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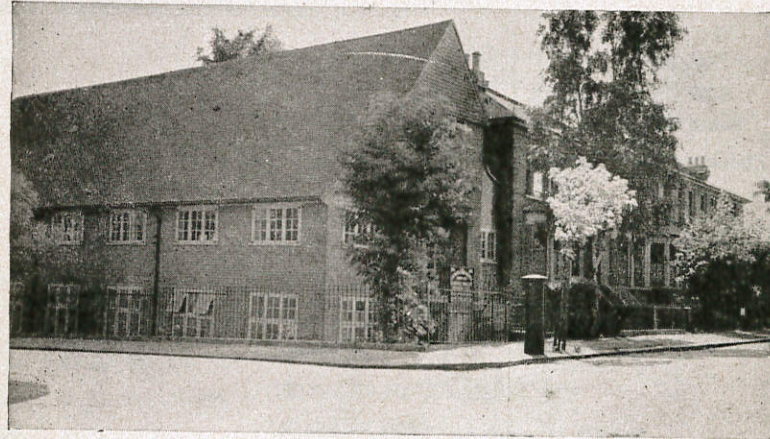
LINKS

SPRING 1954

CHILDREN'S
HOME AND
MISSION

1954

The Children's Home Links



WOODFORD

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong,
and of a good courage; be not afraid,
neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy
God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Joshua 1. v.9.

THE CHILDREN'S FOUNDED

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HOME AND MISSION 1899

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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

This year, our invitation to you for our 54th Annual Gatherings on 8th May next comes with an "extra edition" of 'LINKS.' We propose to send out two Reports each year thus keeping you in closer touch with the day to day happenings of the work here at Woodford and Abridge and giving you more up-to-date news of God's gracious dealings with this His Family.

Once again, because of His Faithfulness, it is our privilege and joy to tell you how wonderfully He has provided, blessed and guided, since last we published a report. Because, spiritually, financially, in the meeting of staff needs and in other many and varied ways God has blessed, we just try to 'count our blessings, name them one by one'.

The selling of our Tiptree property (excluding the bungalow and field attached) has now been finally settled and the money received, £4,850 less agents and solicitors fees, has been 'deposited' in the Bank. We are now waiting upon God for His guidance as to how we shall 'improve' the buildings here at Woodford, for we do most definitely feel that it is God's will that we should remain and develop here. Now that the Council has upheld the local Tenants' Association appeal against a previous decision to zone a certain area in Woodford, including the C.H. & M. property, for Industrial purposes, we feel that this is a further strong indication and confirmation that we should continue the work in Crescent Road. Apart from the fact that there has been considerable building development around us, in many other ways we have distinct advantages. We are surrounded by a strong evangelical witness from local Churches; the day schools are near and efficient; the bus and train services are frequent; our neighbours are friendly and co-operative; the large Hall is extremely useful not only for our own amenities, but for other evangelical activities. We have 'grown up' here—settled into our surroundings, and I do feel sincerely that this is a very big factor to consider. Please join us in prayer for His guidance in this matter of improvement—the World judges mainly from the material angle and in this matter I do feel most strongly that we should present to a largely sceptical world (as far as the reality and power of God is concerned) that our God is able to meet every need and is bountiful in ALL His supplies. A high standard must be maintained, not only on the spiritual plane

but also in the general standard of the working of the home with all the necessary facilities for the smooth and efficient running of the domestic work.

It is difficult to always follow His Mind, but of a surety He knows what He intends to do in, with and through this His Work, so we praise Him for the privilege of doing His bidding day by day, for as we do this then we are assured that the final result must be to His Glory and the extension of His Kingdom.

I must draw your attention too, to the wonderfully clear 'Bill of Health' (as father would have said) which has been our portion throughout the winter months. How grateful we are for this!

Spiritually, both here and at Abridge, we have experienced much blessing. Two of our Abridge young folk (middle teens) have followed the Master in Baptism and are making a very clear and definite stand for Him in a High School and at work. Others are very keen in all the activities of the Chapel. We are praying and working to get others under the sound of the Gospel.

Several of the youngsters in our family circle here have made the great decision to take the Lord Jesus at His word and offer to Him their young lives, that He may take them, break them, melt them, mould them and fill them, to become useful citizens in this our beloved land and in the service of the King of Kings. We praise God for the fact that many older ones are growing in grace, that in their offices and so on, they are witnessing a good confession which is having a very definite effect upon the lives of their fellows.

There is of course so much more which could be written, but I will save further news until we meet on the Annual Day. Incidentally, I must apologise that we haven't many pictures of the children in this edition of 'Links', but we have been very unfortunate in the efforts we have made to get good snaps during the winter months.

Do pray most earnestly for our Annual Gatherings—make every effort to be with us then, that together, we whom God has called to serve Him in the work amongst the children of the Home here, whether by full time service, part time help, in prayer or gift, may rejoice and give thanks unitedly unto our Great and Loving God.

God bless you every one,

Sincerely yours in Him,

VICTOR J. WHITE.

OPEN DAY — 18th JULY, 1953

The bell clanged through the buildings earlier than usual today for there is still much to do in preparation for receiving our visitors. The children still have to be fed, washed and clothed in the midst of the hubbub of activity. It was a bright sunny morning but the forecast was "thunderly showers".

Once again the children showed real affection for their home in working hard to have it presentable by 3 o'clock. Some had invited their relatives and friends, some their Sunday School Teachers, and others their Day School Teachers.

Shortly before 3 p.m. we were breathless but ready and the first visitors were received in the main hall, around which were set chairs for them to use as they chatted together. Along one side were tables exhibiting various handicrafts; a Young Sowers' League table showing prizes and 'seeds' etc., a large collection of photographs old and new. There was also a varied selection of drawings by art club members above which was the colour portrait of Queen Elizabeth 6' x 4' painted for Coronation Decorations.

After a fine rendering of two choral pieces by staff and seniors, visitors were escorted round the home. The pride of the children as they took their own friends round, was a joy to watch.

Torrential rain had drenched everything just after dinner, but a good breeze and hot sun dried the playground in time for the outdoor programme to commence, which for the afternoon was informal cricket.

The "tea ready" message, half an hour earlier than planned, was answered with eagerness and soon the dining hall was full. It was like a game of 'sardines' to pack in, but we did—and THEN—down came torrential rain again. How timely! The little girls of Monty Dorm, dressed in white caps and aprons, took their share in handing round the refreshments to guests through a maze of small gaps in the chairs. After tea the rain had ceased and the guests were piloted outside for the evening events. The ground was still wet, but seats were arranged round the playground section.

The curtain raiser was a game of passball with two very mixed teams. A rough game this, but the only casualty obtained several fractured joints. There was no consternation at this however, since they were the wooden ones of a chair!

The next item was fire drill. The fire bell was ably and furiously rung by our artist friend John Styman, but nothing else seemed to be happening. Then it was noticed that the little boys who should have been dropped from the third storey window (by a special escape rope) were standing below, also waiting. They were hustled upstairs and emerged one by one, feeling very proud

of themselves when on terra firma once again. Last of all, down came their "Mum" to be greeted with a squirt from a hose, but a kind friend handed an umbrella out of a first floor window for protection!

A display of country dancing was given by some of the Senior Girls under the leadership of Mrs. Halford, and then following, P.T. by the boys under Mr. Brian Davis. Two unique acts closed this display—Frank, one of the boys, did a forward dive and roll over several boys through a paper covered hoop and Brian did a similar act through a blazing hoop.

Then came the time honoured battle—tug-o-war. The deacons of George Lane who supported us almost en bloc pulled their way to victory over a C.H. & M. team. In a children's "pull", wee Arthur was 'anchor'. The anchor dragged somewhat to the detriment of his trousers!

With the co-operation of our guests the entire 300 visitors and children were transferred to the main hall for our "family prayers". Our family was augmented not only by friends of the Home and the children, but by "old" members of the Home who joined in this special day. We do thank God for the way in which the weather did not interfere with our outdoor programme. It truly was wonderful how, we believe in answer to prayer, all arrangements were carried through.

We made this occasion one when Mr. James Stokes, Secretary to our Trustees, unveiled a picture in memory of Mr. Herbert William White, beloved founder of the Home. Mr. Stokes was careful to make clear the object of the hanging of such a picture so that no idea of vain hero worship be entertained by any, but rather that the picture should remind us that Mr. White credited all to God, and his memory inspired us to follow along that unselfish way hand-in-hand with the same omnipotent God.

Mr. Cook, Young People's Secretary of the Scripture Gift Mission, presented a flannelgraph talk on Y.S.L. This organisation was brought into focus because of its importance in the spiritual life of the family circle and the occasion of the Y.S.L. birthday. A short demonstration by 6 children showed the need and appreciation of the 'seeds' (gospel tracts in the native languages) in the fields to which they are being sent. The door of China has closed, the doors of Burma and India are still open—but for how long? Communism is stretching out her arms trying to grasp these countries, and then the doors will be closed to the gospel.

The quartette, Irene, Margaret, Pat and Dawn, sang "I waited for the Lord" from Mendlesohn's 'Hymn of Praise' after which Mr. Harold Ling, gave an interesting object lesson on spiritual things from an outsize box of matches. We are like a match in many ways. The match box is a symbol of the Lord Jesus Christ and only as we come into direct contact with him do we

become spiritually alight. As one match can light another: so can we pass on the "light of the gospel" to others.

After a hymn and prayer by Rev. H. J. L. Hunter our somewhat-longer-than-usual family prayers came to an end. About five local councillors had come to look round and stayed. Some of them did not even know that our family existed in Woodford! A compliment we feel.

Aftermath. In Mr. Stokes' address he stressed Mr. Herbert White's dogged persistence in getting the message of the gospel over to unwilling listeners. One of his remarks led to unexpected results. Our little Harriet persisted in talking after being told twice to stop and to go to sleep. "But" she objected "Mr. Stokes said that we shouldn't stop once we've started".

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF THE C.H. & M.

By An Outsider

Through quite unexpected circumstances at the beginning of the year, but all in His plan, I found myself with nowhere to sleep. I couldn't be worried, but just rested in the Lord Jesus for I knew His hand was in this situation. He said, "Rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him". Friends to whom I went (with packed case) felt they should contact Mrs. Victor White of the Children's Home and Mission—just a name to me although I had lived the earlier years of my life nearby. This I did, and found that the C.H. & M. could put me up and I arrived about 9.30 p.m. I was taken to meet the lass with whom I was to share a room, one of the 'old' girls, now married. She was staying because her husband in the services had been posted temporarily to the North of England. What a testimony that an old girl should choose to come back, and obviously that the Home had meant, and still was 'home' to her. My weekend extended to a week—a wonderful week. I met several of the boys and girls who were now out at work and older ones in the Home, and what I noticed most was their genuine love for their home and their 'parents', with whom they were always having a joke, and getting their legs pulled, but to whom they always bore the greatest respect. I longed to see the younger children and God was preparing the way. I was asked if I would like to take the under 8's for some handwork one evening each week and it was also suggested that I should put them to bed afterwards so that the respective staff could be punctual for P.T.

I met the children—not goody-goodies, not repressed, but in fact normal, yes noisy, boisterous, keen and enthusiastic children, but on the point that really mattered—obedient. Imagine trying to settle eleven boisterous boys all at once, it seemed pandemonium but soon each had chosen an old Christmas or birthday card and was cutting it out to remake into a new birthday card. Each was stuck on to drawing paper and nearly every one was sent to their 'mother'. At once I saw they knew what it was to be loved and this was their way of saying 'thank you', to one who had prayed and worked so hard for each one of them. When they were tucked-up in bed—and what a struggle it was to get them there, they tried, like every other boy to prolong the process—we had a chapter of the serial story they were having night by night, and how they loved it. This was followed by two choruses chosen by themselves and prayer, with suggestions from the children.

Half term again found me round in Crescent Road and on the Monday I offered to help with the little ones so that their 'mothers' could take part in the choir for the Greater London Crusade at the Harringay Arena. We had prayers, this time sitting in our places, with a short Psalm read to us. After tea we went up to the hall above the dining room, a long spacious hall with a platform at one end. The senior school children had spent the day rehearsing "The Stolen Candlesticks", a five act play which they had written the week before. The scenery was excellent, also their costumes—ALL done by themselves **but** with the co-operation of willing hands that spared a few minutes to find the props.

SCENE 1. The sitting room of a young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Spike. They may have to sell their precious candlesticks to have money for bacon, (the paper said the price was going up again!!). After tea prepared by the wife they go to bed.

SCENE 2. The burglar comes and after an amusing time looking at everything and pouring tea down himself, Mr. Spikes comes in and he is made to stand against the wall, whilst the burglar goes through all the drawers and takes the candlesticks. In the meanwhile Mrs. Spikes, brave wife, goes for the police. The policeman arrives in a colossal pair of boots and takes off the burglar.

SCENE 3. Court. Scenery excellent. The judge put matter forward. The jury decide on six months imprisonment to the annoyance of Mr. Spikes who feels it should be a year.

SCENE 4. Prison. The prisoner is seen playing an improvised game of bowls with an amusing policeman bringing in bread and water.

SCENE 5. The prisoner comes back to apologise. Judge, jury and policeman all come in and have tea to make a happy finale.

Between each scene we had the perfect comedian in one of the boys who provided a necessary diversion.

After tea on Tuesday—prayers. Group by group we brought our chairs round Mr. White and sitting there quietly joined in the Family Prayers. They just knew he expected them to come and sit quietly and they did. We had the Junior Scripture Union portion, a few comments on it and prayer, especially remembering the London Crusade. Then the hall rang again from every corner with the laughter of the boys and girls playing their various games before bed.

Pray for each member of the staff, that they may have patience, understanding and above all, that they may fulfil their aims to show each child the love of the Lord Jesus Christ and to give them that homely happiness of a normal home. Praise God it was the homeliness—as I hope you see too—that impressed me most. Don't forget that where there is a keen work for God, Satan is always ready to come and get in that very place. "For we are not ignorant of his devices," 2 Cor. 2 v. 11. Will you pray for them?



1936



1953



← THEN AND NOW →

"I think it is about time I got down to writing to you. We do hope all is going well with you all. One thing you may be sure of is that my wife and I continue to pray for you all in that wonderful yet heavy responsible work you continue to do for the Lord. I dread even to think what might have happened to me if the Lord in His loving and gracious way had not taken hold of me and placed me in the care of your Home. To think that I was saved in such a loving atmosphere and now seventeen years after I'm happily married to a loving Christian wife and also have a bonny little son. We hope to come and see you in December. Till then my wife, baby and I send our affectionate love to you all". An "Old Boy".

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR FROM "OLD BOYS AND GIRLS"

Thank you very much for writing to me. I did come to Woodford during the War with my sister, but you had all gone away. I was greatly upset when I read that Mr. White had gone to be with the Lord. Please accept my deepest sympathy; what a gathering there is going to be when we all meet our Lord. Oh the peace my Saviour gives. My husband has been ill for two years so I go out to work, we have two boys aged 15 and 11 years. God has been very good to us. He has supplied all our needs and we have proved that Jesus is alive. These two years have been a great strain and I have often told my family how "Pa White" often prayed for food and clothes for us children and his faith was so great that his prayers were answered while he was still speaking.

I will try to come and see you soon if I may. May the dear Lord bless you all in your great work. We are praying for you. It is with real pleasure that I sign myself affectionately as one of your "Old girls".

* * *

Thank you for your letter. I love to hear from you and to read all about the other boys and girls who have left. It always brings back such a lot of memories and it must bring you some happiness to see those old ones settled down and bringing up their own children. I pray daily to God that He will help me to teach my little girl the Right Way, as I want nothing more than for her to follow Him. We are looking forward to and praying for, the forthcoming Annual Meetings as they are always such a good tonic to us. So, till next time will say Good-night and God bless you all. Love. (An "Old girl").

* * *

I feel I must write to you and thank you very much for all you have done for my two brothers, sister and myself during the past ten years. I could never be too grateful for the way you sent us into the world and I am sure my father could never repay you. I think my brother will do well in the Navy. He was very proud to tell me that he has won his Y.S.L. Testament. He will miss you all very much I am sure, because he was only five years old when he entered the C.H. & M. Now all four of us are young men and women. I hope to be able to come and see you all soon and shall pray that the work of the C.H. & M. may go on to be a help to more children in the years to come. Thank you very much for all you have done for us. God bless you all. Love. (An "Old Girl").

I am writing to thank you for a very nice week-end spiritually and physically. I have kept a place for you in my prayers I would value your prayers. An "Old Boy".

* * *

Thank you for invitation to the Annual. I would love to have come, but have just come out of hospital. I hope you all have a happy day together. I remember we always did. Thank you for everything you did for me, With love. An "Old Girl".

* * *

From another—I am sorry it is such a long time since I wrote, but believe me the Children's Home is never far from my thoughts. To-night as I was giving my little girl her cod liver oil I remembered how Mr. White would stand and watch while we had ours when we were children. I know I hated cod liver oil. I wonder if Mr. White really liked it as he made out, for I never saw him take any! Love to you all and a very Happy Christmas like we always had. Love from an "Old Girl".

* * *

Once again may we wish you all a very Happy New Year. My thoughts were with you over Xmas and I'm sure, as also during my years with you, you had a wonderful time. Owing to my husband's work with its unsettled hours we are not able to visit you often now that Tiptree is closed, but hope to see you at Woodford and I am sure you will welcome us even if it is not an "open day" or "reunion". I spent a very pleasant time reading my Links. I always do so when I am alone. It brings me so close to you. Its as though I'm at Woodford once again. I especially enjoyed the Rev. G. King's address because it was at the East London Tabernacle I made my first acquaintance with the C.M. & M. when I was only eight, nearly 20 years ago, seven of which I spent so happily with you. Once again may I say THANK YOU. My little girl now five, started Sunday School a few months back. She does so enjoy it. When I hear her singing little hymns I feel so happy. May God be with you all during yet another year. Please find enclosed a small gift from an "Old Girl" and her husband and family.

* * *

Again from an old girl and her husband. We are sorry we shall not be able to be with you at Christmas, but we shall be thinking of you all and enclosed just a wee mite, wishing you all a very happy time. With our united love.

You must think me very ungrateful not writing to you sooner, but you know what a scatter brain I am. Thank you very much for Links. I read it all through and it made me realise lots of things I never did before. I am sorry I could not be at the Reunion, but you know what its like in my type of job, but I like it very much and I'm very happy here. I always think of you and thank you for everything. With love from an "Old Girl".

* * *

FROM AUSTRALIA

Thank you so much for letter, Links and nice snaps. We shall treasure that very much. Hope you had a nice Xmas and that the Reunion went off well. Did many of the old ones turn up? We would love to have joined you all. No doubt you missed dear Pa. It is so nice to know the work is going on and no doubt it keeps you all busy. May God give you all the strength to carry on. We always enjoy reading the Links and imagine we are home again. Have sent you a few snaps. Our love to you all. God bless. From your "Old Boy and Girl".

* * *

Thank you for sending me Links. God has been very good to you all during the year in supplying all your needs. I was interested to read about the Annual Meeting and how you are all carrying on the good work which Pa White started, also the good time you had at Christmas, which brought back memories of the good times we had together. Sorry we cannot be with you on the 25th, but we have our own children and grandchildren with us. I was pleased to read in the Links that some of the children have taken the Lord as their Saviour. With best wishes and remember me to all I know. With much love to you all. Still an "Old Girl"—My husband joins me in good wishes.

* * *

Just a few lines to let you know how things are going on out here, but first I would like to say thank you very much for your hospitality and kindness to me while I was on leave. I appreciate it very much. Soon after I returned I went sick and have been in hospital for a week, but am back at work again. Thank you again for all you did for me. God bless you. Love. From one of our lads in the Army, in Germany.

* * *

Here I am at last with a few lines just to let you know I have survived my two weeks in the Army. I am most relieved to know that I have not to attend any more camps for a whole year.

As far as I am concerned it would not have mattered if that one was the last, however as Mr. White used to say "All good things come to an end." I also presume he meant bad things as well. (Then comes a description of life in the tents). I expect you are all busy preparing for the Annual. I hope to see you on Saturday when I trust we shall all have a wonderful time and I am sure the thoughts of many of us will turn to the one who will not be with us in body, but in Spirit. So till then God bless you both—yours as always. An "Old Boy".

* * *

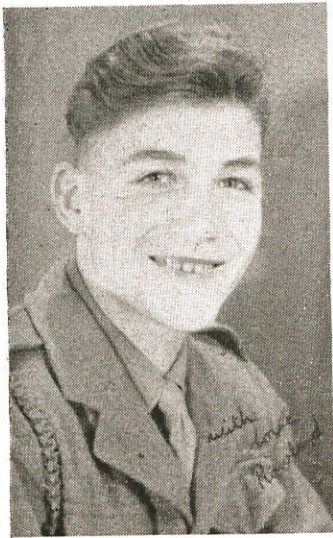
It was very nice to see you all again on Tuesday and I sometimes wish I was there again with you. I shall always remember my stay with you as one of the happiest and I am truly grateful to you for all you have done for me. I hope you have a happy and memorable time on Saturday and a blessing at the Y.S.L. Birthday Meeting. All for now. God bless you all. An "Old Girl".

* * *

Sorry I could not manage a visit this Christmas as family ties bind so Whenever I feel 'blue' I always look at a lovely picture in one of your Links of the "Home" in Crescent Road with the trees in full bloom and I experience a great calm as I imagine the Meeting Room which used to be in the front whilst I was with you, and the hymns and choruses run through my mind. Nothing can take away that wonderful teaching that we had at the "Home". I feel so happy about that when I hear and see the terrible everyday things that happen even around this small part of the world. My brother and his two daughters are doing well, and I will try to persuade them to come to Woodford on the 8th. Please remember me to all the members of your family. I for one shall never forget, "South Woodford". My sincere regards.—An "Old Girl".

* * *

I am most disappointed to say I shall be unable to come to see you on Saturday. I know I shall be missing a treat but we cannot always have our own way, with a husband and family. I know you will understand the difficulties. Thanks so much for Links. I keep reading it through and re-living that Wonderful Day and taking my mind back to the past. I love the photos of you all I shall be thinking of you all and my memories will be on all those many other Christmas times I have spent with you. My family will all be here on Boxing Day. It will be nice having them all together. My love to you and your family and best wishes for a Happy New Year.—An "Old Girl".



Came to us in 1945—now serving
in H.M. Forces in Germany, with
the Regimental Band of the 8th
Kings Royal Irish Hussars.



Just left the "Family Circle" to
take up a post as 'nanny' in
Kensington, London.



Four of
"Our Family"



Latest School
Photographs.



Extracts from our diary

MAY, 1953—DECEMBER, 1953

May

1st

A new year stretches before us. For 53 years God has provided for this large family, and we rely on Him only to supply all our needs through this coming year. £25 from Hutton, 12/- from Wimborne and £133 17s. 9d. from the Margaret Preston Charitable Trust received today. What an encouraging start! This latter amount comes from a Trust inaugurated by a Bank Manager under whom our late Founder, Mr. Herbert White, worked, before his call to sever all financial ties and rely entirely upon God to supply all needs.

This afternoon we held a special Trustees Meeting to consider the future of the Tiptree Property. It was unanimously agreed to sell most of this property. We have sought God's guidance particularly on this matter for a long time, and Mr. Herbert White himself foresaw that it might be necessary to take this step. We value greatly all the support given by the Trustees in this and all details of the work.

2nd Received by post today—£1 from Woodford Green, £1 from Southampton and 10/- from "M.J." A local team of Life Boys used our top hall for a display to which our children were invited.

3rd The children attended the morning service at the Baptist Church. Some people think we are "old fashioned" to expect our children to sit through a morning service? Why? Our little ones would be indignant to be treated as babies and sent out half way through! Isn't sitting still as much part of a child's training as anything else? Our children derive pleasure from attending God's house—"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22. 6.

After dinner we held our own primary in the staff room whilst the rest of the children went to outside Sunday Schools and Bible Classes.

After tea all the children are washed; all who are 13 and over go out to Church, when possible to our little Church at Abridge, whilst the little ones have their own "prayers" before going to bed. Sometimes they ask for a Chain Prayer and it is inspiring to hear the child-like faith of these children as they talk to their Heavenly Father Who is a very real Friend to them.

4th Much hard work is put into planning and preparing for the Annual Meetings. The children learn all their hymns

by heart in order to be able to give maximum attention to the one leading. We had a practise and were pleased at the effort made.

£1 received from Gidea Park with a letter—"I think it is very wonderful how the work has grown from such small beginnings—I am sure you must miss your dear father (how God used him). I pray that He may use you even more and that He may fill your heart with a great love for the children and their spiritual welfare for I am quite sure your great desire is that they may be saved. God bless you in the work you have undertaken for Him".

5th 10/- received from Kilburn, £1 from Northwood and several payments from children's parents. We expect that parents should contribute as much as they are able towards the maintenance of their children, although the amounts received do not anywhere near reach the sum required for them.

From someone who knows just what children like—7-lbs. lemonade powder.

In the afternoon post, 5/- came in from Wokingham; 10/- from Dartford and £1 from Falkland Hall Sunday School.

6th £6 received from Whitstable and £2 from Colchester. The staff and older children are busy making our home spick and span for Annual Day. Whilst we do not make a practise of showing people round on this day, there are folk who travel a long distance and they do like to take the opportunity of seeing the buildings they are so interested in.

7th £3 received from Palmers Green and £5 from East Rudham. We have our staff prayers at 9 o'clock each morning—we read God's Word—our text book for life; praise Him for all needs supplied and pray for His guidance and blessing on all our work for the day.

After tea all the staff and children went to the Woodford Baptist Church for the final practise of the Annual Day items. They are all keen to make "Our Day" a success.

Mr. Parker, our Box Secretary sent a cheque for £37 10s. 0d. We do appreciate all the loving work put in by Mr. Parker. Expenses in connection with the boxes, postage, stationery are met by him and of course, much time is spent for the Master in this way.

8th A parcel of 86 hand-hemmed handkerchiefs arrived. What a practical person must have sent these! Can you think of a way of keeping handkerchiefs attached to children?

In the post today was £2 from Highgate; £1 1s. 0d. from Woodford; 10/- from Childs Hill; 10/- from Loughton; £1 from Lytham St. Annes; £1 from Glasgow; 10/- from Sutton; 10/- from Palmers Green and 10/- from Bromley. Several of these gifts were from people who could not get along to our Annual Meetings.

We popped along to the Church to make sure all arrangements were in hand for "Our Day". We have to make sure there are enough hymn books, chairs, cups and saucers etc., etc. We can't do this until the children are safely tucked up in bed!

- 9th "OUR DAY" dawns. Every child from the youngest to the oldest is tingling with excitement. "What can I do". "Please can I help you"—they are never so willing to help as on "Our Day" or on other special occasions. We have an early dinner—cold meat, potatoes and salad followed by a nice substantial and popular suet pudding with custard. All the children get washed and put their best clothes on, the girls wearing new summer dresses and hair ribbons. The boys had new ties for the occasion. They made their way in good time to be at the Church ready for their part.

You have already read the report of the 53rd Annual Gatherings so we will not comment further here, except to say that we were encouraged by the presence of so many interested and praying friends. May God bless you all and encourage you in your own spiritual lives.

Friends who came from Bishopstoke Independent Free Church brought a parcel containing 12 pairs socks; 7 pairs gloves, 1 pullover and some secondhand clothes. A large parcel of sweets was brought by some friends from Bedford.

- 10th Sunday again—God's special day for worship.

- 11th 15/6d. arrived today from the 13th Marylebone Brownie Pack; £1 from Marylebone; 10/- from "R"; £1 from Kings Head Hall, Chingford; 10/- from Woodford Baptist Church; 10/- Anon; £5 from one of our old girls and her husband; £1 10s. 0d. from Bedford Tabernacle; £50 from Buntingford; £5 from Wingrave; £1 from Woodford; 5/- from Walthamstow; 5/- from Enfield and £10 from Ruislip.

We praise God for prompting these servants of His in so many different places to send to us in this generous way.

We have just had time to check the money handed in at the meetings on Saturday. We do not pass round a collecting basket but there are some available at the doors

so that people wishing to help may do so — by request. This year we counted £62 11s. 0d.

Here is an extract from one of many letters received referring to "Our Day". "I must not delay in writing to let you know how much we enjoyed your Anniversary Services and I know that there was much blessing as a result of all your efforts. I must also congratulate all those who so wonderfully trained the children. I know a little of the continued patience and time it takes and they were all really outstanding. Yours is a great work and we commend you lovingly to God for a double portion of His Wisdom and Love".

- 12th £2 2s. 0d. from a neighbour and £1 1s. 0d. from Sandy. Two children popped along to see Mr. Stephen Smith, our Dentist after school. Most Tuesdays Mr. Smith helps us by checking teeth and we admire his patience!

- 13th On the second Wednesday in each month we have a Prayer Meeting at 2.45 p.m. to which any interested friends are welcome. We are able then to chat about some of the more intimate details of the work—we look back on God's provision over the past month and bring any special problems to Him in prayer. A thank you to all who support us on the **second Wednesday each month**. £1 received from Axminster.

- 14th Frinton, £1 1s. 0d.; Woodford Green £1. One of our staff spoke at the Abridge Women's Meeting.

- 15th Anonymous gift of £2 10s. 0d. received today. Was invited to address the Tottenham Branch of the Toc H. The Members were **very** interested to hear of the way God undertakes and supplies the needs of our family.

- 16th Saturday—children home all day. A few went out with relatives and friends. We are now making an extra effort to improve the look of our ground. One of our own lads now on the staff, has built a very nice bicycle shed, hence no more need for bicycles decorating all parts of the grounds. He also completely stripped and made good our greenhouse. Others are busy improving what is known as "The Bank" and preparing our own special outdoor decorations for the Coronation. These included two very big posters—one of the Bible with the appropriate quotation and one of the Orb.

Received 15/- from Enfield; £1 from "M"; 8/6d. from "R.A.B."; £1 from a very old friend at Southborough; £1 from one of the children's grandmothers; £2 from Lancing; £22 10s. 0d. from the Box Secretary.

17th Sunday again. In between the services we encourage the children to read books, play quiet appropriate games and write letters. The latter is a "headache" for children and staff! If we succeed in getting the letter written it is often mislaid before it reaches the office. The children all love receiving letters and parcels, but what an ordeal for them to have to write saying "thank you".

18th Monday. Reveille for the children 6.45, for the staff earlier. All the children try to make their own beds. Formerly we made the smaller children's beds, but they like to be independent and do their own, so we just help tactfully.

Gifts from Hounslow £2 and from Woodford £1.

19th Evening activities for the children are varied including physical training, art, music, gardening, stamp collecting, Y.S.L., games of all descriptions. We have met outside teams for netball, football, cricket, rounders, table tennis and draughts.

20th Invited to speak at the Ray Lodge Women's Meeting. From Loughton, gift of £1 received. From Leyton 15/10d.

21st When our children reach school leaving age, like others, they have to decide what sort of work they wish to pursue. Some have relatives or friends to go to, some are anxious to join the Cadets in a branch of the armed services, others stay on with us here and go out to work. One boy today went to Corford for an interview with regard to enlisting in the R.A.F.

22nd Received £5 from the Woodford Town Football Club. (Our boys are very keen supporters of the local Club). An unexpected gift!

The children broke up for their Whitsun and Coronation Holiday. They came home each with a very suitable souvenir—a beautifully illustrated booklet tracing the visits of Royalty to our own County of Essex. They had all enjoyed very interesting and exciting Coronation events at their schools.

23rd A very hot weekend. Gardening was again foremost on the programme.

24th The younger children had their evening prayers sitting on the grass in the garden. They sung lustily hoping to enlist the interest of the neighbours and to their delight they saw one or two popping their heads out of the windows listening.

25th Bank Holiday. Some of the staff and senior children went swimming before breakfast. A nearby open air swimming pool caters for free bathing from 7—9 each morning. They met one of our medical officers and a church deacon with his family. I didn't realise there were so many "Poor Christians"—was the comment by one, as we spotted a goodly number of local Christian friends enjoying a swim.

26th From "S.A.E.", 10/- and Huntingdon £1. More early morning swimming. This continued throughout the week. (One of our Senior lads kept on throughout the summer and the winter, only giving up when the ice was too thick to break. He then had a cold bath instead!)

27th All the children helped to decorate the playground for the Coronation Party to be given by our neighbours from Waverley Road. They were all anxious to do their little bit and by evening we were very proud of our efforts.

28th Visited Epping Congregational Church Women's Meeting. Mrs. Halford took a Country Dancing practise with the Senior Girls.

From Minsterworth we received a gift of £1; from a lady who for many years was on the staff here £2; Epping, £2. 0s. 9d.; Walthamstow £1. 1s. 0.

29th Received today: Anon—5 s.h. suits; 2 shirts; collars and ties; Bermondsey Medical Mission, £1 12s. 0d; N.W.8, £1 and s.h. costume, pinafore, gloves, scarf and beret; Box Secretary, £9. 13s. 0.

The Annual Trustees Meeting was held here. Gave a brief report of the year's work, and presented a draft financial statement.

30th The children of the Junior Sunday School went for their summer outing to Southend. We are grateful to a friend who anonymously made a gift so that the children could personally pay their expenses as other children do.

31st Conducted special Anniversary Services at Broughton. Most of the children attended a Drum Head Coronation Service on Woodford Green—a memorable occasion as thousands of Woodford Citizens joined with their Member of Parliament, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, the Lord Mayor and other notable personalities to mark their intention to pray for our young Queen as she takes her solemn vows on Tuesday as our Monarch.

June
1st

Quite freely, a local firm installed two of the latest Television Sets so that all our children could follow the Coronation Day celebration and service.

Received a very large coronation tin of biscuits from a girl guide in Singapore (Huntley and Palmers—made in England). A somewhat long journey to get to us!

- 2nd One of the boys left home at 6 o'clock to join other children along the Embankment. He was one of the representatives from his school.

We prepared the children's dinner in picnic form so that we could watch the coronation programme through without a break. We were surprised that even the youngest children did not get bored. What a privilege to be the first generation to see the intimacy of the coronation as we did on television—to feel we were sharing in it. May our Nation be awakened to the fact that our greatness has been built on a solid foundation—God and the Bible. How we in our generation have fallen away.

Friends from Waverley Road prepared a grand tea for their children and ours. The games we hoped to have in the playground had to be abandoned on account of the weather, but our large hall was used instead and all thoroughly enjoyed the fun and games which followed. Our neighbours asked for another evening like it, though at first they possibly couldn't visualise how we could enjoy ourselves in the way that we did.

- 3rd Children make the most of the last day of the holiday. Staff getting children's clothes ready for school.

- 4th Children return to school. Staff enjoy the quiet. The male staff spent a day at Tiptree sorting out furniture etc., in readiness for transfer to Woodford prior to selling the property. A hard day's work. 4 Summer dresses arrived from Kings Langley and a parcel of s.h. clothes from Leigh.

- 5th Letter from Hornchurch enclosing 10/-. Cricket becomes very popular during the summer evenings—girls as well as boys join in. Our neighbours are very tolerant and generally return lost balls. A ball over in some one else's garden means you are out so it doesn't really pay to score in this way.

- 6th Invited to the Crescent Road Coronation Party to receive a gift of £5. As we had already been invited to the Waverley Road party they decided to make this donation to the Funds instead.

Eight of our children were invited to a party at Walthamstow and on their return home, the following comments were passed by a gentlemen who drove them home:—

"I always had rather a horror of Homes, but your children wanted to come home—they were pleased to come home! I can't understand it—they behave so well too!" We had the opportunity of explaining a little of how God undertakes for us and of the fact that our children are just like other children only their family is a little larger.

- 7th The children were invited to sing some of their Annual pieces at the morning Service—they delighted to do this.

Our Abridge Sunday School celebrated its 27th birthday. A very happy and blessed time—we supported strongly from here. We do praise God for this chapel and its influence in the village. Please pray.

- 8th Another school week. There is a hum of activity from 7—8.45 in the morning before the children are off. We have just short prayers with them before they leave for school. When they have all gone off, we meet for our staff prayers. Many of the children have come from very sad and difficult surroundings, and these previous influences often cause added difficulties which there would not be in a normal home. However, when a child is beyond our human influence, he is never beyond the Father's influence and we pray believing that God will answer—and He does.

Received 10/- from Stratford.

- 9th We received more tokens this morning from our Father's loving hand through His servants—Anon. to us but not to God 10/-; Anstey, £5; Ley Street Gospel Hall, £2; St. Columb, £1. Invited to speak at a women's meeting held in the home of one of the members. In many places christians are inviting outsiders to their homes where they hear the Gospel, whereas they would not usually go inside a church.

- 10th Our Monthly Prayer Meeting. We are much encouraged by some very aged friends who come along month by month. Their great experience in the Christian life is a guide to us.

Our children have been invited to do a missionary demonstration at the Annual Meeting of the Young Sowers' League to be held at the Regent Hall, London on 13th June. Mr. Cook, the Young People's Secretary came along to see the final rehearsal.

A letter from Barking — "The residents of Boundary Road were disappointed that some of your children could not attend our coronation party and sincerely hope that they enjoyed their own. We should be very pleased if you would accept the enclosed £2 for your funds".

11th No hot water today. A new tank required in the main kitchen—also hot water system being extended to boys' wash basins. Workmen arrived sharp to time. Quite a problem cooking and washing up for over 60 when the kitchen is out of action. The staff managed very well.

Gifts received as follows:—Ilford 5/- (these friends have sent regularly for many years—what an example of perseverance and consistency—May God bless and reward them); Chingford Congregational Church £1. 1s. 0d.; Woodford Green, £1.

12th From Stanway, 10/-. One or two children went to the Eastern Optical Co., Ltd., Stratford, to have their eyes re-tested. We are grateful for the patience of these friends in supervising carefully the children's eyesight, and for mending (very often) their spectacles.

13th A day of events. Had a royal send-off for our annual holiday. Mr. Gilbert took a group to the London Y.S.L. Rally, including those taking part in the demonstration. Afterwards he conducted the children round London to see the decorations.

14th God's day is here again. I expect sometimes our children wish they could join the throng of pleasure goers to the seaside as they see the continuous stream of cars travelling along the Southend Road, but we know we should be failing in our stewardship to God if we did not teach our children to follow Him and obey His laws. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy".

15th On Monday evenings groups of children enjoy "Quizz Club". This covers a variety of subjects. Gifts from Warlingham, £1. 1s. 0d.; "V.C.L." £1; Box Secretary, £7 10s. 0d.

16th A friend voluntarily comes on Tuesday evenings to take P.T. with the boys. Another friend from the local branch of the Round Table spent an hour cutting the boys' hair. We are grateful to all who give of their time and talents to help the children in so many varied and necessary ways.

17th Two of the children had medical examinations at school. The staff, senior boys and girls enjoy a Bible Study led by Mr. Gilbert at 8.30 each Wednesday evening. At present we are going book by book right through the Bible.

18th Bath night for some of the boys—a necessary pastime at least once a week.

Gift of £1 1s. 0d. from Highams Park.

20th Received £2 2s. 0d. from Scripture Gift Mission to cover expenses for London Rally.

Wedding bells rang for Janet, one of our 'old' girls today. Pat her friend went to represent our family and our thoughts were in Sevenoaks with her and our prayers that God will bless and guide her throughout her married life.

22nd Received gift of 10/- and some loaves of bread from Walthamstow.

Mr. Gilbert took a number of the older school children for a ramble through Epping Forest. A lover of the forest himself he enthuses the children too. They were very concerned to see our friend rolling down a bank into a ditch, but highly amused when they found he wasn't hurt!

23rd From a neighbour:—17 pictures, 2 panes glass, 1 dining table, 1 Family Bible and 2 Aspidistras!

25th Some of the children went to the Woodford Green, United Free Church to receive their scripture examination awards.

26th £5 from Waltham Abbey—gift for personal use.

27th Woodford Town Football Club gave some of the children programmes for their annual fete.

Arrived home safely from the Isle of Wight looking very sun burnt—a very happy and profitable holiday.

Received a legacy of £50.

28th Conducted the morning service at Grove Road Evangelical Free Church.

29th Workmen again invaded the main kitchen, this time to redecorate. Preparing of meals, washing up etc. had to be rearranged, but the children didn't starve. We were pleased when the kitchen was in its new dress of shining maroon and grey.

Received from two local firms, large box of toys, and box of cut bread, sandwiches, cakes, rolls and biscuits. Also a gift of £20 from Whitstable.

30th Gift of £1 from Woodford friend. One of our girls who left us a few months previously called to see us. Some of our greatest joys are the visits of those who have once been intimately with us in the family circle.

July
1st

Interviewed a young lady who had previously written of her desire to offer her services full time to the work. The

call first came to her as she quite unexpectedly attended the Annual Meetings for the first time. We had been praying for staff for some time—God seemed a long time answering our prayers, but we praise Him for sending His servant along in His own time.

- 2nd Had a chat with some Christian friends engaged in similar work to ours, but under a Local Authority. It was helpful to exchange experiences.
From Singapore we received a 2-lb. Box of Cadburys chocolates.

The boys played a cricket match at Ashton Playing Fields.

- 3rd Received a load of strawberries from Tiptree. Sat in the garden hoddling them ready for jam. The children ate as many as they could for tea.

Mrs. Day, nee Orme, called to see us with her husband. Before the war she used to take our girls for P.T. She volunteered to do the same again now and we were very pleased.

Thundersley Gospel Hall sent £1.

- 4th Mrs. White senior went off with her youngest daughter and son-in-law for a holiday. She is still able to help us in many ways and we shall miss her these next few days. Her experience and wonderful faith in God are a daily inspiration to us.

- 5th Services conducted by members of staff at Manford Way, Hainault and Avenue Hall.

- 6th Welcome to the Rev. Sammy Cooke who came to spend a few days here at Woodford. We met in India during the war. Since then Sammy has been to college, and served several years on the Mission Field in Burma with his wife. We had a wonderful time of fellowship with Sammy—the children were thrilled to hear of his jungle experiences. On one occasion when crossing a river over a narrow plank with bicycle and luggage he dropped his case containing bible and notes in the river. He called to a native standing on the river bank to hold his bike while he dived into the river and brought up his case from the bottom of the river bed without damage, but contents in need of careful drying.

Received £1 from Barking.

- 7th Hainault Girl Covenanters sent £1 1s. 0d.

- 8th Open Day at the Churchfields Primary School. We popped round to see all our children in their class rooms, examined their school books making appropriate comments.

- 9th Finchley—£5. Some of the boys from a neighbouring Sunday School came to play table tennis.

- 10th Received from East Rudham over 300-lbs. Gooseberries—89-lbs. made into jam, 200-lbs. bottled.

- 11th A parcel left at the door containing a week's supply of bacon.

Filled in Food Office returns. With the gradual release of food commodities from rationing the office work in this respect is lessening.

From the 5th Woodford Brownies, £3; £5 from Barking.

- 12th Services conducted at Ilford and Woodford Green. Received from Buckhurst Hill High School—2 dozen ice creams and a **load** of bread.

- 13th From readers of "The Christian" £5 17s. 6d. From Cricklewood "It seems impossible that a year has passed since I last wrote to you. I am very unwell and writing is difficult. I am 82—please accept enclosed £5 with my best wishes for your work. God bless you".

- 14th Gift in memory of "Lydia Lawrence", £1 1s. 0d.

A group of life boys came to do a good turn and helped to weed our garden.

- 15th Hectic preparations for our first Open Day on Saturday. I have never before seen the grounds and buildings looking so spick and span as they did this week. Many worked overtime!

Conducted meetings this week at South Chingford, and Woodford Green.

Received £2 from Pinner.

- 16th From East Rudham another consignment of gooseberries. More eating, jam making and bottling.

- 17th Another week's supply bacon handed in anonymously at the door. This continued for many months. Received from Ilford, £10 and from Wanstead £2. Also parcels from Bishopstoke Working Party containing 8 print dresses with knickers to match and 2 silk dresses and from Harpenden containing 1 knitted scarf, 1 pixie hat, 2 berets, 3 pairs socks and 5 pairs gloves.

- 18th Our first Open Day. Many people have expressed their desire to see the inside of our Home so we planned this special day, when by invitation mostly local friends visited Crescent Road. A separate account is given on page as adapted from our Log Book.

If you would like an invitation to an Open Day, please let us know—our premises are not big enough to extend an open invitation to everybody, but we hope from year to year to extend a welcome to different interested friends.

19th The services of the quartette which sung on the Open Day were requested for the morning service at the Baptist Church. They gave a rendering of "I waited for the Lord". This further performance was helpfully fine and clear. Conducted Evening Service at Latchet Hall.

20th Mr. and Mrs. Olney, from the Staff, commenced their Annual Holiday. Gifts as follows were received today—Alexander Gospel Hall, Westcliff, £2; Woodford Green, £3; Boxes, £8 16s. 11d.; Elmsleigh Hall Gospel Hall Girls' Bible Class, £1; Harrow, 10/-; Shoeburyness Boot Fund, £3; "P", 17/1d. "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

Mr. Gilbert took the Quizz Club for another ramble in Epping Forest.

Harriet and Bryan won school awards for "General Merit and Good Character".

21st From Higher Brixham received £2. One of the lads still in the Home came from Brixham and these friends have always followed his welfare, particularly spiritually, with keen interest.

22nd Leaders of the Westminster Chapel Dorcas Guild arrived this afternoon with cases out of which the following beautifully handmade garments were unpacked:—

- 12 Girls' Vests,
- 20 Cardigans,
- 1 Angora Cardigan,
- 1 Knitted Dress,
- 1 Knitted Two piece.
- 25 Sleeveless Pullovers,
- 1 Pair Knickers with straps,
- 10 Jumpers,
- 19 Pairs Socks,
- 1 Pair Gloves,
- 5 Nightdresses (for 8 year old),
- 8 Nightdresses (for 12 years old),
- 6 Nightdresses (adult size),
- 4 Small Dresses,
- 1 Dirndl Skirt,
- 9 Pairs Knickers,
- 6 Aprons,
- 2 Petticoats,
- 1 Dress (small),
- 1 Shirt (small).

These gifts delighted especially those who are responsible for clothing the children. Praise is worthy for patience and hours of loving work put in to make such a splendid gift possible.

Other money gifts received too—Chingford £2; Highgate £15, Beechcroft Road Sunday School, Surbiton, £4; 2 loads of furniture were removed from Tiptree to Woodford.

23rd Another parcel of bacon left at front door.

24th Children break up for summer holidays. One of our girls who is resident at a Special School joined us for the holiday. Handed in at the door—1953 Tiger Tims Annual—just what Michael wanted for his birthday tomorrow! Happy Birthday to our Ted—17 today. Celebration feast and fund. The quiet climax was a game of "Pit" which (to our shame) apparently disturbed the neighbours.

25th Letter from Walthamstow High School "The girls of this school held a Coronation Fete in May in aid of charity and as a result we have pleasure in enclosing a cheque for £11 10s. 0d. as a contribution for your work".

Apparently various suggestions were made by the girls as to who should receive this gift and they had an open debate. Our supporters evidently carried most weight! Cricket is the popular game and persisted during evenings amongst all ages throughout the holiday.

The "Aunties" entertained all our girls in Clayhall Park. We had a lovely tea and plenty of games. Four of the younger girls managed to fall into the paddling pool! An "old" girl and boy spent the day with us.

26th Conducted services at Woodbridge, near Ipswich.

27th From Woodbridge gifts of £2 and £5. We have family prayers with the children in the mornings when they are on holiday and again in the evening. It is then that little by little the children are being taught the Word of God—they learn to talk to their Heavenly Father in prayer. Though in some cases those who should love them most have failed them, yet they learn that their Father in Heaven is always with them and if they trust in Him He will guide them throughout their lives.

28th The current craze—Dressing up. Three forms and some old curtains and blankets made a fine stage for the antics of Bo-peep, Father Christmas, Red Riding Hood and Humpty Dumpty.

Pile upon pile of sandwiches were prepared for tomorrow's outing. Gifts from Epping, £1 and Boscombe, £2.

29th A day out in Hainault Forest. Some walked, some biked and some went in style in our Van.

30th Gifts received as follows: Latimer Hall Sunday School, £2; Gloucester, 10/-; 11th South Essex Boys Brigade, £5. Mrs. White took a group of younger children to take part in singing and recitation at the Stratford Central Baptist Women's Meeting.

In the evening the Seniors were invited to join country dancing in a country garden at Havering.

31 Rain, rain, more rain; nevertheless some went swimming before breakfast. To keep the little children amused games were organised for them in the top hall.

N.B. "Do not feel we can arrange any large outings as funds are low"—making this a special matter for prayer, knowing He will hear and supply in His own time and way. Our confidence is in Him!

Gift from Stratford Central Baptist Women's Meeting, £1 3s. 6d.

August

1st A few of the children went off for a week or two weeks holiday with relatives. Others went out for a few hours and the rest had a picnic tea in Elmhurst Gardens just round the corner.

2nd Both the car, and the van were used to convey children to the services at Abridge today. A local friend called and suggested taking out the Members of her Bible Class to the sea for a day. We gladly accepted this as an answer to prayer regarding children's outings.

3rd Bank Holiday. The van was packed for a pre-breakfast trip to the swimming pool. The water was none too warm. Eleven girls went out for a hike. One arrived home with 7 blisters (poor sole).

Sheila, one of the 'old' girls—a baptised believer—spent the day with us.

In the evening a Scavenger Hunt was arranged for the older children. They were sent off in teams of four to obtain 21 'things'—samples as follows:—6d. Bus Ticket; Time of last collection at S. Woodford Post Office; Black Beetle; 3 Wild flowers; Bus ticket with yesterday's date; Cost of B.P. Petrol. An hour later the first team arrived back very breathless having obtained the 21 answers or objects.

4th From Chingford, 5/-; Box Secretary, £1 16s. 0d.; Southend, 15/-. An uneventful day, but with a hectic evening; Two of the Staff laid a "Wool Trail". They dropped

small pieces of wool as they traversed through road, field and forest. The hounds as they followed obtained two points for every green piece found (these are more difficult to see) and 1 point for every bright coloured piece.

There was an atmosphere of feverish excitement throughout the whole chase time. Before the hounds started there was much "straining at the bit" and when they found that the Post Office was the **starting point** of the trail there was such an unleashing of human 'horse-power' as has been rarely seen. Such was the pace and spirit that one lad ran himself to a standstill and a helpful driver brought him back in his car.

5th St. Albans, £1.

A day by Connaught Waters for the younger girls and boys. The van was used to transport some all, or part of the way.

6th Visited Tiptree for the final settlement there. Whilst away there came a phone call from an unknown friend asking "Do you have a regular supply of vegetables? This was a somewhat startling question—we nearly said "Yes, thank you very much" and then remembered that we wouldn't be receiving any more vegetables from Tiptree. "Well—no" was the reply. "Very good" said the caller—"I am a market gardener and sometimes have a surplus, I shall be pleased to send you fresh vegetables from time to time. Expect a load this week". We were very encouraged by this another of the many indications of God's approval on the closing down of the farm.

7th Amongst the post was an envelope, incorrectly addressed but obviously for us, 1d. to pay, insufficiently stamped; and containing ten one pound notes. From Southend was a cheque £10, covenant gift, and from Grove Road Evangelical Free Church, £1. 1s. 0d.

A lorry pulled up outside the office. Remarked—"Here's the promised vegetables"—"No, they'll just drop off two or three boxes for us". But sure enough—it was all ours—17 boxes beans; 20 boxes greens and 18 boxes marrows.

However could we use all those marrows? Well we found a good recipe for "lemon cheese" made with marrow. Looked and tasted rather like lemon curd when finished and which the children devoured with relish, not knowing the marrow was incorporated in it.

8th An early morning swim for some. Getting rather chilly—some dropping off. A family picnic tea in Elmhurst Gardens and after tea rounders until 8 p.m.

- 9th The 12th anniversary of our wedding day. Other years this day had slipped by almost unnoticed, due usually to being separated because of holiday arrangements, but this year we were together and enjoyed a united celebration with the staff and older members of the "family". Memories were recounted and hymn singing round the piano marked the end of a happy day.
- 10th Early morning swimming again. In the afternoon netball, football and rounders. The Quizz Club visited St. Mary's Parish Church.
In the post: from Chingford, £3 3s. 0d. (covenant); Southampton, £1 10s. 0d.; Colchester, £2 10s. 0d.; U.S.A., £50.
- 11th Our van to the fore again. The little boys off to Southend. A really delightful sunny day.
- 12th Received a letter from some friends in Southend arranging an outing for us—they paying for the coach, providing tea and £1 for incidental expenses. How thoughtful in every detail. 5th September was the day fixed. Monthly prayer meeting. This hasn't before been held in August as we have usually been away with the children. The closing of Tiptree necessitated a stay-at-home holiday.
- 13th An anonymous phone call from someone who had booked a coach for a day out on 17th August. God has His ways of providing outings for the children—you see He does answer prayers. He could have sent money—but He chose another way.
Mrs. V. White at the wheel of the van for the first time took the little girls out to the sea for the day. Surprisingly, they arrived home safely!
- 14th With nets of all sorts the River Roding was invaded for its livestock. Some of the less venturesome obtained goldfish from a rag man in exchange for rags!
The van took the second class Scripture Examination winners to Westcliff. Mr. Herbert White always used to arrange a special treat for children successful in the Scripture Examination.
- 15th A supply of bacon left at the door. This continued at intervals for many months. Needless to say gifts of this kind do help us financially and we are very grateful to this anonymous practical friend who is able and willing to help like this.
- 16th A quiet Sunday.

- 17th Out for the day in the anonymously booked coach! How children do enjoy the seaside and the delight to the staff is that they keep clean! Two of the staff nearly got left behind when they went in search of toffee apples for some of the children.
- 18th Every day—morning and evening we have our family prayers. Even if we go out all day—we never miss. To Him alone we owe all our fun, and enjoyment and the children are quietly influenced day by day as they accept God's loving provision in unexpected ways. It is more difficult to set aside a separate time regularly for staff prayers when all the children are at home, but sometimes an hour will be snatched after they are all in bed.
Praise God for £1 from Woodford; and £3 3s. 0d. from St. Neots; today.
- 19th We received 10/- from Ilford and £2 12s. 0d. from Leyton. Also a sack of greens from Norfolk.
- 20th Some of the older ones went, as proposed, to Margate with one of their Bible Classes leaders.
Our dear stalwart friend Mr. Crowhurst, who organises games every Thursday evening, winter and summer, took some of the boys to Connaught Waters.
- 21st Mischief afoot. The boys' pyjamas were neatly machined up. This of course led to other practical jokes which always develop towards the end of a long holiday.
'Monopoly' is a favourite game in the evening for the Seniors now that we can't play cricket for long owing to the shorter evenings.
- 22nd Ted and Charlie arrived back from holiday. We thought two niggers were coming in! They went to a C.E. Holiday Guest House and very much enjoyed the christian fellowship. They had taken some very delightful and enlightening photos.
- 23rd Away for the weekend at Biggin Hill. For the family at Woodford, this Sunday was as usual. We try to bring little added pleasures into the Sunday routine—always jam and cake for tea. They love a salad for dinner in the summer. Mr. Crowhurst finds special jigsaws and suitable books from the toy store. Sometimes on a very hot day, after dinner, they drift into the open air to bask in the sun and then the neighbours are educated in chorus singing. Who knows what message may reach a lonely soul this way?

- 24th Some of the older children rambled over to Chingford. Gift of £1 received from Biggin Hill.
- 25th Parcel of very useful clothes received from Harpenden.
- 26th Another parcel received containing 4 girls dresses and 2 skirts. Just what we needed. Also a gift of £5 from Poulner Baptist Church and £2 2s. 0d. from Valley Mission Biggin Hill.
- 27th A group of Abridge workers met together to chat over suggested activities for the winter months. We from Woodford felt we could support more now that we hadn't the responsibility of Tiptree and it was decided that in October we should start taking our primary children down there with us, enabling our staff to help, by using the van and car. Also we should operate our Y.S.L. meeting there on a Wednesday, taking with us as many members from this end as the vehicles could hold.
- 28th Verbatim report from early morning swimmers:—
Time 07.00 hours. Weather—Fine but cool. Place: Local Swimming pool. Personalities: Mr. White and Senior school boys.
Reaction: Numbing sensation on entering water. Ceaseless, effortless chattering of teeth on return journey.
Result: After hot porridge, tea and toast—feeling of well being and satisfaction at having braved the elements.
The eight children having secured honours and first class certificates in the scripture exam had their special outing. After dinner they went off to Southend—this time with the object of staying late to see the lights. A lonely drive back as all the children fell asleep.
- 29th Rain—rain—rain. All day—but we made the best of it. An encouraging gift of £4 came from the Silvertown Lighthouse Pentecostal Church.
- 30th One of the staff conducted the Avenue Hall Evening Service.
- 31st A large group of children went out with Mr. Gilbert to collect blackberries for a pudding. A large group returned by instalments full of blackberries and tired out. A few berries did arrive home safely in a tin and saw the inside of a pudding.

September

- 1st The last week of the school holiday. The children have had a happy time, and we praise God for their good

health which goes so much towards full holiday enjoyment.

Today we received the following gifts:—5/- from "C"; £40 from Southend and £12 anonymously marked "part of my tithe". We are touched by the generosity of all who send at their Heavenly Father's bidding and we realise afresh our responsibility as His stewards in using all this money wisely.

- 2nd The second anniversary of the commencement of Mr. and Mrs. Olney in the work. Their coming was such a delight particularly to Mr. Herbert White, who during the month of August, 1951 had been praying very especially that God would send additional help to us. He, like us, was thinking that God would send a lady to help with the children, but God in His loving kindness and wisdom planned ahead. This was Mr. White's last winter with us—more work and responsibility was to fall on other shoulders so He sent Mr. Olney as well as Mrs. Olney to meet a need which we did not know was to be.
- 3rd Received £6 from Leigh to cover cost of the coach for next Friday's outing. Another group of girls went to Margate.
- 4th The looked-forward to outing to Leigh. Whilst we were basking in the sun on the beach friends were away back in Leigh preparing a scrumptious tea for us. This was a lovely climax to the last outing of the summer holidays and after doing justice to all that was prepared we went to a nearby park to enjoy an enthusiastic game of rounders. We were surprised at the way some of the younger children joined in the game and stayed in it right to the bitter end. We had a royal "send off" as the coach left Leigh. Our children always like to flatter the driver and their song "For he's a jolly good driver" always starts when we arrive back in Crescent Road.
- 5th At some outrageous hour near the dawn the Twins left their warm beds to start on a day of travel to the lake district for their holiday. They have worked very hard during the year and we all wished them a time of renewed blessing and fellowship as they had this break.
- 6th Older children went to Abridge this evening in the van to join in the evening service.
- 7th The last day of the long summer holidays. Staff busy preparing clothes in readiness for school.

We collected our first harvest gifts from Tottenham with a gift also of £6 12s. 0d. and the second from Meddrum S.S.

Barry and Raymond cycled to Trafalgar Square—their home coming was greeted with disbelieving cries of “Yah—prove it”!

Some of the little boys went swimming. They were taken by van but made their own way home. A high tea for all with jelly and ice cream—to soften the blow, (school tomorrow) no doubt!

- 8th The silence has been indeed golden! All our cherubs including the youngest twins, were at school. But what a send-off. Many were going to the usual two schools, but this term some of the youngest had to be introduced to a brand new school and some had to be taken to the bus stop for a ride to Chingford pending the opening of their new Junior School. Such sorting out for the Headmistress to do. Some 250 children to be packed in 4 double decker buses. However the class teachers were found for our 13 and the correct buses discovered.

Pamela started happily at Leyton County High School. She passed the entrance examination away back in March last. We received a gift of 1/3 from Meldrum S.S.

- 9th Our Monthly Prayer Meeting—to us the months slip by quickly and we all find ourselves saying “What—so soon!” Mr. Crick gave us a very helpful word today and we had much to praise God for as we looked back on His wonderful provision for the holiday in such unexpected ways. For the health of the children and His care over them. Many are the dangers around, but He watches over them.

Today we received £5 from Manford Way Fellowship; £1 from Thundersley Gospel Hall S.S. and 6 dozen glasses from Theydon Bois.

- 10th Schooling has slipped into routine again. The children have settled down. Today at staff prayers we gave praise for gifts of £1 from Woodford Green and £3 from one who formerly was on the staff. 39 folk from the Coleman Gospel Hall Meeting, Southend, came to look round the home this afternoon. We prefer to show folk round the buildings when the children are at school.

These friends did have the opportunity of meeting the children when they came home from school. A gift of £5 3s. 6d. was very kindly left by these friends.

- 11th Heard at the tea table—“My apple’s got warts on!” Another voice “Look—mine’s got a birth-mark!”

Commencement of a gigantic task at Abridge. The ‘canteen’ (given this name during the war when used as forces canteen) now in a state of delapidation obviously needed complete overhauling and redecorating if to be used for any purpose in the future. In between other essential work at Woodford two of the male staff found days to spend at Abridge, going down at 8 o’clock in the morning and arriving back sometimes at 10 o’clock in the evening.

- 12th A letter today from Singapore “Please accept this small gift of £6 from the children of Bethesda S.S. We are glad to have fellowship with you once more and we hope the money will help in a small way in the good work you are doing. We pray that as you minister to the physical needs of these children, so they may be given the Word of God and find eternal rest and salvation in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”. Some friends from the Post Office Christian Association popped in to see us and joined in our family prayers. They left behind a gift of £6 15s. 0d.

The Abridge Sunday School had a very good day at Walton-on-Naze.

- 13th A day of harvest services. We received gifts from Rise Park Hall, Romford.

- 14th A rousing cheer—Mr. Olney arrives back from driving test without the “L” plates! There were harvests to collect from Ley Street Hall, Ilford, Lifeboat Mission, Leytonstone and Grove Road, E.F.C., so Mr. Olney started his solo work at the wheel—a great help. 10/- today from Brandon Mission Sunday School and 10/- from Hornchurch.

- 15th The children love their harvest teas. They race home from school on Mondays and Tuesdays to enjoy the grapes and peaches which have to be eaten early in the week, and also to devour the “harvest fruit salads” which are just delicious. Harvest stew is another favourite when every kind of vegetable goes into the saucepan to produce the luscious flavour. Harvests came today from Eldon Road Baptist Church and from Waltham Cross Baptist Church.

25 women from the Elim Pentecostal Church at Chelmsford came to look round. We were busy entertaining them for tea when Mrs. V. White had to leave to go to hospital with one of our small boys who had injured himself at school. He had been doing what he was told not to do—climbing trees in school grounds to obtain conkers! A

nasty wound on his hand which took a long time to heal.

God sent £2 today from Worthing; £1 from Carlisle; £2 2s. 0d. from Spruce Hill Baptist Church and £4. 5s. 0d. from Chelmsford Elim Church.

16th Gifts in today included 18 pairs hand knitted gloves from Royston; a dress, two blouses and hat from Manor Park and £1 10s. 0d from Ley Street Hall S.S.

18th Extract from letter from Stevenage "We are sorry that it is not possible to send our harvest produce this year as no transport is available, but please accept the enclosed £4 with our united Christian love."

19th A trip to Tiptree to retrieve our last crop of potatoes from the ground ready for transport to Woodford.

A coach load of friends from Elmsleigh Gospel Hall came to see us. They looked round the home, played games and had tea with the children. They joined us in special family prayers. The children excelled in reciting from memory verses of scripture—much to the amazement of the coach driver who rather enjoyed being entertained by us.

20th Harvests from Folkestone Road Hall and Salway Hall arrived.

21st Harvests from:—Hook E.F.C., Waltham Abbey Baptist Ch., Upshire Ch., Claybury Park Baptist Ch., Shrubland Road Cong. Ch., Leytonstone Methodist Ch., Broadley Common Cong. Ch., Kenton E.F.C., Hope Baptist Chapel and Epping Cong. Ch. Our van was loaded and unloaded at top speed collecting some of these harvests, but some were brought by friends to the door. The sorting of all this harvest produce is a full time job. All packet goods are carefully put away in the food store, perishable fruit is sent to the kitchen for immediate use, flowers decorate the buildings from top to bottom and vegetables have to be thoroughly sorted. Other gifts—£2 from "L.J.B." £2. 10s. 0d. from Elmsleigh (anon), £2 from Eden Baptist Chapel.

The children hurried home from school in order to wash and change into best clothes to go to the Kentish Town Mission Harvest Service. This is an annual traditional event. K.T.M. friends hire a coach for us and we have a grand tea on arrival. After this the children are expected to be the choir—rather difficult after a heavy meal, but their singing is always appreciated. Do our children enjoy K.T.M.—a thousand times yes! They all look forward to this event every year.

22nd Harvests today from: Salem Baptist Ch., Keswick Hall; Willesden Hall, Tottenham Baptist Ch. Chingford Baptist Ch. and £1 1s. 0d. from Napier Road S.S. £4 from N.7, £1 from Epping; £1 2s. 6d. from Epping Cong. Ch., 10/- from Broadley Common S.S., and £1 12s. 6d. from Tottenham Baptist S.S.

23rd 'Phoebe' arrived. No, not a new girl, but an ancient but usable Austin 14 saloon. (Looks like a taxi). The main attraction was the rasping horn. 'Phoebe' was given us to do with as we liked. We decided to dismantle all useful parts, viz. tyres, battery, seats etc. and leave the remainder for the children to play with on the playground. It has brought extreme pleasure to old and young. Not realising at first the reason for such a "strange gift", we now do—many of the parts have been so useful for the van and car!

Harvests from Tyttenhanger Free Church and Shern Hall Road Methodist Church. Ashley Hall Working Party sent:—

12 pairs pyjamas, 7 nightdresses, 4 pairs gloves, 7 jumpers, 1 scarf, 4 pullovers, 1 coat and 2 cardigans. All these beautifully home made and a delight to the staff who are responsible for dealing with the childrens' clothes. 10/- came from Enfield and £1 from Waltham Abbey Baptist Church.

24th £2 2s. 0d. from a local National Savings Branch and harvest luxuries from Gascoigne Road School, Barking. Family prayers have a 'ring' about them at this time of the year—we can truly sing "All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above".

25th Harvest today from Chapel End Infants School, Walthamstow.

26th Most of the children went to Southend for the day on an outing arranged by the local branch of the Round Table. It was very peaceful for the few who remained behind, not to rest, but to work.

We were extra pleased to receive the harvest goods from Tiptree Congregational Church today. We shall always remember the Tiptree folk and it is good to have fellowship with them in this way.

27th A somewhat busy day as various members of the staff had been invited to conduct harvest services at several Sunday Schools. Harvests arrived from Stratford Railway Mission, Latchett Hall, Highway Hall and East London Tab: S/S.

28th Another coach outing after school hours, this time to share in the harvest service of the friends at Stockwell Baptist Church. The coach journey through London, along the embankment by the Houses of Parliament, round by 'Beg Ben' and over the river, is always a thrill. We value greatly the prayer support of our Stockwell friends. We pray for them too. Harvests from: West Ham Lane Baptist Church; Ebenezer Chapel, Ilford, New Barnet Gospel Hall, Out and Out Mission, Bow; Ingrave Hall, Romford; Brook Street Chapel, Tottenham; Paddington Chapel; Woodberry Down Baptist Church; and last, but not least, the good things we brought back from Stockwell with us.

Gifts were recorded from Woodford, £3; Salway Hall S.S. £4 4s. 0d. and East London Tab S.S. 2/-.

29th We praised God today for the following: £5 17s. 6d. from Stockwell Baptist Church, £5 from Pembroke Road United Mission, 10/- from Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ilford, £1 from Enfield, £1 8s. 6d. from Spruce Hill Baptist Church.

Harvests from: Spruce Hill Baptist Church, Chase Cross Baptist Mission, Collier Row, Matthews Memorial Church, Walthamstow, Broadmead S.S., Harold Park Baptist Church.

30th Harvests from: Ridley Hall Forest Gate; Cheshunt and Woodford Baptist Church.

October

1st From Pitsea a letter as follows: "I have enclosed 10/- towards the work of the home. This was set aside by my wife whom the Lord was pleased to call Home on August 1st after a long illness and in compliance with her wish I am sending it on to you. I trust it will be useful and may the Lord's richest blessing rest upon the work at the Home". Gifts also arrived from Chase Cross Baptist Church £1 10s. 0d. and Kentish Town Mission, £5 10s. 0. A special prayer meeting was held at Abridge to seek the Lord's blessing and guidance for the winter session.

2nd £1 from 'Michael's Missionary Garden' and £5 10s. 0d. from Chailey Undenominational Mission. A very large harvest mainly of tinned and bottled foods came from

Salisbury Road School, Romford. These preserved goods are most valuable and at the time of going to print are still in process of being used. In the evening the workers of the Abridge Sunday School, together with helpers from Woodford met for a Teachers Prayer and Business Meeting.

3rd 2 gallons milk from Woodford. Also from time to time, amount varying according to supply, a bucket of milk is given from friends at Chigwell. This milk is always a useful extra.

4th Harvest services at Abridge. Country folk who labour on the land always support harvest services well, and we from Woodford helped to augment the congregation too.

5th Gifts from Blackheath £1 and from Yelling Baptist Church £9 17s. 6d.

6th We collected a toy electric railway from Walthamstow and a harvest was brought from East Ham. In the post was £3 10s. 0d. from Epping and £2 from Mountnessing Congregational Church.

Mr. John Styman started the new session of art classes. A few seniors went to Abridge for the harvest supper. Always a happy time.

7th A red letter day for us. After many months of prayer for additional staff, Miss Martin came complete with her furniture to become one of us. A drawing room sing song with the seniors in the evening helped to initiate her into the family circle, (outcome of interview on 1st July).

Today harvests came from Higham Hill Infants School, High Cross Mission and Gt. Munden Mission. Also, £1 from Birmingham and £4 from St. Albans (anon).

8th A visitation campaign commenced at Abridge. We had decided that every house in the vicinity should be canvassed so that everyone had a personal invitation to the church services and children to the Sunday School.

"We used to attend Church, but we don't now"; "I'm just as good as you, but I don't need to go to Church". "I am out at work all the week and have to do my house work on Sunday" are the excuses given today for not attending God's house. We did not wish to encroach on any folk who attended the Church of England, but we were dismayed to find that some parents refused to let their children attend any Sunday School at all.

Praise today was given for £2 2s. 0d. received from Haverhill Sisterhood and £1 19s. 2d. from Paddington and Broadley St. S.S.

9th £2 from Lindfield Church S.S.

10th The Sturman girls were fitted up with winter clothes. Sturman refers to one of the girls dormitories (name of missionary in whom we are interested). The Junior Girls make up the "Monty" dorm. The boys are divided into three groups named after naval boats—Stewart, Orion and Valiant. Worthy names for boys dorms.

£2 came from Lindfield Church S.S.

Our team played Latchet Hall netball team. We daren't publish the result. Congratulations to them. A very useful case of clothes was handed in from Willesden.

11th Harvests arrived from Anstey Union Chapel and St. Edmunds Church, Chingford. Our children were asked to sing three verses of a hymn at the morning service.

12th Abridge visitation continued throughout this week. Thanks to God for £1 from Clapton Christian Assembly, Horam, £5, Chingford Hatch Methodist £3 3s. 0d., Field Road Methodist Church £1. Anonymously "a few weeks ago I attended your Open Day and was much impressed by the way things were done and by the real family spirit that was so much in evidence. May God's continued blessing be upon your labours. I was disappointed not to see a box for funds. I think many, like myself, would be glad of the opportunity of using it on such occasions. Enclosed 10/-."

13th From Beckingham Congregation Church £1, Woodberry Down Women's Bible Class £1 and Anstey Union Chapel £8 5s. 3d.

The weather has broken today. Almost continuous rain for many hours. The usual number of cries "My shoes leak"! Of course none of the owners have walked through a puddle!!

14th Today we held our first Young Sowers League Meeting at Abridge and we were honoured with a visit from Mr. Eric Cooke, Young People's Secretary who, with the aid of a flannelgraph told the children **all** about Y.S.L.—The two main activities—searching the scriptures and sending 'seeds' to other lands. We were pleased with the large number of Abridge young folk who came.

From N.L., £3 and from Worthing £5.

15th On Thursdays there is a Bible Study and Prayer Meeting at Abridge. We endeavour to support this meeting from Woodford as much as possible. It is encouraging to see the number of teen-agers who attend this meeting and who are obviously very anxious to study and understand the Word of God.

Received today £2 from Fife; 7/6d. from Peterborough and 5/- from Hanworth.

16th Mrs. Day commenced Physical Training with all the girls, taking the little ones for half an hour and continuing with the older ones. Week by week skipping ropes, white socks and other equipment has been appearing, supplied by Mrs. Day and friends. We do appreciate their keenness and we value the time that they give week by week. The girls will be working hard to give a display next year. South Chingford Girls Bible Class sent along 10/-.

17th Jack and Raymond went off early by train to Tiptree with sandwiches, to help pack the potatoes into sacks for transport to Woodford.

The girls netball team won a match against Broadmead S.S. Team.

Some of the children went to the local Youth for Christ Birthday Meeting. These Meetings have been arranged monthly for the last year and we have been very much encouraged because some of our family have made the great decision to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour. "What", you say—"how can children make such a decision? They don't know what they are doing!"

How often we hear such remarks. Only with **childlike** faith can we come to God and those who take Him as their Friend when they are young have a Friend and helper throughout their lives. Our children who have many baffling problems in their lives can only be triumphant in and through the merit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

18th "D" Day at Abridge. The van took as many as possible down for the morning service. In the afternoon van and car packed to capacity with staff and younger children went down to throw in all possible effort to that work.

19th Colchester, £2; Hornchurch, £5; Woodford £1 and 10/-. Dinner time: Discussion among senior girls regarding the possibility of leaving Pixie (a tabby cat—latest addition to the Home) in the larder all night to catch mice. Enlightening remark "But, Mr. Vic, you can't leave the larder light on all night!"

20th From Leyton (anon) £1 10s. 0d.

21st Y.S.L. Meeting at Abridge—Film strip on Grenfell of Labrador by Mr. Alfred Brown.

22nd 5/- from Wokingham and 7/6 from Ilford.

26th Miss Beryl Hibberd who used to be on the staff with us came to stay. It was a happy time of fellowship, and she helped with mending socks—something at which she is expert from past experience.

Each week Mrs. R. Smith of Crescent Road has one or two girls over in her house to teach them dressmaking. Soon she will be helping them with their new P.T. dresses.

From Bridgenorth "I am happy to again be able to send you a cheque for £5. I remember well your Father mentioning a conversation he once had with some gentlemen who wanted to help him. Their request to him was that they should get something for him he much needed. His reply was the hall mark of a man of faith. 'Wanted—more prayer', and in spite of their protests he still replied 'more prayer'. That I think is the special call to the church today. Prayer and more prayers. How valuable are happy memories".

A harvest gift in money from Eastney Gospel Mission £4 8s. 0d.

27th A legacy of a very dear friend £45 15s. 8d. was received today. This lady once said "When I die you will know just how much I really think of your work".

28th Mr. Dennis Hull showed the first part of "Pilgrims Progress" with film strips at the Y.S.L. Meeting this evening, at Abridge. How interested the children were to see Christian on the journey. We asked Mr. Hull to show this programme at Wodford for the Seniors which he agreed to do.

Received £1 5s. 0d. from Ley St. Gospel Hall.

29th Children Home for half term holiday. During this holiday all the children in groups had a trip to London—some seeing Father Christmas at a London Store and shop gazing in Oxford Street, others choosing The Zoo or Madam Tussauds. £4 today from Shoeburyness Boot Fund, £5 from Chigwell and Chigwell Row Branch of Woodford Conservative Association.

31st Winchester, £1.

November

2nd Children still on half term holiday. Drs. Smith, Mathie and Baker performed their arduous task of thoroughly medically examining every child. They were all pronounced healthy and the cards filled in "Condition—A" which means "very good". There was a list of minor matters to attend to—eyes to be tested; teeth to be seen by our dentist, etc.

Some of the staff and seniors joined in a country dance party at Holy Trinity Church and all enjoyed this unusual relaxation. From Woodford Green United Free Church Women's Meeting, £2 2s. 0d.

3rd From Highams Park, 5/-. One of our senior girls left to return to her father. Being in the district she expects to pop in to see us often and to continue in our choir.

4th Young Sowers' League Meeting at Abridge. Van and Hillman packed with young people went down (van ran out of petrol, but Hillman came to the rescue). Miss Audrey Thomas was the speaker and we always remember her talks—they are most helpful.

5th Mrs. Webb with her little five-year-old daughter arrived to take over the cooking for us. Unbeknown to us a dear friend had been praying for a long time for someone to help us particularly in the kitchen. Here is the answer to her prayers. "Remember, remember the 5th November"—we did. Our usual big bonfire was in the middle of the playground and the poor 1953 guy suffered his usual fate whilst fireworks spluttered around. When the embers were dying away we went into the dining hall where there was a supply of sausages piping hot and we all proceeded to "tuck in".

Received today £25 from an old friend 88 years of age who was feeling very sad at the prospect of having to leave his home, and the home of his fathers for 107 years, because of L.C.C. development. Our heart went out in sympathy for him and our prayers are constantly that God will uphold and strengthen him.

6th Our youngest little girl has chicken-pox—she doesn't feel ill but must suffer the disadvantages of isolation.

7th Some visitors from East London Tabernacle popped over to look round the Home.

8th Remembrance Sunday. All the older children went down to the evening service at Abridge which was attended by the local branch of the British Legion. After the service tea was served in the hall which was formally reopened—the Vicar of the Abridge Church of England gave a wee word. The major repairs have been completed, new curtains adorn the windows—material given by one member, made by another.

9th Gifts:—£1 10s. 0d. East London Tabernacle (anon); £2 Ley Street Sunday School; £5 Guildford; 5 sacks potatoes and 2 sacks carrots from Norfolk. 2 pairs shoes; mackintosh and 12 blazers from Waltham Abbey. Just the right size!

10th Gifts:—£3 from New Haw, Addlestone S.S.; 2/6 from High Cross. Tuesday is always a busy evening—two younger children have music lessons followed by choir practice; art classes are given to girls and boys alternate

weeks; a friend takes handwork with a group of younger children; the badminton club functions and the younger girls—well it's bath night!

- 11th £39 10s. 0d. received from Mr. Parker, Box Secretary and 10/- from Eastern Optical Co., Ltd.

Monthly Prayer Meeting at which our old friend Mr. J. J. Smith gave a word. We all love to listen to his homely, practical talks backed by the invaluable experiences which can be passed on by one who has spent many years in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 12th Visited the Stock Exchange Christian Association lunch hour meeting and brought home a gift of £2 2s. 0d. for the work. It was refreshing to meet and exchange experiences with these keen business men.

Gifts of £2 and £1 from Woodford, £1 1s. 0d. from Sawbridgeworth and £5 anon.

- 13th Gifts from:—Young Women's Bible Class, Cecil Hall, £1; Southend, 15/- and Coulsdon, parcel of presents for Christmas. We held a Teachers Meeting of all working in the Abridge Sunday School and it was a joy to welcome Pat and Charles, two of our seniors, into this circle.

- 14th Young Sowers' League Squash here at Woodford. The Abridge members came along in the van and Hillman and together we had a happy time—games—refreshments—and closing in our usual way—family prayers.

- 15th A van load of children and others were stranded on the way to the evening service at Abridge when the van ran out of petrol. (There is no petrol gauge). The "Valiant" boys gave a valiant push, but a generous soul was God-sent to ask our trouble and gave us half a gallon of petrol without payment. We arrived just in time for the service and got home without running dry again.

- 16th From Buntingford, £1, Shirley Hall S.S., Enfield, £3; and Broughton Chapel, £1.

- 17th Hainault Baptist Women's Meeting, 16/6. Table tennis matches with Abridge lads in the evening.

Peter, one of our senior lads who has lived at Tiptree and helped very well on the farm, left to take up an agricultural post near Chelmsford.

- 19th Gifts of £3 from Wanstead and Woodford National Savings Roding West Ward Committee and £2 10s. 0d. from Enfield. Susan arrived home from school with obvious signs of chicken pox—the next case.

- 20th 54th Anniversary of Commencement of Home. All the staff and children had a birthday tea (after which we dis-

covered Malcolm was the next chicken-pox victim).

A very large dolls house came from South Grove Hall Bible Class. This had been beautifully made and furnished.

- 21st Several of the children went out with relatives and friends and others went to watch our local football team.

- 22nd The Seniors went to the Abridge service in the evening and remained behind afterwards for a Carol Practise. It is the intention to sing carols all round the village of Abridge and, instead of taking a collecting box, to deliver a "Happy Day" Diary to each household with an invitation to our special Carol Service to be held on 20th December.

- 23rd Gifts from:—Rayleigh, £2; Boxes, £2 7s. 0d; Highgate, £2; Westcliff, 3 pairs handknitted socks and 2 pullovers.

- 24th Received today—£23 10s. 0d. from Box Secretary; £1 from Woodford Baptist Y.P.F., £2 from Highgate, £2 from Kings Langley and parcel second hand clothes from Ashurst Women's Meeting. Terry was admitted to the Jubilee Hospital for tonsil operation. He felt a wee bit tearful when we left him, but nurse said he soon cheered up.

- 25th Phoned hospital to see how Terry was. "Condition satisfactory—comfortable".

10/- from Woodford, 2/6 from Sudbury and £2 10s. 0d. from Ashurst Drive Women's Meeting.

- 26th Sheila had an interview in London relative to obtaining a residential post in Horsham. Was happy to accept job offered.

- 27th From Bristol, £1. Admitted three children. With their parents they had been evicted from their home owing to financial difficulties. The youngest little girl seemed very frail having recently had a serious heart operation. It was a very sad mother who had to part with her children. Their chances of getting another house are remote at present.

The Woodford Baptist G.L.B. Company held their Annual Display in our hall to which some of our Seniors were invited.

- 28th Pamela went off early to explore the British Museum with a party going from her school. The "Aunties" took 8 girls to London to commence their Christmas shopping.

- 30th Received £1 from Chigwell and £2 from G.L.B.

December

- 1st Iced cake received in time for tea, a gift from the Woodford "Youth for Christ" Birthday Meeting. Also £2 from "K.J."
- 2nd Fetched Terry from Hospital—he came back looking well and tucked into an enormous dinner—we thought his throat would be sore! Four of the girls visited an eye specialist, but only one appeared to need treatment.
Mr. Hull showed the first of his "Pilgrims Progress" slides to our seniors.
Received £3 10s. 0d. from New Town Men's Meeting, £2 from Woodford friend, £16 2s. 1d. from Box Secretary; 10/- from Plaistow and £10 anon.
- 3rd Ernest had an appointment at the London Hospital at 10 o'clock. Sheila left to travel to Horsham to start work—our prayers go with her.
From Buckhurst Hill Young Wives Fellowship received 19/8 and from a Woodford friend, £1.
The Film "Congo—Now or Never" was shown at Abridge by Mr. Keith Barker. We supported from here and there was good attendance from Abridge friends too. Mr. Barker by request stopped the film when Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Davey were seen. As a church we follow them with interest and help as much as able.
- 4th From Leytonstone "My Coronation Committee have handed me the enclosed 10/6, balance from our Children's Party for disposal and I can think of no worthier cause than the work at Woodford. It is only a small sum, but we know how God can multiply such. May He continue to bless and keep you all at this time"; Leytonstone, 14/-; Plaistow, 10/-; Christchurch, £1; Southampton, £2; St. Columb, £1 and Luton, £1. John—the next chicken-pox victim—one at a time our motto!
- 5th From Harpenden, £1; Walthamstow Central Baptist Church S.S., £7 10s. 0d.; Golders Green, 10/-; Minsterworth, £1 and Barking, £2 10s. 0d.
- 6th Gifts beginning to roll in thick and fast for Christmas. Today, the first toys (with £1 12s. 8d.) from Kings Road Baptist Church, Chingford. Parcel of very good second hand clothes, 6 flannels and Christmas Cards from Hounslow; £1 1s. 0d. from Enfield; £3 from Biggin Hill and £1 from Woodford Green.
Sorting the toys which come in for Christmas is a very big task and our friend Mr. Crowhurst puts in many hours from now until Christmas, helping. Previously he has

cleared the store of redundant toys and in faith we trust we shall have sufficient new toys to provide what is required for everybody for the Christmas season.

- 8th 2-cwts of carrots arrived from Norfolk; toys from Chadwell Heath Baptist Church; £2 2s. 0d. from Battersea; Woodford Green, £1; Highgate, 10/-; Harpenden, £1; Hornsey, 8/-.
- 9th Gifts today:—Leaves Green Baptist Church, £2; Clacton, £1; Hornchurch, £1; Boys' Brigade, 1st South Essex Company, £3 3s. 0d. from Sunday Morning Bible Class collections; Barking, £1; N.W.2, 10/-; Woodford Green, £1.
- 10th From Leyton, £1; Worthing, £2; Peterborough, 10/-; Enfield, £1.
- 11th Received carton of new toys from Diss; Coat from Leigh on Sea; £1 1s. 0d. from Totteridge; £10 10s. 0d. from Westcliff; £5 from Yelling; 10/- from Faversham; 10/- from St. Albans; Gidea Park "Enclosed please find £1 for God's work among the children. It's a small contribution, but shall always be pleased to send as long as I am able. No doubt there are many difficulties in the work—I pray that your faith may be so strengthened that all difficulties will be overcome knowing full well that He that is for us is greater than all that's against us".
- 12th The "Aunties" took 12 more girls out Christmas Shopping and to places of interest in London.
- 13th The Staff spoke at toy services at Ramsay Road Congregational Church, and Goodmayes Baptist Church following which the toys were sent to us.
- 14th Toys received from Broadmead Sunday School and also from Elmsleigh Hall S.S. The Elmsleigh Hall Sewing Class sent:—3 dresses, 2 skirts, 3 scarves, 1 vest, 2 dolls (beautifully dressed), 1 beret, 2 pixie hats, 1 jumper, small rug and cushion.
From Enfield, 10/- and box of crackers; Fife, £1 10s. 0d.; Woodford, 10/-; Mablethorpe, £1; Lancing Tabernacle S.S., £2; Bath, £1 1s. 0d.; Walthamstow, £1; Abbots Langley, 10/-; Chadwell Heath, 10/-.
- 15th Toys today from Goodmayes Baptist S.S., Woodford Baptist S.S., Roydon Congregational S.S., and Broadley Common C.C. From an elderly lady at Tottenham we received 4 cardigans, 4 pullovers, 4 pairs socks and a beret, all beautifully handknitted. We praise God for all these gifts and for £5 5s. 0d. from Elmsleigh Gospel Hall, £30 from Wendover, £5 from Ealing, £1 1s. 0d. from Osterley,

5/- from Bournemouth, 2/6 from Goodmayes Baptist S.S. and 10/- from Broadley Common S.S.

16th We visited Margaret, one of our girls who is at a residential school at Halstead. The girls formed the choir at a Carol Service in the Parish Church and we were pleased to see Margaret taking part. Afterwards we had tea at the school and Margaret was delighted to show us round and we were very impressed by all we saw.

Our groups of little children were invited to a party after school given by the local company of the Girls' Training Corps, and Harriet was invited to a G.L.B. party at Walthamstow.

Received 5/- from Enfield; letter—"Will you please accept enclosed £1 1s. 0d. as a token of our love and esteem and with the assurance of our prayers that God may richly bless the work and give you all the needed guidance throughout the coming years"; £2 10s. 0d. from Fairchildes S.S.; 10/- from Kilburn; £3 3s. 0d. Woodford Green; £1, Ilford; Seven Kings 15/-; Hornchurch, £1; West Mersea, £1; Latimer Hall S.S. £2; Southend, £10.

We had a little decorated Xmas tree at our Y.S.L. Meeting at Abridge and all the members hung a silver bag on it containing their special Christmas Gifts for Mr. and Mrs. Davey.

17th 10 children who had won prizes during the summer holiday for being most helpful and generally endeavouring to make it a happy one, received their reward in a visit to a Circus organised by local friends.

The first carol singing at Abridge. We divided the village into three sections. Tonight we started at the Caravan Site and the carols were much appreciated by the folk. The invitations for Sunday's services were distributed.

Many letters crowd in at this time of the year, folk thinking especially of our family as we get near to Christmas time. Today:—5 boxes crackers, Stapleford; 'Lucky Dip', Doncaster; 2 new books, Seven Kings; Theodore Road Women's Meeting, 10/-; London "My wife and I would like to help with the Christmas Dinner etc. for the children, so please accept enclosed cheque with our best wishes and prayers for continued blessing. May I suggest that you allocate £20 to the children's feast and the other £10 to buy a little present for each worker and the balance for your good selves"; Highgate, £5; "E.P." £1; Woodford Green, £1; Woodford Green, £3; Forest Gate, 10/-; Cranleigh Baptist S.S., £8; East Ham, 10/-; Finsbury Park, £1 10s. 0d.; Southminster, 3/-; Bishopstoke E.F.C., S.S., £1; St. Stephen's Church, Walthamstow, £2 2s. 0d. East Dulwich, £1; Hornsey, 5/-; Wokingham, 2/6.

We visited departments of Messrs Smith's Ltd., Cricklewood where we were shown two very beautiful Christmas Trees laden with toys for our children. Great care had been taken to find out from us just what the children would like. Two older girls were given alarm clocks; some boys footballs; there were dolls prettily dressed for the younger children and some exquisite dolls' tea services.

18th Many gifts in money and kind received today:—Toys from Crowland Road Infants School, Tottenham; Torquay Baptist Church; Parkstone E.F.C. and Girton Baptist S.S. 12 Coronation Bibles came as a gift from the Young Sowers' League Branch at Orchard Road Hall, Chelmsford. These were especially needed as some of our children were asking for copies and we felt would treasure a new copy for themselves. We can use some for birthday presents. A big parcel was delivered and found to contain 12 boxes of crackers (anon).

Leigh-on-Sea, parcel of clothes and 10/-; Billericay Sisterhood, £1 1s. 0d.; Ilford, 10/-; Paignton, "I enclose cheque for £5 5s. 0d. towards your work amongst the children and to be used in whatever way you desire. May God bless you all. Some time ago your father sent me some little booklets about the work and also some books containing daily readings of the Bible. Do you think you could sent me some more copies please?" Haverhill £1.

Carol Singing at Abridge for the second night. We all enjoyed the singing and the only complaints were that we didn't sing enough carols at each stopping place. We must arrange more evenings next year! We are praying that the real message of Christmas may reach into homes where Christmas is only a festival and has lost its real significance.

19th Gifts:—Loughton, 10/-; 'R', 10/-; Hainault, 5/6d.; Wanstead, £2; Ilfracombe Assembly Hall S.S. £1 10s. 0d. 'W & H', £2; Bromley, 10/-; Witham, 5/-; Colchester, £1; Beulah Baptist Women's Fellowship, Holland-on-Sea, 15/-; Woodford Green, £3 3s. 0d.; Ilford, 10/-; Esher, £2 2s. 0d. Southend, 10/-; Woodford Green, £1; Leytonstone, £2 10s. 0d.; Hornchurch, 10/-; Sevenoaks, £2 2s. 0d.; Enfield, 5/-; Frinton, £2 2s. 0d.; Applecroft Junior School, Welwyn Garden City, £9; Bedfont Tabernacle, "Every member of my church and congregation, and staff, and children of Sunday School, and Young People's Fellowship send their good wishes and prayerful hopes that you may all have a very happy Christmas, and that the future of your work may be full of joy imparted from Him who said "Suffer little children to come unto me"; Southampton, "£1 10s. 0d., part being the money instead of paying fire

insurance, as I am in the habit of doing and have proved our faithful God to keep His promises to me and mine”.

A group of younger children went to see some suitable films at Chingford and others went to a party in London given by one of the Trunk Control Exchanges. All enjoyed these treats and some were privileged to see Father Christmas.

Friends from Bedfont Tabernacle called with some toys. From Tollesbury a parcel containing 6 pairs handknitted socks and from Peterborough, 4 scarves and 2 pairs socks. The last evening carol singing at Abridge—we all enjoyed this tour round the village and the listeners did too. Each time before starting out we had prayer, and friends provided hot coffee and biscuits for the carol singers on their return to the church.

20th The looked forward today—our special Christmas service at Abridge. The Church was prettily decorated (congratulations to all who worked so hard) and included a Christmas tree. As many as possible went to the morning service taken by Mr. Gilbert and to Sunday School, when Mrs. Jeffries was the speaker and in the evening three was 100% support from Woodford; in fact, we all had tea there. We had a choir for this special evening service, which marked another happy milestone in the Abridge work.

21st Received a very beautiful toy shop from a friend at Upminster—complete with good selection of grocery goods, till, and bell for customers to ring. (This proved a great friend to us during the Christmas holidays as the little children often played with it.) Toys came from Tollington Park Baptist Church and from Woodbery Down Baptist Church.

One of our girls left home to return to her mother because of improved circumstances. We shall miss her but look forward to keeping in touch with her.

Some children from a local school came to present a play to our children. The entertainment was enjoyed by performers and spectators.

Gifts from:—Woodford Green, 6/-; Anon, 10/-; Finsbury Park, £1; Barking, “Many thanks for the ‘Links’”. My first contact with the Homes was 50 years ago, when your dear father brought the children to sing at Princes Road Baptist Chapel, Buckhurst Hill. I also remember when your father used to join up with other Sunday School excursions to places on the East Coast. They were great days—a whole train load of happy children. Please accept £2 as a little token of my best wishes for your future

welfare;” Ilford £1; Freehold United Mission Mothers Meeting £1 13s. 3d.; an ‘old girl’ and her husband, 10/-; East Rudham, 10/-; Westcliff, £1; Hanwell, £2 2s. 0d.

22nd From Waltham Cross, £1 for staff, 5 boxes new toys and turkey, fruit and other groceries; Toys from Central Hall, Dorset; Cecil Hall, Enfield, Faraday Building Trunk Exchange; Ware; Corringham S.S.; and Christ Church Welwyn Garden City; Christmas Stocking from Colchester; Toffees from East London Tabernacle Bible Class. Also:—Canfield Hall S.S., £3; Haywards Heath “Once again my annual letter comes from a different county to the last one and I will give just a brief account of the circumstances . . . The second week after arriving here we read in the local paper that Rev. Geoffrey King was conducting the anniversary service at the Haywards Heath Evangelical Free Church, so of course we decided to go, and when the Secretary read the report of the years activities, we heard that the toys from the Christmas toy service had been forwarded to Mr. White’s Children’s Home at Woodford! It seemed like ‘home from home’ to us at once and we have continued in fellowship there since. We now wish you **all** a very happy Christmas. We shall be thinking of you and trying to picture the excitement at Crescent Road on the 25th. We have much pleasure in enclosing our usual little Christmas gift”; Pinner, £2 10s. 0d.; Barling Gospel Mission, £3 7s. 6d.; Higham Hill Baptist Women’s Own, £1; Sidcup, £2 2s. 0d.; ‘F.C.N.’, £1 1s. 0d. Pinner, £1 1s. 0d.; Hainault Road Baptist Church, £1 1s. 0d.; Canning Town Girl Covenanters, £1 11s. 6d.; Sudbury, “I would like you to accept the enclosed 2/6 for the children. The Lord is good to me and my family in lots of ways”.

The children broke up for their Christmas holidays. Great excitement in making the dormitories look festive and also in preparing to decorate the two halls. The food store is gradually getting piled up with good things. Some of the older girls have made Christmas cakes and the staff too.

23rd From Colchester, Ham and 1-dozen eggs; Chingford, large tin sweets; Handsworth Avenue Methodist Junior Guild, a parcel for each child; Muswell Hill Baptist Young People, oranges and sweets. Toys from:—Miller Methodist Memorial S.S., Woodford; and Bishopstoke E.F.C. Also the two Christmas trees arrived from Messrs. Smith & Sons of Cricklewood together with the presents for each child. Rise Park Hall S.S. sent an outside stocking full of sweets. Epping, £1 and £1; Manor Park, £5; West Mersea 10/-; Felixstowe, 10/-; Grantham, 6/-; Waltham Abbey, £2; Halstead, £1 1s. 0d.; Leigh, 10/-; ‘C.H.S.’ £1.

24th From the post:—Upminster, 10/-; Stanmore, £1 10s. 0d.; Woodford Green, £1 1s. 0d.; Frant, £25; Boscombe, £1 1s. 0d.; from one who used to be on the staff, £2; Ingatestone, 10/-; Doncaster, "Thanks for the 'Links'". We have always taken a great interest in the work of the Home since your father stayed with us when in Doncaster with the Open Air Mission many years ago. Please accept enclosed £1 towards the work"; East Ham, £1; Royston, £2; St. Albans (anon) £5; Dorking, £6 and £2; Royston, £2; Fullers Road S.S., £3 3s. 0d.; Hampton, £3 3s. 0d.; Kings Head Hill Youth Fellowship, £2 2s. 0d.; Michael's Christmas Gift, £5; Clapham, 10/-; "B", £1; from a dear old lady over 80 years who is still much in demand to speak at Women's Meetings, 10/-. Seaford, £2; an "Old Girl" 10/-.

A young lad called and left a parcel of toys. A very large ham was handed in anonymously at the door. Turkeys from Stapleford Abbots and Theydon Bois; a large tin of sweets from a local troop of Scouts; 2-dozen jellies from Woodford; Parcel of new books from Woodford Bridge. Toys from Waltham Abbey Baptist Church, Cricklade Church, S.S. and St. Pancras Wolf Cubs. An "old boy" called with a large tin of sweets. The Round Table of Wanstead and Woodford left a very welcome parcel of groceries and toys.

Arrivals:—A friend from Glasgow, an "old boy" from Ongar and Margaret from her boarding school.

Father Christmas had a very busy evening. All our children were tucked up in bed early, the little ones having hopefully hung up their stockings. It was a busy evening for the staff, but they were encouraged with cups of coffee served from the kitchen and the arrival (anon.) of lots and lots of mince tarts, pastries and Christmas cakes.

25th Christmas Day dawns. Excitement from the dormitories very early when the little ones find their stockings filled with 'just what they wanted' and the older ones find that Father Christmas has remembered them too. We wanted to remind our neighbours of the real meaning of Christmas so we sang some carols outside before breakfast. (Remark afterwards passed by a neighbour "It woke me up, but it was worth it!"). Breakfast was at 8.15 followed at 9.30 by a Carol Service to which neighbours and children's parents were invited. Very simply the children heard of the "Love which came down at Christmas". The next item was an important one for the children when they received their parcels from parents, relatives and friends—what a mountain of parcels! While the children were examining all their

treasures, activity downstairs resulted in the traditional Christmas Dinner being served at 12 o'clock. Tables were decorated in tune with the rest of the decorations and the Christmas Puddings were brought in, in great pomp and style.

After dinner the children had games and at 3 o'clock they silently sat round to listen to the message of Her Majesty, The Queen, from New Zealand. More games, then tea. Each child coming back into the top hall was given a lantern and just by the light of these lanterns the children marched round the hall singing very sweetly some Christmas Carols. Eventually they all sat down in a circle, still by the light of the lanterns and before long, Father Christmas himself arrived to present to the children the toys from one of the Christmas trees. He was very tired and didn't stay very long, but the children gave him a rousing cheer. A Nativity Play was the next item—a very simple but impressive one—followed by Family Prayers. The little ones did not stay up too late—with all the excitement they are ready for bed, and we all remarked afterwards how happy the children were over the whole of Christmas (we put it down to no overtiredness!) The older ones stayed up later for energetic games and a meal, somewhat more peaceful now the younger ones were safely snoring in bed.

26th Breakfast at 8.30 and Family Prayers at 9.30. Another Christmas Dinner and in the afternoon a very good performance of "Puss in Boots" given by some of the staff and seniors under the direction of Mr. Gilbert. After another Christmas Tea—when our hall needed expanding sides because of the large number of visitors, mostly "old" girls and boys, who had come to spend a part of Christmas at 'home'—a friend showed some films. Presents were given by Mrs. White from the other Christmas tree—games—bed for younger ones—supper for older ones and then more games. As it was Sunday the following day we closed down earlier than usual with some carol singing round the piano. Bed—wondering how the time had seemed to fly past so quickly. Weeks of preparation, and Christmas so soon over.

27th We spent Sunday just as usual.

28th Gifts—Anon, 5/-; Eastney Gospel Mission, £3 14s. 0d.; Huntingdon, £1; Llanelly, £3; Henfield, £2; 'E.A.L.', 10/-; An 'old' girl and her husband £3; Anstey Union Chapel, £6 4s. 3d.; East Sheen, 10/-; from one who used to be on staff, £2.

29th Woodford (young carol singers), £1 16s. 0d.; Walsall, £3; Chigwell, £1 10s. 0d.; Woodford, 10/-; Westcliff, £1; Chingford, £2; an "old girl" in the Isle of Wight 5/-; Bournemouth, £1; Cranford "I have much pleasure in enclosing £1. We do rejoice in the continuance of this lovely work and pray that God's richest blessing may rest upon all your labours for His glory and the eternal welfare of the children, and that you may have much joy in all your service for Him". Romford, £1; Rainham, £1 and Woodford Green, £1 10s. 0d. The children are still busy playing with their new toys, but some helped in the running of a model railway circuit made up from various parts given to the Home.

30th From Letchworth £1 1s. 6d.; Bedford, £1; Westminster Chapel, £50; Burnham on Crouch Baptist S.S. £3 13s. 8d.; Hounslow, 5/-; Walthamstow, 10/-; Kenton Evangelical Free Church, £2 12s. 6d.; Finsbury Park, "This enclosed gift is in memory of the passing of a very dear friend and instead of a floral tribute. Knowing how she was interested in the Home, have sent it to you. God bless you and give you strength for the New Year to do His Will". Palmers Green, £3; Elim Sisterhood, Leigh, £1; Chelmsford, £5; S. Woodford, 10/-; Anon, 5/-; Anon, £3.

31st From Cumberland Road Gospel Hall, S.S., £3; Cricklade C. S.S. 10/-; Kenton E.F.C. £4 5s. 0d.

The staff and children went to see a television performance of "Toad of Toad Hall" at the invitation of the B.B.C. Not only did we enjoy the pantomime, but we enjoyed seeing just how television works!

The end of another year. Some of the staff sat up to see the New Year in and to commence it in prayer for His guidance in all things. **"How good is the God we adore"**. At morning and evening prayers—the kiddies have been brought into touch with God and His word. By attending Church and Sunday School, they are being led to keep His Day, as the scriptures teach. We do, as a staff, thank God for every opportunity of service in this His work here.

THE GREATER LONDON CRUSADE.

What a thrill it was to witness the great crowds flocking to hear the simple Gospel Message at the Harringay Arena on 9th March, when we were able to take a coach load of neighbours and friends.

Truly God is in this thing! What full hearts—of praise and gratitude—to see the large numbers wending their way to the front signifying their desire to follow Christ. Friends—PRAY ON as never before—in believing FAITH—'It is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes.' In our Family here, we are catching a breath of the Revival—what an encouragement and blessing it is to be sure! PRAY.

* * *

As mentioned in our last "Links" (1953), the publishing of the Accounts for year ending April 1953 was delayed due to the illness of the auditor.

They are now published on pages 62 and 63.





STURMAN DORMITORY
Here sleep the older school girls



STEWART ^KDORMITORY
and here the younger boys—the pickles!



THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND MISSION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30th APRIL, 1953

		PAYMENTS		RECEIPTS	
1952		£	s. d.	1952	£ s. d.
239	To Rates, Taxes and Insurance ...	...	287 8 11	2,353	...
649	" Heat and Light ...	...	731 14 4	276	...
—	" Telephone ...	...	86 3 2	183	...
375	" Postage, Printing and Stationery ...	...	288 15 10	25	...
2,278	" Provisions ...	...	2,312 9 0	476	...
—	" Furniture ...	...	393 0 0	147	...
972	" Linen, Clothes and Boots ...	...	1,661 13 3	1,075	...
—	" Household Expenses ...	...	255 18 1	—	...
656	" Staff Allowance and National Insurance	...	566 0 1	33	...
—	" Gifts to Staff (Holidays), Donations and Pocket Money Scheme	...	240 1 10	—	...
203	" Medical Supplies ...	...	44 2 11	3,103	...
351	" Travelling and Excursion Expenses	...	293 13 8	—	...
948	" Repairs to Property ...	...	611 13 8	—	...
—	" General Repairs and Replacements, including vehicles ...	...	425 9 11	—	...
727	" Maintenance of Farm at Tiptree ...	...	623 9 4	—	...
5	" Expenses of Maintaining Woodford Ground ...	...	22 3 9	—	...
197	" Incidental Expenses ...	...	71 11 4	—	...
—	" Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Fund	...	93 1 4	—	...
		£8,388 7 5		£7,686	

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BALANCE SHEET 30th APRIL, 1953.

1952	LIABILITIES	£	s. d.	1952	ASSETS	£	s. d.
63	Sundry Creditors	171 3 4	2,250	Freehold Property—
2,250	Invested Funds—	...	...	1,700	The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall ...	2,250	0 0
—	The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall ...	2,250	0 0	1,150	The Dr. F. S. Marsh Gift ...	1,700	0 0
—	The Dr. F. E. Marsh Gift ...	1,700	0 0	—	The Mr. and Mrs. William Stark Gift ...	1,150	0 0
—	The Mr. and Mrs. William Stark Gift ...	1,150	0 0				

3,225	The Convalescent and Holiday Home—The Grove, Tiptree ...	3,225	3 3
500	Anonymous Gift for the purchase of a Bungalow	500	0 0
Forward Move, Tiptree Fund—		8,825	3 3
Balance as at 1st May 1952		4,255	16 8
Less Adjustment of Accounts for year ended 30/4/1952		960	14 7
Add Receipts during year		3,295	2 1
Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account		3,603	1 0
4,256	Mount Hermon Fund—	2,603	1 0
Balance as at 1st May 1952		1,000	0 0
Less Adjustment of Accounts for the year ended 30/4/1952		2,239	5 5
Accumulated Fund—		2,239	5 5
Per contra deficiency account		846	15 3
Excess of Income over Expenditure for year		93	1 4
		939	16 7
		£15,383	

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We have examined the above Balance Sheet and the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers of the Mission, and certify that they are correct and in accordance therewith.

Dated this 8th day of March, 1954.

Barclays Bank Buildings,
73, Cheapside, E.C.2.

FRANCIS NICHOLLS WHITE & CO.,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

BOXES

1st May, 1953 to 30th April, 1954.

MAY OPENING—

					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
May	7th	Receipt	No.	290	...	37	10	0		
	12th	"	"	329	...		3	7		
	16th	"	"	351	...	22	10	0		
	29th	"	"	393	...	9	13	0		
June	15th	"	"	437	...	7	10	0		
July	20th	"	"	521	...	8	16	11		
Aug.	4th	"	"	569	...	1	16	0		
Sept.	28th	"	"	710	...	2	7	8		
								90	7	2

NOVEMBER OPENING—

Nov.	11th	Receipt	No.	847	...	39	10	0		
		"	"	849	...		10	0		
	23rd	"	"	881	...		10	0		
		"	"	882	...		7	0		
		"	"	883	...		10	0		
		"	"	884	...	1	0	0		
	24th	"	"	888	...	23	10	0		
	25th	"	"	894	...		10	0		
Dec.	2nd	"	"	917	...	16	2	1		
	21st	"	"	1069	...	3	15	7		
		"	"	1070	...	12	7	6		
Jan.	2nd	"	"	1164	...		18	0		
	18th	"	"	1243	...	3	1	0		
		"	"	1246	...	2	10	6		
Feb.	13th	"	"	1325	...		15	0		
Mar.	6th	"	"	1392	...	2	0	0		
	16th	"	"	1422	...	2	12	0		
								110	8	8
TOTAL								£200	15	10

Our grateful thanks to our Box Secretary, Mr. W. Parker and to all Boxholders.