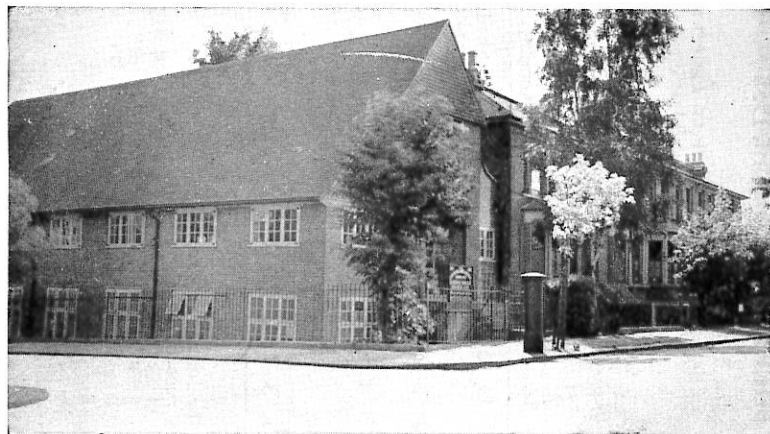
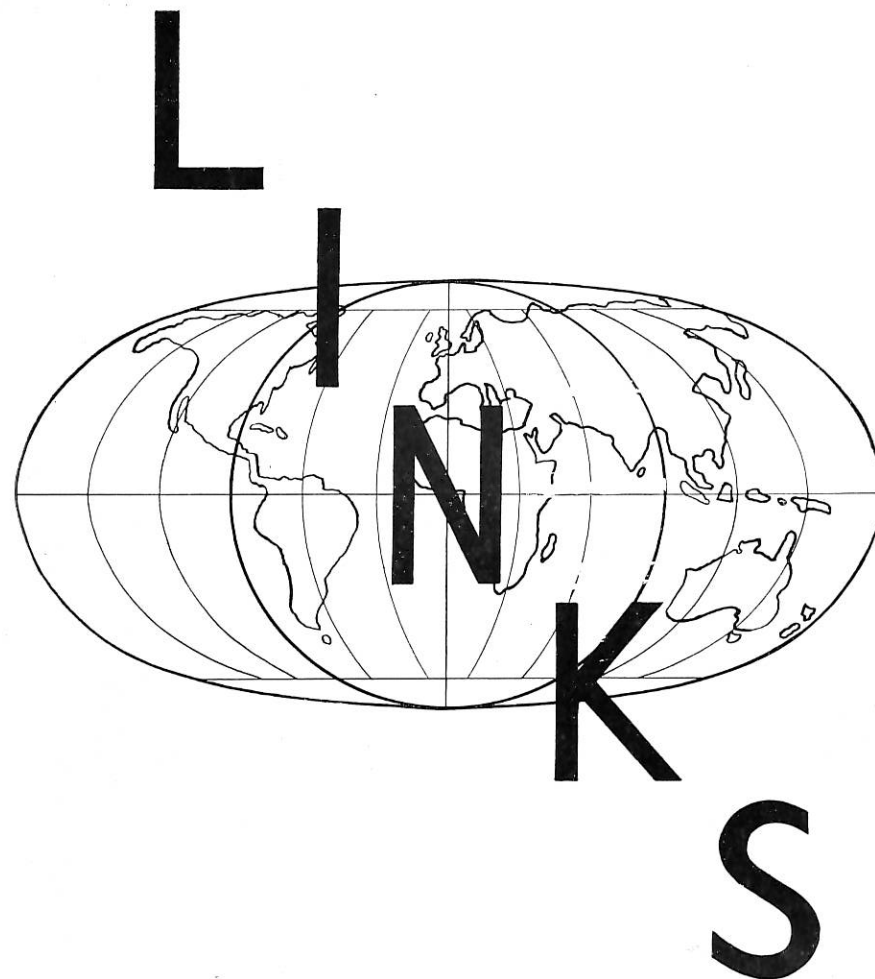


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AUTUMN 1958



HEADQUARTERS



CHILDREN'S HOME
& MISSION

THE CHILDREN'S

FOUNDED

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

HONORARY STAFF:

Mrs. EDITH H. WHITE
Mr. VICTOR J. WHITE, Director and Superintendent
Mrs. V. J. WHITE
Miss M. BURSTOW
Mrs. O. J. GILBERT
Miss A. LITCHFIELD
Miss P. LONG
Mr. and Mrs. D. OLNEY
Miss BARBARA REVELL

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Dr. CAREY BAKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Dr. HORACE R. WILLINGS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeon:

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

Consulting Optician:

Mr. HENRY W. HOLE, F.B.O.A.

Bankers:

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HOME AND MISSION

1899

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

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James Stokes, Esq.	Miss E. K. Marsh
Pastor W. A. Warwick	Rev. K. C. Parkinson, M.A.
Mrs. Edith White	F. J. Pollard, Esq.,
Victor J. White, Esq.	Mr. R. W. Raven, O.B.F., T.D., F.R.C.S.

VOLUNTARY WORKING PARTIES:

Ashley Hall, St. Albans
Bedfont Tabernacle
Cranford Baptist
Elmsleigh Gospel Hall, Leigh
Lanes End Mission, Gravesend
Old Independent Church, Haverhill
Shoeburyness Gospel Hall (and Shoe Fund).
Westminster Chapel

HON. BOX SECRETARIES:

Mr. and Mrs. Eric Cook, 9, Beaconsfield Road, South Woodford, E.18

HON. AUDITORS:

Messrs. White, Salomon & Co.

EDITORIAL

Autumn, 1958.

Dear Prayer Partners,

I am sorry that we have not had time to put together all that we would wish to pass on to you concerning our activities since the Spring. We returned from our lovely South Devon holiday in September with high hopes of being able to get down to it, but we have not realised our hopes.

Rather than miss out the edition altogether, I felt it would be your wish to receive what news we have to hand—hence the smaller copy, omitting the diary record. I trust you will bear with us in this and, as you read between the lines, rejoice again at the goodness of God. We are re-using some of the “blocks” to save expense.

The youngest member of our family is only twenty months—a wee laddie! This means that we now range from the *nappy stage to the courting age*. Both have their problems! This laddie has settled in very nicely and it is a thrill to feel that, under the guidance of God, we may be used to set him upon THE PATH-WAY. How our beloved Land does need the influence of those who know their Bible and their Lord.

We ask for your CONSTANT PRAYERS, that we may not fail God or the young lives in our care. The falling away from Sunday School and the general tendency to reckon without God in everyday affairs is bringing many world problems, including the increase in juvenile crime. There is a “vacuum” in the lives of young folk. Our country is very conscious of the physical and intellectual needs of the children—but why ignore the most vital? To say that it is wrong to bring our Philosophy to bear upon a child, but let him just grow up without the knowledge of God and then choose for himself. Where is the logic of this? How can he choose, if he has never heard? It is a very dangerous thing to leave out of the child's upbringing the spiritual guidance and help for which he inwardly, although probably unconsciously, craves. We cannot throw in this Spiritual training as a luxury later on—it is a vital necessity from the earliest day!

I must admit that, sometimes, we do feel the part we play here is so small when reviewing the scene as a whole; then we are reminded again of the love of Christ for each one. Who are we to under-estimate the life for which He so gladly died, and the part that a life can play in this world, if won to Him? It is becoming increasingly clear that our task is a very responsible and privileged one, and we do need your prayers. I don't think you can fully appreciate the real encouragement it is to us as a Staff to KNOW that you are WITH US in prayer—holding up our hands!

We have been so happy during the past months to be in touch again with several of the “old family”—the occasion of the arrival of one (photo below) from Australia after thirty years there (his wife was also in our care as a child) brought much joy to all, especially mother. He did thrill at being home again—everything was so changed—and he remarked that we were “molly-coddling” the children too much these days!

Harvest gifts from nearly eighty different places, as shown further on, have been of real help to us again. You ought to SEE the Food Store just now. Our sincere thanks to all

At our little Abridge Church we are bringing the Sunday School forward to the morning—10 a.m. to 11 a.m.—and then following with our Worship Service at 11.15. The time of Gospel Service remains at 6.30 p.m. We are hoping and praying that this change will enable us to get hold of more of the young folk of the village. This is a real “field”—we are not even touching the fringe of things in the Village and need keen, spiritually-minded Christians to take up the challenge. With the full work here, and outside calls, it is not possible to meet all the demands of the Village—Prayer is requested that the Lord will raise up helpers!

If we are going to get this magazine to you before Christmas I must stop now and send the material to the printers.

Thank you ALL so much for your prayerful and practical interest in this His Work—we do wish you a very happy Christmas.

The Lord bless you,

In Him,

VICTOR J. WHITE



ONE OF
THE
FAMILY

Home on holiday
from Australia
after 32 years.

WILLIAM PARKER

You will be surprised and sorry to hear of the passing of our dear friend and Box Secretary. He had been ailing for some long while, but after an illness, appeared to be recovering, and with his doctor's full approval was going away on Monday, 22nd September, with his wife to stay with his son, Dennis.

After lunch on Sunday, September 21st, he went to post a letter, and never returned home—he went to be with the Lord. We shall miss him so much, both as a christian brother, with a zeal for the winning of souls for the Master, and for his thorough work as Box Secretary from 1937. Over £3,000 passed through his hands for the Family Circle here. He loved to remain in the background, content to feel that in this way he was serving his Lord. We always felt that he was fully "in the Work" and knew that daily he prayed for God's blessing upon the Family. We shall ever have happy memories of this dear brother, and our prayer is that we shall be spurred on to do greater exploits for the Lord, as we recall his humble and zealous life.

His son, Mr. Dennis Parker, came to the fore at once and offered to take over the Box Secretary work. A few days later, Mr. Eric Cook (travelling Secretary for the Y.S.L., a branch of the Scripture Gift Mission) called to say that he and his wife were willing to step into the gap. They had called a few days earlier to have tea and a chat following their move into the district. At that time they stated that they desired to help in some practical way. On hearing of the Home-call of our Box Secretary, they took this to the Lord and felt that here was a work they could undertake. Mr. Dennis Parker, when hearing of their offer, wrote as follows:

"Thank you for your letter. Although my mind was open and willing, such a convenient offer, as made by your local friends, does seem the plain pointer as to the Lord's will, and, coming as soon as it did, before I had undertaken any responsibility, leaves us with a happy mind in the issue.

"I know it is not WHAT we do so much as what we are WILLING to do that matters, and a willing heart is a gift from the Lord."

The work of Box Secretary continues unabated, and we do praise God for the way this matter has been taken up and overruled by Him. May I commend to your prayers our two friends, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, of 9, Beaconsfield Road, South Woodford, London, E.18, that the Lord will bless them as they take over this work. You will rejoice to know that the books relating to the Box Secretaryship were in perfect condition and fully up to date. The taking over is simplicity itself. I was very impressed myself when looking through the records kept by our late friend, to see the care and trouble taken and detail recorded. A faithful steward, indeed!

We shall continue to remember Mrs. Phyllis Parker in prayer that the Lord will strengthen and comfort her at this lonely time. What a tower of strength she always was to her husband—with him in all that he undertook to do for the Lord. Her courage and fortitude just now are a great witness to the keeping power of God in every circumstance. Instead of flowers, it was suggested that those who wished to remember William Parker should send their gifts to the C. H. & M—this being his wish. We are most grateful to all who have sent in this special way.

A Date to Book in YOUR DIARY . . .

9th MAY, 1959

59th ANNUAL GATHERINGS of the C. H. & M.

"OUR DAY"

Please keep this date free—further details concerning times and Speakers, etc., will be given in our next issue of "Links"—April, 1959.

58th ANNUAL REPORT

given 17th May, 1958

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD: CALL UPON HIS NAME: MAKE KNOWN HIS DEEDS AMONG THE PEOPLE."

This is the expression of our hearts. We of the Family Circle here, after another year of blessing at God's Hand, have quoted this text on the first page of our Spring "Links."

WE GIVE THANKS—WE CALL UPON HIS NAME IN GRATITUDE—AND NOW WE ARE MAKING IT KNOWN AMONG HIS PEOPLE!

FROM THIS VERY SPOT—last year we brought you our Motto for the ensuing year: "LET GO AND LET GOD," and our scriptural challenge was from Malachi—"Bring ye ALL into the storehouse and prove me NOW saith the Lord of hosts."

It has been a year of proving God. Quite frankly, I find it beyond the power of pen, or words, to aptly describe the "Journey" of the past twelve months.

We knew it was God's challenge to PROVE HIM. We KNEW that He would prove Himself—and yet, as He uncovered the pathway, His pathway for us, graciously directing and providing all things necessary for our complete welfare, we had to remark constantly—"This is the Lord's doing—it is marvellous in our eyes!"

Can there be an experience to compare with the practical revelation of God in everyday life? I don't think so. To realise that He is not only interested, but has a *part* in every happening that goes to make up the day—this surely is something precious indeed—beyond compare!

In very fact, He is FATHER—the head of the Home.

One of our five-year-olds, chatting with his staff member:

"I live here, don't I, miss?"—"Yes."

"It's my house, isn't it?"—"Yes."

"Well, who's the boss here, anyway?"—"Mr. White."

"Oh, no he ain't."—"Yes he is."

"He ain't, 'cos God is."—"Yes, dear, He is, but He tells Mr. White what to do."

"Coo, Mr. White will have to do what he's told now, won't he?"

He is alert and aware of all the facets of home life, especially the human need, in all its demanding forms. He knows us all and longs and loves to take care of us and prove Himself to be what the Bible says He is—a GOD OF LOVE. Being God, He is omniscient and when you or I enter into a personal relationship with Him, through acceptance of His Son as Saviour, then all that He is gradually unfolds itself to us as the days go by!

We commenced our year, May 1st, 1957, with £62 in hand—enough for approximately four days. We knew that we should need several thousand pounds to meet the expenses of the year—we *knew* that God was able to meet the need.

A most thrilling experience unfolded for us here—we were permitted to *SEE* God at work. As the weeks turned into months, we found that we were always able to pay the bills in time, and when the year closed on April 30th last, two and a half weeks ago, we were able to record the following:—

Gifts under Covenant Scheme ...	£688 (up by £11)
Subscriptions and Donations ...	£2,828 (up by nearly £600)
Boxholders	£193 (up by £6)
Shoe Fund	£18
Legacies	£2,575 (up by £2,127)
Parents' Payments	£1,584 (up by £80)
Gifts for Holidays	£320

OUR TOTAL: £8,208—the highest amount in one year ever—over £3,000 up on the previous year's total.

As we look at these figures we recognise the "All Sufficiency" of God.

I must ask you to NOTE this. Not only has there been enough for the year's ordinary expenditure of approximately £6,200, but much more, enabling us to go to Devon for three weeks in the summer; to pay a further requested instalment on the alteration costs of £800; and to buy a new twelve-seater Bedford Utilabake. This gave us a full expenditure total of £7,846. Income over expenditure for the year being £362, this, together with the previous brought-forward balance of £62, resulted in £425 to bring forward to this year.

We give thanks to Him Who doeth all things well!

You—our Prayer Partners—do rejoice with us—I'm sure in this. Such gracious and bountiful giving from the Hand of God; the meeting of the daily needs and providing of the extra niceties, exalts us to give all praise and honour to Him. There has been no appeal to anyone but God, this being one of the three main principles of the Family, ever since its inception in 1899. Once again He has proved His Power and clearly demonstrated His reality and practical ability in this materialistic and spiritually lethargic age.—To-day, legacy £291! and many other gifts.

Not only in £s.d., but also in the bountiful provision of harvest gifts from nearly eighty different sources. We were able to share with over one hundred old-age pensioners, who were obviously very thrilled with the extras given to them. At Christmas time, too, the variety of gifts was wonderful. Here also, we were so pleased at being able to help some thirty or more hostel children in the village of Abridge and then, later, the blind.

A conscientious mother will often like to make her children clothes. Our staff couldn't possibly do this for a family of our size, but instead, God has prompted working parties—womenfolk connected with churches—who, of their own free choice, get together to knit and sew such things as will be useful to the Family. Often there is a telephone conversation with my wife to make sure that what they propose making will be just what we want, and the right colour and size. Folk who come to see us always remark on the abundant supply of good clothing we have in our store—*pop along to the stores between the meetings and see for yourself*. Mrs. Smith, one of our neighbours, has helped in dress-making and alterations throughout another year, and we have valued her willingness to co-operate at any time.

Gifts of furniture have arrived—chairs, tables, folding beds, etc., etc.—all proving most useful and helping us in a general trend of improvement.

I am purposely not giving you much detail concerning the variety of gifts, for you can read about everything in the "Links" at Spring and Autumn time. It is sent only to interested friends and Prayer Partners, and if you would like a regular copy, please leave your name with one of the stewards.

Now what of the Family itself? We total fifty-eight all told—children, staff and their children. During the year eight boys and one girl joined us, making a total of 835 children cared for since the commencement of the Family in 1899. A family venture launched in faith, as one little girl was taken into care on the 20th November of that year. Nine boys and three girls left us, either to take up work or to return to improved home conditions. On the 5th May last, one girl and one boy came into our care, and so we have a present total of forty-one children ranging in ages from two and a half to twenty-one years. And I suppose I ought to add—two budgerigars, two cats, one dog and a pet grass snake, somewhere in the garden. We have two cases pending, involving five children.

The health of the Family has been extremely good. Apart from the October 'flu epidemic, we have had very few calls to make upon our doctors. We thank Doctors David Smith, Carey Baker and Horace Willings for their interest and help on the odd occasions they have been requested to advise or give treatment. Thanks are due also to Mr. Barrett, our Honorary Naturopathic Herbalist for treating two of our staff.

We record, too, our gratefulness to God for the fact that day by day our children have gone to and from school, and yet we have not had one accident or anything untoward happen to them throughout the twelve months. God is good indeed.

Talking of school, there is nothing terribly exciting to report here. Apart from the four tiniest, who have a kindergarten class at home, and five at work, all others attend the local primary,

junior or secondary schools. We are in close touch with each school, and the staff are able to pop along to parents' evenings, sports days, etc., from time to time. Whilst we do not always expect great academic success, we are very pleased to read at the foot of a report such remarks as "Well done" or "Well tried." It is vitally important that the child is giving of his or her *best*. A number of the children do take part in the "extra" school activities, and we encourage them in this.

What do we do when not at school? I suppose if I were to give the children an opportunity here, their report on these activities would vary from mine—at least, when chatting to "old" members of the Family about the "good old days," one has been surprised at the *off record* happenings! I'm sure Mr. Cowling, Mr. Kearns, Mrs. Sutton, Mrs. Harper and others here to-day could reveal much! Winter time we have the Wednesday Hobbies evening taken by Mr. Olney, one of our staff, supported by other staff members. Some of the work accomplished can be seen about. We have sometimes been invited to help at meetings—Kentish Town E.F.C., The Surrey Tent, Kenton E.F.C., Stockwell Baptist, etc. I was going to mention a host of other activities, but it would be best for you to read the diary in the "Links."

Last summer, as you may know, we were able to join a newly-formed Junior Church Cricket League, and much to our surprise and delight, we managed to win the shield. This is on view in the Dining Room below.

Of the three parts, intellectual, physical and spiritual, which form our being, we are not content to cover just the first two and ignore the third—the spiritual—which is really the most vital and is *enduring*. It is our joy and privilege to teach the young folk the things of God—to have prayers every day—teach the simple choruses and hymns—to attend God's house on His day.

It may interest you to know that statistics which have come to hand just recently point out the following: that of eight million children under fifteen and over five in the U.K., only three million attended Sunday School in 1957. This figure is two million less than it was thirty years ago, when the population was lower! To continue—H.O. figures for 1957 state that crime was forty-eight per cent. higher than in 1938 and that the highest number of crimes was committed by children between the ages of twelve and fifteen. *What is your reaction to all this?* We were told years back that with the educational and social improvements coming, there would automatically be a moral improvement. *Fantasy! False Security!* There is only *one* answer to the need of the human heart—*Jesus Christ!*

Whilst the young minds are growing; groping for help, and thirsting for knowledge, we who love the Lord—we who say we are concerned about the need of mankind—it is *we* who must teach them, the young folk, from His Word and *we* must keep

His day. We must not just send them, but *TAKE THEM* to His House.

We have been much in prayer about the young folk God has given us to care for. It is good to know that some love Him and serve Him, but sad to realise that some do not. It was thrilling just recently to hear personally from one of the "parents," of his conversion. Later this letter was received: "Thank you for your kind letter, also the leaflets. I read them and gave them to the Salvation Army captain. To-night I went on the platform to testify for God. I concluded by reading your letter and telling them of the good work you do. I only hope I can keep this good work up. I feel so different and my son does notice the difference in my character. Somehow, I cannot understand why it has taken me so long to find out the truth. It seemed to come to me all of a sudden. I just had to give myself to God. I feel now I have wasted so much of my life. I only hope others do not wait so long."

Then, soon after, from the brother of one of our boys, came a letter to say that he, too, has found the Saviour:—

"I just had to write to let you know that all my fears, torments, and worries are at an end. I have accepted the Lord Jesus into my heart as my Saviour, and prayed to him to give me the strength needed to overcome evil. In my prayers I have asked Him to help me to know Him more and more. Satan's powers have been working hard to deter me, but my prayers have been answered and Satan conquered. Here I have met some wonderful people who are giving me opportunities to know more of His Word. The Lord has brought me to two meetings where the word of God has proved beyond doubt that my prayers have been answered. I would now like to thank you for what you have done for me. You have been praying for me, now your prayers have been answered. There is a lot I would like to say in this letter, but I feel I can tell you better by word of mouth. I shall be seeing you and the family very shortly, when I can tell you more."

These conversions *are* answers to our prayers for spiritual blessing. They are having a forceful impact upon the family circle.

What of the Family now scattered to the four corners of the world? Well, again throughout the year we have heard from some by letter, by telephone, by visit. Let me quote from a few letters now:—

From HARROW.

Thank you for "Spring" number of "Links." It is so grand to read of all the activities of the family, and to hear of how God's bountiful blessings continue to flow. My wife and two daughters and myself have a great many things to thank our heavenly Father for in his great generosity to us his humble children.

Would you please accept the enclosed cheque towards the great work you and your helpers are doing. May God continue to bless and keep you all. Love and best wishes from an "old" boy.

From AUSTRALIA.

No doubt you are thinking we have forgotten you. The time passes so quickly. Thank you for letter and "Links," which we always love reading. My husband (who was one of our "old" boys) may be going home soon (to England—not heaven!). He gets his long service leave, so I said, "Why don't you go home and see them all?" I think he will be leaving at the end of August if everything goes well. I will have to stay here to look after things. What a wonderful reunion it will be after thirty-one years. I may come later, all being well. I told him he must go and see you all. You will soon be having Annual Gatherings. I will be thinking of you all then and wishing we could join you. We had a very hot, dry summer here. Thank goodness, it is cooling off now. We need rain very badly. Quite the reverse to you. We are both getting on now—over sixty . . . Our love to all. God bless. From one of your "old" boys and girls.

From BIRMINGHAM.

It is a very long time since I wrote to you. We are keeping well and we hope you are in this arctic climate. We can't seem to keep warm up here. Thank you very much for the autumn "Links." It's wonderful to have the reassurance that God in His infinite goodness continues to bless you all and supply your every need. It must be of great importance to you all in this work amongst children, to realise that God is behind the scenes helping and guiding, loving and comforting, strengthening and blessing in so many wonderful ways. The "Links" are certainly what they are intended to be—"links" between old boys and girls and Home. They keep us well informed and up to date with all news. I was sorry not to be at Woodford for the opening of the new building alteration and addition, but we remembered you in our prayers, as we do always. By the report in the "Links," though, the meetings were well attended, and I do trust that this, another stepping stone in the history of C. H. & M., will long be remembered as a great time of a great test of your faith, and a fulfilment of your vision, in the extension of this great work. I am always proud to mention that I was saved in more ways than one because I once lived at the Home. David once said, "He lifted me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my foot upon a rock." I would suggest the same happened to me. The Lord lifted me up from hell, to be saved by His precious blood. He also lifted me from the wicked grip of sinful and Satanic evils and pleasures of this world, to realise that alone in Him is there everlasting joy and pleasure. It's just good to be a Christian, isn't it? . . . A very happy Christmas to all the staff

and to the "old" girls and boys. May God continually bless you, and my prayer is that He will continually supply all your needs and answer your prayers. Fondest love and affection.

From JOHANNESBURG (the husband of one of the "old" girls writing).

Many thanks for the recent letter which came as a welcome surprise. I'm feeling much better myself with my one cylinder. (He's recently had a serious operation, and one kidney removed.) The Lord is good, and much better to us than ever we are to Him, I fear. However, am now back to full health by His grace. The whole of Johannesburg has been boiling for days on end. . . . If Peggy has her twenty-first with you she'll have something to remember ; but what does the C. H. & M. ever do in half measures, *tell me*? Which reminds me, these alterations are all good, and it does my heart good to think of the improved heating and laundry facilities. November 5th was a quiet night for me in hospital. All I saw was an occasional sky rocket speeding into the air. I still bear a beautiful patch on my corduroy trousers reminding me of Guy Fawkes at No. 10! Remembrance Day was observed throughout S.A., but I don't suppose with half the pageantry that you folk enjoy in a country with so many years of tradition behind it. Rene and I have again got a yearning to have a bigger house—preferably a home of our own—but I refuse, point blank, to have a working wife—little short of the cause of juvenile delinquency. My word, do they rock and roll in this city! They even clash with the police. How far the return of the Lord is we don't know, but my, what a need to capture the souls and interests of young folk for Christ—to rescue them from this wicked age. . . . I'm choir secretary, but my, how I dislike choir singing. I much prefer being down in the congregation trying bass on this verse, tenor the next, harmony the next, etc. . . . Oh, yes, do convey regards to the staff and good "ole Mr. Crowy." Well, dearies, keep well and don't forget you're always in our minds and prayers, and we wouldn't mind flitting over to have Christmas with you, though I doubt whether I could keep up with you quite yet on my monocylinder! Lots of love.

From DEVON.

Thank you very much indeed for your card. Well, how are you all keeping? I hope the 'flu epidemic has passed. I expect you are all busy thinking and doing things for the Christmas activity, which is always swell (as the Americans put it). I am looking forward to Christmas very much as I shall be with you all for two weeks. (Note—we don't ask to come—we are just coming!) I am reading the life story of Florence Barclay. I had never realised before what a wonderful woman she was. She used to preach to enormous audiences. One would never think that a woman could do all the work that she did. I have borrowed the book from a friend who lives in a little hamlet village where I go to chapel. She is very interested in the Home. When

I receive the "Links," after I have thoroughly read it all, I take it down to her. So you see the "Links" does not only please and thrill all those who have passed through your loving care and attention, but also those with whom they come into contact after they leave you. I am eagerly awaiting the Autumn "Links." . . . There's so much to tell you, but it must all wait until Christmas. With much love to you all.

From PORT ELGIN, CANADA.

Thank you very much for the "Links," which we enjoyed reading tremendously. We are sure you had a wonderful Christmas, and we constantly pray that God will continue to be with you in this coming year. It seems almost incredible that we have now spent two Christmases in Canada. Towards the end of this last year I was feeling very homesick, and many times we were tempted to go back to the 'old country.' But we know that God brought us to Canada for a purpose and so here we will stay. However, we have got over our bout of homesickness and feel much better for it! Canada is a great land—in more ways than one—and we are indeed very happy over here. My husband goes back to college to-morrow after the Christmas vacation. He is out at a meeting to-night, and I do not expect him back until quite late. Canadians are inclined to keep very late hours, and if there is an evening meeting it does not usually end until eleven or half-past. We found this quite hard to get used to at first, but now we are quite accustomed to it.

As we look together over the past year, we thank God for His goodness to us. He has supplied our every need and although at times things have not been too easy, we have learned to trust even more in His Divine Will. . . . I must close now. With much love to you all.

AND FROM THE TWIN SISTER of the one whose letter I have just read, Johannesburg.

Thank you so much for your very welcome letter. You've no idea how we worry our postman for mail, although we do realise how busy you are, and therefore appreciate your regular writing all the more. It certainly sounds as though you had a wonderful Christmas—I think the Lord treats you better year by year! We did appreciate the description of the dining room—we shall certainly feel most at home *when* we come to see you. The Lord has really been blessing us two—not materially especially, but spiritually. We both lead a very full, active life in the Church, and love it. One often marvels that the Lord has any use at all for us who lack faith so much and fail to claim His wonderful promises. Praise Him for His goodness and salvation. We have many Christian friends who always "drop in" for tea or something—we love our home to be open to all, and that is just

how it is. It must nearly be as busy as C. H. & M.—it seems like that sometimes. Marguerite is growing so quickly now and chatters nineteen to the dozen. She thinks the world of her daddy, who, I think, would spoil her if he had the chance. I'm afraid I got too used to looking after little boys at home to give her an opportunity to be spoiled. Please give our love to all the staff, and we always remember them in prayer. God bless you all abundantly.

From an "OLD GIRL" who, humanly speaking, seems to have had a difficult and sorrowful pathway: "Thank you very much for your letter and your kind thoughts. My feelings are these—

"I thank Thee, God, enough of joy has marked my span of days

To thrill my heart with gratitude and wake the words of praise.

I have accepted at Thy hands much more of good than ill,
And all of trouble has but shown the wisdom of Thy will."

As a Christian I accept all. Thy will be done. Our heavenly Father knows best. My love to you all and thank you for all your kindness. We are looking forward to being with you all at Christmas. God bless you all.

From LEIGH-ON-SEA.

Many thanks for your nice newsy letter. You certainly have a great deal to praise the Lord for in answering your prayers *re* the holiday. I do sincerely hope you enjoy yourselves and that the weather keeps fine. I shall be thinking and praying for your safe journey to Devon, and return. I shall try to come to see you after the holidays. My son starts his National Service next week. Do pray for him. Cheerio for now. Love and a happy holiday.

From an "OLD BOY."

I am sorry you have not heard of me for some time, but the arrival of a second boy, and the acquisition of a house, has kept me busy over the past year or so. I have thought of you many times, however, particularly at the Annual Gatherings and at Christmas. It is two years since I was able to see you, but I shall make every effort to get to the next Annual Gatherings, if not before. I shall be thinking of you all at Christmas and I would like you to make use of the enclosed gift to provide a gift for one of the children. Love to you all.

From a YOUNGER BOY WHO RETURNED HOME LAST YEAR.

I hope you are getting on all right. Thank you for the letter you sent us. I like the new home. I like the new school. My Dad has brought me a new Bible and I have made a cover for it. I had a nice birthday on Tuesday. Lots of love.

From BASINGSTOKE.

Thank you very much for "Links." I enjoyed reading them and I was very interested to see such a good picture of Lizzie and

Harry. Are we all really getting old? Is it really such a long time ago that we were all youngsters together? It's hard to believe! We spent our holidays in South Devon again this year, so was very interested to read that you covered much of the ground we did. I am proud to say that my daughter has presented us with our first grandchild. I expect you are feeling very pleased that all the discomfort you had to put up with last year while the alterations were in progress are not taking place this winter. I do hope you all have a happy Christmas, although I suppose that goes without saying. Must close now. Much affection.

From an "OLD" GIRL.

Thank you very much for sending me the "Links." It hardly seems three years ago since I left you. I have enclosed a photo of my little daughter. She is very sweet, but also very saucy. But when I look back over my young days, I *have to overlook it!* We are saving up hard to get our own house. By August we should have four hundred, and we are going to look for a nice little house of our own. I hope you have a nice Christmas. With love.

From an "OLD GIRL" IN NEW ZEALAND.

I thought you would like to hear from us just before Christmas. I expect it's all excitement at the C. H. & M. I can just imagine it all, having spent so many Christmases there myself. It doesn't seem like Christmas here—the weather's awful—damp, hot and sticky. Imagine doing your Christmas shopping in a summer dress and a woolly slung over your shoulder. That's what we've been doing. Give me an English Christmas any time! I haven't seen a Christmas tree yet. The Kiwis haven't much idea at all about Christmas. I shall be thinking of you all. I expect there'll be the usual crowd of visitors—Mr. Crowhurst, Mr. and Mrs. Cowling, and all the rest. I wish I could be there. Would you pass on our greetings at supper time to everyone? I would like to be there in person to give them, but I'm nearly twelve thousand miles away and, anyway, I've got to show the Kiwis how to spend Christmas. Our thoughts and love are with you, and may God richly bless you. Warmest love.

From an "OLD BOY" IN THE FORCES.

"I bet you're wondering whether I'm dead or not, as I haven't written for some time. Well, the fact is, I'm still alive, although about a week ago I did not feel so good, and the M.O. said I had Asian 'flu and so I *spent four glorious days in bed!* I trust everybody is well back home. There's not much more to say. Life goes on as usual at the barracks here. Lots of love. P.S.—Nine and a half months to do! Trying to keep cheerful. Sorry letter is so short.

OUR STAFF CIRCLE NOW TOTALS ELEVEN.

I have previously in this report mentioned the power of

prayer concerning the financial side of things—the abundant provision of harvest goods and toys, etc.—but, you know, it is in every sphere that we have proved Him. Towards the end of last year we had the information that one of our staff, Miss Parkes, would be leaving to marry one of the “old” boys. She had been with us for three years and rendered loyal service, and I wish to place on record here our thanks, mine and yours, for all her devoted help given to the Family. We pray that the Lord will bless her and Malcolm as they step out together soon. We got down to prayer about this new need. In His time we had the news that one who had known of the Family for many years and followed in activities with great interest (especially in connection with the K.T.M.—now K.T.E.C.—of which she was a member and Sunday School teacher had felt God calling her to full-time service. I am always intrigued by the way in which, as we seek to trust God wholly, these matters dovetail in. He has a Plan for all lives and for this work. After much heart searching and prayer, Miss Burstow joined our ranks—the gap was filled.

Then, just after Easter, we welcomed into our circle Miss Litchfield. She first heard the call at a special C.E. Rally in London, and applied to come here. After seeking God’s will and facing up to the realities of the calling, she, too, joined the staff. Yes, God is good—we praise Him for His loving knowledge of our need and His ability to step in and prove the practical love which is His in so many varied ways.

I now want to thank for myself, and on your behalf, my staff for their loyal service during the past twelve months—Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Olney, Mrs. Webb, Miss Long, Miss Mumford and Miss Revell. Mother, too, of course, continues to “lead the line,” and we are conscious of her presence and quiet influence upon the work.

We are most grateful to God for these who have been willing to leave ALL and follow Him. Cutting the ropes—attractive ropes from the world’s point of view, and very strong, too—that they might answer the Call: “Bring ye all into the storehouse, prove Me now.” We pray that the Lord will bless you for your labour given as unto Him—there is not a more worthwhile job anywhere. These are the future men and women of our land. They will help to influence the destiny of England. “Your work”—“Our work”—is vital and urgent. Human life needs moulding and guiding. God grant that we may be equipped that we ourselves may be fashioned by Him and, in turn, we may do our part under His guidance, to the influencing of these young folk.

PRAY FOR OUR STAFF.

This is an all-round-the-clock job. Pray that grace, strength, love, wisdom, tact, understanding—all these and other necessary

characteristics—may be their portion as we journey on through this New Year. He has been with us all the time; we have KNOWN His speedy help and intervention “just when we need Him most.”

As well as the residential staff circle, we have others who come to help from time to time—Mr. Crowhurst, Mrs. Gilders, Miss Hicks, Miss Leary, Mr. David Barr. Thank you for all the help freely given.

We are also grateful to Mrs. Southgate and Mrs. Reeves, from Abridge, for the way in which they go the extra mile to help in the general domestic routine of the Family.

Charles, one of the “old” members of the Family, continues to help in the garden most Thursday afternoons (his half day) and also, by the way, cares for the gardens at the Abridge Church.

We have had contact with quite a number of the “old” members of the staff, and during the past twelve months it has given us joy to receive letters and calls from several. I will quote just one letter, which is typical of others:—

“So happy to receive once again the ‘Links’ and to read of all the wonderful ways in which the Lord is leading and blessing the work. It would be a real joy to visit the Home again on May 17th, but that is impossible, but my prayers will be with you on that day and I pray that the richest heavenly blessings may rest upon all you do. The staff are often in my thoughts and prayer, for I know something of the strain that a day-to-day (and sometimes night, too) care for young children can bring. It is a selfless work and ministry of love, and I do pray that all may have the joy of seeing their young charges come to the Lord. Please accept this small gift with my continued remembrance of C. H. & M. at the Throne of Grace. Love to all whom I know.”

We are most encouraged by the letters received from prayer partners. Hardly a day goes by without a contact through the post, and as we open the mail at staff prayer time, 9.10 a.m. from Monday to Friday, our hearts are touched by the lovely thoughts and kindly stimulants therein.

Here is an extract or two:—

“Please accept in His name the enclosed towards the funds of the Home. Not much, just a little of HIS portion from my old age pension. I pray His presence may rest on all your labours for Him in caring for the little ones. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto these My little ones, ye have done it unto Me. I pray that some of them may realise their need of a Saviour and give their hearts to the Lord Jesus.”

From a SCHOOL IN ROMFORD.

“Once again Easter is almost upon us, and I have much pleasure in sending a cheque for £1 14s. 0d. as the result of IIB’s Lenten effort. The children have watched their pennies, etc.,

mounting up and are really pleased to send this on by me, to buy some little 'extra' for Easter. With our united good wishes to all your Family."

FROM BARKING.

"I was out to-day conducting services, and the friends at the Mission insisted that I took a gift for my services—which I do not normally do. I would like to forward same to you for the work of the Children's Home & Mission, and therefore enclose same."

"To-day would have been my dear mother's birthday. She was always very interested in your wonderful work. Just a small gift in her memory."

"The enclosed gift is from our Boys' Brigade Bible Class, with the good wishes of officers and boys."

"Please find enclosed postal order, the offering from our Sunday School Gift Service with best wishes for your work amongst the children from our teachers and scholars."

A parcel containing a basket, toys, teddy, pinafore, skirt and jumper was received with the following letter: "My brother and two younger sisters helped me to make some of these things. My sister Katherine, who is seven, dressed Red Riding Hood. My sister Alison, eight years old, made the apron and the gloves. Andrew, my younger brother, made the basket, and I made the other things. I hope they will be useful. With love and best wishes."

We have noted an increase in gifts from Sunday Schools and other Christian organisations. We still hear each year from the Tiptree Congregational Sunday School, a flashback to the days of the last war and to the Family's stay there. What an amazing provision was the gift of The Grove and Farm at Tiptree. Again, the mind of God at work, knowing before we did the necessity of such a place for His children, and having everything well in hand.

Money gifts, large and small, from far and near, even Singapore, from a servant of God working amongst the needy folk there. Other gifts in the form of green vegetables, fruit, toys, clothes, furniture, plants, flowers, sweets, bread, cakes, projector, Bibles, cuckoo clock, barometer, etc., etc. What a variety—and to meet all NEEDS! One Saturday morning—busy with the lads outside, a Black Maria drew up. A very formidable-looking police sergeant knocked at No. 8. What a flood of possibilities ran through my mind—my, how terribly pessimistic we so often are! We met with this greeting: "Mr. White? I have something to show you in the van." Again my mind raced on—who on earth could it be?—and such a solemn face, too, on the part of the man in blue! Across to the Black Maria we trooped (my dog following). The doors swung open—NO!—a large, very large quantity of BANANAS—all clustered round a main stem. "Will you accept them?" (this time a knowing smile). Ever been had? I

was then! Not quite finished—when I suggested that we could take them to the kitchen entrance in Waverley Road, he agreed to run the van round, and asked me to pop in. The doors closed—my, the looks on the faces of some of the lads who were peering over the fence as yours truly and dog disappeared in the Black Maria. They, of course, hadn't seen the bananas, only the very officious police sergeant and the closing of the doors! There was great relief and excitement, too, when eventually we emerged at the kitchen door with bananas. "Sign your name, sir, and that will be all." NEVER A DULL MOMENT!

On another Saturday morning a dear old lady called—a real saint of God—to hand over some children's clothing and also five pounds. This money had been given to her long ago by her mother, who was dying, to cover any travelling expenses incurred in visiting her during the illness. What a lovely thought! They had had a very hard life indeed, but what training of character went on in that family. This dear friend, talking to me, told how that down the years she had been determined not to spend this money herself, although at times she did just have to borrow a little to help out and then, as possible put back. That Saturday morning she had woken up with a desire to pass it on. "I shan't go on for ever," she said to me, "and I don't want anyone to know what I did with this money that mother once gave to me!"

The telephone is truly a mixed blessing, especially when the bell rings after you have decided to have an *early* night!

"Is that Mr. White? Can you help in looking after two children? Boy and girl. Very urgent."

"Can you, or one of your staff, take a meeting at . . . ?"

"I want to adopt a child. Can you help me?"

"Is there an Auntie and Uncle Scheme in your Home?"

"A relation of mine who was very interested in your Home left £100 for you. I shall be bringing it over this afternoon."

The voice of an "old" boy: "Can I come to stay for the week-end?"

Oakdale School headmistress: "——— has lost his dinner money on the way to school!"

"Rule and Cooke here. Some good news for you. Solicitors for the old Mount Hermon Home have received a windfall of £250. They have contacted Trustees of this Home, who have decided that this should come to you, less small fee of a few shillings. Am sending cheque through the post to-day."

"Can you come over to our church and bring the children with you on such and such a date?"

"Can some of your boys play cricket for the Sunday School team this afternoon?"

"Oakdale School again. One of your little boys has fallen over in the playground and has a nasty deep cut on his chin. It

needs a stitch. Will you collect him and take him to hospital?"

"Some of your children came top in a Sunday School quiz. Can I take them to London next Thursday?"

"Wycliffe Language Course here. Can we borrow beds and bedding again this year?"

"Cable for you. Johannesburg. A girl 10th both well. Hallelujah. Wendel."

Through the year, twenty-first birthdays have been in the fashion. Peter, George, and Mary. Each time a party here, friends invited, a tasty spread, fun and games. Peggy, although not still living here, will be having her twenty-first party at the end of this month. There's no denying the fact that these occasions demand time in preparation, BUT, this is part of the Family life. Both George and Peter are worshipping at Woodgrange Baptist Church. There has been a wedding, too. You may remember that Violet was married last June—both she and her husband, Brian, are here helping to-day. Ted was engaged last July, and Mr. and Mrs. Olney were able to represent the Family at their celebration. We wish Ted and Rosemary every happiness. Both love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our privilege often to chat with one and the other who were once "IN" the Family, giving advice about this and that—sometimes we feel rather like a Marriage Guidance Bureau!

We are particularly grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Cowling for their warm hospitality at Cranham throughout another year. "Pop over to see us any time; shall be delighted," they say—or sometimes don't say, but expect us to go. We were tremendously thrilled to have them both with us at Devon last summer. They intended to stay two or three days, but remained with us for the three weeks.

Two who were once children here, and later on the staff, arranged to take Mother away last summer, meeting all expenses and coming to fetch her and to take her back to Bournemouth. To me this was a very touching kindness, bringing right home the depth of love and friendship that does exist amongst the 835 members of the Family over fifty-eight years.

Another facet of our work is the Free Church at Abridge. The Church and adjoining hall are in good condition and there is an acre or so of ground. Fortunately, we are situated away from the main London Road, which is a very busy road these days, and hence traffic vibration and sounds do not disturb us. It was in 1925/26 that the evangelical witness commenced as a result of a Caravan visit. The Caravan, horse drawn, was sent off from this place. Grown-ups and children at Abridge have found the Saviour. Numbers at all services are maintained—sometimes are encouraging. Open-air work and house-to-house visitation are

being given priority this summer. We have bought some new loudspeaker equipment for this sphere of work and are anticipating going out into the "highways and byways."

Looking back, I can recall some very happy and profitable hours spent at Abridge. We have been challenged as we have listened to the Gospel Message clearly preached week by week. Some of the younger Christians are growing up and able to witness from pulpit and platform. We are supported by a very loyal band of women helpers who accomplish many necessary tasks behind the scenes—fire lighting, cleaning, ministry of flowers, etc. It is always a delight to enter the church and to notice the loving care with which it has obviously been prepared for worship. Recently, Mr. George Tryon conducted a ten-day young people's Campaign. It was a very useful, happy and spiritually beneficial time. We were able to take down a good contingent from here each evening.

Leaving Abridge now, I must just mention again our working parties. These, of course, were voluntarily started by Christian folk who felt the desire to be practical in their love to God. To-day we have a coach-load of friends from Gravesend, and amongst them a new working party from Lanes End Mission. We are pleased to have them with us for the first time. Those, too, from Sussex and other places. We have six coach parties to-day. The Lord bless their visit here.

We enjoy an experience which is full of surprises. There are the unexpected callers:—

The American gentleman who heard of our work in conversation at Pickering and Inglis, and called to see it for himself.

The Scouts who arrived to clean windows.

The young couple, executors of a relative's will, who called to see us before writing out the cheque.

The H.O. Inspector who always manages a most inconvenient time and stays to tea!

The gentleman who brought a load of ice-creams one Saturday evening.

The neighbour who brought a tricycle.

The old lady who brought a treasured locket for us, requesting that we should sell it and put the money in the funds.
Etc., etc.

We eagerly open the letters, not knowing just what may be contained inside. One letter is from our Box Secretary, enclosing a cheque for the amount he has received from boxholders. Thank you, Mr. Parker, for your help this year. "Old" girls and boys often pop in and sometimes stay for a night. They usually "lend a hand," so their visits are an asset.

This experience of "the unexpected" has been the life of the C. H. & M. down the years. Mother will confirm. When we prepared our programmes for these meetings we remarked: "They seem just the same as last year—and, indeed, all the past years that we remember." We asked Mother: "Are the Annual Meetings now just like they always have been?" "Yes," she said. "The children have always done their part well. I remember Will Cowling singing a solo. There have been the reports, etc., etc. Yes, they are just the same as they have always been."

This made us realise afresh—YOU haven't come here to-day to be entertained. YOU'VE come to hear the testimony of GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. That has been the attraction. That has been the attraction over the past fifty-eight years. What a privilege and responsibility we have in this current age to show to a sick and needy world the fact of a living and satisfying God—One who never fails! From the first step in faith the Three Aims have been:—

To help children in need;
To teach them of Christ;
To prove that God *is* by appealing to Him alone for all necessities.

God grant us the vision afresh of the Cross of Christ—the Sacrifice paid—that we might enjoy the blessedness of sins forgiven—renewal of family relations with God as Father, and that we may enter fully into the rich personal, practical fellowship which is our inheritance.

Why are we so cool, careless, indifferent, lacking in power, in love toward God? May our glimpse back over the happenings of the past year bring us to KNOW that God does care and guide and love, and in this awakened realisation let us press on to greater exploits for Him.

What of this present new year? Please go on in prayer, daily, earnestly. That the young folk may be won, and that they may witness, for the Lord. That the testimony of His Faithfulness to this Family may be a powerful and practical weapon in the preaching of the Gospel.

O give thanks unto the Lord, call upon His Name. Make known His deeds among the people.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS THROUGH SIXTY YEARS

We are endeavouring, mainly through the efforts of a friend, to compile a book, and should value any information, stories, or experiences you may have which will help in this.

DO YOU WORRY?

Message given at OUR DAY, 1958

The Rev. R. C. Dalton

Claremont Free Church (Baptist), Cricklewood, N.W.2.

I am very happy to be here this afternoon, and I count it a great privilege to bring you some message from the Lord. At College we were told that we must never speak over the heads of our congregations, but I believe I am literally doing this at this moment because we have friends gathered in the overflow meeting in the hall below. But in spirit we are one as we turn to the Lord and think together of the message He has for us.

I wonder if anyone here can say "I never worry." Some of you boys and girls have examinations soon, and I wonder if you get upset about them. When I was younger I could never go to an examination room without worrying, perhaps because I am one of those who have never really loved examinations. Perhaps you are like that, or at any rate we all have our own particular little worries, something that is peculiar to ourselves, some problem which keeps recurring, perhaps to do with your home or your work.

We find there is cause for worry wherever we turn. I want to say this afternoon that fear and worry are wrong. I remember at College hearing my Principal say in the course of morning prayers: "Forgive us for the sin of worry." If what the Lord says is true, then every time we worry—I am not speaking about natural concern, I am talking about worry—every time we worry we are portraying a lack of trust in God. He does not intend us to be fearful or to worry. If you go to a doctor or psychiatrist, he will tell you that very many problems concern people who worry, and that they are discovering even physical illness that is brought on through worry. As I have said, it is wrong and it is unchristian, and yet I join company with those who at the beginning of the day often have to say: "Forgive me, Lord, for not trusting you."

How dare we stand here in this most sacred place and talk about worry when we have been hearing about what God has done during this past year, and what an excellent report we have listened to from Mr. Victor White. But faith and trust in God is something that is always increasing. At school I could never do the high jump, but there were boys who could jump, perhaps three feet one day and then a little more the next day, and so on. And so in the Christian life we are constantly reaching up in our experience of faith and trust in God. I do not apologise for speaking on faith in a Mission like this which is built on faith. I have learned much from Mr. Victor White, and from his father, and from reading the "Links," but there is a progression in faith, and

it may also be true that some of you here have not that same experience of faith in God which has characterised the work of this Mission, and upon which it is founded.

Let us look at a story familiar to us all. Come down with me to Galilee, to that beautiful Lake, and I want you to see again that little boat with men in it and One asleep in the stern. We know that Peter, James, and John were there, and we know that the One who is sleeping is the Lord Jesus Himself. The picture is familiar to us because we have read the story many times. We remember how the storm came down suddenly upon the lake, the boat filled with water, and the disciples busied themselves baling it out. These men were fishermen and they knew the danger of these sudden storms, and in this hour of peril Jesus was sleeping. We can imagine one of his disciples saying to another: "Wake Him up," and hear again the words spoken to Jesus: "Carest Thou not that we perish?"

One thing has impressed me and that was the way in which Jesus awoke from His sleep. There is tranquillity in sleep, and that same calmness is seen in our Lord's bearing as He assumes complete control of the situation. There is also amazement in His voice as He says to His disciples: "Why are you so fearful? Have you no faith yet?" How do you wake up to times of crisis in your life? We have heard of the crises which face a work such as this. Are you one of those who get into a panic, and would Jesus have to say to you: "You have no faith yet. You have known Me, and you still do not trust Me"? How can we stop worrying? How may we have this confidence in God?

1. We can have faith because of the past. I think that Jesus is here rebuking His disciples, as He is saying in effect, "Why have you not got this faith? Why do you not trust Me?" He could have reminded them of the time in Cana, the consternation at the wedding when they ran out of wine, and how He dealt with the problem. Or the time when men brought one paralysed to Him; how they lifted up the roof of the house where He was and let the man down in front of the Lord, and how He took him by the hand and the afflicted man went home healed. Or perhaps the man at the Pool of Bethesda who had been ill for thirty-eight years; of how Jesus met him there and healed him. It is as though Jesus here says to His disciples: "If I could perform these miracles, cannot I deal with this situation?"

How easily we forget the past when new problems arise. Do you remember how David told Saul he would go and fight the Philistine? They put Saul's armour on him; the breast-plate, and the helmet, and then they placed a sword in his hand, but the weight was far too much for him and so he removed it. Then his mind went back to the time when in the fields he had been looking after his father's sheep, and when the lion came along he fought it and killed it, and he had realised that God was with him.

Another day a bear came along and attacked his sheep, and again he was given strength to overcome the bear. David could look back and say that as God was sufficient for him then, so he had no cause to fear this Philistine. We must not forget the past. Is there one here who cannot look back and say, "There was a time when I was confronted with that difficulty and God helped me—God dealt with the problem for me"? As you read through the pages of the "Links," could anyone doubt the power of God? Here we find testimonies of the past, and with each act of our gracious God confidence grows. When my little girl was smaller than she is now, one day I sat her on the table and, kneeling down beside her, encouraged her to fall off into my arms. Hesitantly she edged herself off the table and I caught her, but now she does it more readily because she knows that I will not fail her. She knows because of her experience of the past.

Notice that what the disciples were seeing on that occasion was a new problem, something they had not met before, and they forgot the past. When new problems come along we invariably do the same thing, we seek advice from one and the other, and when our minds are cluttered up with all sorts of ideas, then we turn to God and seek His help. How foolish we are. We can have confidence when we think of the past, and of the history of this work, but essentially our faith rests upon one supreme act in the past—the fact that Jesus Christ has died for us, an act which covers every problem which might confront us. Here is a simple illustration. Someone can swim a quarter of a mile, and you congratulate him; how foolish it would be if you said to him "You can swim a quarter of a mile, but I don't suppose you could swim a hundred yards." But isn't that just what we do with God? We say we believe He can save us from our sin and then we worry about something which in comparison is so small and trivial. Our faith is a faith which is built on the past because we can look back to an event which happened in the past. Whenever you have a problem that you cannot solve, look to the Cross, and remember that the Lord did everything there.

2. Secondly, we can have faith because of the present. What is faith? Faith is trust, and it is trust in certain people. The children in the Home trust Mr. and Mrs. White and the helpers who are caring for them every day. We trust people when we know something about them—when they are no longer strangers. Jesus Christ is One Whom we can know, and in knowing Him as Saviour and Friend, we begin to trust. Those who have grown up in this place have faith in the workers, and so it is that the more we grow to know the Lord as Friend, the greater will be our trust in Him.

We must keep looking to Him—once you look away from Jesus, then you begin to fear and doubt. I am told on good authority that in regard to tight-rope walking, the secret of success is to look ahead; once you start to look around at the people about

you, then you will soon be down where they are. And that is the secret of faith—to keep looking unto Jesus. The disciples were looking at the water in the boat; if they had looked to Jesus they would not have been so fearful. Peter walked on the water towards Jesus, but when he began to look at the sea around him he soon started to sink. There was a little boy who used to get his train set out every evening after tea. Father would come home and pretend to be reading his newspaper, just waiting for that moment when the little boy could not repair some fault, and he would ask his father to help. Every night the same thing happened, and the little boy's father would repair the train and set it in motion again. One night something different happened. The train stopped, but the little boy went out of the room with it, and it was some time later that there were a few tears, and the little boy came running into the room saying, "Daddy, I tried to do it myself but I could not—will you do it?" If you look away from Jesus for just one moment you will find that you begin to worry, and you will have to again put your trust in Him.

We have also got to listen to Jesus. Some women are standing beside a tomb; they have come to anoint the body of Jesus. An angel meets them and declares: "He is not here: for He is risen as He said." What are the spices for; did they not believe what He said? Had He not declared that He was going to rise again? Let us remember His promise to all who love Him: "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." He is here this afternoon—He will never leave us nor forsake us. That is the promise of His word, and if you believe it, then why not trust Him?

In conclusion, we can have a faith that will eventually banish all fear. You will grow more and more aware of His presence day by day. Like the little child who is frightened of the dark; when Mummy or Daddy holds his hand it does not seem to worry any longer. Let us go back to the story of David and Goliath. When he went out to face the giant, the armies from both sides looking on, how they must have laughed to see this puny youth going forth to do combat. What could he do? But as David approached Goliath he was not seeing the giant in all his power; rather did he see his God and realise His power.

"If God be for us who can be against us?" The more we realise His presence, and the more faith we have in Him, the less fearful we shall be. Remember also that it is the first act of trust that matters. Some years ago, when Mr. White and I were lads together, I came around to the Home one afternoon. There was quite a lot of excitement as a new fire escape had been installed, and when I came on the scene everyone was delighted at having someone to experiment on. The fire-escape harness was put under my arms, then I had to get out of the window, and to hang by my finger tips on to the ledge of the window. It seemed an awful moment when I was told to let go, but the fact of my being here

this afternoon shows you that the apparatus worked allright. You see the truth—it is this initial doubt and fear that prevents us from trusting God. "Let go and let God" are words that we have already been reminded of this afternoon. We try to do things for ourselves, but when we let Him into the picture, and when we let Him take control, then we find that our fears and doubts disappear.

I said at the beginning, how dare I speak on faith to folk who have so much experience of the faith that brings such wonderful miracles. I do dare because there is always a progression in faith, and also because there may be those here for whom this faith is not a reality. Remember, this faith is not simply for certain people—it is for ALL who name the Name of Christ. May you know that faith as a personal experience.



Congratulations and love to Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Treval-
lion. Mrs. Trevallion, better known to our Family as Miss Beryl
Parkes, was on our staff for three years, during which time she
met Malcolm—one of our "old" boys. We miss Beryl in the
Family, but we rejoiced on the happy day, September 6th last,
and pray for God's richest blessing on this new home which has
commenced.

ARE YOU "THERE"—IN THE PLACE OF HIS WILL ?

Message given at OUR DAY, 1958

The Rev. PAUL TUCKER, East London Tabernacle

It is for me a very real privilege to have a small part in this "Our Day." I am so glad to be here.

I wish to bring you a message based upon a well-known portion of Scripture found in 1 Kings 17, verses 1 to 9.

In the opening verses of this remarkable chapter there is one word which occurs no less than four times; and I want to emphasise that word in order of its occurrence. The word is found, first of all, in verse 4: "And it shall be that thou shalt drink of the brook: and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee *there*." It occurs again in verse 9: "Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell *there*; I have commanded a widow woman *there* to sustain thee." Again in verse 10: "So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold the widow woman was *there*."

The older children will know that *there* is an adverb; an adverb of place: it describes a position. But we are not interested in grammar this evening, our concern is with spiritual interpretation. For us this word *there* represents the will of God. God had a purpose in mind for His servant Elijah, and He had a place that His servant was to occupy. Elijah was a man under a sense of divine constraint, divine compulsion. He was a man who was *there* by the brook, and *there* in the widow's home at Zarephath.

Now, for ourselves to-night, let us think of *there* as constituting the will of God. You remember this story. If there is one lesson it teaches us it is this: that if we are where God would have us be, then we can expect God to work on our behalf. I do not believe that the ravens would have fed Elijah at any other place than by the brook, nor would he have been sustained by the cruse of oil and the barrel of meal in any other place than in the widow's home at Zarephath. God did not say to Elijah: "Now, Elijah, a famine is coming upon Israel for three and a half years. I am going to bring the nation back to Myself by means of chastisement. But although the famine is coming, you are going to be all right. You just ramble around anywhere you like; live as you please; and at what particular point you may happen to be on any unspecified occasion, I will meet with you, and supply your need." God did not talk like that at all. God said: "There is going to be a famine, and I am going to make provision for you, and it will be in My own way, and on My own conditions. First, get *there*—to the brook—go on *there*—to the widow woman's home at Zarephath."

The question I am going to ask you is this: Are you *there*? What does it mean to be in the will of God? It does not neces-

sarily mean an emotional experience. You may be a very ordinary person doing a very ordinary kind of job. But you can be conscious that you are in the place where God would have you be. We read of David that he served his own generation by the will of God, and afterwards he fell on sleep. That is an indication that he was a man who was *there* where God would have him be. We read of our Lord Jesus that He said at the end of His ministry: "I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work that Thou gavest Me to do." He was always *there*. He could say: "I delight to do Thy will, O My God; Thy law is within My heart."

Maybe you are saying to me: "This business of being in the will of God; it is so vague. How can I know if I am *there*?" I think this story of Elijah will help us. I am going to suggest three things to-night.

The first thing I want to say is this: If you are *there* where God would have you be, then you are in the place of GOD'S DEMONSTRATION, in the place where He will manifest His power in you, and reveal His power through you. That is what happened to Elijah. Elijah went first to the brook, and the ravens came to him with the meat in their mouths every morning and every evening; and he drank of the water of the brook. I wonder where the ravens got the meat from? It would be quite like those saucy creatures to steal that meat from Ahab's table! Anyway, they got it somewhere. They were, indeed, strange instruments of the divine purpose, and yet God used them to keep His servant alive, and to strengthen him, because he was *there*. We cannot always anticipate the circumstances, or the instruments through which God chooses to work. God has His own way, and His own method. But if we are *there* He will always fulfil His promise, and demonstrate His power in and through His faithful people.

You will have heard the story of the old woman who lived in a cottage alone. There were some rather rowdy youths living in the vicinity who knew that the old lady prayed a lot. One day they crept up to the door of her little cottage, and they heard her praying. It so happened that she was short of bread, and she was talking to her Father about it, and asking him for bread. As they listened, they decided that they would go to a nearby shop and buy a loaf of bread. They wrapped the bread in a newspaper, and somehow they managed to climb up on to the roof of this small cottage, which happened to have a very wide open chimney. They there attached the loaf to a piece of string, and let it down the chimney. Hardly had the old lady got up from her knees than she noticed this newspaper parcel coming down the chimney. She wondered what it could be! When she opened the parcel she saw that it was a loaf of bread, and her first response was to get down on her knees and to thank God for answering her prayer. Suddenly the boys rudely pushed open the door of the cottage, roaring with laughter. They said: "You thought God sent you

that loaf, didn't you? Well, He didn't; we bought it." But the old lady would not be deterred. "Don't you believe it, my boys," she said. "God sent it, even though He allowed the devil to deliver it."

"Say not, my soul, from whence can God
Relieve thy care.
Remember that Omnipotence
Hath servants everywhere."

If you are *there*; if, by the grace of God, you are living the kind of life He expects you to live, then His word will be fulfilled on your behalf. For has He not said "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." Are you *there*?—are you?

Further, if you are in the place of God's choosing, then you are in the place of *GOD'S DEALINGS*. You know, God had a wonderful purpose in bringing Elijah, first to the brook, and then to the widow woman's home. God was preparing His servant for a great reawakening throughout the nation. We come into chapter 18, and we find Elijah on Mount Carmel; we find him calling down fire from heaven. We find the people with one consent acknowledging that Baal was an idol, and that Jehovah "He is the God." Chapter 18 opens with some very pregnant words by way of command. "And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, *shew thyself* unto Ahab." You see, God was going to work through this man, using him as an instrument of revival. He was to show himself to Ahab, and to the nation, as God's true prophet. But before that day could come God's servant had to be prepared; and in chapter 17 we have another kind of command given in verse 3: "Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and *hide thyself* by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan." So that God's servant must get alone with God that He may reveal Himself in a new way to Elijah, so that Elijah may be used as an instrument of blessing to the nation, some time latter on Mount Carmel. It is always God's way in revival, first of all, to get a man alone with Himself, and then to raise him up as an instrument of blessing. We find that Elijah had many lessons to learn. I think he had to learn an increasing dependence upon God. It was not a very pleasant experience to be fed by unclean birds; but God was teaching this man a lesson in independence. Later, when he moved on to Zarephath, he had a more amazing experience of the dealings of God with him. If you look at the concordance you will find that the word "Zarephath" means "a refining place for metals." It was the place where the goldsmiths and silversmiths worked at refining their metals. And, somehow, great man though he was, Elijah needed to be refined. He was a man of metal, of ability; and yet he needed that the dross in his life should be consumed, and the gold refined, "that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with

fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

So God had to deal with His servant. I think this man had to learn a lesson in humility. Elijah was rather an independent kind of man. You remember how, under the juniper tree, he told God that he was the only prophet left in the whole of the nation. "I only am left," he said. God had to take him to task about that. God said: "Now, Elijah, there are at least seven thousand in Israel which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." And the kiss is a sign of affection. "There are seven thousand men in this very nation who have no affection for the world, the flesh, and the devil. You are not the only one." It would seem that the price that Elijah paid for his exclusiveness was that of loneliness. I think that if he had been less exclusive he might have enjoyed the fellowship of some of those seven thousand. Of course, there were others. He was not the only one. There were others who were faithful. You see there was this streak of egoism in the man.

So this very independent man went into the home of a widow woman; she had got nothing at the back of her; she had no prestige; she was not even a Hebrew lady. Elijah entered into this home to live on the slender means of a widow woman. And things did not go very easily in that home! He lived there for a full year, and you remember how tragedy entered in, and how the son of the widow died, and how she almost charged him with murder. She said: "Art thou come to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son?" She said in effect: "It would not have happened if you had not come. You have been taking of my hospitality, and look at what has taken place." And so this man learned to be discreet, and long-suffering in the face of irritating circumstances. You recall how he took that boy, and went with him into his own chamber, how he came to close grips with him, and through sympathetic prayer for the life of the lad, he was restored, and Elijah took him in his arms, and presented him to his mother again. In so doing, he did not say: "You don't deserve this after the way you have treated me." No, he gave the boy to his mother with a smile on his face, and said: "See, thy son liveth." It is a great tribute to Elijah that after having lived in that home for a full year, this widow still called him "a man of God." She did, and this is what she said: "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth." A person may pass as a man of God upon a platform, but if he had to live in similar confined circumstances for a whole year, I wonder would he still get the same reputation? God was dealing with Elijah. Is someone here passing through the same experience? Are you almost inclined to rebel at God's dealings with you? Are you *there*? God has a purpose for you.

Finally, if you are *there*, then you will be in the place of *GOD'S DELIVERANCES*. How wonderfully God delivered Elijah!

Think of the occasions mentioned in this chapter. Deliverance at the brook; meat brought to him morning and evening with regularity; the water from the brook. And then, later on, at the widow woman's home. How delightful it is to read that God gave further instructions to Elijah, and said: "Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee." God went on ahead, and made all the arrangements, and I doubt whether stranger arrangements were ever made for giving hospitality to a preacher. "I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee." Yet she had never met Elijah; she did not know him; she was a heathen woman. But God had commanded her to sustain him. He had pre-disposed her. He had so conditioned her attitude that when Elijah did arrive, she was made willing in the day of God's power. Elijah began his interview with that woman in exactly the same way as our Lord began His interview with the Woman of Samaria. He began by asking her for a drink; and then he called after her: "Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand." And she said: "I have only got a little oil in a cruse, and a little meal in a barrel. I have been out collecting some sticks, and I am going to make a fire, and bake a cake, and my son and I are going to eat it, and then nothing but starvation will face us. I have nothing to offer you." And Elijah said: "That is quite all right. I quite understand the position. But make me a little cake first." Elijah was testing the faith of this woman; he was testing her obedience. It is strange that she did not demur. But she went in and she made that little cake for Elijah first, and she got the crumbs. It is generally the other way round. We give the crumbs to God and we keep the cake ourselves, that is the usual order. If Christian people were as anxious to see the House of God beautifully decorated and furnished, as they are anxious to see their own homes beautifully decorated and furnished, what a different condition many of our Chapels would be in to-day. If some believers were more concerned about giving to a work like Mr. White's Homes, or to work on the Mission Field, as they are in buying a very expensive car, or television set—putting these things first—what a different story there would be to tell. This widow woman shames us. She was a pagan woman, outside the pale of Israel; yet she was such a woman of faith that she gave the cake to the man of God and kept the crumbs for herself. And that is the teaching of our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount. He says: "Be not over anxious what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, or wherewithal ye shall be clothed. But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you." And because that widow woman went God's way—because she was *there*—what an amazing deliverance God wrought in that home. God said: "The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that I send rain upon the earth, until the garners are filled, and the ground is wet with dew."

They lived a full year upon the contents of the barrel of meal, and the cruse of oil. I do not want you to go away imagining that the barrel of meal suddenly filled right up to the top, and the cruse of oil suddenly filled up to the brim. There was always just a little oil, and just a little meal, but what was there never diminished. It was not one miracle, but a series of miracles. Every meal was bristling with the supernatural. Of one thing I am sure, that no Modernist, or atheist, or sceptic could have survived in such an atmosphere.

Would you know what it is to be there in the place of God's demonstration, of God's dealings, of God's deliverances? If you are *there*, then there will be such a quality about your testimony that other people will take knowledge of you that we have been with Jesus. May it be so, for His Name's sake.

HARVESTS RECEIVED, 1958

from :—

Lanes End Mission, Gravesend	Ingrave Hall, Romford
Lifeboat Mission, Leytonstone	Cranham Baptist Church
Ridley Hall, Forest Gate	Shernhall Methodist Church,
Abridge Evangelical Church	Walthamstow
West Ham Tabernacle	Ashley Hall, St. Albans
Leytonstone Methodist Church	Fillebrook Baptist Church,
Ley Street Gospel Hall	Leytonstone
Rise Park Hall, Romford	King's Road Baptist Church,
Epping Congregational Church	Chingford
Stratford Railway Mission	Canvey Island Baptist Church
Meldrum S.S. and Junior C.E.,	Rush Green Assembly, Romford
Goodmayes	Muir Beddall Christian Fellow-
Hook Evangelical Church	ship, London
Wanstead Congregational	St. Andrew's Church, St. Albans
Church	Keswick Hall, Epping
Upshire Free Church	Squirrels Heath School,
Waltham Abbey Baptist	Romford
Mathews Memorial Church,	Great Mundon Mission, Herts.
Walthamstow	Princes Evangelical Church,
Mission Hall, High Ongar	Buckhurst Hill
Thomas Gamuel School,	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Ilford
Leyton	Tower Hamlets Mission S.S.
Brondesbury Baptist S.S.	(Primary), Bow
Evangelical Church, Richmond	Hope Baptist Church, Manor
Road, Romford	Park
Mission Hall, Mowbrays Road,	Chase Cross Baptist Church,
Collier Row	Romford

Mountnessing Congregational Church	Christchurch, Leyton
Ingatestone Congregational Church	Shrubland Road Church, Dalston
Kenton Evangelical Church	Kentish Town Mission
St. Mary's, South Woodford	Kilburn Baptist Church
Chingford Hatch Methodist Church	Wangey Road Church, Chadwell Heath
Canfield Hall, Woodford Bridge	Hoddesdon Baptist Church
Salway Hall, Woodford Green	Full Gospel Church, Romford
United Free Church, Woodford Green	Ray Lodge Congregational Church, Woodford
Broadmead Baptist, Woodford Green	St. Mary Magdalene School, Holloway
Claybury Park Baptist, Ilford	Cann Hall Infants' School, Leytonstone
Sawbridgeworth Congregational Church	Higham Hill Infants' School, Chingford
Stockwell Baptist Church	Manor Hall, Boreham Wood
London City Mission, Hackney Wick	Blackmore Baptist Church, Essex
East London Tabernacle, Bow	Cambridge Hall, Edmonton
Tottenham Baptist Church	Barclay Infants' School, Leyton
Brook Street Church, Tottenham	Hammersmith Bible Class
Dagenham Baptist Church	? ? School
Barnet P.S.A.	(N.B.—Two teachers and a group of children brought these gifts, but we omitted to ask for the name of the school.)
Paddington Chapel, Marylebone	
Highams Park Baptist Church	
South Woodford Baptist Church	
Highway Hall, Stratford	



ANONYMOUS

We are very grateful for the undermentioned gifts. All other gifts have been acknowledged and official receipts sent.

Date	Amount	Receipt No.
April 8th	5 0 ...	1143
April 14th	10 0 ...	1161
May 5th	10 0 ...	1217
May 23rd	12 0 0 ...	1328
June 2nd	10 0 ...	1366
June 4th	1 0 0 ...	1373
June 4th	2 0 0 ...	1375
June 17th	2 10 0 ...	1406
July 4th	12 0 ...	1439
July 8th	1 0 0 ...	1454
July 11th	2 0 0 ...	1466
July 17th	5 0 0 ...	1485
July 18th	1 10 0 ...	1486
July 29th	1 0 0 ...	1524
August 5th	1 0 0 ...	1539
September 3rd	32 10 0 ...	1606
September 8th	4 6 0 ...	1625
September 19th	6 0 0 ...	1650
September 22nd	1 0 0 ...	1653
September 23rd	1 12 6 ...	1671
September 29th	2 10 0 ...	1689
October 2nd	2 0 0 ...	1694
October 2nd	3 0 0 ...	1701
October 2nd	1 10 0 ...	1702
October 6th	5 0 0 ...	1711
October 6th	4 0 0 ...	1717
October 6th	1 0 0 ...	1720
October 13th	34 0 0 ...	1755
October 16th	1 0 0 ...	1766
October 20th	1 0 0 ...	1794
October 27th	10 0 ...	1812
October 27th	3 0 0 ...	1811
October 28th	43 0 0 ...	1822

THE CHILDREN'S HOME AND MISSION Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended April 30th, 1958.

	1957	£	s.	d.		1957	£	s.	d.
To Rates, Taxes and Insurances ...	239	260	16	7	By Covenants	677	688	12	2
" Heat and Light ...	586	751	0	1	" Subscriptions and Donations ...	2,250	2,827	15	11
" Telephones ...	48	62	3	6	" Box Holders ...	187	193	9	9
" Postage, Printing and Stationery ...	387	523	14	9	" Shoe Fund and Pound Day ...	22	18	14	0
" Provisions ...	2,061	2,071	9	10	" Legacies ...	448	2,575	8	5
" Furniture, Linen, Clothes and Boots ...	384	374	6	11	" Government Grants (Pensions) ...	29	—	—	—
" Household Expenses ...	235	197	7	11	" Payment Received on Account of Children ...	1,501	1,584	0	2
" Staff Allowance and National Insurance ...	930	1,053	10	6	" Interest on Deposit Account ...	48	—	—	—
" Gifts to Staff (Holidays), Donations and Pocket Money ...	117	218	3	2	" Amount Transferred from Special Fund ...	4,035	—	—	—
" Medical Supplies ...	27	29	17	1	" Gifts for Holidays ...	—	320	7	0
" Travelling and Excursion Expenses ...	246	259	15	5	" Amount Transferred from Accumulated Fund, being Excess of Expenditure over Income for the Year ...	630	—	—	—
" Repairs to Property ...	181	169	6	11					
" General Repairs and Renewals (including New Vehicle) ...	225	890	1	5					
" Incidental Expenses ...	23	15	7	5					
" Holidays ...	72	254	12	2					
" Depreciation—Motor Vehicles ...	80	—	—	—					
" Alterations and Improvements to Property ...	3,986	800	0	0					
		7,931	13	8					
" Transfer to Accumulated Fund, being Excess of Income over Expenditure ...	—	276	13	9					
		£8,208	7	5					
	£9,827					£9,827			
						£8,208	7	5	

BALANCE SHEET, as at 30th April, 1958

	1957	£	s.	d.		1957	£	s.	d.
INVESTED FUNDS—					FREEHOLD PROPERTY—				
The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall ...	5,100	2,250	0	0	The Florence Barclay Memorial Hall ...	5,100	2,250	0	0
The Dr. F. E. Marsh Gift ...		1,700	0	0	18/24, Crescent Road, Woodford ...		1,700	0	0
The Mr. and Mrs. William Stark Gift ...		1,150	0	0	8/10, Crescent Road, Woodford ...		1,150	0	0
		5,100	0	0			5,100	0	0
SPECIAL FUNDS—					DEPOSIT ACCOUNT				
5 Balance at 1st May, 1957	5	4	16	1	HOME ACCOUNT—				
ACCUMULATED FUNDS—					Garage and Shed ...		98	3	0
Balance at 1st May, 1957		821	13	5	Household Furniture, etc. ...		500	0	0
Add: Transfer to Income and Expenditure A/c.	822	276	13	9	Prepayment ...		141	6	4
		1,098	7	2	Current Bank Account ...		423	14	4
					Cash in Hand ...		3	12	3
							1,166	15	11
					Less: Sundry Creditors		68	8	9
							1,098	7	2
	£9,927						£6,203	3	3

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

Dated this 15th day of October, 1958.

Barclays Bank Building,
73, Cheapside,
London, E.C.2.

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