

69

The Children's Home and
Mission

L
I
N
K
S

1899 ————— 1951

The Children's Home Links



Our Constant Challenge.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and
to sing praises unto Thy Name, O most High: To
shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and
Thy faithfulness every night.

Psalm 92.

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 M. GAMBLE (Sister Muriel)
Miss D. HAMMOND (Sister Ann)
Miss B. HIBBERD (Sister Beryl)
Miss G. WARNER (Sister Gladys)
Mr. and Mrs. DAVID OLNEY.

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.

HOME AND MISSION. 1899.

Branch and Farm:

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

TRUSTEES:

A. E. Evans, Esq.
D. J. Hutton, Esq.

Victor G. Levett, Esq.

Miss E. K. Marsh.
Rev. K. C. Parkinson, M.A.
F. J. Pollard, Esq.

Mrs. E. C. L. Roberts.
F. C. Stark, Esq.
J. R. Stark, Esq.
James Stokes, Esq.
W. A. Warwick, 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.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Our 51st Annual Gatherings were most refreshing. The Baptist Church, Woodford, was well filled, and we felt with all the singing, reciting, speaking and reporting, God was glorified and many were blest. The hearty way the friends entered into the services and the singing of the congregation brought real joy to our hearts.

And now our Staff have returned from their holidays and they, with the Woodford children, have spent nearly three weeks at our Tiptree branch, all pulling their weight to give our united family a really happy time. A two-decker bus carried all to the sea on several occasions. Swimming, cricket, boating and games, delighted the young people, and workers and children have declared that this year's holiday was the "best ever."

The children are returning to school in good health and spirits.

Rejoice with us, dear friends. During August we realised our shortage of Staff and prayed all through the month that the dear Lord would move some hearts to offer their services.

Now on September 2nd we had a visit from a young married couple telling us that for two years they had been concerned about the way in which they should serve the Lord. They were converted some time ago at the Woodgrange Baptist Church, married, and as they could not buy a house they purchased a caravan and came to live in Abridge and joined the Evangelical Free Church. They now feel that all their ability and the whole of their time must be devoted to the Lord.

They, believing that they are in the will of the Lord, offer to join our Staff. We praise God for this wonderful token of His goodness towards us, and welcome Mr. and Mrs. David Olney into the above.

Since this interview we asked the dear Lord to kindly confirm this arrangement by touching one of His children to send a gift to the work. Another friend came in this morning and said "Have you seen this week's 'Christian'?" Not yet, was the answer. "Well, in that paper there is a gift marked for C.H. & M., Woodford (Mr. H. White) £250."

So "before you call I will answer, and whilst you are yet speaking I will hear."

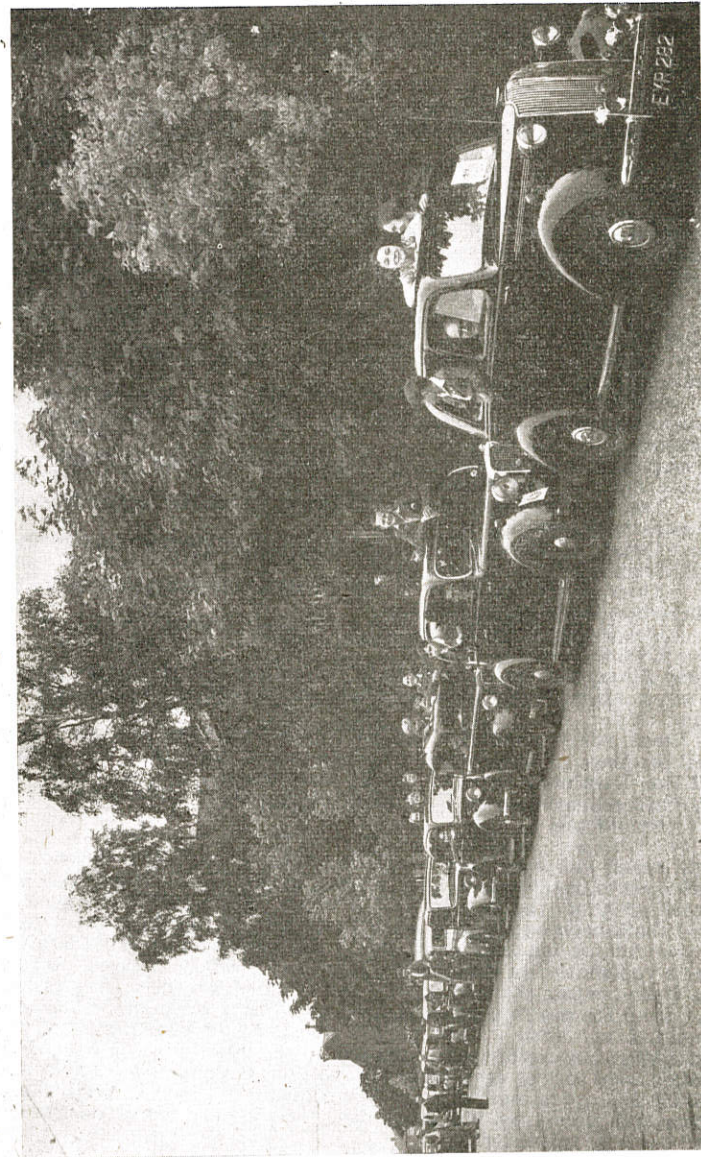
Don't stop praying,
The Lord is nigh;
Don't stop praying,
He'll hear your cry.
God hath promised
And He is true;
Don't stop praying,
He'll answer you.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all here in wishing our "Prayer Partners" a Happy New Year and one of obedience to His will?

H. W. W.

THE LATE V. G. LEVETT, Esq., Trustee.

You will be sorry to hear of the sudden home-call of our beloved Brother and Trustee, Mr. Victor Levett, in the early hours of Sunday morning, 23rd Decembtr last. From the very commencement of this Work our friend took an active interest and all through his life had been a tremendous encouragement to us in every way.



Off for a day at Whipsnade Zoo—transport and outing kindly arranged by the Walthamstow Round Table.

"OUR DAY"

The 51st Annual Gatherings.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

Mr. Victor White gave the following Annual Report:—

"Once again we meet to give praise, sincere praise, to God, for His abundant goodness to this large family through another year—a year fraught with changes, problems, difficulties, joys and victories, and through it all and above it all, He has been ever near and all sufficient."

I am only giving an outline as father will be giving a general survey of the year's adventures, together with the financial report, a little later.

At the end of April we had 73 children—54 at Woodford and 19 at Tiptree.

During the year we have received 11 boys and 8 girls, and 14 boys and 4 girls have left us.

We are not quite a complete family here today as Irene and John are in Hospital and another John at home feeling a little under the weather.

I suppose you are wondering what has happened to the 18 children who left—here are the brief details:—

Ten, of school age, returned to parent or relative as home circumstances had improved.

Three, of school-leaving age, returned to parent, now at work, and from all reports, doing well.

Three to residential work, two of these domestically minded and the other has taken up nursing.

One joined H.M. Forces, after 14 years with us.

One to a special school.

May I stray for the moment from the outline and read a few extracts from letters received from those who have left, recently and years ago.

"Thank you so much for Golden Jubilee Links and invitation to the Annual Meetings. I shall be there, as I do so look forward to them. Every year I live, I am more thankful for my early teaching in your home. Life would have no meaning at all without christianity. All my love to you both." An old girl.

"I expect you have been wondering when I was going to write you. First, I want to say Thank-you for sending us the Links. It is lovely to sit and read all about the dear home. It brings back such lovely memories. When I think back on the days when I was with you I realise what a great deal you did for me, and know that I can never repay you for all the kindness you showed to me, also my sister and brother. I expect you have heard I am getting married in two weeks time, so you can guess how busy I am. I move into my new little home next week, and I remember you used to say when we had prayers together how proud you are when an old girl or boy invites you to tea and to see their home. I have always looked forward to that day—perhaps it will not be long now. My husband is looking forward to meeting you at the Annual. We have carefully booked the date and prayed for you every day. Please pray for us on the great day to come." An old girl.

"Thank you for Links. Will you please send me three more if you can spare them? I am sure you will both be pleased to know that Ruth was baptised last Sunday—it was a very great joy to us. I thought of the

time when Mr. White baptised me. I know that you will pray for her that she may be used in our Master's service. It is such a lot to thank God for when our children give themselves to the Lord. With love from us all—still praying for you. God bless you—from your old girl."

"Thank you for kind invitation to the Annual, which, owing to hospital duties, I am unable to attend. However, I shall be with you in thought and prayer and trust you will have most successful meetings. I can never thank you enough for the very happy three years I spent with you. Your christian teaching has been a great help to me in my nursing career. God has continued to help and guide me and I know He answers prayer. I sincerely pray that God will spare you both for many Annuals to come. What wonderful times we had together and how I missed you all when I left. I am ever grateful to you and to all that help in your wonderful work. I will never forget you. God bless you all. With lots of love." From an old girl.

"I am writing to thank you for Golden Jubilee Links. It has not been easy for any of us during the last few years, but according to your faith be it unto you Our early training has been of inestimable value to us all through life and your success has been indeed well earned. The years we spent with you and under your care were very happy and carefree and I often think of the hours of love and thought that were given to us all regardless of the cost. Our best love to you and yours and may God abide with you always." An old girl.

"I have settled down to my new home and job. I visit the Home at Tiptree quite a lot and was there yesterday afternoon. Thank you for your kindness to me while I was there in the Home" One of your old boys.

"Just a few lines to wish you a Happy Christmas and a Bright New Year. We thank God for His goodness to us all during the past year. My son, his wife and children and daughter and her husband are here and I am enjoying having them all. I enclose just a small gift from my husband and self, I wish it were more, but everything is such a price these days, but we trust in God and He does supply all our needs. Our love to you all." An old girl.

From a lad in Germany:

"First of all I must say how sorry I am for not writing before, but I'm always thinking of you and the Home, as well as all the many things you taught me whilst I was there. Many a time I have wished I was back, because it was there I was really happy. I have a good set of lads in my room but none of them are christians I'm sorry to say, in fact, I haven't met a christian in the Army yet. They believe there is a God, but don't care beyond that. They just say: You've got your way and we've got ours. The Church services are not too cheerful, but I suppose that is because I am used to having a good wholehearted sing. All this does not shake my belief in the Lord, because I know Him to be God above all. God bless you and the Home and keep you safe." From Your old boy.

"The first thing I must say is Thank You for all you have done for me during the past six and a half years. I am sure nobody else could have looked after me so well. I think I am going to be happy here, but I find it very lonely. Give my love to all and please continue to pray for me. Love—An old girl. P.S.—I hope you had a good time Saturday evening and plenty of fireworks."

"We should like you to accept the enclosed for personal use (£4) hoping you will all have a very happy and peaceful time over the Christmas. We have been very busy, and still are, with preparations at the hospital

for Christmas. I am sure you also have plenty to do. We would love to come down and see you all, but at the moment it seems out of the question, but we so often think about you all, and most of all remember you in prayer. With much love from us both." Two old girls.

"Many thanks for your letter. It certainly cheered me up. I never thought a letter could be so welcome. Even the writing on the envelope gave me a lift up. I'm writing this in the guardhouse. I hope everything is O.K. with you. It seems ages since I was at Woodford, instead of about a fortnight. I never thought, to be quite frank, that I'd feel the parting from the 'Old Home' so much, but it was a wrench I'll take some time to get over. After all, fourteen years is a long time in a chap's life. Still, I'll never lose touch with you all, you can be sure of that . . . Now that I've actually left the Home I must take this opportunity of thanking you for all you have done for me. I shall never be able to thank you enough, and I'm not just saying this, either, I mean it. Ever since I was old enough to understand I began to see what a lot I owe to you that I can never repay. I shall always remember the Home with the deepest gratitude. God bless you all. All my love, G." An old boy.

Since our last Annual Day—what a day that was—we have introduced a pocket money scheme. So far this has proved successful but you will appreciate this is an expensive item and we shall value especially your prayers that this need may be met.

May I give a "Normal Day" in the Routine of our family life:—

Reveille, 6.45; Clinic and Morning Jobs, 7.25; Breakfast, 7.45; Children's Prayers, 8.30; School, 8.40; Staff Prayers, 9.0; Staff Dinner, 12.0; Children's Dinner, 12.45; School, 1.20; Staff Tea, 4.20; Children's Tea, 5.0; Family Prayers, 5.45; 8's and unders to bed, 6.45 (not always to sleep!); Supper, 7.30; 9's-12's to bed, 7.45; 13's and 14's to bed, 8.45; 15's and overs to bed, 9.30. (Peace reigns—sometimes!)

At holiday times, Saturdays and Sundays, we all have a "lay-in."

You see, we do not confine our reading of the Bible to Sundays only, but believe it to be wise to have a little time each day set apart with Him. Do you?

Every Sunday the Woodford folk come here to worship and at Tiptree the family goes to the Congregational Church. We have our own Sunday Schools on Sunday afternoons.

Once a week we have a Y.S.L. Meeting, conducted by the staff and so far the children have won the following rewards for Scripture Searching this year: 3 Certificates, 3 Testaments and 2 Bibles. Altogether, since the Branch started, we have won: 27 Certificates, 22 New Testaments and 12 Bibles.

This year we sat for the Scripture Examination with following results:—

1 Honours (100 per cent for second time—paper sent for National Competition).

18 1st.

7 Second Class.

2 Third Class.

28 (No failures) Average—70 per cent.

A good effort and we do congratulate the children on this splendid result. In the several challenge Bible Quizzes held we have emerged the winners each time.

As far as individual spiritual progress is concerned in the lives of the children, it has been a year of "digging in" rather than fresh conversions and many have made a definite advancement in their Christian living shown in day by day practical ways—the true proof of the inward experience.

Day School. The children attend the local schools—under 11's Churchfields and the older ones—St. Barnabas Modern Secondary School. Two of

the girls attending Woodford County High School are a credit to the Family in their work and sport. We are looking forward with great anticipation to the time when our intelligencia—the boys of course—don the High School Cap.

Games. Football and netball, cricket and tennis are the favourites out of doors. Table tennis, draughts and chess during the winter evenings. Our Tiptree lads have done well at Soccer and the Woodford Table Tennis team has once again given a good account of itself. We have a tennis court at both centres, one new net being given by a friend.

Two of our girls are taking music lessons and the older girls are being taught dressmaking—we are grateful to the friends who give this extra tuition to the children.

The Woodford folk spent August at Tiptree and had a very happy time, visiting Walton-on-Naze, West Mersea and Maldon, as well as having rambles, sports, cricket and tennis, etc. There have been many parties and film shows given by interested friends and we have also visited Harringay Circus and seen the lights at Southend.

We, at Woodford and Tiptree, had grand times at Christmas. Ample toys—plenty of fun and games. Many friends, and several of the "Old Uns" spent the time with us, helping to make everything go! We did sincerely appreciate time spent in this way—our fancy dress parade with carol singing and Father Christmas was a wonderful item and much enjoyed by all.

A word of thanks here to our "Aunties"—two ladies who help us so well year by year and take a particular interest in our girls.

The Staff situation is as follows:—

Woodford. My wife and self and five lady helpers. (Since "Our Day" one helper has left due to ill-health.)

Tiptree. Mr. and Mrs. Ewart White and two lady helpers.

Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert White, a man and one of our lads.

We are finding the farm a great help now—receiving 70 gallons milk, 200-250 eggs each week and the prospects of good vegetable and crops. We have a tractor, horse, three cows, numerous chickens, ducks and geese.

Gifts in kind during the year, include items such as clothes, fire wood, furniture, tinned foods and a hundred and one other things.

All details will be in our next report. In September and October last we received over 60 Harvests (including over 400 marrows) and at Christmas 25 lots of toys from different places of worship.



Administrative Wing and Senior Boys House.

How wonderful is our God who has supplied (not always what we have wanted) but always that which we have needed. Thank you all for listening. God bless you, all who have helped and encouraged us in any way, whether by prayer, giving or whatever you have done.

DR. CAREY BAKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., said:

I am reminded of the little boy whose Sunday School teacher was also his Doctor. (I feel sorry for him.) The Sunday School teacher, the Doctor, had been very persistent this particular Sunday afternoon because he felt an urge that the children should know that the only way to heaven was to have the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. He had been telling the boys very clearly about this, but there was one boy he felt had not been listening too well—I am surprised it was only one; when I had a Sunday School class there was more than one—and so near the end of the lesson he said: "Now, Willie, just pay attention for a moment. Supposing you were very ill in bed and you wanted to be quite, quite sure that you would get to heaven, what would you do about it?" "Please, Sir," said Willie, "I would send for you!"

Well now, our friend Mr. White and his helpers, not forgetting Sister Ann who looks after the children medically, have sent for us once or twice during this past year—Dr. Smith, our Senior Partner, Dr. Mathie and myself—and, as far as I am aware, we have not yet had the success shall I say that that young man thought his Doctor would have, in so far we have managed to get them all better except for the three you have heard of this afternoon, and apparently Mr. Victor White has given you half the Medical Report because he has told you about the young lady in hospital with sub acute appendicitis, one with tonsils and one at home who is recovering from mumps. Now, believe it, or believe it not, out of 50 children here in Woodford, I think the number of times that Mr. White has sent for my partners or myself during the last year could be counted on the fingers of both hands. Now that says something for their care of the children; it says more than that; it says something for the ability of these young ladies and young children to withstand all the various germs that seem to be floating around Woodford, especially during this last winter.

But I am supposed to be giving a Medical Report, aren't I? Statistics get you nowhere. Statisticians, I think they call those who live in Whitehall, and they are not much good to anybody, but figures always have to come out in a report; therefore, I must say that there were three cases of chicken pox this last winter (not many really), and that there was one case of pneumonia who is now getting better; there was a case that I am afraid I confess my partners failed to diagnose in that she had a temperature for a long while, she got better—but no-one knows why, least of all myself! There was one child who lost his tonsils; then, I must tell you this, there were about twenty cases of influenza during last winter and I do not believe we got called to more than one of them. Mr. White and his helpers have the necessary skill—and aspirins! May I pass on to you, my friends, especially if you happen to be my patients, two aspirins and stay in bed.

That, really, is all for the Medical Report except to say how grateful we are not to be sent for. Yes, I know that they are patients, and we are very grateful to them for being such good patients and showing such credit upon their medical officers by looking so well. The Sister in hospital said to me about this little girl (not so little) who is in with her appendix, "You know she looks very pale, we are going to put some roses into her cheeks." The only roses I could see were yellow ones, so I hope all will be well. The truth of the matter is, my friends, that God has been very good to Mr. White's children during this last year and in spite of epidemics which have surrounded Woodford and invaded Woodford, these children have been remarkably free from illness of any serious import, and so I do thank them, with their staff who looks after them, and I thank them more still for remaining healthy to leave me to see to other folk who are not so healthy.

Mr. HERBERT WHITE spoke in the afternoon, as follows: "You have had more than half of the Report, so I am going to avoid too many long details. First let me say—our hearty thanks to Mr. Hunter and the Deacons of this Church for the use of the same at our Annual Services again. Last year we had the pleasure of using the Holy Trinity Church, but we thought we would come Home again and this year enjoy our Family circle where we have been for so many years.

"We want to thank Dr. Mathie for taking the chair (which is only one little item he does towards helping us). We thank him, Dr. Smith, and Dr. Baker for all the work they put in and have now done for years in helping on the work which we represent, also Mr. Stephen Smith, our dental surgeon. They have not been called too often, they say, but I might put this to you, that when they are called, one or the other comes. We are not kept in suspense for hours as to what to do, but they soon come down and advise and help.

"Thanks also to Mrs. Dannatt for the solo and recitation. We are always glad to have her with us because we feel that she brings a message both in song and speech whenever she helps us on our Anniversary Day.

"Thanks to the children for their great help.

"And then, last but not least, we thank the Rev. E. Buckhurst Pinch, the Secretary of the Advent Testimony and Preparation Movement, for promising to be our guest speaker this afternoon, so I must not spend the rest of the time talking for we are anxious to hear him. He used to be the Pastor of the Baptist Tabernacle at Barking, and in many other places he has served God and God has used him mightily. I heard from a friend during the week that he was down at Southchurch holding special meetings, and there had been some good and glorious results. I hope those results will be added to this afternoon, and that some who have come into this Church, perhaps not loving the Lord, will go out converted, and those who have loved Him for some time will have that love deepened.

"Then to all our friends from near and far.

"It does us good to see you all; thank you for coming along to join us at our Birthday Party. Coming together as we do to praise God for His faithfulness: which is our gladdest task. I want you to see there is nothing so great in this world as praising God. 'Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me.'

"Let us think of absent friends. Dr. David Smith and many others have written or phoned saying they cannot possibly be with us, but they will be praying for us where they are. We thank God for these friends who are unable to join with us on 'Our Day,' and yet are seeking blessing from God on this work at the 'Throne of Grace.'

"This is our 51st Annual Meeting. As we look back over the past record we do thank God for His goodness. I think the Report which you have already heard is very gratifying. It certainly is a varied experience, isn't it? My son has gone into many of the points: I want to give you the Financial Statement and then close up very briefly. During the last year we have received in Donations £1,906; Subscriptions, £365; Boxholders, £181; Boot Fund, £12. Legacies during the year, £3,094 14s. 4d., which is the largest amount we have received under this heading. Very wonderful. God moves in a mysterious way. One legacy for £2,000 has been nearly five years coming, and although delayed it has met our immediate need. You know, faith is the fruit, and as I have heard somewhere that the bloom on the fruit is patience, and so He teaches us patience by keeping us waiting nearly five years—and then to receive this.

"Another old lady died and left us a house which was sold and we received a clear £1,000.

"My cousin died and left the work £100, also received. The Montague Mission at Leytonstone was bombed during the war and they felt they could not rebuild so they sold the property and have divided it up amongst

several Evangelistic works. We received £237-odd as our portion. These four amounts have helped us to clear the cost of our year's working as you will see from our audited accounts.

"Last year the total expenses were £5,917, this year they are £7,049 13s. 10d., and I am glad to say that every penny has been paid. We are not in debt; God has cleared us and He has sent into this work over the £7,000 during the past year—for which we praise Him.

"We started and have continued until this day, with the assurance of Victory.

"I love that verse, 'These things I have spoken unto you that in ME ye might have Peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.'

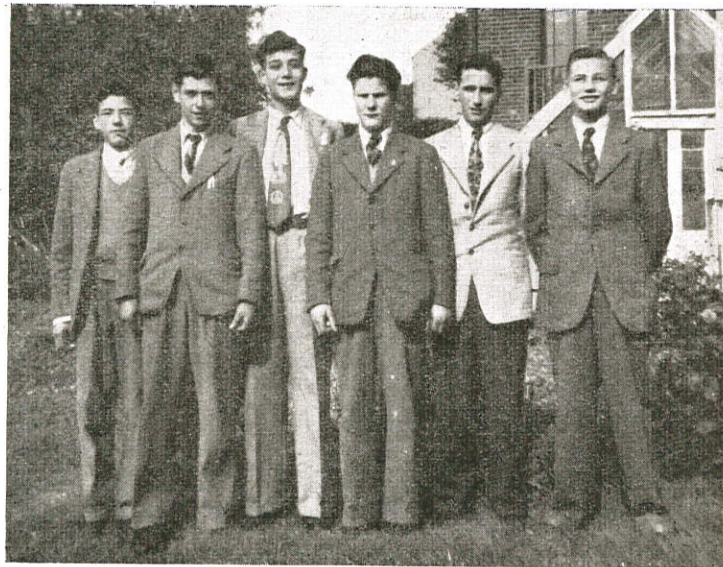
"The Christian's sphere of service is in this world—we are still on the cobbles. You have still got to face the difficulties of life.

"The Christian's source of suffering 'In the world ye shall have tribulation.' You will have it whether you want it or not, and if you do not have it I am sorry for you. I suppose most people, everybody, has in some form or other tribulation in this world.

"The Christian's secret of comfort, 'In Me ye might have Peace,' not in a Church, not in a system, not in religion, not in a society, but in the Person, the Lord Jesus Christ, 'In Me ye shall have Peace.'

"The Christian's source of joy, 'Be of good cheer.' Now that is worth knowing isn't it? Let us ask the Lord to fill us with good cheer. His own good cheer.

"Then the assurance of victory for the Christian is this. Jesus said, 'I have overcome the world.' So we step out of the old year into the new with this assurance of victory because the Lord Jesus is our Victorious Lord. We have had experience for 51 years and we believe that He who hath taken us along those years with wonderful answers will continue until the day of Jesus Christ. Brethren, please pray for us."



The Senior Boys.

THE REV. E. BUCKHURST PINCH:

My dear Mr. White, Dr. Mathie, my dear friends,

I count it no small honour to be permitted to speak to you for a brief while this afternoon in a gathering which stands so emphatically and so determinedly for the principle; so frequently found to be dying; of absolute faith in an absolutely faithful God. The thing that so greatly cheered my heart, particularly as I listened to the wonderful reports of God's goodness, is the absence of the personal note and the readiness, indeed the delight, with which the workers, Mr. White and all his colleagues, give all the glory to God for His wondrous goodness and grace.

Well, I want to bring you a word of Scripture and, if the Lord will help me, to encourage you in the way of faith and simple trust in God. It is a word that occurs in the 3rd chapter of the Book of Exodus, and in the 14th and 15th verses. God said unto Moses: "I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you; this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial, throughout all generations." And so you see this is God's name still. God delights to be called the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the I AM. I will not long dwell upon the circumstances, you are already acquainted with them. Moses, at 80 years of age, hearing a voice addressed to him as he paused to watch the bush that burned but refused to be consumed, and then the call of God to lead these people—a very big family indeed that. Mr. White, about 2½ million souls is the usual figure which scholars compute. God said he was to lead this great family, and He was going to sustain him in the care of this vast family, and He was going to guide him on an unknown pathway as he led this large family. I am not a bit surprised that Moses was greatly exercised. It is quite true that 40 years before he had felt very sure of himself, but now, at 80, he is not nearly as sure of himself. I cannot quite say how it feels to be 80, but I imagine that with the passing years there comes to those of us who love the Lord a decreasing confidence in ourselves and an increasing confidence in the Lord. And at 80 he says, "Lord, excuse me, there was a time when I thought I could do this, but please, I would be glad to be relieved; I think you could find a better man than me." I think they are the kind of people that God uses. And God said to him, "No, I am not letting you off, I want you. You are going to lead this people." Moses produced a number of reasons—I almost said excuses—why he should not do it and God answered them all, one at a time God dealt with them, and finally Moses said to God, "But you know, Lord, when I go to these people and say, 'I am to be your leader, God has sent me and I am going to bring you out of this place of bondage into a wonderful land that God has chosen for you, the Lord God of my fathers hath sent me,' they will say to me: 'The Lord God of our fathers! who is He? We do not know Him, we have never heard of Him!'" You see, for between three and four centuries these people had been slaves, had no opportunity whatever of worshipping Jehovah. God said, "Very well, I will declare Myself to you, I will tell you Who I am; I will declare My nature. When you go to these people you will say to them, I AM hath sent me unto you, I AM THAT I AM. Moreover, you shall say, The Lord God of your fathers hath sent me, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." They are the circumstances of this utterance.

Now let me make a few simple observations that I think might encourage our trust in God. I want to say, first of all, with all my heart I believe that God is still the great I AM. I am constantly meeting people, Christian people who believe in God as the I WAS. Whenever you discuss Christian work with them they say, "Oh, they were wonderful days! 'Way back in so-and-so, what blessing we had!'" I remember an old Deacon who came to me in one of my services with tears running down his face; he

gripped my hand and he said, "My dear brother, you have taken my mind back. What days we had in the early seventies!" Well, I thought, the early seventies! We did not have any good days then—he might have had, but I did not! I said, "Well, my dear brother, I am awfully glad that you were so greatly blessed in the early seventies, but don't you think God may be equally ready to bless us today?" You know, some people are always talking about the good old days and, indeed, the Church has some great days to look back upon, but they talk about former days of blessing as though God had exhausted Himself or grown weary of His attention to His people. No, no, my friends, I believe that God is the same today as yesterday. I do not believe that He has grown careless or callous or disinterested, neither do I believe that God has exhausted His power or grown impotent with the passing of the generations. I rather believe that word in Hebrews, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever"; or that word in Paul's letter to the Romans that "He is a God that hath delivered and doth deliver; He will yet deliver." He is just the same.

Then, of course, there are people who believe in the I WILL BE. They are not the kind of people who are retrospective but they are wishful thinkers and dreamers who are always looking forward into the future. "They tell me there are wonderful days coming!" Well, I know there are good things ahead. I am simple enough to believe in a real Heaven; a real Lord to welcome me there in person. But I am not prepared to relegate all the blessings and all the privileges to future days. I believe God can bless us today. I believe that God is ready to meet us today, and I feel that this God-blessed work bears a singular and important testimony to the faithfulness of God today in our very midst. I AM THAT I AM. Say unto the children of Israel, "The Lord God of your fathers hath sent me, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. This is My Name for ever. By this I am to be remembered throughout all generations." "Never forget," says God, "I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

May I suggest to you that this means, amongst other things, that He is the God of successive generations. Some pass away; others take their places. Abraham dies, upon Isaac rests the blessing. Isaac gathers his children about him, gives them a final blessing and goes to his long rest; God is now the God of Jacob, and when Jacob is gone, God is the God of Joseph, and this God is our God. Generations pass, all life changes but God remains faithful. It means that, and I think that is something that our friends here are not only learning but proving to us. Fifty-one years is a long time—a long time in human reckoning. Fifty-one years of mornings with the family's breakfast to provide—it is a long time. And yet God has never failed; there has never been an omission. You know there is a sense in which we sometimes talk about the blessings that we have enjoyed in days gone by and, as I was saying just now, we become retrospective and talk as though all the blessing lay behind us and God were now unequal to this more distressing age, as we gauge it to be. Then we remember that He is the God of succeeding generations. Men pass away and God never changes. One gives place to another, but He is just the same. So that the work should not rest upon man but rest upon God's faithfulness; so that it should not be the genius of mankind but the faithfulness of God.

Then another thing that greatly cheers me about this word and encourages my faith is this: that God is not only the God of succeeding generations and persists in His faithfulness when men pass away, but I think I AM is the God of very different individuals, all classes and kinds of people. He is the God of Abraham; He is the God of Isaac; He is the God of Jacob, but, thank God, He is our God just the same. And so we are all different, aren't we? Thank God for that! I should not like too many of some sorts. I am glad God has never tried to squeeze us all into one mould—some of us would never fit! I am always afraid of theology that wants to lay down rigid rulings of what God is going to do with us. I remember

years ago, when I was a very young Christian—in fact, I was newly married and one is always a bit more susceptible at those times—I remember a lady in advanced years, a very good Christian, coming to my home and saying: "I have been watching you and observing you, and I feel that you are eager to go on with God." And I said, "Yes, my dear sister, quite sincerely I am." "Oh," said this lady, "I am so glad, God has sent me to tell you how He is going to bless you." "Well," I said, "that is very nice of you, sit down and tell me." That lady talked over an hour at least! She might have been vaccinated with a gramophone needle! She never seemed to stop for breath; with a wonderful flow she went on and on, saying, "God will do this," and "God will do that, and after that, then God will show you this, reveal this to you," and she proceeded and she laid down the whole programme, the whole panorama of spiritual development. When at last I got a word in, I said: "Thank you, my dear lady, but how do you know God will do all that with me?" I shall never forget the way she opened her eyes wide and she said, as though it settled everything, "But that is how He led me!" She thought that settled it. My dear friends, if God leads you in a particular way, it seems pretty good evidence that He won't lead me that way, for God loves to make His work singular. Not two blades of grass are precisely alike under the microscope. God never stereotypes, we are all different. We are all different, but the wonder of the Gospel is this, that Jesus and His matchless grace just suits us all, no matter how different we are each from the other. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, but He is the God of all three.

Now there are just three other things I want to say to you briefly; they stand right out in this story and they impress me greatly. I said to myself, God is the God of Abraham—now what does that mean? I wonder what God meant by that? He says, throughout all generations you are to remember that, never forget I am Abraham's God. Who was Abraham, anyhow? And the answer seems so clear, for the great message of Abraham's life was the message of faith in God. A New Testament writer says that we are the children of Abraham; we are the true children of Abraham because we follow in the faith of our father Abraham. He blazed the trail for men and women who would trust God utterly. God is the God of Abraham; God honours faith. Faith is a practical thing, a working thing.

I wonder how I can illustrate it. You know, some people feel, and I think this is perhaps particularly true of young people today, they feel that everything must be subject to reason and analysis and logical proof and demonstration. Of course, that is just so much stupidity. After all, if I could explain everything that God did, well I should have to be God! If I knew perfectly all the processes of the Divine Mind, I should have to be equal with Him! The fact that I cannot follow God is implicit in the fact that I am a poor creature of clay and He is Almighty God. I cannot expect to understand everything God does, but I can believe God and I can trust God. Reason does not contradict faith, but faith goes far beyond reason. We believe then, though we may not always understand. I do not understand how a soul is born again when a poor sinner falls down, confesses his sins and claims the mercy of God purchased for him on Calvary's Cross, and says: "Oh, God, for Christ's sake, give me a new life, blot out all remembrance of my sins and make me Thy child; let me be born of the Holy Ghost." I say, when a man kneels down in sincerity and says: "Oh, God, for Christ's sake, save me, I believe Jesus is my Saviour." I do not know how God does it, but I know He does. The ten million witnesses down through the years rise to bear their testimony that God has answered such a prayer as that, but do not ask me how it is done, I do not know. I just believe God, and it works.

I heard a very good story of Marconi, the inventor of wireless. He said that in the early days of wireless, when he was experimenting, and in the days when crystal sets were getting about a bit, that two miners in South Wales who had been arguing, wrote to him to settle their dispute. They had a crystal set, a little box of tricks, and one of them with the

kind of assurance which men usually exhibit when they know very little, said: "Now I can tell you all about it, there is one bit here that is a perfect miracle and does all the work; it is that bit!" "Oh," said his friend, "that shows you know nothing whatever about it. I do not know much, but I know more than that. This bit here is vitally important, much more important, the thing would not work without this bit!" And so they argued, as men do who know very little, and became very heated until at last they said they would write to Marconi himself, explain their problem and let him settle it, and they did. They agreed that when they got the letter back they would not open it in public but just quite alone, so that it should be quite confidential. About a fortnight later one of them, with great excitement, said to his friend: "I have got it! I know—on the back of the envelope it says Marconi Company, London!" So, in a solemn procession, they walked down the garden to the tool shed, shut the door. They tore open the envelope; one of them found a little scrap of paper. He said: "My, he is a clever man, he has put the answer on a very little piece of paper—he has only written on one side of that! Let us see what he says." Then he read to his friend: "Do not worry so long as it works.—Marconi."

I say to you, my friends, I will bring you witnesses that God answers prayer, and I will bring you a long list of men and women who trust in God and God answers prayer. Do not worry—so long as it works. You are not supposed to know how God does it, but you are to believe that God will do it because His promise is behind it.

There is the God Who honours faith; He does that today. He is also the God of Isaac, and Isaac is the supreme example of sacrifice—a young man who laid himself on the altar. I wish I could show you that picture: it is of Mount Moriah; Abraham and his son Isaac are going up the mountain. Suddenly, the lad says: "Father, you have forgotten something." "Oh," says Abraham, "what have we forgotten?" "Why, father, we have the wood, we have the fire; we have no sacrifice, we have no offering." Abraham said (and probably said much more that he knew): "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for an offering." Then they got to the top of the mountain; the lad is pondering in himself. The father says: "Let us build the altar, boy, get it ready, build the altar!" And then I think something like this must have happened: the old man turned to the son and he said, "Isaac, do you remember asking me a question? Do you remember saying to me, we have the fire and wood but, father, we have no sacrifice?" "Yes, father." "And I said to you, God will provide Himself a lamb for an offering?" "Yes, father." "Well, my son, do you think I love you?" "Why, of course you love me, father. I do not think any father has ever loved a son as you love me!" "No, I think that is true, but listen my son, God has asked for you." "For me?" "For you." "What! for an offering? Do you mean to be the lamb, to die here on the altar?" "Yes, my son, I mean just that. You do not think it is easy for me to say that, do you? But I am sure, as sure as I am alive, my son, God has asked for you." "Father, if God wants me, God shall have me." And that young man laid himself on the altar. You read the story; there is no struggle, there is no argument, no strife. He is a type of the Lord Jesus. He laid himself on the altar. Sacrifice! Oh, I know it is only a dim, faint, shadow picture of the great Sacrifice on the little green hill outside the city wall where the Lamb of God gave Himself for you and for me, for the world of sinners! I know that, but there it is—sacrifice.

Let me say this to you this afternoon: God is the same today, He honours faith; He blesses sacrifice. Show me the man or woman who will make sacrifice for Jesus Christ and I will show you a God that will still honour him. But do not make any mistake about sacrifice. I remember one of my converts coming to me—he had only been converted about six months—he said to me: "Pastor, since I have been saved I have made great sacrifice to the Lord." I said: "You have?" He said: "Yes." I said:

"Well, now, what have you sacrificed to the Lord?" "I have sacrificed my pipe." I said: "What?" "My pipe," he said. "Your pipe! What does the Lord want with a stinking old thing like that? He does not smoke!" He thought that was sacrifice. It has nothing to do with sacrifice. It is like the prodigal coming home and saying: "Oh, the things I have sacrificed!" "What have you sacrificed?" "Well, my old rags!" That is no sacrifice, to take the rags off when you have a new garment! No, no, my friends, that is not sacrifice. I will show you sacrifice.

Tread softly, go reverently, look at the hill shaped like a skull with a gaunt Cross, and a figure sagging, limp upon the Cross, and the blood streaming down from the spiked hands and the pierced side, leaving a little red pool on the green sod beneath, the richest legacy the world has ever received.

Show me the man or woman in this house today who will sacrifice and I will show you a God Who still honours sacrifice. He is the God of Abraham, the God of faith, He is the God of Isaac, the God of Sacrifice, and He is the God of Jacob. That brings unending comfort to some of us. He is the God of Jacob. Poor old Jacob! He was not notable for his faith—a twister! He was not conspicuous for his sacrifice; he always seemed to be thinking of himself; he was a hard bargainer, was Jacob. Worse than that, he was a blunderer. He never seemed to be able to do anything right; other people did things right but he always did them wrong, everything he did seemed to go wrong. Once he thought he would marry. Well, you would have thought a fellow could manage that! He went to the wedding, married the girl and when he got home he lifted the veil—and he had married the wrong woman! That is the kind of thing he was doing all his life. Whatever he did he seemed to blunder. Just a failure. "Why, you say, Mr. Preacher, I think you have got me at last. I think I am one of those—I do not seem to get very far; I am always making mistakes; my best intentions all seem to go wrong; I am just a blunderer, things do not turn out right with me. Now, Mr. White, he gets everything he asks



Home from Church.

for, but I don't!" Let me tell you something I have discovered about Jacob and it has cheered me immensely. I fell to thinking of this man. It is true he was a supplanter; he got that name from the circumstances of his birth, in the moment of birth he climbed over, pulled himself forward by the heel of his twin brother, and all his life it was true of him. He made his way by climbing on top of somebody in order to be first. But I will tell you what I discovered about him. With all his mistakes, with all his faults, with all his blunders, with all his wickedness, he is a man who, when he discovered that he had failed and sinned, had grace enough to go back to God and start again. He had grace enough to confess he was wrong and begin again, and again and again you see this man going back and making another start. You even see him as an old man taking a long journey right back to Bethel to start all over again because he had blundered so badly, and I say God is a God Who blesses penitence. If there is a man or woman, a Christian worker, who says, "I spoiled my life very badly 20 years ago; I was going to be a great Christian; I was going to do great things for God and I fouled my chances, and it is all gone; I shall never be any use to God now, I have missed the way." I say, God is a God Who honours penitence. No matter what it is, let a man or woman go back to God and say, "Oh, God, I want to begin again; I am sorry I have spoiled things, but You can restore the years the locust hath eaten. You can give me back my chance, I am going to begin again." God is just the same today, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. God still honours faith, still honours sacrifice, still blesses true penitence. Amen.

EVENING MEETING.

Since the Afternoon and Evening General Reports were similar they have been combined and given in the account of the Afternoon Meeting.

MR. A. M. GILBERT:

It occurs to me that the word Abridge may only be a name to some of you. Abridge is a place six miles further along the road, where the London Transport on a fine day just pours crowds and crowds of people, but in spite of that it is a very rural place and those of us who live near it and work in it know how rural it can be. About 27 years ago Mr. White sent a band of open-air workers down to Abridge and as a result there is an Evangelical Free Church there and I happen to be one of the many workers there, and it falls to me to give a report this evening.

Seeing my time is limited I thought it wiser to take just two features of the work and say a word or two in respect of them only. A king is known by his crown. It is said that was known by the fact that with one sweep of his pencil he could make a perfect circle. The keeper of Strasbourg Cathedral organ sat listening to the music that was being played, and he knew that no-one else but Mendelssohn could play such music. Every Christian should be known by the fact that he knows how to yield the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.

For three months in every year we spend our time at Abridge teaching the young people the Scripture examination subject and chapters. This is how we spent the first three months of this year. We love the Book; we love to talk about it. You would be interested to see how keenly the young people also join in the studies. About a week or two ago we had the result of the Scripture Examination, and we are glad to say that every entrant passed. We did not get 100 marks but we were close runners-up for one of our girls had 98 marks, and we have been awarded two prizes. A very interesting fact is that the average marks of those who entered for the examination was 75 per cent. They have an interesting way in this district of awarding the two trophies—the Banner and Shield of Honour—for those who take the first two places. They take the highest percentage

of marks against the number of those who sit from each particular school. Well, I know 75 per cent. is exceptionally high, and I know that we sat an exceptionally large number of our scholars, and if in a week or two's time, Abridge does not bring the Banner or the Shield home, I shall be tremendously disappointed. I feel so confident about it, as I worked it out myself, that I am going to say to my young people, "Let's go to the Annual Meeting and see what we can bring home," and I think we shall be successful. They have done wonderfully well. (We obtained the Shield.)

The other feature I would like to talk about is also a young people's enterprise. Just over twelve months ago we started a Fellowship Meeting on Tuesday evenings. It was the result of an eight days' Mission, and I remember counting the numbers of those who attended at the first two or three meetings and it was somewhere in the region of 28, 27 and 29. I have counted it once or twice recently and they have numbered just over 20, so I think it has maintained itself wonderfully well. I wish you could be there. It is delightful to hear them stand up and give their little sermons, or take the Chair. I heard one of them say only last Tuesday, "Go on, Peter, go and do your bit!" That is the modern way they introduce each other to the Service. Well, Peter stood up and did his bit. This may be a little unusual and peculiar, but it is training men and women in the Service of the Kingdom of God, and we are looking forward to great possibilities from these young people who are giving their best to the Lord and to His Service.

Mr. HERBERT WHITE said: at the Evening Meeting:—

"It is always a pleasure to my wife and I to reach 'Our Day.' We have been labouring together now for all these years and we are still going strong and still Praising God. These Birthday parties are always a tremendous help to us.

"God has blessed this work now for over 51 years. *He has done it.* We, and all our helpers, are simply the channels through whom He works.

"Those who were present at this afternoon's meeting will agree that it was a wonderful time, and all realised the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, and one feels it will redound to the honour and glory of our dear Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"We thank our Chairman, Mr. James Stokes, and our guest speaker, Rev. Ronald Francis, Vicar of Christchurch, St. Albans, for so kindly coming, and feel sure he has brought a message from the Master.

"Also to our pianist and organist for their part in the service, and especially to our Staff at Woodford and Tiptree for all the work that they lovingly put in. I think we have got one of the best little nests of workers now.

"Then there is our friend Mr. Parker who is our Box Secretary and who does not spare himself in doing all he can to help, and many others behind the scenes, not forgetting the young friend over 70 who takes a keen interest in the work, sometimes using fork or spade or broom, teaches the boys table tennis and other games, takes them for swimming, in which he joins, and certainly knows what it means to join the R.F.A.

"Now we are more than pleased to see such a nice number of our old girls and boys present. Don't forget Christmas as your coming helps us in making it happier for the children still in the Home.

"The Report that we have listened to is very encouraging. We praise God for the experiences we have had during the past year, not only from the financial point of view, but also from special gifts in many ways.

"For instance, my son in charge of the farm took ill and had to go to hospital for a short time, the man employed also left, and we were in great need of help. Well, we prayed about this—it is hard to get men to-day, you know. We then had news of a Case tractor coming. This has been a tremendous help to us since.

"Even between the meetings to-day, a friend came and said, 'I have

brought a cooler—a cooling machine for your milk—I am taking it to Woodford and you can take it to Tiptree when you go.' Now that is a wonderful deliverance.

Many other answers will be found in the Diary.

"I gave the financial Report this afternoon so I need not repeat.

"Let me remind you of the Word 'If My people who are called by My Name will separate themselves and pray, then will I hear and heal their land.' If the people would come back to the old truths and have faith in God and obey Him, He would soon undertake and heal the land.

"Let us therefore keep on believing, praying, working and obeying Him so that His flag—the flag of His Faithfulness may be kept flying high! So may God bless all who have helped during the year, and may we praise Him for the great encouragement the Word of God gives us of stability in service.

"You know loyalty pleases the Lord and He wants us to be true in His service. Anybody can start things but one needs grace to continue.

"Paul says in Corinthians, 'Thanks be to God which giveth us the Victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for us much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.'

"Yes, *in faith*. Be steadfast. Do no bother about *your* faith. Let it be God's faith coming into your heart and life that cannot be moved.



Our Senior Girls.

Be sure it is steadfast. As Paul says in Colossians, 'If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel which ye have heard and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven whereof I, Paul, am made a Minister.'

"Yes, he exhorts us that God's gift of faith in us is steadfast which, if we possess this gift. He will keep us established and steadfast.

"*In trial*—unmovable. Trial won't affect us. We must be unmovable, always abounding in the work. Do not say 'This is my job'—put your back into it. Work as hard as you can, and harder still if you can 'go the other mile' in work always abounding, and then He gives us that encouragement 'Your work is in the Lord.' That makes all the difference. If it was not so we should be rather afraid to-day. We are facing difficulties but we thank God the work is His, it is in Him.

"*Your labour*, Paul says, 'is not in vain, we shall reap if we faint not.' There are many here to-day loving the Lord Jesus as a result of the work—quite a number of fathers and mothers who are teaching their children the things we taught them in the Gospel. And so the work is rolling on. You cannot stop it—it is in the Lord, it is not in vain, and here is a beautiful thought. Your triumph is sure, because thanks be to God who giveth us the victory. We can thank Him for the promise and the victory, even before it comes. It is His work. We are His. He is able to move mountains and to carry out His purpose and plan as we trust Him. So let us praise God for this and let us ask Him to use this work during the coming year in the way that He wants. I do feel now, more than I did when we started, that God is using this work to let people see that He is alive and that He wants us to enjoy up-to-date blessings."

THE REV. RONALD W. FRANCIS:

Well, boys and girls and Christian friends,

I take the boys and girls first because it is their day, and I am only sorry that I am standing behind them so that I cannot see their charming faces. Perhaps, if they do not mind getting a stiff neck, they will be able to look round occasionally. Well, now, it is lovely to be here with you tonight. I am fulfilling one of my long ambitions in being present at this meeting tonight. It must be about 15 years, I think, since I first visited your home in Woodford. I well remember Mr. White taking me round and how I saw Ebenezer and Hallelujah up over the doors, and since that time I have received every year a very gracious invitation from Mr. White to be present at one of these gatherings but I have never been able to get along. Somehow I have always had a wedding, or something like that—not my own—my own will come one day perhaps, but someone else's wedding; something like that has happened every year, but at last I am able to be here and I do thank you all for most kindly inviting me to your birthday party.

You know, I am glad to be here for another reason—dressed like this—because I remember when I was a little boy I often used to be asked to birthday parties and I loved the birthday parties and I loved the things we had to eat there but I always dreaded them for one reason—I had a perfectly awful white sailor suit with a starched collar, and I always had to wear that wretched sailor suit when I went to a party. Somehow it took all the gloss off it because I had to go in that frightful suit. One year, I remember, I was absolutely disgusted with my dear mother, for what do you think she did? She put the creases in the front! What sailor ever had creases in the front, I ask you? Well, I am here tonight without my sailor suit—that is an out-and-out joy—a birthday party and no sailor suit!

Well, now, we have heard lots of wonderful things already tonight about the grand work that God has been doing during yet another year and we give all the praise to Him tonight; we give Him all the thanks for what He has done for these boys and girls through His servants, and