you right to your journey's end. I wonder what those little children received when the Lord Jesus placed His hands on their heads and blessed them. Do you think they received any benefit at all? Obviously their mothers who brought them to Him thought they would. We read, 'Then He took them up in His arms, and blessed them.' I expect like me, you instinctively feel 'I wish that His hands had been placed on my head, that His arms had been thrown around me.' What did these little ones receive? Do you think it meant the certainty of salvation when they grew up, that they would be automatically saved, because His hands had been placed on their heads when they were children? Do you think that that is what happened? No, it would be wrong to imagine such a thing. Do you think because His hands had been placed on their heads that when they grew up they would be immune from all sorts of temptation, and that it would be easy for them to live good lives? No, I do not think so, because no one has ever been granted exemption from temptation. I think the benefit that those little children received from the Lord Jesus when He put His hands upon them, and blessed them, is something like the benefit that boys and girls have received from being in Mr. and Mrs. White's Homes. I believe that those little children found as they grew up into manhood and womanhood that in a thousand ways they were reminded of the Lord Jesus. I believe they heard a still small voice persistently calling them to follow the Lord Jesus. My mother, who is



now in heaven, said to me just before she died, and I shall never forget what she said: 'Before you were born I prayed for you, and will you remember that every day I have prayed for you and brought you to Jesus for His blessing.' And as I look back I can see how God has answered my mother's prayers all the way down the road of life: there have been influences at work which have helped me to keep close to the Lord Jesus. I am quite sure that there are many here who could say, Yes, I have found that, too: I have known the benefit of being brought up in a home where God's blessing is daily sought. Wherever I went (many of you to the ends of the earth, during the war, or taken away from London to work elsewhere), turn from the Lord Jesus: I could not, because His blessing was upon me, keeping me day by day in His paths.

"Let me relate one story. Rupert Brooke, the poet, in the 1914 War was called suddenly to Liverpool to embark on a troopship bound for the Middle East, there was no time for him to bid good-bye to his friends. When he got to the quay-side, there was the big troopship full of soldiers, all leaning over the rails, and waving good-bye to their wives and sweet-hearts and loved ones. Rupert Brooke, in his rather lovely way, described how he felt sad and lonely because he had no friend there to bid him farewell. When he saw a little boy amongst the crowd, and he asked him if he was seeing anyone off, the boy said, 'No, Sir.' He said he had just come down to see the ship sail away. Rupert Brooke asked the boy if he had a handkerchief, and he replied that he had a big khaki one that belonged to his soldier father. Rupert Brooke said to the boy: 'If I give you 6d. as the ship moves away from the quay, will you wave your handkerchief?' And the boy promised that he would. Rupert Brooke saying good-bye to 'this green and pleasant land' for the last time, never to return again, saw in the crowd that little fellow waving that khaki handkerchief as the gulf between the ship and quay grew wider and wider.

"When the call comes to those who have founded these Homes, and helped in its work, I thank God with you to-night that there will be some boy, some girl, who will say, 'Good-bye till we meet again.' I believe also there will be many on that other shore waiting to welcome them home. May God bless and prosper the work of the Homes, to the glory of His name, and the salvation of many boys and girls."

Pastor HERBERT WHITE, after thanking all taking part in the Jubilee Services, delivered the special address on "These Fifty Years."

The story of the Children's Home and Mission is the story of the "Faithfulness of God." So the address entitled "THESE FIFTY YEARS" will not be a record of what we have done, but of what HE has done. Proof have we even before the start that "He is faithful that promised."

He who is the unchanging God has fulfilled His promises the moment we have carried out His conditions. We have to confess that we have often disappointed Him but He has never disappointed us. The Work goes on in spite of us, but because of Him and because we know that He is the Founder of the Work. "Faithful is He who calleth you, who also will do it."

He indeed is the One who called us and He it is who is doing it. We are simply His co-workers. Our business is therefore to KNOW HIS WILL AND OBEY

Faith is a wonderful power and is God's gift, so there is no room for boasting in ourselves.

This work was started on 20th November, 1899, in a three-roomed flat in George Lane and it is wonderful how the Lord led us to this result. I was converted on the 24th May, 1891, in Woodford. My mother died at the end of 1894 crippled by rheumatism, leaving 11 children. I was the fourth one down so that there were seven under 16. Now, Mother makes the Home, and when Mother went, the Home was never the same.

This weighed upon my mind and I came to the conclusion that there must be hundreds of boys and girls in like circumstances needing help and guidance.

At 18 I entered a Bank in the City and although in my spare time I was engaged in preaching the Gospel and assisting in Christian Endeavour and Band of Hope work as well as being Secretary of a Baptist Sunday School in Woodford, yet I felt that God was leading me into a more definite Work. Before 20 I wrote to several people with the object of going abroad to some Mission Field but they all answered saying "Stay put. Why don't you do the work at your hand." Now this led me to see that it did not so much matter where I was, whether in Africa or Woodford, but it did very much matter as to whether I was in God's will.

Now in this Sunday School of which I was Secretary was a Teacher, Miss R. A. Hutchin, who had left her class and went to Manchester to train for the foreign field, but after a short while she was told by those in charge that it would be no use going on with the training as her health would not stand any foreign climate. She therefore returned to Woodford and took up her Class again. She then lived in this three-roomed flat in George Lane as a dressmaker. We often talked over these unique circumstances and prayed that God would guide, and He did, for in October, 1899, when just 21, I revealed the fact that God wanted me to help "Motherless Children," and she exclaimed that she was also ready to help. Well, I said, "If you will be 'Mother' and tend the children, I will be 'Father' and do the business side." We then heard of a case of a motherless girl whose father was a drunkard, near Barkingside, and after his consent received this child, 9 years of age, into the flat on the afternoon of the 20th November, 1899. This commenced the Work.

On that afternoon we praised God for so directing our path and opening the way for this one child. We reminded Him of His Word which says that "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this. To visit the Fatherless and Widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the World."

We then prayed that He would grant to us enabling grace to prove His Word for ourselves and trust Him alone for all our needs. That He would help us to bank upon His promises such as John, 14, 13, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in My Name, that will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son," and "If ye shall ask anything in My Name I will do it."

We promised Him that under no circumstances would we ask anyone to help and our indication to continue would be if He would kindly answer. So we have continued because of the many gracious answers that He has granted.

The Work was started under the heading "A Home for Destitute and Motherless Children" and we had two children by the end of March, 1900.

Five months after the start, that is April, 1900, we moved from the flat to the Woodlands, Latchett Road, a little six-roomed house in which we had six little girls by April, 1901. During this year wonderful things happened. (1) I fell in love with my wife and we have been labouring together in this work which God has given us to do since then, believing His Word which says—"That if any two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that ye shall ask it shall be granted unto you of My Father which is in heaven." He has permitted us to have six children, one was called "Home" at 22 years of age, the other five, now all married, are helping with their partners in the Work. (2) Mr. Albert Willmott, a

Chartered Accountant, offered his services and audited our books for 36 years. (3) Dr. F. A. Martin Flegg called to see over the little Home and offered to become our Honorary Medical Officer and helped freely for nearly 30 years and continued as our Honorary Consultant Physician and Ophthalmic Surgeon after he ceased to be our M.O. A few weeks before Dr. Flegg came to tell us that he was disposing of his practice and was sorry he could not continue as our M.O., Dr. David Smith called and said that should Dr. Flegg retire, and we desire it, he would be our Honorary Medical