

1899

75

LINKS

AUTUMN 1955

CHILDREN'S
HOME AND
MISSION

1955

BOOK NOW!

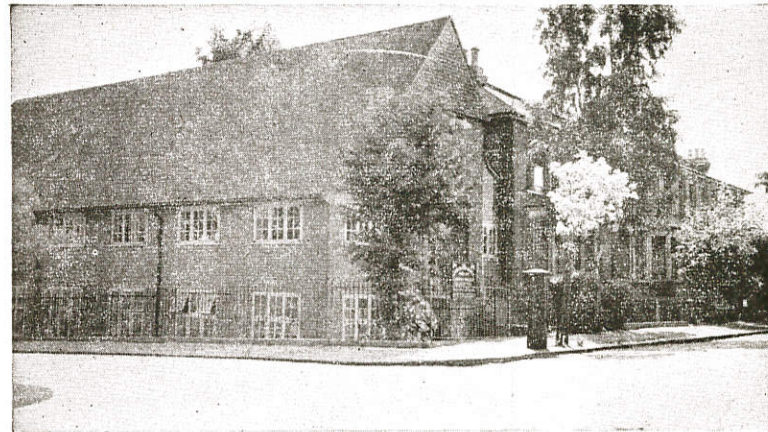
9th June, 1956

"OUR DAY"

56th Annual Gatherings to be held D.V.,
in the George Lane Baptist Church,
South Woodford, E.18

Full details of these special meetings
in the next issue of the "Links"
Spring 1956

The Children's Home Links



WOODFORD

Ebenezer—"Hitherto hath the Lord
helped us."

1 Samuel 7 v. 12.

THE CHILDREN'S FOUNDED

Headquarters :

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

HONORARY STAFF :

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HOME AND MISSION 1899

The Abridge Evangelical Free Church,
London Road, Abridge,
Nr. Romford, Essex.

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Elmsleigh Gospel Hall, Leigh.

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Shoeburyness Gospel Hall.

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Mr. W. Parker, 143, Honey Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

AUDITORS :

Messrs. White, Salomon & Co.

EDITORIAL

NOVEMBER, 1955.

Dear Prayer Partners,

Once again it is my sincere privilege to pen a few introductory remarks to the Autumn issue of our "Links." I do so with joy in the experience that He has not failed to honour His promises to His Family here at Woodford. Varied and numerous have been our needs and as we have brought them to Him in earnest, consistent prayer—He has met them. It is a very lovely and at the same time humbling experience, to be able to pass on to others news of the continual evidence of the Faithfulness of God in this present age of unbelief and scepticism. So many times I have been told of personal blessing brought to people through the mentioning of God's faithfulness to us here from day to day. Surely this is scriptural. Jethro, as he listened to Moses relating the story of the journeying of the Israelites was stirred within himself and rejoiced at the great news of God's love and faithfulness.

Eighty-three Harvests have reached us this Autumn—the Food Store is a joy to behold and the variety of groceries seems unlimited, but it is amazing how quickly these diminish as we continue to feed the big family. Quite recently a legacy of £1,300 was sent as a gift under the Will of a long standing friend of the Family. Another smaller legacy was received under the will of a parent of one of the children who had been in the home for several years—an expression of thankfulness for what had been done here for his child. Many are the incidents of God's love manifested through His servants day by day in answer to prayer.

At our little Abridge Church we have endeavoured to press forward steadily in His strength. Recently at the Sunday School Anniversary the Church was full, and again, a good congregation was present for the Remembrance Service. We rejoice in the fact of increased interest in the work in all departments, and we praise God for every opportunity of preaching the gospel message.

During the past few months we have lost three great friends. Having rendered loyal service to God in life they received their "Home Call" and whilst we rejoice that they are "with the Lord which is far better," we pray for their loved ones who feel the losses so tremendously. Mr. A Gilbert, Co-Pastor of our

Abridge Church passed away in June; Mr. Fred Stark, a Trustee, in September; and Mr. Arthur Thompson, our honorary Chiropodist, in October. We do miss them but praise God for their help over many years.

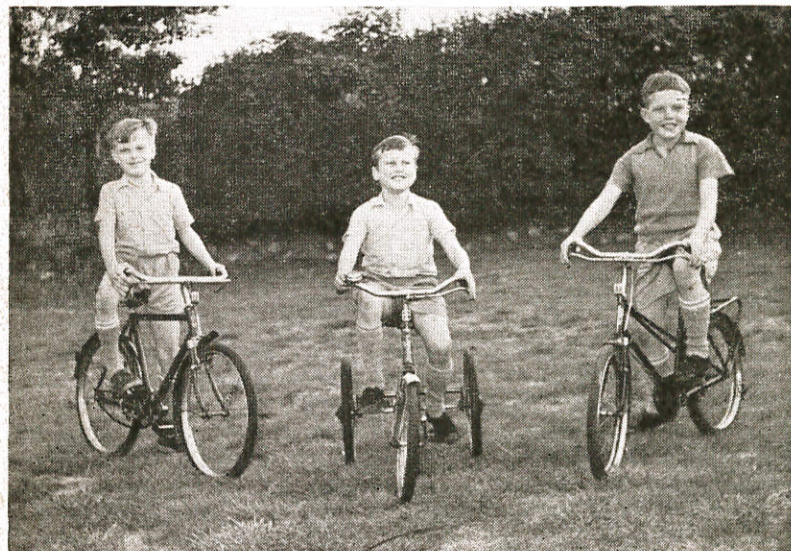
As you turn over these pages now and read for yourself this another record of His love and faithfulness, may you with us give praise to Him and trust Him more implicitly day by day.

Please pray that we as a staff may labour faithfully—that our service may be wholehearted and in line with His will; pray for the children in our care, especially for those who are Christians, that they may grow spiritually. Also do particularly pray regarding arrangements for the children's summer holiday, 1956.

By the time this letter reaches you 25th December will be nearly here, and so all members of our Family in Crescent Road take this opportunity of wishing you a happy Christmas and a New Year full of blessing in the service of the King of Kings.

Yours very sincerely,

VICTOR J. WHITE.



THREE PICKLES IN THE GARDEN

OUR DAY

Saturday, 21st May, 1955

There must be very many folk who read the "LINKS" year by year, but who, for many reasons, have never had the wonderful opportunity of being present at the annual OUR DAY meetings, held in the South Woodford Baptist Church, kindly lent for the day.

These meetings are quite unlike any others. First of all, there's the exhilarating feeling of expectancy. All the family and all the visitors—whether old boys and girls, prayer-partners, old friends or new friends—just **know** that they're in for a time of great blessing, and they're **never** disappointed!

On Saturday afternoon, May 21st, the Church began to fill up half an hour before the meeting was due to begin. What a thrill it always is to see people flocking in crowds into the house of God! Parties had come from far and near, and it soon became difficult to sandwich everyone in!

The children had by this time taken their seats in the Choir-stalls, facing the body of the Church, and as a later speaker said, what a good-looking crowd they were! Faces shone with cleanliness and "goodness"—of course, they don't **always** look as angelic as this!—and they all looked very spruce and smart! The boys had beautifully straight ties, hair neatly parted, and every breast pocket was adorned by a nicely folded handkerchief. The girls all had pretty hair-ribbons, and warm colourful cardigans over bright summer-frocks, for the weather was not really warm. The general effect was very smart "Sunday-best"!

Ten minutes or so before the meeting was due to begin, Mr. Olney started us off on choruses, led by Mr. Farndon at the organ, and the packed Church gave a ready response. The singing through-out the day was soul-stirring. We sang, "with heart and voice", such well-known choruses as, "Count Your Many Blessings": "Prayer Changes Things": "Spirit of the Living God": "In my Heart there rings a Melody": "God is Still on the Throne", and others.

These inspiring choruses "set the scene" for all that was to follow and as we sang the last one, "Glory to Jesus," the chairman for the afternoon, Mr. Stephen Smith, L.D.S., R.C.S., took his seat in the pulpit. The children viewed this gentleman kindly and without apprehension, at least for today! He is the Dental Surgeon for the Homes! As he was quick to point out, he was quite harmless—in the pulpit!

After a short Bible-reading by Mr. Smith, we sang with great feeling, the hymn "O Worship the King", and then the family, very ably conducted by Mrs. Victor White, and accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Johnson sang, "Keep in Happy touch with

Jesus". From the look of happiness on the faces of every one of the singers, it was quite clear they practised what they were singing!

Mr. Victor White then gave his report and concluded this by calling on the family to quote from memory various portions of the Scriptures. This is a most arresting part of the children's training. They know their Bible thoroughly, and as we pointed out, they must inevitably, as they grow older, prove these well-loved verses to be of great spiritual value in times of difficulty.

The hymn, "Crown Him with Many Crowns" was followed by a fine testimony from one of the boys. He came into the Homes 1951, and admitted to being "a bit of a lad"! He told us a very entertaining yarn about trying to climb up the front of a wardrobe, with dire results! After the laughter had subsided, he said he now knew the presence of God as a very real thing in his life, and he concluded by saying that although he knew he was far from perfect, he knew what it was to have a personal loving Saviour.

A testimony such as this is never easy to give, but the blessing from it is great.

The next item was a song by the tinies; numbering 4 girls and 7 boys, average age about 5. This was really sweet. They sang, "The flowers were loved by Jesus", and the other verses mentioned that the birdies and the children were also loved by Jesus. Some little tots were shy, some were stolid, but they **all** sang! I was instantly reminded of the lines of the hymn which says, "And infant voices shall proclaim, their early blessings on His name".

The Rev. K. C. Parkinson, M.A., then brought us to the throne of grace in prayer, thanking God for all His goodness and faithfulness in past years, and committing the family and all friends, present and absent, to God's care for the future.

The theme for the whole day was this—that "our God is able". Stretched right across the organ pipes, high up for all to see, was a huge text, "HE IS FAITHFUL THAT PROMISED", (Hebrews. 10.23).

The next item was a vivid reminder of the double wedding which took place in this Church on April 16th, when our twins, Irene and Margaret Beresford married Wendel Stander and Karl-Heinz Heller. On that joyful day, the Choir, comprising about fourteen of the family whose ages ranged from eleven to eighteen, sang "The Lord's My Shepherd", to the tune Crimond, and we were greatly blessed to hear them sing it again. This beautiful hymn never fails to touch the heart.

A very amusing remark then followed from the Chairman, Mr. Stephen Smith. Mr. Victor White, in his report, had given thanks for the Patching and Mending Department. Mr. Smith, introducing Dr. W. Eric Mathie, M.B., Ch.B., remarked that Dr. Mathie could be referred to as our Representative of the Patching and Mending Department! There was a big laugh over this!

Dr. Mathie then gave his Medical Report on the children, which was indeed very encouraging.

Then the Family's Choir sang for us, "Is He satisfied with me?" and the Chairman asked us especially to notice the words:

"I am satisfied with Jesus. Is He satisfied with me?"

The hymn "Jesus Shall Reign where'er the Sun" was sung, as were all the hymns, with much feeling, and then we settled down to listen to the address from the Rev. Ronald W. Francis, from Christ Church, St. Albans.

This splendid address was followed by a very moving solo, beautifully sung by one of the boys—"All to Jesus I surrender".

A prayer from Mr. Stephen Smith and the Doxology brought the afternoon meeting to a close, and we all made our way to the various rooms and halls at the back of the Church for tea. The ladies of the Church, ably assisted by Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. Cowling and others, had prepared for us a lovely tea, and after our enthusiastic singing, we were quite ready to appreciate it!

Tea-time meant talk-time! and what a joy it was to meet old faces! It was a real "get-together"! "Do you remember so-and-so?" "Have you seen so-and-so lately?" How the old boys and girls **love** to talk over the old times, and what fine tribute this is to the wonderful family spirit in the Homes! The years pass, the children grow up and move on, but the links of love and comradeship which are forged in their early years, hold secure!

There were so many people to talk to that the time just **flew**, but we knew from past years that if we wanted to get a good seat for the evening meeting, we wouldn't have to leave it too late! Mr. Olney again led us in well-known choruses as the late-comers (by that I mean all those who arrived only ten-minutes before the commencement-time!) came in! We sang "Everybody should know": "Turn your Eyes upon Jesus": "Choose Ye this Day": "Let the Beauty of Jesus be seen in me", and many others, and then Lt.-Comdr. S. E. Sharpe, D.S.C., the Chairman for the evening, opened with prayer. The Family Choir then gave us a beautiful rendering of "My Friend", emphasising the great value of knowing Jesus Christ as a personal friend and Saviour.

This was followed by a hymn, "Immortal, invisible, God only wise", and once again the packed Church sang with great feeling. Next, one of the girls, Pamela, recited with beautiful clarity, a portion of Scripture, taken from Ephesians 6, and her words could be heard clearly in the back row of the Church.

The Choir then sang a lovely rendering of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", and many patient hours of practice must have taken place during the last few weeks to reach such a high standard of singing.

Then Mr. Victor White entered the pulpit to give his Report and brought this to a close, as he had done in the afternoon, by calling on the children to recite, from memory, well-loved portions from the Bible, and as the Chairman remarked, it is a very precious thing to have verses of Scripture hid in the heart.

The Family Choir then repeated a song they had given us in the afternoon, "Is He satisfied with me?" I understand this was by special request, and I can well believe it, for the words are so challenging to the heart.

Mr. Gilbert, co-Pastor of the Abridge Evangelical Free Church, rose to lift us up to the throne of grace in prayer, stressing once more our utter dependance on God's never-failing promises.

The Choir next sang, "Jesus Calling", which was a fitting prelude to the address which followed, given by the Rev. W. G. Channon, from Purley Baptist Church.

Our final hymn for the evening was "There is no Love like the Love of Jesus", with its moving chorus.

"Jesus' love, precious love, boundless and pure and free,

O turn to that love, weary wandering soul, Jesus pleadeth with thee!"

James Stokes, Esq., one of the Trustees of the Homes, pronounced the benediction, and then, as we still stood, the assembled congregation led by the Choir sang the family's anthem, "How Good is the God we Adore", and as we slowly filed out, those those wonderful words rang in our ears.

"We'll praise Him for all that is past,

And trust Him for all that's to come".

OUR DAY always proves to us afresh the glad truth of the text we read as we entered the Church, "He is Faithful that Promised," and we give God all the glory.



Beverley joined our Family in April, 1951, left school and went to live with christian friends in August, 1955.

55th ANNUAL GATHERINGS

21st May, 1955

Afternoon

REPORT

given by Mr. Victor White

"There hath not failed one word of all His good Promise"

"To God be the glory great things He hath done"

As always we have greatly looked forward to and eagerly anticipated "Our Day". Truly it is with a full heart that, on behalf of Mother, my Wife, Staff, Young People, Trustees, and all who help in any way, I present to you now this our 55th Report.

Firstly, God is good—He is faithful—He is understanding and full of wisdom in all His dealings with His people. If there has been any doubt in any of our minds as to the actual reality of God, I do sincerely trust that e'er my report is finished, such a doubt may be dispelled. Here is concrete evidence of a practical God.

I have found in my travels, covering all types and conditions of people—I have found deep down below the superficial veneer of self satisfaction, a real desire to find something or someone to give real peace of heart. In a recent conversation this thought came out—"Yes that's all right—that's the theory—give me proof that this theoretical teaching is actually workable—prove it to me"—Doesn't God give us golden opportunities to speak for Him? **Proof!** Is not the faithfulness of God as manifested to our family down the years since 1899, abundant proof of God's love and power? **NO APPEAL!** This is our proud boast, **in Christ**—no appeal to man for help of any kind to meet the needs of a family which totals over 800 through the period of 55 years. God alone has met all needs year by year. To many it is wonderful—How does it affect you?

To we who are privileged to work actively day-by-day with, and for the family, it is a very realistic matter—a very humbling experience. Sometimes there is that feeling of shouting from the housetops—our God is Able! At other times, a quiet confident burning within. This is no fairy tale or old fashioned fable, worn out with the telling—Trust God, give Him your lives and you will prove it does work.

A scripture which has come to us lately, is the one from Corinthians "What, know ye not that your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price, therefore, glorify God

in your body and in your spirit, which are His." This refers of course, to those who have that personal knowledge of sins forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ. A life **fully** given to Him, is one which He can **fully** bless.

One of the aims of the C.H. & M. is to Prove God and I would fervently state here, that all that is said about God's Power, His Love, and compassion towards mankind, is true—we have the Proof!

Seeing that we now publish "Links" each six months I do not feel that it is quite necessary on "Our Day," to crowd in, lengthy statistics, so we will just briefly have a glimpse over the year.

The number of our family at the present time is 50. 30 Boys and 20 Girls. 4 Lads are out working; 2 Girls are helping at Home; leaving 44 having full time day school education. Pamela attends Leyton County High School; Brian the South West Essex Technical College and Dawn is taking advantage of an extended course at St. Barnabas Modern Secondary School. From this intellectual point of view we stand average. Several hitting the heights; the majority steering the middle course and some scraping the bottom. To these I would say—"If you are doing your very best, do not be dismayed". There is one who recently relinquished his High Office, to whom scholastic achievements in days of youth do not appear to have been of a PRIME necessity. I would ask you all though, not to waste a moment of these school days.

From the Physical Angle—the health of our family over the year has been very good, with the exception of a 'flu epidemic in early January. A sincere word of thanks to our Doctors, and to our Dentist (who is taking the chair this afternoon) and to Mr. Arthur Thompson our Chiropodist.

I am a great believer in healthy recreation and encourage our youngsters to join in various kinds of outdoor activities. My father too you know, found much enjoyment in outdoor sport, and 'old' girls and boys here this afternoon would tell you of cricket in the playground when father would say "Bowl me out for a penny"—"Catch me out for a halfpenny"—"Hit me for 6, twopence."

What of the Spiritual Side? Family prayers, Sunday School, Bible Class and other activities, apart from the day-to-day revelation of God's love, in provision and shelter, all help to bring **Him**, before them. I'm so glad to say that many have the personal experience of Jesus in the heart.

The reading of the Bible of course, plays an important part in our daily life and I will now ask the young people to pass on some of the Golden Nuggets we have found in this precious Book. (Here the children recited several scriptural texts.)

Yearly of course, the "family outside", grows. We love to correspond with, receive and pay visits to, the many who keep in contact with us. To all of you here today—thank you so much for coming, God bless you. Do keep in touch and whenever you can, come and see us. You can never realise the joy it gives us to see you from time-to-time and to know of your progress. News from the wider family :—

From Basingstoke : "Very many thanks for 'Links'. I became so interested in it that I forgot time and everything else, quite oblivious of the fact that I had a job to go to and it was so late. How I wished I lived in the neighbourhood, so that I could help and keep more in touch with you all. Both my boys are doing National Service now and my Doreen hopes to finish her Midwifery course in August." With my best wishes.

From B.A.O.R., Germany : "This is not a letter, but merely an advice note of goods being delivered. Within 30 days of the note I hope to present myself on your doorstep. Having wandered around Europe in my imaginative plans for leave, I have now decided to spend it in the U.K., or at least the major part of it. So for the first time you are only getting one flimsy page and the envelope. Greetings to all the family. All my love."

From Norfolk : "Thank you very much for the 'Links'. It was a joy to read them. I'm getting on very well at my job and have had two rises since I have been there. Some of the chaps from work went to hear Billy Graham. I have read quite a bit about him in the papers. He's doing marvellous work for God. I'm looking forward to seeing you and hope it will be soon. With love."

From Bedfordshire (the then fiancé of one of our 'old' girls) : I do want to tell you that we have decided to marry this spring—this being our prayerful intention since the day of our engagement last summer. We have prayed seriously about the matter However, as is our life as individuals now, so will our marriage be based, not on security and human provision, but entirely upon God's promise and His abundant providence. It is Margaret's and my sincere desire to have our wedding in London—at the Home which Margaret loves so much and with God's servants who have been such a blessing to her throughout life—the C.H. & M. We do not know if it would be (1) possible and (2) convenient for you to arrange a wedding for us. I personally am completely ignorant of such things, but Margaret hopefully wishes that you might favour our wish. We have just been in Scotland for our long weekend. We had a blessed time and found great encouragement through our dear Christian friends up there. We are regularly remembering you in prayer and we trust that the time will come when God will enable us to do something practical for this great work and for the young lives whose experiences have been similar to Margaret's and my own in years past."

From the husband of one of our 'old' girls, Newport: "Many thanks for your kind letter received during the week. Hester is home from hospital after a month there. She is a good patient in spite of her illness giving us the least trouble possible. She sends her love to you all and I am to tell you she is looking forward to paying you a visit during our holidays in August."

From a lad in the Forces. Giving many details of his experiences he closes with these thoughts "I would like to thank you very much for all your past kindness to me and also for praying for me. It has helped so much to know that I have some very sincere friends always thinking of me. God bless you and all the family. I pray for you all every night."

From Sussex : "Thank you very much for your letter and 'Links'. You asked me if I have finished my embroidery (she is making a cushion cover for us). I'll be quite honest with you

I haven't done a stitch since I started courting last November. Isn't it awful—that's what love does for you! Has J.W. got her little one yet—I often think of her—will try to come over soon. With love."

From Shornccliffe, Kent : "I shall be thinking of you as you celebrate your 55th annual, you can be sure of my prayers. It doesn't seem ten years ago I first met Mr. White at Woodford. I don't think I realised what a blessing that meeting was. I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking you for what you have done for me. I am hoping to go to Wembley to hear Billy Graham tonight. God bless, from one of your 'old' Boys."

From South Africa : "Dear 'Mum and Dad', Greetings in the name of the Lord. Well, perhaps you thought that we'd forgotten about the 21st? Well, we haven't and this is just to wish you all God's richest blessing on this big occasion. We have been in prayer for this day ever since we left and I'm sure the Lord will bless your meetings adundantly.

For all the beauty of this lovely land of ours, I must admit one weakness. I miss you folk and all our connections very much. Do pray the Lord to give us grace to live for Him, to trust Him wholly. You can imagine how we feel away from all our friends. Granted I have friends here, but Rene's friends are automatically mine and so I long equally as much for you all. I know it may sound silly, but there you are, I do miss you all.

Rene is very happy and pottering around the house and doing odds and ends. She's not exactly homesick and I'm trying my best to make her as at home and happy as I possibly can. We had a most enjoyable sea trip with bags of Christian Fellowship. Were met by my Dad and have been welcomed very warmly by our friends at Troyeville Church. The Roodepoort Baptist Church are giving us a 'welcome home' social on Friday.

So, you see we're slowly getting settled, but planning to walk very close to the Lord that we may know His will absolutely for our lives. Do pray for us in a very real way and you may be sure we will be remembering you all too very definitely in prayer. Again assuring you of our thoughts on the 21st and with bags of Christian love. Yours in Him (missingly), Wendel and Rene."

When asked to attend Meetings to tell of the Work and God's goodness, the financial side is one which invariably invokes much interest. Where does the money come from: Who subsidises this welfare work? To the non-christian comes the baffling answer—"God"—The answer **always** and **only** is, "God through His people".

The past year is no exception. He has once again enabled us to meet every bill and have a little balance over. Now for some figures. Payments covering normal expenditure for the year totalled £6,040—just £100 up on last year. The income, £6,380 as against £4,440 last year, an increase of £1,940. Donations up by £1,069. Legacies £561. In the donation figure is included a gift of £500.

I mentioned last year about the desire to improve and develop our premises. The new dining room is completed—two new recreation rooms are now in process of alteration (all within the existing lower hall) and two very useful sheds for maintenance work and storage have been erected. The cost of these developments, plus the complete redecoration of the exterior of all the buildings has amounted to £924. Earlier in the year I had transferred to the current account £750 for this purpose, and this, plus the current account balance of £340 met the cost and left us with a balance in hand for this new year of £166. Truly a great year. All praise to Him. I must add, of course, that these are my figures. The audited accounts have arrived this afternoon. We do appreciate the work you do for us in this way Mr. Solomon, quite free of charge. Thank you so much.

A word of thanks also to our Box Secretary, Mr. Parker—we are indebted to you for the tremendous help to the Work you undoubtedly are!

Work Parties We are very grateful to all who knit and sew for our family. We have received some magnificent parcels this year. How we treasure them. God bless you in this very practical help you give. A point to note here is, that the increase of these gifts and other parcels received has meant a decrease on our spending figure of clothes, etc. (The harvest goods we received too, are invaluable, especially the non-perishable ones. We are grateful to all churches, chapels and all organisations who think of us in this particular way).

Abridge. I report now on behalf of Mr. Gilbert who really under God is the mainspring of our work there. Truly it has been a very encouraging year, the main activities being our Sunday

morning service of worship at 11 a.m.; our Primary, Sunday School and Bible Class in the afternoon and the Gospel Service at 6.30. We have now changed the Y.S.L. meeting from Wednesday to Thursday at 7.15. This is followed by the weekly Bible Study and Prayer Circle. You will be pleased to know that the young people's meeting is now run by the young folk of Abridge, themselves. At 2.45 the same day, the women folk of the Church get together for their meeting and once a month they patch and mend on our behalf—I can assure you that we do appreciate this practical demonstration of your love for the family circle here. At the Sunday School Anniversary in October last we had as our Guest Speaker, Mr. Fred Crisp. It was a day of real blessing and two decisions were registered. The re-opening of the Baptistry (full details in our last report) in November last, was really a most inspiring time. Since December, 1953, we have had the joy of baptising eight young people—and it is most probable that two more will be taking this step soon in accordance with the Scriptures. These, and other signs, encourage our hearts and I feel it is a challenge for all of us who are actively engaged in this work, to search our hearts to see if we are really making the most of the opportunities God is giving to us. We are very fond of the village—it has treasured memories and we long to see the folk there turning to God. Some 20 of our fellowship joined with the Baptist Church here to attend the Wembley meetings last Thursday and it proved to be a time of great blessing. A word of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, teachers, leaders and helpers and may we all take encouragement as we look back, and so press forward with a greater zeal to the work which lies ahead.

Mission activities apart from our Abridge Work.

It truly is a happy experience to accept invitations to various Churches, Chapels, Mission Halls, as well as from other organisations, to tell of God's faithfulness to His Family here. As I stated earlier on in the Report, we have the day-to-day proof of His reality in answered prayer. This has always been "part of the Work"—and we shall endeavour to continue to proclaim the Gospel through this means.

Every second Wednesday each month we hold our little Prayer Meeting in Crescent Road. I do extend to you a real welcome to come along at 2.45 p.m. and share these times with us.

Bringing my Report to a close this afternoon I pause here to sincerely thank Mother, Wife, and my Staff for all your help given. I am only the voice, but there is the team with me—I am proud to be their mouthpiece. We join together in thanking Mr. Crowhurst, Mrs. Gilders, Mrs. Southgate, Mrs. Cowling, for, shall I say, their domestic help—Mrs. Smith who instructs and helps in the making of girls' dresses, etc., Mrs. Purvis for her reporting and typing help, Mrs. Day who gives P.T. instruction to the girls, and

Miss Leary who takes the girls choir and teaches music. Thanks to "Aunties" and pen friends.

To all Friends do please continue to pray for us that we may,

Spiritually enjoy His blessing throughout the coming year. That we Staff may be kept close to Him—that we may be completely cleansed vessels through which He may flow to the Young Folk. That they may be brought to know Him—for those who already do—pray for Spiritual growth. It is impossible to comprehend the great potential wrapped up in the life of anyone, God knows and He longs to be allowed to touch into full life by the warmth of His love and dynamic power, every young heart in our family.

That we may **Educationally** as a family strike a high note. The young folk doing of their very best during these impressionable years—it will stand them in such good stead later on.

That we may **Physically** maintain a good standard of health—a good foundation now means so much when the full responsibilities of life are upon them.

That we may **Materially**, from the accommodation and domestic sides particularly, move with the times, sensibly, for the world does largely judge and comment upon such a work as this from this angle and we desire to prove, I say this reverently—that He gives bountifully and is up-to-date!

Indeed we praise Him for all that is past and trust Him for all that's to come. As we go forward together may there be a smile on our faces and a joy in our hearts for one day we who love and serve Him here will be received by Him into the great Eternal Family.

The Rev. RONALD W. FRANCIS
(Christ Church, St. Albans)

I must say, first of all, how delighted I am to be here with you for 'Your Day' once again. I love to come to these Annual Meetings of rejoicing and praise to God for the wondrous things that He has done. I am grateful to Mr. Victor White, and his big family, for so kindly inviting me to come. While the Report of the work was being given by Mr. White, I recalled the time when I first came into touch with Mr. Herbert White, and learned of the work that was being done here. I think that must have been twenty years ago. One little thing I remember very well, and it came to my mind while the doctor was giving his report just now. It was, I think, about seventeen years ago, when I was working in Holloway, I had three little children whom Mr. White was kind enough to admit to his Home. But before he could take them in, they had to have a medical examination. I took them along to Dr. Mathie, and he examined them: and when I was helping them to dress afterwards, the Dr. said: "I can see that Mr. Francis has

some little girls of his own at home." "No" I replied. "In fact, I am not even married yet." But if you had asked me to attend your meeting a fortnight today, I might have found it difficult to say "Yes," because I shall be somewhere else that day. But I hope you will be there too to throw some rice at me!

I want to bring you a verse from one of the less familiar Books in the Bible: the Book of Lamentations. You will say, what a Book from which to take a text on "Our Day"! But really it is a wonderful Book. I do not know whether you have studied it. It may be a rather sad and solemn Book, but I am not surprised, when you think of what Jeremiah had gone through when he sat down to write this Book. You would not have felt very much like singing if you had gone through his experiences. He had seen his beloved people carried away into captivity. He was surrounded by the ruins of his beloved city, Jerusalem: there was the beautiful Temple of God lying in utter ruins not far away. And Jeremiah who loved God, and his people, and his city so much, he sat down in a little cave outside the Damascus Gate. (And we can be almost certain of the site of that cave today.) And in that little cave which gave him shelter, but feeling absolutely desolate, Jeremiah sat down and wrote this Book. It is a wonderful Book from the point of view of the manner in which it is written, and I want the boys and girls, and the older friends here, to learn a little about this Book today.

It has five chapters. And if you will open your Bible at this Book of Lamentations you will find that the number of verses in the chapters go like this: 22 - 22 - 66 - 22 - 22. That is interesting, isn't it? You do not need to be mathematicians, (especially those who are up at the top of the class!) to know that 66 is three times 22. I wonder if you remember that the 119th Psalm has 22 little sections: and over the top of each of those sections there is a little word which is a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. And that wonderful 119th Psalm is built up of 22 little sections of 8 verses each and if we were arranging it in our own alphabet it would go something like this. The first eight verses would begin with the letter "A": the next eight verses with the letter "B": the next eight verses would begin, not with the letter "C", but with the letter "G" for that is the third letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Now then these chapters are built up in a similar way; each verse of each chapter beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. But when we come to the central chapter, each letter is used three times. So there you have a wonderful piece of literary construction. Jeremiah must have been, not only guided by God, and led by His Spirit, but he must have given tremendous thought to this Book that he was writing. As he poured out his soul before God, and saw the desolation of his people, he also had hope. Listen to these verses which come right in the middle of this Book. Chapter 3 vv. 21 to 26. "This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope.

It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul: therefore will I hope in him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." Is not that a lovely message in the middle of this rather dismal Book? You see how wonderfully God hides His sparkling gems in a very dark place.

It is as though we have here a special reward for the child of God who turns to this Book, and reads it right through, believing it to be God's Holy Word: for right in the very centre we come across these lovely verses. There are three things here. 1. A faithfulness that is unbounded. 2. A compassion that is unfailing. 3. A hope that is unfaltering. Now just a brief word about each of those.

1. A faithfulness that is unbounded. "Great is thy faithfulness." How we love to see that text set up over the choir today: "He is faithful that promised." How we rejoice once again in the wonderful faithfulness of our God! You know God's People in the Old Testament were chosen to be a witness to Him to all the earth: not merely to bear witness, but to be a witness, God's people, His chosen ones; apart from anything they did, or said, they were to be witnesses before the whole world that God was a faithful, loving, almighty God. We here tonight, as a gathering of God's people, bear our testimony to the fact that God is faithful. We have trusted Him, and He has not failed us. We have rested upon His promises, and we have found them as solid as a rock beneath our feet. Not one word of the Lord has failed concerning the promises that He has made to us, as we have humbly trusted Him. How wonderful it is to recall that through these fifty-five years, the loving, faithful hand of our God, has not only been upon this work, and over these children, and those who care for them, but God has so wonderfully supplied every need, and over and above what was necessary. Our bountiful God has given with an ever-open hand: and we are here this afternoon to praise Him for His wonderful faithfulness. As Jeremiah in his day looked upon a world that seemed desolate, and hopeless, and desperate, he turned to God in the midst of it all, and he realised that he had One Who "abideth faithful." One "Who is the same yesterday, today, and for ever." "I am Jehovah: I change not." There was One Who was unchanging in a changing world: One Who was indestructible and everlasting in a world which seemed to be shaking beneath his feet. We look out upon a world today which seems to be a world of chaos, "men's hearts failing them for fear." But as we look up, we see our ever faithful God, the One Whom we can trust, the One Who never has failed us, and Who never will fail us. And it is with the thought of His faithfulness that we go forth into

another year, not only to experience ourselves, but to demonstrate to the world that our God abides faithful.

2. We notice here that God's compassion is unfailing. "His compassions fail not." That word "compassion" is a very lovely word. If you knock off the prefix "com" you have the word "passion" left, a word which speaks of the deepest and tenderest love, and longing of the heart of God. Jeremiah says: "I am living in a world of hate: but my God is a God of compassion, of love: and His love will never fail." "His compassions fail not." You and I today are rejoicing in that same heart of love which watches over us, and over these little ones by day, and by night. Is there someone here who sometimes feels lonely: who feels that no one cares in this big world where people are so busy? There is One who thinks about you, and Who never forgets you: and that is the One whose "compassions fail not." You may lack human love and sympathy, and companionship, but the great God and Father of us all yearns over you with an everlasting love. "His compassions fail not." And, notice, "they are new every morning." God is not a God of monotony. God is a God of freshness. How I love to read through your "Links," and see the great variety of gifts that God sends, and the different places that they come from, the various needs that He supplies, showing that all the time God has every little detail of the work in mind: He has everything well in hand: and day by day, He supplies every need. His mercies "are new every morning." I wonder if you seek God morning by morning? I wonder if you look to Him for His leading day by day? This thought always strikes my own conscience, the thought that God is thinking of me every single day. New every morning are the gifts that He bestows upon me. And how often I forget Him! How often my quiet time is hurried over! We make some excuse. We say that we have got something to do for God: so we cut short our time of communion with Him. It is so easy to find excuses for robbing God of what is already His own. But how faithful God is! Day by day, according to our need, so He supplies it, according to His loving heart, and His ever-open hand.

3. We have a hope that is unfaltering. "The Lord is my portion: therefore will I hope in him." He gives us this beautiful piece of advice: it seems to have been written specially for you and me. "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord." I must confess that sometimes my faith is not sufficient to enable me to remain absolutely calm. Some days everything seems to go wrong. But do let us all remember that if 'you fear you cannot trust: and if you trust, you cannot fear.' The two things just will not go together. They are like oil and water: they just will not mix. If you have a perfect, confident trust in God, you will not worry or fear about the future. But if you do give way to worry and fear, it shows that your trust

in God is lacking in some essential respect. A quiet waiting upon God will bring home to your heart the truth that God's faithfulness is unbounded, that His compassion is unfailing: and your hope will then be unfaltering: and looking unto Him, you will never be disappointed.

There is just one more thing I would like to say before I close. We have been thinking about God's faithfulness. His compassion, His love: and how wonderful it is! But, you know, it does demand a response from our hearts. We are here to give to God our praise this afternoon. With all our hearts we want to thank Him for the wonderful things that He has done. You know, there may be someone here who needs to come to God. You need to give Him something more than praise and thanksgiving: you need to give Him your heart. Because there is only one return which is really adequate as we think of God's goodness to us, and that is, to bring our hearts and lives to him, and offer them to Him as a thankoffering for all that He has done for us. But please do not come to Him with any kind of patting on the back, or feeling of self-satisfaction because you are yielding yourself to God. You are His by right: you belong to Him already.

A few weeks ago I went along to the Jubilee meeting at the Albert Hall of Mr. Tom Ree's London Rallies. It was a great meeting. Some of you may have been there. I arrived when the Hall was very nearly full. I took my seat in a row where there was one vacant seat at the end. And standing next to me I found there was a Baptist minister from South London whom I had met before. The first hymn was given out, and neither of us had a book. We asked one of the stewards if we could have a hymn book: we were told that they cost, I forget now whether it was 6d. or a 1s. We gave him the money and he disappeared. While he had gone another gentleman came and occupied the vacant seat at the end of the row, and a few moments later the steward came back with the two hymn-books. Not having taken much notice of what the person looked like who had paid for the books, the steward handed my book to the gentleman who had just sat down beside me and the Baptist minister got the other one! The minister was anxious to get things put right there and then, but I said: "It's all right: leave it for the time being." The gentleman beside me soon noticed that I did not have a hymn-book and he offered to share his book with me—which was the book I had paid for, by the way. It was very kind of him! At the end of the meeting he popped the book in his Bible wallet, and I tapped him on the knee, and said: "I wonder whether you would let me have my hymn-book which I paid for just before you came in." Is not that just what we are doing with God so often? We imagine that we are doing God a kindness in taking a Sunday School class, or taking up some kind of service for Him: and when we make a donation towards the support of His work, we feel

that we are doing Him a kindness. We need to remember, when we yield our hearts and lives to God, that we have been bought with a price: that we are giving to Him that which is His already: we have been purchased by the precious blood of Christ on Calvary's Cross. We belong to God, body, soul, and spirit. All that we are, and all that we have belongs to Him already. We are His by right of purchase and conquest. "Will a man rob God?" Many of us are robbing Him by holding back from Him what is already His own. He is a great and wonderful giver. Great is His faithfulness. His compassions fail not. He is the source of our unfaltering hope and faith for the future. As we think of all that He has given to us, let us yield ourselves to Him afresh, and prove in the future, even more than in the past, that He is a wonderful God to those who trust Him fully.



FRUIT PICKING IN THE GARDEN.
DAMSONS!

EVENING GATHERING

Further Report by Mr. White

A warm welcome was given to all and sincere thanks expressed to everyone taking part—those who prepared tea—Mr. Hunter and friends for loan of Church.

“Endeavouring to present my report this evening in another way, I have decided to keep to the great theme “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever”.

My sincere prayer is, that God will enable me to bring out quite clearly this thought—in the midst of the changing scenes of life economically, socially and almost in every way, HE, GOD, does not change. He meets every situation today, just as He has always done through the history of the C. H. & M. Does He not state—“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.”

During the past week I have been reminiscing—looking through the 74 publications which have been sent out from our Family Circle to prayer partners and friends since the very beginning. Oh, how interesting it all is, to read of the Birth, the Early Problems, the Outstanding Answers to Prayer, the Growth and numerous Blessings upon this (I use the word carefully) ‘unique’ family.

It was in 1912 that our magazine became known as the “Links”—this is a very fascinating word, bringing with it a wealth of meaning, for by this means we are able to ‘link’ you, our prayer partners, with the immediate family circle and share with you our many happy experiences. ‘Old’ members of the family, especially those living great distances from London, particularly appreciate this tangible ‘link’ with the present family.

The challenges which ring right through these reports—“Hitherto hath the Lord helped us” (no appeal has been made other than in prayer to God for help) “The Lord reigneth”; “Unto Him who is able to give us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think be glory for ever”; “For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand saying unto thee—‘Fear not—I will help thee’”—these are ours today.

Have these promises been proved, in a practical way down the years? Let us have a look together and see.

Provision of Accommodation

1899—No. 3 The Market, George Lane; Later the “Woodlands”, Latchett Road; followed by one, two, three, four, five, six houses in Crescent Road. God provided rent for thirty years, but all the time prayer had been ascending that the houses might one day become the freehold possession of the C. H. & M. In His own time God answered these prayers. In 1928 the Florence Barclay Memorial Hall was opened adjacent to the Houses. Property at Tiptree was given in 1938 as a holiday centre, we thought, but God

undoubtedly had it reserved as a war-time shelter, plus farm for provision.

Today—we are enjoying the results of this faith and prayer and work by the early pioneers. During the past year we have been able to make various improvements to these existing premises—new dining room, etc.; workshop for maintenance work and storage shed. We thank Mr. Olney for the way he has undertaken these improvements.

As to the future, we have plans in hand now for the re-organising of the basement floor of four of the houses and the erection of a small laundry.

As God has provided in the past our trust is in Him to meet the future needs.

Staff.

Miss R. A. Hutchin and my late father were the founders of the C. H. & M. and quite soon were joined by mother, and other christian friends who responded to the call and claim of Christ to serve Him amongst the young folk. As one and other have had to leave, God has had others to take their place. This year as Irene, Margaret and Ted have left us, God has sent along the Misses Haynes, Revell and Parkes. Miss Long has also joined our ranks. My wife and I are grateful to God for His provision in this way and thank them, as well as Mr. & Mrs. Olney, Mrs. Webb and Mrs. Gilbert for their service given. (No Trade Union hours—here I must be careful—politics are in the air just now).

Here again—this evidence of the past gives us confidence in God for the future.

Financial Provision

From the very beginning there has always been sufficient money available to buy the food and clothes, pay the rates and taxes, and rent too in the earlier days. Let me pass on to you a thrilling little story entitled—

“THE LANDLORD BRINGS HIS OWN RENT”

The landlord called once a quarter to pay a friendly visit and also to collect the rent. On one occasion, when he was due, Mr. White was concerned as sufficient money was not in hand to pay the rent. Very earnestly prayer was made that God in His own way would meet the need. The usual day arrived, and so did the Landlord, but Mr. White had not the money. During his conversation with the Landlord, he was lifting his heart to God that in some way the money would be forthcoming before the end of the interview. In the course of this friendly talk the Landlord said, “My father is very interested in your Homes and he has asked me to bring his collecting box to you to open.” When the money in the box was counted it was found to be the exact amount required to make up the deficit, so God has His

own way of supplying His Children's need, even causing the Landlord to bring his own rent.

There are of course many other stories which could be told and I expect many of you here have heard father tell them.

The 7th report published in 1907 states that "we have 55 children now"—payments for that year were only £424. Work that out and you will see the cost per child per week was the most amazing figure of 3/-. Provision Costs—£188; Fuel £10. That was in 1907. Here are a few financial details covering the period from 1st May, 1954 to 30th April, 1955. Total ordinary expenses, £6,040; Income £6,380 (which by the way, except for 1951 when we received legacies of over £3,000, is a record figure.) This leaves us a current account balance of £340. With 51 children as our average for this period the cost per child per week amounts to £2 5s. 0d.—fifteen times as great as in 1907! Changing scenes? Here is one indeed, but our God is able! The balance this year is bigger than it was then. The full accounts will be published in the Autumn (for those of you who enjoy devouring figures). May I just mention here, for I am sure you will be interested to know, that gifts under the heading of subscriptions and donations were up by over £1,000. What a joy it has been to receive so many lovely gifts—from postal orders of 2/6 to a cheque up to £500. Such encouraging letters too. Thank you everyone.

Need we doubt Him for the future if He has provided thus far ??? Already this year we have received £361.

Medically

Our late beloved friend Dr. F. A. Martin-Flegg was the first honorary medical officer in 1902 and when the time came for him to retire God had Dr. David Smith, who had just started practising in the District, ready to take his place. Drs. Mathie and Baker have since joined him and, although the National Health Service has come into being, these christian men take a very personal interest in every member of our family. Mr. Smith who was our Chairman this afternoon, takes care of our teeth, Mr. Arthur Thompson takes care of our feet, so you see we are cared for from top to toe!

Our records show that good health has been maintained throughout the years and we feel that the skill of our christian medical advisors has largely contributed to this.

For this present year—those who were here this afternoon heard the Doctor's satisfactory medical report given. We as a family are grateful to our medical helpers, already mentioned and also to Mr. R. Barratt of Seven Kings for his help in this field, recently.

The Family

1899—one little girl—four months later another little girl—very quickly the numbers grew necessitating, as previously described, additional accommodation and staff. A total of 805 children have shared our home to date. Many are here today—

we are so pleased to see you and I am sure that, if you were given the opportunity of a few minutes freedom in the pulpit, you would be able to interest us with the experiences of your day. All of you here today look forward to hearing quotations from letters we have received from 'old' members of our family—here are some now.

From Middle East Land Forces :—"You will have noticed my address—I am now in the Middle East—Jordan, arriving here just before Christmas. On Christmas Day I thought of you all back there, of the children's faces waiting for Mrs. White to say "One, two, three OPEN" We are very near the Red Sea and around us are Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Yours sincerely." (Enclosed two photographs).

From Worthing :—"I am sorry I did not come to the Annual but it is such a long journey from here. 'M' and I are getting married on September 18th and are certainly looking forward to it. I hope you are all keeping well and that you had a grand time at the Annual. I always remember how we as children used to look forward to that day. Thank you once more for all you did for us." (one of a family of four).

From West Perth, Australia :—"I am writing to thank you for the 'links'. Always most interesting to us both (two who were once in the family, married after leaving and settled in Australia)—they (the 'links') make us feel homesick and we do so wish we could pop in to see you. Still its nice to know we can keep in touch by letter. Much love."

From London :—"Please forgive us for not writing before but so many things seem to happen and one keeps putting it off. However, after receiving the 'Links' I feel I must write. We are always so keen to read it and to know more of what you are doing in His Name for so many. Our love to you all."

Also from London :—"Many thanks for the 'Links'. I love to sit and read all about the wonderful way you are still carrying on with the work of all these years and never seem to get tired of doing it. It was a grand Annual Meeting and although my husband and I were only able to come to the afternoon we enjoyed every minute of it. If I could not come to one or the other I would feel I had missed such a lot."

Received yesterday from Germany :—"Just a few lines to let you know I haven't forgotten you. I am sorry not to have written before, but you are always mentioned in my prayers each day. Many thanks for "Links" which I received this week. I enjoyed reading it very much for it brought back many pleasant memories. I do want to say a big "thank you" for all that you did for me while I was in the Home. Sorry I am going to miss the Annual on Saturday for I should have loved to come and hear how God has supplied all your needs during the past year. I suppose you are wondering what I am getting up to out here. Our band had an

inspection by the Director of Music last month and we have just heard that we passed with flying colours. Since then we have done nothing but recording for the B.F.N. and last week one for the B.B.C. I will let you know when it comes on the B.B.C. as soon as I can—most likely it will be on in the first week of June and as I shall be home then I will pop round and see you and we can enjoy a good programme for once! This is all for now—hoping that everything will turn out all right on the Annual. Please give my love to all."

So much for the past members. What of the present family? Well here we are—a very handsome and beautiful selection! At least that's our opinion. We are 50 in number—20 girls and 30 boys—four lads going out to work each day—2 girls helping at home and 44 attending school full time. We have plenty of fun and games all the year round—if you are feeling a little glum especially on April 1st next—pop down and see us before the children leave for school. Truly we on the staff say, "never a dull moment." I am so glad that the Founders emphasised as one of the three aims of the C. H. & M. "to show the boys and girls the Christian way of life." Today, as at all times down the years, family prayers, Sunday Worship and other activities play their part in teaching the kiddies of the love of Jesus Christ.

As this afternoon—so now I will ask them to recite to you . . .

We have many proofs that these Scriptures learned in early years have stood many of the family in good stead. Frankly, I am just beginning to warm up—so many thoughts crowd into my mind regarding the family experiences but I shall have to keep a check on my self. How I do abhor typewritten scripts, prepared reports (possibly inherited from father). I would much rather stand here this evening without the chain of time, and warning glance of my wife, and simply pass on to you ad lib, the truly wonderful answers to prayer which have been ours. However, this must not be so for the report is only a tiny part of 'Our Day'. The young people wish to express their gratitude to their heavenly father who has not failed. We do realise don't we how much we owe to Him? Other friends too, will add their praise and bring His message. I did mention this afternoon some details regarding the Abridge Evangelical Free Church—do pray for us there.

The whole year has been an answer to prayer but one or two "mountain top" experiences stand out—the Devon holiday last August; the overruling during my hospital experience; the Christmas provision; the encouraging signs at Abridge; our double wedding (all these experiences have been reported in detail in the 'Links'). To God be the Glory!

Remember—"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and for ever". In the past He has blessed, in the present He is with us; our confidence is in Him—the future is secure. Our earnest prayer is that we shall not fail Him. As the words of our family hymn

today ring "I am satisfied with Jesus—is He satisfied with me?"

Our aim will be to please Him first and then to present to the world a well cared for family, in every way; buildings fully maintained and domestically up to date that everybody will have to say "It is God, it is marvellous in our eyes".

I am continually being asked by friends to put together the past in printed form, to show to the present and future generation, the might of God. In His time and according to His will, I sincerely trust that this may be possible—shall value your prayers about this matter. Truly such a story would make impressive reading to the Glory of God and confound the critics, sceptics, agnostics, atheists, and modernists.

As one waits for the rising of the sun over the horizon, to herald the new dawn, so we, as Christians, await the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in His splendour and glory. As the rays of light preceding the sun give us warning of its coming, so today we have around us many strong signs that e'er long the Son of God will return. Are we ready for His coming?

We are here today to praise Him for the past, to acknowledge His goodness in the present and to gain strength and encouragement for the future.

"Jesus Christ—the same yesterday—today and for ever."

Oh what you miss if you do not know Him.

May our sincere prayer be—

"All to Jesus I surrender—Lord, I give myself to Thee,
Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me".

The Rev. W. G. CHANNON
(Baptist Church, Purley)

Mr. Chairman, my dear Friends. I must say at the outset, and with profound sincerity that I do count it a very great privilege to be here tonight, and to be allowed to have some part in these proceedings. Through the years I have followed with great interest the work which we represent in this service, and for which we give thanks to God. I suppose the reason for that is that nothing helped to lay the foundation of my own Christian experience in the earliest days more than the wonderful story of George Muller, of Bristol. Whenever I read of this work I have thought of the great work which George Muller carried on. Last year Mr. Victor White was good enough to ask me to attend the annual meeting, but I was unable to accept the invitation: and it was with a great sense of thrill that subsequently he gave me a further opportunity to be present, and which I was very glad to accept.

I have had an experience this afternoon which speakers, I am sure, do not find at all acceptable, though it does not often happen to me. I had planned to speak on a certain theme from the

Scriptures and then suddenly, I cannot explain it, another text of Scripture seemed to take possession of my whole consciousness, and which I felt would, indeed, be the right word for this meeting. It is Romans 8.28. Incidentally I am sure the children here would be able to repeat the words of that text without having to turn it up in the Word of God. I would like to speak of so many things that have taken place tonight, but time forbids. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." The Christian believer should be able to accept these words as the basic fact of his life—that "all things work together for good to them that love God." And yet we must be honest: there are many who are trying desperately hard to cling to their faith in this declaration, many whose creed is such that they might well be identified with Father Jacob, who, when his sons returned from Canaan, they seemed to infect him with their own fear. "We have ye bereaved of my children" said Jacob. "Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: all these things are against me." "If mischief befall him by the way in which ye go, then shall ye bring down my grey hairs with sorrow to the grave." "All these things are against me." Well it does seem sometimes that continually we have to decide which attitude we will adopt to all the vital problems of life—that of Father Jacob's, or Paul's. As we have listened to the report given to us by Mr. White, we know what is the attitude adopted by our dear friends who are engaged in this great work. "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Of course, in a life of exhausting and sometimes distressing uncertainties, it is a grand thing to find a man who can be sure. Not for this man to conjecture, or surmise. He KNOWS. The word which he uses is something conveying more than an idea, a mere superficial knowledge of the mind. He uses a word which tells of a knowledge in which intellect, affection, will, experience, all make a powerful contribution. As we have listened to the Report of the work, not only of the past year, but which has taken a dip into the years long since past, it has been obvious that running right through it has been this assurance. "We know."

Of course, the importance which we attach to any particular utterance depends very largely upon the person who is responsible for that utterance. Does this man speak with authority when he says "We know"? We ask: "Who is he?" Is he a man who has lived a cloistered life sheltered from the storm? If so, what he has to say sounds very nice: but it may be void of any true meaning in face of the grim facts of life. But this is, by no means, true. This is a man who has experienced the stress and strains of life. At your leisure turn to 2.Cor.11 from v.24. "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck a night and a

day I have been in the deep . . . in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Besides those things which are without that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the Churches—those who extended to me the right hand of fellowship, whose hearts were with me." Now you can scarcely feel that this man live a sheltered life.

Within the time allotted to me I want to say just three things about these words of Paul's. **1. The limitation of the promise.** As individuals we want to face life, as we know that those who are responsible for the work of these Homes are facing it. The limitation of the promise. Is this a universal promise? Are these words, which can be glibly used by any careless individual who may find himself in trouble, really intended for the comfort of such? Can we say to men and women in general that everything is going to work out for the best in the end? When we come to this Book we discover that such is not the hope that is set before us. Dr. Jowett used to speak of the Upper Classes and the Middle Classes, but that was, of course, a long time ago. We know that today the division between the classes is not so clearly discerned. He went on to say that when God divides classes he does so horizontally—believers and unbelievers. But when we turn to this Book we find it makes a distinction between the two classes vertically—those who have entered into covenant relationship with God, and those who have not. What we have to recognise, and what I believe we do recognise, those of us who are gathered here tonight, is this, that the comfort which the New Testament imparts is never sentimental: it is always theological . . . It is not simply that the Church has to instruct the Christian believer in the doctrines of the faith: but rather that we have got to look into our own hearts, and to examine our own lives.

This promise is limited by a two-fold condition. "We know that all things work together for good **to them that love God: and to them who are the called according to his purpose.**"

Now notice what happens here. We have a two-fold promise, but the promise is limited to those "who are called according to His purpose:" and to those "who love God." In other words, we have got two complementary aspects of our salvation. There is the divine side—"to them who are called according to His purpose." And there is the human side. "To them that love God." That man who can say "I have been called according to His purpose" can say everything is going to work out for the best. When God calls He has a purpose in view. I do think we ought to underline that. We hear a lot about converts being made. But rarely in the New Testament are we told to make converts. We are told to make disciples—and there is a profound distinction. When men and women respond to God's call they know that God has a purpose in that call. What is the purpose for you? Read

the verse which immediately follows the text: "For whom he did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." When God called us His purpose was that we should become more and more like Jesus Christ, until that blessed moment when we shall see Him as He is, and be like Him. The ancient philosophers spent a great deal of their time in a vain endeavour to discover what was the supreme good of life, what life was, and they never could make up their minds. But the Christian believer knows what life is for, that more and more of the beauty of Jesus might be seen in him. I said to Mr. Stokes when we were in the vestry and you were singing "Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me" "That goes to the heart of everything." God is not concerned only with the service that we render, what He is concerned with is, can He see in us more and more of the beauty of Christ? Is that true of us? Are we so living in all our relationships that more and more of the beauty of Jesus can be seen in our lives?

Then there is the human aspect. "All things work together for good to them that love God." Of course, this love is not a mere emotion: it is a love which manifests itself in a life of obedience to the will of God. "For this is the love of God that we keep his commandments: and His commandments are not grievous." Is that our confidence that "all things work together for good?" Can we say that we have heard the call of God, and that, by the grace of God, His purpose in us is being fulfilled? Is Jesus Christ being seen in our lives? And is our love to Him a love which manifests itself in a life of obedience? If so, then, indeed, we can say that "all things work together for good to them that love God, and to them who are the called according to His purpose."

Now a word about the inclusiveness—**2. The inclusiveness of the promise.** "We know that **all things** work together for good to them that love God." The "all things" include everything in that chapter, everything that is mentioned in v.35, "tribulation: distress: persecution: famine: nakedness: peril: sword." "All things": We can be sure of that tonight, because it was God Who began this work, and you realise that as you look back over the years. Dr. James Denney used to say that 'a dose of history was a good cordial for a drooping spirit.' Yes "all things." We usually think of life as being divisible. We have our bright, and our stormy days. The sun is not always shining. Sometimes we experience the fierceness of the storm—what then? It is easy enough to sing when the sun is shining, and everything is going well with us. But our experiences are not always like that. And the story of this work demonstrates that fact. It has not always been plain sailing. I believe that this lovely promise only comes to life when the storm is raging. There is a story told of a German baron, who grew rather tired of the idle life in the court

that he had to live, and he asked his king for leave to withdraw from it. He built for himself a fort on a lofty rock beneath which he hung some wires in the form of an aeolian harp: he hoped the wind might play upon the wires, and the music would comfort him. But there was no music from that harp: and the baron interpreted that as a sign of God's displeasure. But one night the clouds were dark and heavy in the sky, the sun was hidden, and a storm broke out, and shook the very earth. The baron walked about restlessly in his room, until at length he went out into the night, and there he heard music. His aeolian harp was singing with joy high above the sound of the storm. He learned that the wires had been too thick to sound forth their music when the air was still, and the sun was shining: but they found their voice in the time of stress and strain. Some of us tonight could tell our own stories. We have proved this to be true. You see, our view of life is realistic, not romantic. Paul does not say that all things are good. There are some people who say it. They say, for instance, that there is no such thing as pain: that it is an imagination of the mind. I was seated the other day in the vestibule of a large hall where many of these dear folk were gathered together. It was a dreadful night, and the rain was coming down. And as I sat there I saw them coming in trying to look pleased. One said: "It's a lovely night." "Yes" said the other. I cannot get on with that sort of thing. It just was **not** a lovely night. Paul does not say that all things are good. It is not a good thing that men and women should be swept away by a deadly disease. Some of us have had to say farewell to our loved ones taken from us. It is not good that men should be involved in disaster. The Bible does not say that all things are good. The Gospel takes life as it is: it faces life honestly. But God takes these things and presses them into His service: and the whole history of the Christian Church demonstrates the truth of that. Many have endured the fires of persecution, and they have been enriched by means of that persecution, and the Church has been multiplied. How many are the illustrations which come to one's mind. Even this man had a thorn in the flesh. Whatever it was he referred to it as a thorn in the flesh, and that is something you cannot forget. It was something for whose removal he prayed desperately, and yet we find him giving thanks to God that it remained. He had to face martyrdom, and he speaks of departing to be with Christ "which is very far better." The Christian believer whose faith is in God is invincible. There is a story I love. It concerns an old lady who had committed some trifling offence, and she was brought before the Court, and though she vigorously protested her innocence, the judge found her guilty, and fined her 10/-. She handed a gold sovereign to the clerk of the court. He consulted his reference book and discovered that a gold sovereign was worth 32/6: and he deducted the 10/- fine, and handed the dear old lady

22/6 change. She went back to her village rather puzzled, knowing nothing about the change in value of a sovereign, and she wondered however it was possible to be found guilty of a crime and then to be paid a dividend as well!

I am sure that we should face **the challenge of this promise.** What is the challenge? Men often challenge the veracity of the promise of God. Actually it is the promises of God that do the challenging. They challenge the integrity of our character. We want to live, surely, in this confidence, both for our lives, and all that we are concerned with in His service. We want to live in this confidence. How can it be, I am quite sure that we should ask ourselves very briefly these questions: Have I responded to the call of God? We are met tonight in a company of those who have heard the call "Come, follow," and they have responded. Are His purposes being fulfilled in your life? That is the second question. We may have responded to the call of God, and yet tonight be wandering away from Him. Unless it is true that my life is being lived in such a way that the beauty of Jesus is being seen in me, how can we claim this promise? Am I willing to exercise both faith and patience for its fulfilment? It is not only a question of faith, but also of patience. There will be times in my experience when I shall find myself in genuine difficulty, without a precise explanation of what is happening. Am I ready then to wait until I can understand the process at work? Am I ready to postpone a final judgment until a more intelligent view is possible? "Those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." We live in the present for the future. That is what distinguishes the Christian from the unbeliever. They live in the present for the present. The present was never intended to satisfy us. And so we are willing to wait. Yes, it requires faith, and it also requires patience. Some time ago I was travelling to Liverpool, and seated beside me in the carriage was a gentleman who evidently just purchased a new novel. I watched him as he began to read the first chapter: I noticed that his brow began to pucker up. I thought to myself, the plot is thickening. And then he did something, which I thought was really a feminine characteristic—he turned over the pages and began to read the last chapter: and he began to smile: and then he went back to where he had left off at the beginning. As I sat there in the compartment of that train, I closed my eyes, and in my heart I thought, as touching life with all its problems, Thank God, I know how it is going to end. And so do you if you know yourself to be called of God according to His purpose. If you love God you know that you are not the victims of chance. "The steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord." At the risk of being thought narrow-minded, I must confess that I do not like to hear Christian folk talking about being lucky. The word 'luck' used to have a different sort of meaning. Words backslide as well as people. But we are not the victims

of luck. Some time ago a gentleman whom I met said: "Good luck to you." It just did not sound right. How different when a dear old lady put her hand in mine and said: "God bless you." I must confess in this connection that I am appalled at the amount of superstition that exists among Christians. You see when we love God, and "are called according to His purpose," we can look upon all life, with its varied experiences as a spiritual pilgrimage. We shall certainly know success and failure, companionship and loneliness, sickness and health. But we give praise to God tonight for all that is past. Though we may have experienced what may seem to spell defeat, and disaster, because "we love God," because "we are called according to His purpose," all will be well. And so in the light of the Report to which we have listened, and as we anticipate the future, it is good to say in this hour:

"I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air.
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care."



HOMEWORK!

IN MEMORIAM

ARNOLD M. GILBERT

Our Readers will be very surprised to learn that the Co-Pastor of our Abridge Church was "called Home" suddenly on 13th June last. The evening before he died he conducted a very well attended Baptismal Service in our little Church. Unusual circumstances had arisen beforehand to cause several uncertainties as to whether it would be possible for the baptisms to take place, but after prayer the arrangements proceeded and Mr. Gilbert and Mr. V. White together conducted the service. One of the candidates was a young girl who had grown up under Mr. Gilbert's ministry in Abridge and the other was a young lad who lived in the family circle at Crescent Road, Woodford. Mr. Gilbert read from 1 Timothy chapter 4 verses 8-16 and his text was "Having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." He vividly detailed many of the blessings that can be possessed by those who accept the new life in Christ Jesus, including the presence of the Holy Spirit to cheer, guide and comfort: he mentioned that there were things in the Christian life to be refused and urged his listeners to strive for godliness. Finally he said "there is not much time tonight to dwell on the life which is to come, but those who love the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour have a rich inheritance." Mr. Gilbert passed on to experience that "life to come" just over twelve hours later. We rejoice that he was in harness right to the end, and for that glorious translation which was his—"to be with Christ which is far better". But we do pray for Mrs. Gilbert for whom the suddenness of the Home Call was such a shock. Since their marriage 7 years earlier, she was always by the side of Mr. Gilbert in his ministry and we pray that God will comfort her in the coming days and enable her to continue to help in the work for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert's home has been one where all have been made welcome and on their last Saturday together, a crowd of young people went there to finish the Sunday School outing with community hymn singing. How he loved his home to be ringing with the voices of the young people—they will remember that evening!

Not only at Abridge, but in our family circle too, will Mr. Gilbert be missed. Sometimes he would conduct family prayers: sometimes he would organise demonstrations and other events for Christmas: sometimes he would teach the children new games in the playground: sometimes he would take a group of children out to Epping Forest which he loved so much and he would seek to help them to appreciate the beauty there as he did.

On Friday, 17th June our friend was laid to rest at the City of London Cemetery. Preceding, there was a service at our little Abridge Church when there was a full congregation. Rev. K. C.

Parkinson conducted the service: Rev. R. Stephens, Rector of Lambourne and Abridge, expressed the appreciation of all living in the village for Mr. Gilbert's life and ministry and affirmed how he personally had been strengthened by the friendship.

It was at the beginning of the War that Mr. Herbert White asked Mr. Gilbert to carry on the Services during his enforced absence at Tiptree, and not only were the Sunday Services morning, afternoon and evening carried on uninterrupted throughout those trying days, but a Forces' Canteen was established and many folk in the village united to help in this practical work. Present at the Funeral Service was one of the young couples who had met at the Canteen and subsequently married! Travelling was often difficult and Mr. Gilbert sometimes cycled all the way from Manor Park, or even walked during some of the heavy air raids.

On Sunday evening, 26th June many of the Abridge folk and members of the family circle (old and present) and also personal friends of Mr. Gilbert met together for a Memorial Service. Mr. Victor White on behalf of all present expressed appreciation for the life and service of the one so much in our thoughts and Mr. James Stokes who had known him for many years gave the message based on the text "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God", and it was a ringing challenge to all who as yet had not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

We praise God for bringing Arnold Gilbert to a saving knowledge of Himself in Jesus Christ: for all He enabled him to accomplish in a long active life: for keeping him "in harness" until that glorious Home Call and for eternal life in His Own sweet presence which is now his.

Fred Stark

Our beloved friend and Trustee was called home in September. He, with his brother Mr. James Stark, have been friends of the Work since the early days, helping in many ways, including the planning and building of our Florence Barclay Hall. Two of the houses were given by them in memory of their father. Whenever advice was needed it was readily given. We place on record our thanks for all Mr. Fred Stark did in God's Name and we commend Mrs. Stark and her family to God in prayer.

Arthur Thompson

As our honorary Chiropodist for many years, he was never too busy to arrange an appointment speedily and he was always keenly interested in the welfare of our children. We do miss him and here we record our thanks for all he did in God's Name and we commend Mrs. Thompson to our loving Father in prayer that she may be comforted and sustained in her loneliness.



A PICNIC PARTY WITH PEN FRIENDS



DIARY

MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, 1955

March

1st (Still in middle of half-term holiday). Not such a good day so far as weather is concerned. Organised a painting competition. Children were divided into groups according to age and each child chose a picture to paint. They were all very keen. A friend outside the Home agreed to mark the papers and she commented on the obvious care with which all the paintings had been attempted. Prizes were later awarded and it was evident that another painting competition would be a welcome diversion for a wet day.

One of the staff conducted service at Ashurst Drive Baptist Church.

2nd Clacton "Please find enclosed £1 which my dear Mother sends. She is no longer able to write herself as she is very aged and infirm so I am writing on her behalf. May God's richest blessing rest upon all your work amongst the little ones for the Master's sake."

Walthamstow, £2; Ilford, £2; Hampton Hill C.S.S., £1 10s.; Cambridge Hall S.S., £7 10s.; Shobury Shoe Fund £14 10s; Tottenham, 3 cardigans, 2 pairs socks (hand-knitted). Some of the boys went to the forest for a ramble—came back very bedraggled and muddy but had enjoyed themselves.

3rd Children returned to school. One lad attended London Hospital. Special Meetings at Abridge—Miss Watts of the Thonon Mission addressed the Women's Meeting and in the evening the Fellowship Meeting with lantern

One of staff spoke at the Ley Street Women's Meeting.

4th Abridge Sunday School Teachers' Meeting. Friend from Bristol called to see us.

5th Saturday. Some of children went out with parents or friends. One of the "old" boys stayed for the weekend.

6th Sunday. Reveille 8 p.m. (children do not sleep longer because it's Sunday, but the staff hope for a lay in!) All Sunday clothes have been put out by staff day before so children just step into them and pop downstairs—clean teeth, wash, etc., before breakfast. Sundays we usually have boiled eggs for breakfast. Today we thought we would have a change, but discovered to our dismay that the change wasn't appreciated. Boiled eggs it must be on Sunday mornings! Washing up has to be done—dormitories left tidy—mopping and dusting, but by 10.30 all are ready for Church. Van and car are packed to capacity to support our Abridge chapel and the remainder of children attend the Baptist Church locally.

It does need effort and organisation to be smart and ready for church every Sunday, but it can be done and it's WORTH IT.

Back home again, dinner and after dinner children encouraged to write letters, read, paint, etc.

We have a rota for washing up so that it doesn't fall to one person all day Sunday.

At 2.30 the younger ones are ready to go to Sunday School at Abridge and at 2.40 the older ones depart for the Baptist Sunday School. The co-operation of the Superintendent and Teachers at Woodford Baptist S.S. is appreciated—our children aren't angels by any means!

After tea the younger children have their own little service with one of the staff whilst the older ones go to our Church again. We are blessed with a keen evangelical witness all round us here in Woodford—Canfield Hall, Latchett Hall, Grove Road Evangelical Free Church, Avenue Hall, Woodford Bridge Mission, Woodford Baptist Church. Praise God for this—it is a great help to our kiddies.

- 7th Woodford Green, £2 (Covenant Gift). Ilford, 15s.
- 8th Epping, £1.
- 9th Our own Prayer Meeting. We are encouraged by the friends who gather month by month to share in praise and prayer on behalf of the family God has given us to care for.
- 10th Addressed Field Road Methodist Women's Meeting, Forest Gate.
One of the tiny tots went to see the ear, nose and throat specialist at the Jubilee Hospital.
- 11th Forest Gate, £1 6s. 6d.; Abbey Wood, 5s.
- 12th A group of the girls with staff went over to Dagenham to support our "Aunties" Sunday School Prize Giving and Anniversary. All the girls have pen friends at this Sunday School and in most instances had tea with them. Harriet wanted to know whether she would have two teas as she had two pen friends!
We are keenly interested in this Sunday School. It has been built up by the "Aunties" (the Misses Marriott and Tann) and the teachers are mostly those who have grown up in the School. The only available accommodation is a Co-operative Hall. Miss Marriott goes off at 1 o'clock to sweep and get ready. The first session is at 2.15, and the second at 3.30. There are two sessions because of the large numbers of children wanting to attend and there is a waiting list! What a great work these two are doing for God—we are privileged to be associated with it.
- 14th Bridge Mission, £1; Fife, £1 10s.; Woodford Green, £1;

Deganwy "My wife and I enclose small gift, £1, that we may have fellowship with you in caring for God's lambs. May the Lord bless your efforts with His richness, both spiritually and in temporal necessities. May He also give enabling grace and health, and all needed to your staff."

Leigh "I visited an elderly gentleman this morning and he handed me £2 which he asked me to send direct to you as a thankoffering."

Anon, £2; Waltham Abbey, Pcl. S.h. Blouses and Trousers (trousies as the children will call them!).

Anon., Pcl.—1 Apron, 7prs. Gloves.

15th Abridge, Morphy Richards Electric Iron.

Westcliff "You will find 10s. enclosed towards your work for the children and I also ask your prayers that I may be guided right and kept as I have had my dearest and best taken suddenly from me and have no one left who cares." How sweet of this lady in her loneliness and sadness to think of us. We do pray for her.

16th Prittlewell, 10s. Enfield, "Here are gifts to the value of £5 8s. that have been sent to us in Mother's memory. With the gifts you have already received, and added to this a similar amount which has gone to the Bethnal Green Medical Mission, one feels that it has been well worth while making my dear Mother's wishes known. I am sure she would be delighted if she knew what response we had received."

17th One of staff addressed Hainault Baptist Women's Meeting.

18th Rainham Gospel Hall S.S. £5. Accepted revised estimate from local firm to re-decorate exterior of all the buildings.

19th Irene and Wendel took Mary and Margaret (two of our Seniors) out to lunch and later shop gazing in London. One of the Baptist Sunday School teachers was married and the children in her class hurried off after lunch to see the wedding.

Unexpectedly (so soon as this) men commenced work on redecorating. A big need financially before end of financial year!

21st Chelmsford, £2 10s.

Mr. White with team of Seniors took part in Public Meeting at Keswick Hall, Walthamstow.

Specific prayer to meet need of redecoration.

22nd Walthamstow, £1 6s. 6d. Southampton, "Enclosed is a small gift to help with the increased fuel expenses of this severe winter."

23rd Took one of the younger lads to Jubilee Hospital for tonsil operation. He settled in very happily. We are pleased that our children are able to go to the Jubilee Hospital

where they are cared for by our own Medical Officers and a nursing staff that is very interested in the welfare of the kiddies. It is a homely hospital.

Uppper Holloway, "I have had some Post War Credit, so I am sending another small gift of £2. May God bless you all—the whole family." East Ham, £2. N.13, £3 10s.

Two girls entered for the Stratford Musical Festival (solo) and each were awarded 74/100 marks.

25th Received Government Covenant Rebate, £349 11s. 3d.

26th The answer to our prayers! Received from an unknown friend £500. "I have been hearing of the good work you are doing with destitute boys, and I enclose a cheque to be used for their benefit." This meets the need for the heavy cost of redecorating outside our six three storeyed houses and double hall. Praise God.

Received another letter "I am sending you £3 for your work amongst the children . . . P.S. May I ask if you will remember me at the Family Altar? I am lame through a fall and have great difficulty in getting about. I am all alone and get very depressed and miserable and of course the Devil is doing his best to keep me down. I know your dear Father was a great believer in prayer and I feel nothing but prayer will heal me. Thank you." We did pray.

We were touched very much by these two gifts today as we saw God's hand in evidence on our behalf.

Boat Race day today—many arguments as to whether Oxford or Cambridge would win. Because of the kindness of neighbouring friends we were able to divide into groups and watch the race on television. Pale blue and dark blue decorations appeared in various places. Enthusiasm waned a little when the winning team had such an "easy" win!

In the evening some of the Seniors went to a "Youth for Christ" Rally. The film "Oil Town U.S.A." was shown.

27th We celebrated the 28th Anniversary at our little Abridge Church. It was a great privilege to have Dr. W. Eric Mathie to address the evening service.

28th Woodford, £1. Eldon Road Children's Hour, £1. Denmark Hill, £3 (Covenant).

29th New Milton, £5. Roy came home from hospital—obviously having enjoyed the experience!

30th Surveyor called to discuss alterations to basement floor of the houses 18-24. We feel in need of God's special guidance in all that is proposed. It will be a costly business to bring these particular rooms up to date and we want to be very careful in our planning.

31st Anon., Pcl. secondhand clothes.

A young lady called for a chat—a keen Christian and

desirous of taking an interest in one of the kiddies, viz. taking for little outings, remembering birthdays, etc.

April

1st Fun and laughter as usual—children tucked up in bed with clothes on: no tea in pot: etc., etc.

From Singapore, £50. Hainault, £1 5s.

2nd A Life Boy Display was held in our hall. Some of the Seniors and Staff enjoyed being in the audience, particularly because four of our own boys were taking part.

3rd As well as supporting the Abridge Services we shared in the Evening Service at Highway Hall, Stratford.

4th Chingford, 10s. Horam, £3. Salisbury Road Primary School, Romford, "Class 2A have put 'odd coppers' into a box as a Lenten offering for those children who are less fortunate than themselves. Will you therefore accept our modest cheque (15s.) and get some little 'extra' for the children in your care this Easter."

Some of the girls received prizes from the "Aunties" for letter writing.

5th From Norfolk: 72 tablets Bath Soap; 14 lb. Soap Flakes; 27 lb. Soap Powder; 56 lb. Scrubbing Soap.

Woodford Green, several boxes of chocolate biscuits. Tollesbury, 6 prs. handknitted Socks.

6th London, W.1, £5. Children started three weeks holiday from school. Ilford, Secondhand Clothes.

7th Hastings, £10. Kentish Town Mission "Once again it gives us pleasure to enclose cheque, £6 13s. 11d., from our Sunday School Missionary Fund. Our total offering for 1954 came to over £70 which we thought a very good effort by the Sunday School. We continue to remember you all in prayer and wish God's richest blessing in the work you do for Him." Now that the evenings are lighter and the children are on holiday it was decided to let them all stay up half an hour later—to continue through the summer.

Ted came to stay for weekend.

8th "Good Friday." Hot Cross Buns for breakfast. We had a special service in our Dining Hall, children, staff and friends gathering together. Wendel (Irene's fiancé) gave a little word, very simply relating the happenings of the first "Good Friday" and making us realise afresh the great love of God in giving His only Son to be our Saviour.

In the evening we had a special service at our Abridge Chapel. The Church of England friends joined with us following Evensong in their Church and a witness march through the village. A television set had been installed in

the Church so that those who wished could stay on to watch the Dr. Billy Graham service at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

The younger folk who did not go down to Abridge saw the story of the cross with the aid of flannelgraph here at home.

10th Easter Sunday. As many as possible went to the morning service at Abridge conducted by Mr. Gilbert. Miss H. K. Simpson gave the message to the young people in the afternoon. The Church was packed for the evening service at which two young folk confessed their faith in Lord Jesus Christ by passing through the waters of baptism. One candidate was a young girl from Epping who had enjoyed the privilege of a Christian home and the other the eldest lad from our family circle. This was the first time the baptistry had been used since it was re-furnished as a memorial to our late founder and director, or "father" of the family, and it was a joy to hear Charles testify that it was one evening at family prayers led by Mr. Herbert White that he gave his heart to the Lord.

11th Bank Holiday. A glorious spring day. The 12's and overs joined with the young folk of Abridge for a ramble through pretty parts of the Essex countryside. These ramblers took packed lunches and arrived tea-time at the Abridge Church to find that kind folk had prepared a scrumptious tea. After the rest and tea, feeling much refreshed, the travellers adjourned to the Church for community hymn singing. An invitation was given for those who wished to give testimonies of "What Christ had meant in their lives" and several took the opportunity.

Whilst the older ones were enjoying the ramble etc. the younger ones had a picnic in Clayhall Park.

12th Two "old" girls, £4 4s.; Bethesda S.S., Singapore, "I am glad of this opportunity of practical fellowship with you once again. Please accept this gift of £6 from the boys and girls of the Sunday School."

Usually when the children are at school the staff unite for prayer at about 9.15 a.m., but this isn't so convenient whilst the children are home. This evening we met at 9 p.m. for a cup of tea and prayer and for praise for all God's goodness to date.

13th An "old" boy, £1; Ilford, £1; Leyton, £1; Stevenage, £5. Some of the children went swimming. Mr. White went to an "at home" circle at Chingford to chat about God's faithfulness.

14th Addressed a "before breakfast" meeting at a London firm. Woodford, 10s.; London, £2; London, 10s. As many

as possible of staff and seniors went to Bible Study at Abridge. This is held every Thursday evening and is well attended at Abridge too, particularly by the teen-agers.

15th and 16th Preparations for and the weddings of Irene and Margaret our twins. (An account appeared in our last issue of Links.)

17th The Women's Anniversary at Abridge. The women folk took part in the service and the guest speaker was Mrs. Cozens of Theydon Bois.

Mr. White conducted a service at New Town Mission, Waltham Abbey.

18th Woodford, £1 10s.; Tiptree Congregational Sunday School £2 2s.; Leytonstone, £3; Waltham Abbey, £1.

East Dulwich, 4 prs. hand-knitted Socks.

19th Our Badminton Club which is held every Tuesday evening during the winter months had an "at home" match with the Holy Trinity Club. Our Club is led by one of our "old" boys and his fiancé and the members consist of some of our staff, seniors, Abridge young folk and "old" members of our family. We always finish with a short epilogue.

Received a legacy of £50. Epping, £6; Southborough, £2. Manor Park, 10s.

20th A group of older ones went with one of the staff for a trip to London to explore some of the notable buildings etc.

21st Another group went to London, this time to Madame Tussauds. Instead of our usual Bible Study meeting at Abridge we joined at the Woodford Baptist Church for a Relay Meeting from Glasgow.

East Dulwich, 10s.

22nd Sawbridgeworth, £1; New Eltham, £.

23rd Westcliff, 10s. Irene and Wendel returned from honeymoon having enjoyed summer weather for their stay in the Isle of Wight. They now have only a few days to pack their belongings in preparation for their departure to South Africa.

24th Services as usual at Abridge. Evening Service was a Baptismal Service when one of the girls from the Bible Class testified of her love to Christ.

Conducted afternoon service at Barnet.

25th Barnet, £1; Anon, Worcester, £2; Barnet, £2 7s. 6d.

26th Children returned to school. Ilford, 5s.; Anon, £10.

27th Conducted young people's services at Sawbridgeworth.

28th Irene and Wendel said farewell to the children during breakfast and before climbing into the car to take them on their journey to Southampton, Mr. Gilbert led in the singing of the 23rd Psalm. After journeying for about 15 minutes there was a loud bang and one of the tyres had a puncture, but the car was just outside a garage and a

café so it was well timed.

Arrived at Southampton according to schedule and after the usual formalities we said "goodbye" (wondering how long it would be before we saw each other again) and later watched the Arundel Castle sail away.

29th Boxes, £3 4s. One of the "old" boys came for weekend.
30th Poulner Baptist Chapel, £5.

Programmes were provided for 6 seniors to go to Girl's Display at Highway Hall, Stratford.

May

1st Usual Sunday routine—though we don't like the word to denote anything stereotyped or uninteresting! We keep Sunday as God's Day, putting Him first—taking time for Worship. It is not easy as the summer months come upon us and our children see the majority of people keeping Sunday as a holiday instead of a Holy Day. But we believe we should obey God rather than the fashion and we know that God will bless those that honour Him.

2nd Our Financial Year ended on Saturday and one has a very real sense of gratefulness to God as we look back and realise once again that "He is faithful." Harrow, £1.

We popped over to Stotfold to see Margaret and Karl in their new home. We wanted to see for ourselves that they had settled down after their honeymoon, and to take over various wedding presents that had arrived in Woodford for them. We had a happy day chatting over the wedding events and hearing all about a wonderful honeymoon which included a visit to Kelvin Hall, Glasgow.

3rd Waltham Abbey, £2. Wormit on Tay, "Just a widow's mite to help to buy bread for your family. While I pen this I can picture your Father. I save it out of my pension. £1." Limavady, £68 11s. 8d. from Margaret Preston Charitable Trust. Southampton, "It is a great pleasure to send this £2 to you (my pension) as I fulfil the command of Proverbs 3 v 9 and have proved in the past that in doing so, my barns are filled with plenty. What a faithful God we have. I trust that you and the children are well and will have a happy time at the Annual Meetings."

4th York, 10s.; Woodford Green (Box) £2 1s. 9d.; Seven-oaks £5. Interviewed relatives of one of the children. Some of the young people from Abridge came here for a chat—as young Christians they wanted guidance on "questionable amusements."

5th Some friends from a church at Epping desired to use our Baptismal Pool so we deferred our Bible Study and joined in the Baptismal Service.

7th An "old" boy, £2 10s.; Custom House £1.

Some of the Y.S.L. members from Abridge went to the London Rally.

8th Conducted services at Shrubland Road Congregational Church S.S. Anniversary and at Beachcroft Mission.

9th Anon., £5; Muswell Hill, £5; Box Secretary, £40; East Barnet, £1.

10th Cranleigh, "I have received your 'Links' addressed to my dear husband. You will not know that he was called home a year ago last January. He was always deeply interested in the work of the Mission—he asked the Founder, Mr. White, to preach at the Baptist Chapel here over 20 years ago. I am so glad to find an interest in your work here. I enclose a small gift." Woodford, £2; Ashford, 10s.

11th Loughton, 10s.; Stratford, 10s.; Bush Hill Park, "Thank you so much for "Links." So good of you to send it. I enjoyed reading it for it is full of life and joy and makes me feel so happy as a child of God. 5s. for His Service." Buntingford, £5.

Our Monthly Prayer Meeting.

Received from Cranford Baptist Women's Meeting 9 hand-knitted long-sleeved cardigans. These were made in nigger brown wool to match school uniform.

12th Woodford, 10s. and £1. Westcliff, pcl. containing 2 prs. socks and 1 pullover, Maldon, 3 Cardigans and pcl. second-hand woollies.

13th Southend, £1. Trustees Meeting held here. 10 of the 14 Trustees were present and four were able to stay to have tea with the children afterwards.

16th Some of staff and Seniors went to hear Dr. Billy Graham at Wembley.

Whyteleafe United Free Church, £1 1s.; Box Secretary, £25; London, N.10, £1.

17th Blackheath, £3 3s.

18th Enfield, 10s.; "Aunties" £1 15s.; Buntingford, "We are very sorry indeed not to be able to be with you on Saturday the first absence for many years. We shall be with you in prayer and spirit. I am enclosing cheque, £100, for the work, reassuring you always of our daily Prayers."

Walthamstow, £1 5s.

One of staff took two children to Speech Therapy at Clinic.

19th Children had their final practice for the Annual Meetings. We all met at the Baptist Church straight from school and had a happy time running through the singing, scriptures, etc.

20th Much mending, polishing, scrubbing, and general activity on the part of all to be in readiness for the "Annual"

tomorrow. We realise in a measure how many kind friends we have and how they all rally round at a special time like this.

Worthing, £2; Thundersley Gospel Hall, £2; An "old" girl, 5s.; East Ham, 10s.; Seaird, £3 3s.; Colchester, £2 2s.

- 21st ANNUAL DAY. Although we had endeavoured not to clash with Dr. Billy Graham's final rally at Wembley and fixed our day accordingly, it did not work out this way and our faith was a little small when we were wondering whether we should have as good congregations as usual. An account of the Meetings is recorded separately, but we were encouraged when once again in the afternoon the Church was packed with interested Prayer Partners and friends.

Romford, £1; Loughton, £1; Aylesbury, £5; Southampton, £2; Cobham Gospel Hall S.S., £3; An "old" girl and her husband, £5; Glasgow, £1.

From London, 1 Continental Silenta Typewriter. Woodford Green, gift of flowers for decoration.

- 23rd Boxes, £2 13s.; Offering Annual Day, £46 15s. 6d.; Anon., £1.

24th Barking, £3; Hornchurch, 10s.; South Norwood, £1 1s.

26th Waltham Abbey, 2 prs. slippers, 3 prs. stockings, 13 prs. gloves, 2 prs. shoes, 2 woollen dresses, 2 prs. white shoes.

General Election Day. Children on holiday. All staff eligible went to record vote. Some of the senior boys took the opportunity of the holiday to have a look round London.

- 27th Limavady, Margaret Preston Charitable Trust, £38 18s.; High Cross, £1; Walsall, £1 10s.; St. Albans, 10s.

A friend popped over to lend a hand with office work.

- 28th Gidea Park, £1; N.W.5, £5.

30th Bank Holiday. A lovely sunny day for the second bank holiday this year. Another ramble from Abridge—this time through Epping Forest guided by one of our "old" girls and her fiancé. This time the ramblers finished back here in Woodford for tea where members of the staff had made necessary preparations. Mr. Crowhurst amused the little children today.

Prittlewell, 2s. 6d.; New Haw Gospel Hall S.S., £6; Anon., £1; Theydon Bois, £1; Frinton, 10s.

June

- 1st Three of the "old" boys home on leave from Germany for 21 days. They usually find their stay at home their busiest time of the year!

3rd Legacy, £100.

5th Mr. White went over to Chailey Undenominational Mis-

sion to conduct services. Mr. Gilbert took a team of 6 older children to take part in services at Guildford Park Hall.

- 6th Children returned to school after Whitsun holiday.

7th Lancing, £2 (Covenant). Auditor called to collect Books for Annual Audit.

- 8th Monthly Prayer Meeting.

- 9th Abridge Women's Outing to Broadstairs.

Peter, one of our 18-year-olds, said "Goodbye" as he went off for two years holiday (?) in H.M. Forces.

Clacton, £1; Bromley, 10s.; Woodford, £5.

- 10th Seven Kings, £11; Chailey, £6 6s.

11th Children who attend Woodford Baptist Sunday School went off for their Sports Day at Chigwell. The younger ones joined in the Abridge S.S. Sports Day at Theydon Bois. It was very enjoyable and the Bible Class went round to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert in the evening to round off the day with community hymn singing.

- 13th Hampstead, £1; Ebenezer S.S. Bermondsey, £1 1s.; Woodford, 5s. Towards the end of staff prayers received the news that Mr. Gilbert had passed away suddenly. (See separate report.)

- 14th Woodford Green, £1. Leyton, 12s.

- 16th One of staff addressed Stratford Central Baptist Women's Meeting.

All the children contributed some of their pocket money for a sheaf of flowers in memory of their dear friend and so often their "playmate," Mr. Gilbert.

- 17th Anon., 10s.; St. Columb, £1; Woodford Green, £1; Toronto, £1 13s.; Minsterworth, £1.

Funeral of Mr. Gilbert. Some of the older children asked to come to the service at the Abridge Chapel.

- 18th Mr. and Mrs. Olney went for their holiday.

- 19th It was rather wonderful that months before Mr. I. Thomas of the "Hour of Revival" had been booked to conduct the Abridge services—we little knew that this was to be our first Sunday without Mr. Gilbert.

One of our lads professed conversion and others their desire to re-dedicate themselves to the service of God.

- 20th Sutton, 10s.

- 21st Westcliff, 10s.; Epping, £1; Colchester, £1; Limavady, £36 17s. (Margaret Preston Charitable Trust).

- 22nd S. Woodford, £1; Ilford, 5s.

- 23rd Sports Day for St. Barnabas School. Quite a number of our family entered for the races. All the morning much preparation—pieces of ribbon, house colours, required for this one or that one, special socks or slippers—shorts—shirts, but eventually everyone was satisfactorily fixed up.

24th Peterborough, 12 prs. Gloves. Anon., Pcl. jigsaws "for a rainy day."

Architect called for discussion on proposed plans for "renovating" basements of Nos. 18-24 and the new Laundry.

25th Lancing, Parcel of Booklets "Truth and Error" for Abridge and general use.

26th Memorial Service for Mr. Gilbert at Abridge addressed by Mr. Stokes (see separate account).

27th Stratford, 10s.; A neighbour in Crescent Road, Parcel of tinned soups, etc.

28th Anon., 5s.; Leigh (Elmsleigh Hall Class), £1; From one who used to be on the staff, 10s.

30th Central Baptist Women's Meeting, £1; Friends who looked round today, £1 and 10s.

We lent our Austin van to Mr. Bendor Samuel who was organising the preparations at Turnours Hall, Chigwell, for the Wycliff Language Course. Unfortunately a motor cycle went into the back of the van rendering it unusable for several weeks. This followed closely a period of several weeks disablement of the van which was caused when the van went into a lorry! First the front then the back.

One of the Trustees and his wife came to tea—had a helpful chat regarding the proposed alterations and addition of laundry.

Bible Study at Abridge continuing under Mr. White. Y.S.L. growing.

July

1st London, N.W.5, "I have much pleasure in enclosing a money order for £5 as a donation to the Children's Home and Mission. I have many happy memories of your visits to the Kentish Town Mission and I pray that God may abundantly bless your work in His Name." We emptied our Home Box which contained £4 3s.

Anon., 2 Pullovers and 1 Cardigan.

2nd Two of the staff with a group of younger children went to Stotfold to spend a day with one of our "old" girls and her husband, Karl. We were well fed and had lots of fun but the greatest attraction was to watch a German cuckoo clock. We were just too late to see the cuckoo come out twelve times!

We brought the happy young couple home with us to stay the weekend.

3rd As Mr. White was preaching at Manford Way Fellowship it was a pleasure to have Karl conducting our Evening Service at Abridge.

4th Wanstead, £2 2s.

6th Lighthouse Pentecostal Church, E.16, £5 5s.

One of the staff addressed a Young Wive's Fellowship at Theydon Bois.

8th Honiton, "Please accept the enclosed cheque for one guinea—in lieu of a wreath for my sister in law who died recently. (It is my usual practice when any of my relations have been called Home.) Assuring you of regular prayer for the blessing and provision and salvation of the Lord." Hainault Road Women's Meeting, £1.

9th Leyton, £20; Westcliff, £20 towards holiday expenses.

Two boys who had been with us for several years returned to their mother who had remarried and at last had been able to get a flat. We had a long chat with these parents seeking to explain how in God's strength they could maintain a happy family unit and we would continue to remember them in prayer.

Some of the younger children went swimming this afternoon. On the way home one little boy fell down a tree but although it seemed he ought to have been severely injured he was still quite sound. Another little boy lost his shirt, but the sequel to this was that his older brother, who did not obey orders but came home later than the rest of the family—on his way home spotted a boy with his younger brother's shirt on—he went and tackled the boy who insisted that it was his own, but our lad said "Let's look at the name—yes there it is 'Raymond'." There could be no doubt then! Could we scold the lad for being late?

11th Chingford, £2; Stockwell Baptist Church, £4 4s., S.W.8, £1.

12th West Mersea, £1; Walthamstow, Pcl. Clothes and 10s.

13th Harringay, "With every good wish I send the enclosed donation (£15) to the work of the Children's Home and Mission and know that this small sum could not be used in any better way. I hope that all the family at Woodford are enjoying this beautiful weather and all are keeping well. I do not know how many "shopping days" there are to Christmas, but can tell you that I have already commenced my Christmas shopping for some of the children at Woodford (and other places) and hope to bring along a large parcel of books which I think will be acceptable to the children. Meanwhile I hope the work at Woodford goes well as it deserves. I was pleased to attend your Annual Day and hope to call during my August holidays. My best wishes to you all and God's blessing always on His work at Woodford."

Young Women's Bible Class, Cecil Road, Enfield, £2 2s.; Latimer Hall S.S. £2.

After much thinking, talking and planning on the part of our Architect and Senior Members of the Staff and after much prayer on the part of all, we submitted plans for extension and alterations to our buildings to the Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council.

We had cherries for tea—the gift of a parent of one of the staff.

- 14th Tiptree, Load of strawberries and raspberries. Very welcome!
- 15th Woodford, £1. Wanstead "Thank you for your P.C. As I am unable to attend your Meetings it seems a pity to trouble you (although I do not think you make a trouble of it) to send me notice. You see I am 81 next month so do not go out alone these days. May I say, you and all people who are trying to do God's will I take to 'My Father's Throne' each day so I know all His work is blest and will continue until He comes. In His dear Name I enclose £2 2s. Always remember, I do not forget you." Anon., £2 10s.
- 16th King's Lynn, £11. In the middle of a heatwave—some children went out today with relatives or friends and the rest wanted to go swimming. They had to queue, but decided it was worth it. Strawberries and jelly for tea straight from our refrigerator.
- 18th Coulsdon, 2 prs. Socks, Doll and Scarf.
A group of us went over to Bedfont Tabernacle by coach to conduct a meeting. Mr. White led the meeting and the children took part in testimony and as a choir.
- 19th Bedfont, £3 15s. 6d.
Representatives of the Westminster Dorcas Guild brought the garments made during the year as follows:—5 dresses (4 with knickers); 1 skirt and blouse; 3 skirts; 11 aprons; 13 prs. knickers; 20 nightdresses; 13 cardigans; 9 jumpers; 2 twin sets; 7 two-piece suits; 5 bathing suits; 6 vests; 3 pullovers; 9 slipovers; 2 cot covers; 28 prs. socks. The Dorcas Guild has helped us like this for several years and we are encouraged as we carry on in the work here to realise that they are with us in fellowship in such a practical way and we pray that God will give them joy in their labour.
- 20th Leigh on Sea, £2; Brandon Mission, 10s.
- 21st Moseley, £1; Winchester, "Am enclosing just a £1 towards the work which am sure is still prospering. I have such happy memories of my several visits and the splendid messages given at the Annual Meetings were always an uplift and strength."
- 22nd London, N.W.2, 10s.; Keswick Baptist S.S., Boscombe £2 12s. 6d.
The Headmaster of one of our local Junior Schools

retired. For many years our children attended his school and during that time there was always close co-operation in endeavour to help our kiddies as much as possible. At a public meeting he referred to his interest and affection for those of our family whom he felt had had many disadvantages in life.

One of our older lads, about to leave school, went for an interview and was successful in securing a situation. ...

- 23rd The "Wycliffe Language Course", held again this year at Chigwell, had an open afternoon when we were invited to have fellowship with the missionaries taking the course. Some of them have attended our Abridge Church and some have or will be taking some services for us. After passing the examinations set at the end of the course they hope to be able to translate portions of the Word of God for hitherto unreached tribes that have not before had their languages written down. How these tribes cherish any portion, however small, of the Bible when it reaches them.

- 25th Worthing, 10s.; Clerkenwell and Islington Medical Mission, £1 10s.; Westcliff, £1; Glasgow, 10s.

- 27th Shoeburyness, £3; Woodford Green, £2.

Children came home rejoicing because they had "broken up" for the summer holidays.

- 29th Two boys went off to Rayleigh for summer holiday to relatives. A Senior girl went to a Covenanter Camp—great preparations beforehand to collect all camp equipment necessary. One of our "old" girls went to see her off at Waterloo. Another girl went to stay with friends at Rainham.

- 30th The girls, after dinner, went to Valentines Park to meet pen friends for fun, games and picnic. (See pictures.)

August

- 1st Bank Holiday. Our faithful friend Mr. Crowhurst took the little ones out and the older ones again joined in the Abridge Ramble. This time we carefully planned our route but when we found pig styes as obstacles en route and fields of corn where the foot paths should be we were somewhat baffled. We managed to "lose" the Abridge folk within a couple of miles from their native town! They didn't know where they were! However we continued to ramble and enjoy the sunshine and fellowship and eventually arrived safely at Woodford for tea.

Two other children departed to relatives for their holidays.

- 2nd Stotfold, £1 10s.; Anon., "Please accept the enclosed £5 to help give the children a treat. From one who enjoys many blessings from the Lord."

- 3rd Heathfield, £2, "I feel that my life was greatly influenced by your Father and perhaps I am reaping now the benefit

in the last years. I seemed to start so late in 'running the race' but I have proved that God is a GREAT RESTORER:—

HE (The Son) restored that which HE took not away and hence we are saved for GLORY (Psa. 69.4)

HE restoreth my soul as I progress day by day (Psa 23)

HE restores the lost years (Joel 2.27)

HE restores my youth (Psa 103.5 and Ruth 4.15)

HE restores my possessions (Job's end double) (1 Cor. 3)

Look what the prodigal is restored to in Luke—to The Father's Home, Table, Fellowship, Joy! PRAISE HIM!

May I say that I like the new form of Magazine "Links."

I think you are doing the Lord's will in keeping in touch with the 'old' Members of the Family Circle—one feels it so essential as the days are growing more evil and difficult for the young—think of 'Teddy Boys,' we have some locally. The antidote is 'Christian Boys' as you are proving. May the Lord continue to sustain, enrich and use you and your work for His glory and the salvation of many souls. With much love in the Lord."

Two more children went to stay with relatives for holiday.

4th We said "good-bye" to one of our lads. He has found the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour whilst here and we have seen the outworking of this inward experience in his progress. He goes to a Christian home and our love and prayers will follow him. (Recently we have had news that he is getting on well).

5th It is quite an exciting experience when over 40 children are getting ready to go on holiday. Those going to camp must have everything marked. It is well to have a list of all that is packed. We got out a large box from the Clothing Store marked "Holiday Clothes." In here were pretty sun-dresses, T-shirts, shorts, etc., and everybody was well supplied with suitable garments. We needed lots of cases and Mr. Olney repaired some older ones so that we had enough. Today, Margaret and Mary (sisters) two of our Seniors packed their kit bags ready for camp down in Dorset. One of the staff saw them off at Victoria.

Parcels of secondhand clothes received from Buckhurst Hill and Esher.

Wanstead, "I hope all is well with all in the Home. I am, of course, one of your Prayer Partners, although I don't appear in the flesh very often. I am still just as interested as ever I was. This gift (£2) is instead of sending a wreath for the grave. I knew there would be so many flowers, and felt Mr. Gilbert would rather it were sent to the Home.

May God abundantly bless you in all you are doing for His dear sake."

Bristol, £1.

8th Early morning swimming has become the routine of the day for as many as can squeeze into the Estate Car and the Austin Shooting Brake. Bristol, 10s.

9th Ashurst Drive Baptist Church, Parcel of Clothes.

10th Another girl went to spend the holiday with her father. Westcliff, £50 (Covenant); Canning Town, £2. Woodford, "I was sorry I was unable to be present at July Prayer Meeting. Firstly, I would like you to accept enclosed £1 for our Lord's work for His little ones, together with my sincere hopes for the Lord's blessing on the work and all those engaged in it. Further, I must advise you of a change. We are leaving Woodford and our new address will be—. 'Blest be the Tie that Binds our hearts in Christian love.."

DEPARTURE DAY for the children. One lad went off to see his father; two girls got ready for G.L.B. Camp; 14 children went to spend holiday with relatives; 4 children went to the N.S.S.U. "Broadlands" Holiday Centre at Broadstairs and 2 others went to stay with one of our "old" boys and his wife. Another girl stayed with a member of our Abridge Fellowship. For the staff it was a most astounding experience to find ourselves without any children! We could actually look forward to a lay in next morning!

11th After the hustle and bustle of the past few days the staff made preparations for departure for their holidays. Last year staff each had a holiday earlier in the year and in August children and staff together spent three weeks in Devon. This year for several reasons, we decided to arrange holidays for the children individually and the staff to take theirs at the same time.

12th Willesden Green, £1 1s.; Swansea (Anon.), £1; Shoburynnes and Clacton, Parcels of Clothes.

Staff, one by one, departed for holidays leaving behind just Mrs. White Senior and her daughter, Mrs. Gilbert, to "hold the fort" together with Mr. and Mrs. Olney who were pressing on with improvements to lower hall which can be accomplished more speedily with the children away.

17th Colchester, £2 10s.

18th Anon. (W.), £5.

19th Clapton, £3.

22nd Levton, £2 12s.

24th Kingsbury, Roe Green Hall S.S., £3.

29th Staff arrived back in time to prepare for the return of the children.

30th Legacy, £1,300; Epping, £1; Knightsbridge, £10; Chingford, £3; St. Columb S.S., 10s.; St. Columb S.S. Primary, 5s.

31st Anon., £1. Children at all hours of the day arrive home. Much chatter about all the exciting happenings of the holidays. Some didn't seem to have had as beneficial a time with relatives as they might have had, so many not seeing the seaside at all. We do pray that a repetition of a holiday like last year's at Devon might be possible in 1956.

September

1st Wycliffe Language Course, £10.
More children returned—more unpacking—more chattering.

2nd Practically everybody went swimming today. Mrs. White Senior and Mrs. Gilbert went away for their holiday.

3rd Cricklewood, £5; Maidstone, £1.
Margaret and Karl here for week-end.

4th Once again we were all together to keep God's Day. There are so many allurements and attractions for young people today on Sundays that it is not always easy to keep our young folk happy, but of course when they become Christians they love to keep His Day.

First HARVEST received. (See separate list.)

5th Doncaster, 10s.; Alma Road Mission, £2 2s. 6d.

6th Children return to school—most of them quite ready to do so. Admitted a new lad—age 7.

7th Colchester, useful remnants of material.

Clerkenwell and Islington Medical Mission, £2; Newquay £2 2s.; Keswick Hall, Epping, 5s.

Attended the funeral of one of our Trustees, Mr. Fred Stark. (See separate appreciation).

8th Westcliff, £50 (Covenant); Anon., £3 3s.; N.W.2, 1 case and parcel clothes.

9th Eldon Road Women's Meeting, 15s.

We had a visit from one who used to be on our staff, with a friend. We were very happy to see them and they enjoyed tea with the family.

10th Commenced exterior decorations to Abridge Church. Mr. Olney organised proceedings, the aim being to cover all necessary work within a week with the help of as many folk as possible from Abridge.

Friends of the Post Office Christian Association came to see us. Peterborough, 10s.; Westcliff, £2 2s. and £2 2s.; Anon., 10s.

12th One of our "old" lads arrived home on leave from Germany.

P.O.C.A., £12 0s. 6d.; Stock, £1; Bletchley, 10s.

13th Theydon Bois Young Wive's Fellowship, 10s. Dr. Smith commenced the routine medical examination of the children. The Architect came to discuss final details of the proposed alteration and extension plans. Heard today that Dawn had passed three R.S.A. Examinations—Congratulations.

14th London, £3. One lad at home and in bed with "Trench Mouth" (acquired on holiday).

15th Four lads and one girl attending Oakdale Junior School received Certificates for perfect attendance.

One lad having been in trouble at school was asked to write 50 times "It is high time that I realised that throwing gravel is a dangerous and foolish occupation." Having forgotten the exact words he wrote "I must not throw grit in the playground."

16th Anon., 10s.; Hornchurch, £1.

18th Mr. White and members of the family went to the "Aunties" harvest at Dagenham. Some of them took part in the service. A very nice cake made to look just like hyacinths growing in a bowl was brought home for Mrs. White.

19th Hornchurch, 10s.; Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel, Tottenham, £1 5s.; East London Tabernacle S.S., £1 5s.; Meldrum C.E., 10s.

20th East Molesley, £2; Tottenham Baptist S.S., £1; Ebenezer Baptist S.S. Ilford, £1; Eden Baptist Chapel, Ponders End, £2 10s.; Anon., 10s. Re-commencement of Badminton Club under the leadership of one of our "old" boys and his fiancé.

21st East London Tabernacle S.S., 5s.; Kings Head Hill Hall, £5; Peterborough, 10 pairs gloves and 2 scarves; Norfolk, 2 sacks carrots.

22nd Dr. Carey Baker came to perform his share of the medical examinations. Bible Study. Some of the staff went to Abridge to help in visitation work, our aim being to visit all the houses in the area before Harvest Service. One of the girls went to Moorfield's Hospital for examination. One of the lads went to London Hospital for eye treatment.

23rd Chase Cross Road Baptist Mission, £1 10s.; Woodford Green, £2; Woodford Green, £1. Three children went to see our Optician.

24th Surrey, 2 pairs re-footed socks; Sussex, 3 pairs pyjamas.

25th Harvest Services at our Abridge Church—very good congregation at evening meeting.

26th Cricklade, £1 1s.; Anon., £4; Wormit, £2; 22nd South Essex Boys' Brigade Company, £1 1s.; Home Box, £4 15s.

A group of us went by coach to Stockwell Baptist Church to conduct harvest service.

27th London Medical Mission, £4 4s.; Broadley Common C.C., 10s.; Upshire Free Church, 14s.; Barnet Brotherhood and Sisterhood, £1 10s.; Stratford, £10; Salway Hall Children and Young People, £3 15s. 6d.

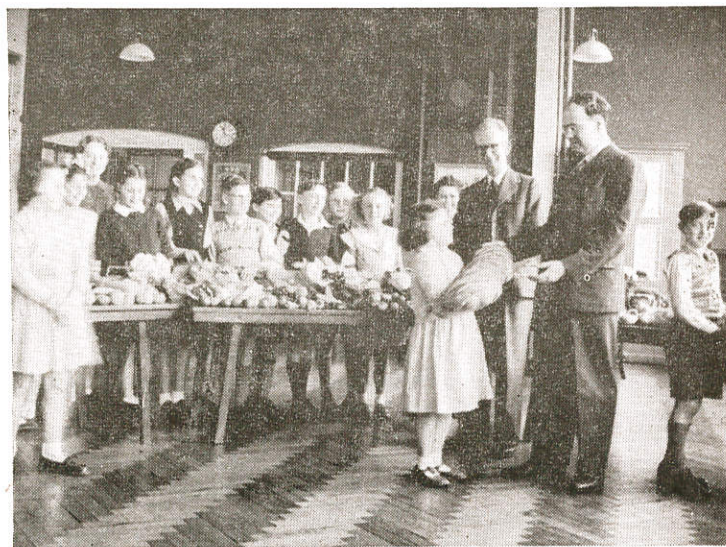
Harvest Supper at Abridge Church.

28th Walkern Mission, £4; Epping Congregational Church, 5s. Mountnessing, £1; St. Albans, Anon., £4; Enfield, "Am sorry I missed Mr. Müller's Day, but the dear Lord who never forgets reminded me in the late hours of the night, so I praise His Precious Name. God richly bless you. £1 for your work." Mr. and Mrs. White went over to Ashley Hall, St. Albans, Women's Meeting to receive garments made by that working party. They were as under:—

11 pairs pyjamas; 1 pyjama coat; 5 nightdresses; 1 dress and knickers; 8 overalls; 2 prs. socks; 4 vests; 8 jumpers; 2 cardigans; 1 pullover; 5 prs. gloves; 1 knitted dress.

29th Our little ones had their harvest service at school which some of the staff were able to attend.

30th Two girls brought friends home for tea.



MR. OLNEY, OF THE STAFF, RECEIVING
HARVEST GOODS FROM CHILDREN OF
MILLFIELDS J.M. SCHOOL

FAREWELL

to DR. W. ERIC MATHIE, M.B., Ch.B., one of our Medical Officers, who is leaving the district to take up an appointment in Glasgow. As a keen Christian doctor and friend he has won the affection of all the members of our family and as a gifted speaker in service for the Lord Jesus Christ, many of us have listened to him and remembered and understood passages of scripture more clearly. We are grateful to Dr. Mathie for every help. Our prayers go with Dr. and Mrs. Mathie and their family as they launch out in a new sphere of service. We shall look forward to seeing them if ever they visit Woodford!

HARVESTS THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM:—

Alma Road Mission, Ponders End.	Claybury Park Baptist Church.
Keswick Hall, Epping.	Mountnessing Congregational
Gravesend Gospel Hall.	Wangey Road Chapel.
Rise Park Hall, Romford.	Wood Lane Baptist Church,
Siddons Road Mission Hall.	Dagenham.
Folkestone Road Hall, Waltham-	Ridley Hall, Manor Park.
stow.	Woodford Baptist Church.
East London Tabernacle S.S.	Chingford Hatch Methodist
Broadmead S.S., Sth. Woodford.	Church.
Ebenezer Strict Baptist S.S., Tot-	Abridge E.F.C.
tenham.	Avenue Hall, Woodford Green.
Meldrum S.S. and C.E., Good-	High Ongar Chapel.
mayes.	Canfield Hall, Woodford Bridge.
Tottenham Baptist S.S.	Latchett Hall, South Woodford.
Ley Street Gospel Hall.	Manford Way Gospel Hall,
Chase Cross Baptist Church,	Hainault.
Romford.	Cambridge Hall, Edmonton.
Leytonstone Methodist.	Paddington Chapel, Marylebone.
Cleveland Road Strict Baptist	Fladbury Road Hall, Tottenham.
Church, Ilford.	Chapman Road Hall, Hackney
Kings Road Baptist Church,	Wick.
Chingford.	Out and Out Mission, Bow.
Matthews Memorial Chapel,	Kentish Town Mission.
Walthamstow.	Keswick Hall, Walthamstow.
Hook E.F.C., Surbiton.	Church Hill Road, L.C.M.,
Higham Hill Baptist Church.	Walthamstow.
Shern Hall Methodist Church.	St. Edmunds Church, Leyton. ...
Springfield Hall, Tottenham.	Christchurch Infants School.
Salway Hall S.S., Woodford	Silvertown Baptist Church.
Green.	Gamuel Road School,
Elim Church, Leyton.	Walthamstow.
Barnet Brotherhood and Sister-	Andrews Road School,
hood.	Walthamstow.

Willesden Hall, Kilburn.
 Nazeing School, Essex.
 Broadley Common Chapel.
 West Ham Tabernacle.
 Wood Street Chapel, Waltham-
 stow.
 Kenton Evangelical Church.
 Waltham Cross Baptist Church.
 Epping Congregational Church.
 Ingrave Hall, Romford.
 Stockwell Baptist Church.
 Fillebrook Baptist Church.
 Stratford Railway Mission.
 Upshire Free Church.
 Waltham Abbey Baptist Church.
 Mark Hall Evangelical Church,
 Harlow.
 London Medical Mission.
 Harold Park Baptist Church.
 Ingatestone Congregational
 Church.

St. Matthews Church, Stratford.
 Carloun Road, Junior School,
 Kentish Town.
 Ashley Hall, St. Albans.
 Hope Baptist Chapel, Forest
 Gate.
 Great Munden Mission.
 Brook Street Chapel, Tottenham.
 Shrubland Road Congregational
 Church, Dalston.
 Nottingham Gate Bible Class.
 Upminster Baptist Church.
 Anstey Union Chapel.
 Blackmore Baptist Church.
 Hoe Lane Emmanuel Chapel,
 Abridge.
 Salisbury Road Junior School,
 Romford.
 Salem Baptist Church, Romford.
 East London Tabernacle
 Women's Meeting.

We are grateful for this help and thank you and praise God
 for His goodness to us in this way!

As a matter of interest, where we were asked to collect Harvest
 Goods we did so when possible, covering 440 miles at the approxi-
 mate round-figure cost of £5 for petrol.



Mrs. Webb, with three seniors, bottling some of the harvest fruit.

BOXES **1st May, 1954, to 30th April, 1955**

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
MAY OPENING—							
May 10th, Receipt No. 1585	...	...	11	0			
May 10th, Receipt No. 1586	...	...	10	0			
May 10th, Receipt No. 1587	...	...	14	0			
May 11th, Receipt No. 1599	...	...	26	0	0		
May 20th, Receipt No. 1630	...	...	20	0	0		
June 11th, Receipt No. 1685	...	...	11	1	4		
July 13th, Receipt No. 1760	...	...	4	9	6		
July 13th, Receipt No. 1761	...	...	10	0			
July 30th, Receipt No. 4 ...	...	...	4	18	0		
September 1st, Receipt No. 63	...	...	5	0	0		
September 30th, Receipt No. 155	...	...	9	4			
					74	3	2
NOVEMBER OPENING—							
November 11th, Receipt No. 285	...	...	39	14	0		
November 12th, Receipt No. 257	...	...	1	14	0		
December 9th, Receipt No. 413	...	...	19	3	4		
November 23, Receipt No. 316	...	...	28	16	0		
January 3rd, Receipt No. 619	...	...	5	10			
January 7th, Receipt No. 650	...	...	6	16	0		
April 29th, Receipt No. 955	...	...	3	4	0		
					99	13	2
Total					£173	16	4

(Sincere thanks to our Box Secretary, Mr. W. Parker and all
 Box Holders).



**VOLUNTEERS AT WORK! PUSHING AHEAD WITH MUCH
 NEEDED MAINTENANCE WORK ON OUR ABRIDGE CHURCH**

THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND MISSION **Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 30th April, 1955**

PAYMENTS		RECEIPTS	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
1954		1954	
263 To Rates, Taxes and Insurance ...	259 12 5	405 By Covenants ...	1,112 15 8
508 " Heat and Light ...	520 1 6	1,717 " Subscriptions and Donations ...	2,787 2 3
43 " Telephone ...	38 8 1	201 " Boxholders ...	173 16 4
262 " Postage, Printing and Stationery ...	454 0 2	29 " Shoe Fund and Pound Day ...	20 0 0
2,036 " Provisions ...	1,819 5 10	299 " Legacies ...	861 5 7
34 " Furniture ...	9 10 0	158 " Government Grants (Pensions) ...	134 3 4
571 " Linen, Clothes and Shoes ...	412 16 11	1,340 " Payments received on account of Children ...	1,201 16 3
315 " Household Expenses ...	264 19 8	291 " Sale of Farm Produce ...	90 0 0
510 " Staff Allowance and National Ins. ...	736 9 11	— " Proceeds on Sale of Car ...	—
88 " Gifts to staff (Holidays) Donations and Pocket Money Scheme ...	174 12 4	1,775 " Amount transferred from Special Fund Account ...	—
5 " Medical Supplies ...	39 1 10		
276 " Travelling and Excursion Expenses ...	345 8 0		
298 " Repairs to Property ...	162 4 8		
313 " General Repairs and Replacements including vehicles ...	341 0 7		
256 " Maintenance of Farm at Tiptree ...	—		
92 " Incidental Expenses ...	12 5 1		
18 " Furniture Removal ...	—		
— " Holidays—Devon ...	423 0 0		
— " Depreciation—Motor Car and Van ...	80 0 0		
278 " Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year carried down ...	288 2 5		
<u>£6,215</u>	<u>£6,380 19 5</u>		<u>£6,380 19 5</u>

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THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND MISSION **Income and Expenditure Account—cont.**

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Repairs and Developments—		Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year brought forward ...	288 2 5
Exterior Decorations ...	500 0 0	Amount transferred from Special Fund Account ...	750 0 0
Hall Improvements and Sheds ...	385 8 6		
Furniture ...	38 14 5		
Excess of Income over Expenditure ...	924 2 11		
	113 19 6		
<u>£1,038 2 5</u>	<u>£1,038 2 5</u>		

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Balance Sheet, 30th April, 1955

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
1954	£ s. d.	1954	£ s. d.
Invested Funds—		Freehold Property—	
The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall ...	2,250 0 0	The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall, Crescent Road, ...	2,250 0 0
The Dr F. E. Marsh Gift ...	1,700 0 0	Woodford ...	1,700 0 0
The Mr. & Mrs. William Stark Gift ...	1,150 0 0	Woodford ...	1,150 0 0
Anonymous Gift for the Purchase of a Bungalow ...	500 0 0	8-10 Crescent Road, Woodford ...	500 0 0
5,600		The Bungalow, Tiptree ...	5,600 0 0
Special Funds—		Balance due on Sale of the Grove, Tiptree ...	3,103 2 0
Balance at 1st May, 1954 ...	3,814 12 9	Deposit Account ...	3,103 2 0
Interest on Deposit Account ...	38 9 3	Home Account—	
Less Transfer to Income and Expenditure Account ...	3,853 2 0	98 Sheds ...	98 3 0
3,814		Household Furniture, etc. Motor Car and Van ...	500 0 0
Accumulated Fund—		Less Depreciation ...	230 0 0
Balance at 1st May, 1954 ...	964 15 10	Prepayments ...	102 7 7
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ...	113 19 6	Current Bank Account ...	176 10 8
964		Cash in Hand ...	13 14 1
		10,441	1,120 15 4
		63 Less Sundry Creditors ...	42 0 0
			1,078 15 4
£10,378	£9,781 17 4	£10,378	£9,781 17 4

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

Dated this 1st day of August, 1955.

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

WHITE, SALOMON & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
Honorary Auditors.