
“ We would not come alone, dear Lord,
To Thy great feast, and at Thy board
In rapture sit and gaze ;
But bring the lost, the sick, the lone,
The little ones to be Thine own,
And look into Thy face ”

T. BOWMAN STEPHENSON

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Please send your gifts to :

REV. A. E. D. CLIPSON  
Working Lads' Institute  
279, Whitechapel Road  
London, E.1

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# *The Whitechapel Mission*

Founded by Rev. THOMAS JACKSON, 1896

## *Annual Report*



*December  
1947*

Superintendent :

Rev. A. E. D. CLIPSON  
Working Lads' Institute  
279, Whitechapel Road, London, E.1

# The Whitechapel Mission

Founded 1896



## CENTRES OF CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY—

- Church - Brunswick Hall, 210, Whitechapel Road  
Working Lads' Institute - Youth Centre, 279, Whitechapel Rd.  
Telephone—Bishopsgate 8290
- Holiday Home - Southend-on-Sea  
Telephone—Marine 68206
- Windyridge Farm Colony and Home - Thorrington, Essex  
Telephone—Brightlinges 129
- Whitechapel House and Hostel - 153, Tulse Hill, S.W.2



The General Office is at 279, WHITECHAPEL ROAD,  
E.1, where all gifts will be gratefully received.  
Superintendent: Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. Tel. BIS 8280



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Assistant Minister - Rev. J. E. Thorp

## ANNUAL REPORT

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The Whitechapel Mission now has fifty-one years of history. The romantic and inspiring story of its beginning is known to thousands through the medium of the life-story of the Rev. Thomas Jackson, and that thousands more take a lively interest in its affairs is proved by our mail. It is many years since I heard that thrilling story told by the Rev. William Potter but it has never lost its charm. Needless to say, one feels it both an honour and a privilege to be here, and at times entirely inadequate for the task. The passing years have brought inevitable changes, and Mr. Jackson's successor, the Rev.



REV. A. E. D. CLIPSON

J. E. Thorp, has now laid down his charge and gone to live at the Windyridge Farm Colony where he will still help with the work. Some years ago Mrs. Clipson was associated with the South East London Mission for a considerable period, and we both would ask nothing more than to be permitted to do this particular kind of work.

"Where to begin" was the main problem in September. One thing was certain and at the same time most helpful. We received a warm and sincere welcome. Brunswick Hall is by no means redundant. Here we have a good congregation, not large, but steadily growing, and I know of no better atmosphere in which to conduct



Mrs. CLIPSON

a service. The Hall itself bears the scars of war, and we are making earnest efforts to get the damage repaired and the decoration done.

The Holiday Home at Southend-on Sea has been a means of blessing to thousands. In the last year, in spite of many and serious difficulties, the Home received 193 visitors, of whom 69 were admitted free of all charge, and 41 were entertained at reduced charges. Plans were prepared some years ago for a new building, but the war set all that aside, and for some time to come there will be little hope of proceeding with the scheme. And so consideration has been given to the possibility of continuing to use the present Home to its full capacity. The repair of war damage has now been put in hand, a new staff has been engaged, and there is every prospect of the Home being reopened at an early date. This, of course, has involved us in a certain amount of expense, but to have waited until the spring before putting all in order would have meant we would have missed most of the 1948 season. To go from Whitechapel to that Home and return in one day is to be aware of a striking contrast. From smoke and din and crowds and narrow streets, to the peaceful lapping of the water, the shade of trees and the green of grass — to be literally "on the front" is a change indeed for people living in the East End. We are anxious that this restful place should be put to the fullest possible use along the lines for which it was intended, and at the earliest date, and we are relying upon our friends for support.

By the time the Home of Rest is properly functioning, closer attention must be given to "Whitechapel House" on Tulse Hill. At the moment there is little we can do there, for it is in the hands of builders. The making good of war damage is costing £6,000. As I write, the facade of the building is almost complete, but there is much to do before we can accede to the numerous requests and take in more boys. When the building is complete, the problem of furnishing arises, together with staffing, and all this may be expected within a few months. At Windyridge the work goes on. Large extensions are going forward so that more boys can be accommodated. They tell us at the Home Office that this is a very popular Home. I would be surprised if it were not. Beautifully situated, with twenty acres of good land and glass houses, with a good staff, an open gateway — no high walls, no barbed wire and no need of them — with cows and pigs and fowls and orchard, it is the kind of place one is reluctant to leave, and indeed, a number of "old boys" continually revisit the farm, and give a helping hand where necessary.

So much for the branches of the Mission. What of the work in Whitechapel? It is very encouraging. The Sunday

congregation has been mentioned. We have a growing Sunday School also, and bonny children, too. A large number of them come morning and evening to our services, and they listen well. Generally, it means giving a special word to them in the evening as well as in the morning, but to have them with us is a joy indeed. We have Scouts, Guides, Brownies, Teenies, Youth Centre, Handcraft and Keep-fit classes, all of them popular movements enthusiastically supported. We have a "Make do and mend" class, a Men's Meeting, three very good Women's Meetings on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the Whitechapel Fellowship on Wednesdays, the Children's Cinema on Saturdays and a Social Hour with films and singing after the evening service on Sundays. A very promising Youth Choir is of great help to us. When other engagements permit we share in open-air work.

To move and work among the people of Whitechapel is a privilege in itself. It is difficult to recall the hellish torture to which they have been subjected in recent years. Rarely do you hear any reference to it. And yet there are those among us who lost there all, who came up out of the shelters to find their homes gone entirely, and one little family, mercifully preserved, although their home had gone, one morning saw forty bodies of their neighbours carried out. The head of that particular family, now very ill and in hospital, has never in our conversation referred to that horror. All his talk is of Thomas Jackson of beloved memory. A younger woman who lost her husband and who works very hard for her children never complains, but is ever giving thanks to God for daily strength and blessings. Among a people who really do make a point of attending the services she is among the most regular worshippers. Our folk come to the meetings, not from a sense



BRUNSWICK HALL

of duty or obligation, they really love to come; and they do enjoy a cup of tea. The one they get here is in most cases the only one in the week they have not had to prepare for themselves. Do you let visitors prevent your attendance at church? Do you bring your friends with you? I write on Monday. Yesterday morning a young lady who had been with us a week ago was there and had brought two more with her. In the evening one family brought twelve visitors to the service, and they all said they had enjoyed it. Well, so did I. How could one do other under the circumstances?

Our Anniversary was a signal success. On the Sunday the Rev. H. T. Wigley, B.A., B.D. was our visiting preacher, and again on the Monday the principal speaker. His simple winning messages were greatly appreciated. The Rev. J. E. Thorp presided over the Monday meeting, and Miss Ivydene Harding sang beautifully; we all deeply regretted the fact that Mrs. Harding, one of our most faithful friends, was absent through illness. Mr. Jesse Priestley, of Bradford, presided at the tea table, and excellent speeches were given by a number of friends including Rev. Robinson Whittaker, Rev. G. E. Wiles, Rev. E. Barrett, Mr. H. Silverwood, Mr. Owen Rattenbury and Mr. F. C. Yelland. Next year we hope to revert to the evening rally, for our young people now warrant it and we shall certainly have the hall filled to capacity. Here in brief is a review of the position, and some intimation of our plans. It is not easy, by any means, to carry forward such work, but it is work after the Master's own heart, and so we turn to our friends and ask for their prayers and their gifts to enable us to continue what can never be done without such support. In all our proposals, and such as involve heavy expense, we are greatly helped by the Whitechapel Executive of the London Mission Committee which meets twice yearly, and more often if required. With such advice and backing we confidently submit this little report to you and ask that you will in turn make known our work to your friends. Recent legislation has done much to remedy the grave evils against which Thomas Jackson fought so valiantly, but whilst the situation changes in many respects the fundamental need remains; it was Christ who said, "The poor always ye have with you." No legislation has yet been devised to do the work that is being done by the Whitechapel Mission — it is unique, and it is well worth while.

Our Deaconesses, Sister Hilda Eyers and Sister Ethel Schaper, have been long enough among our friends to have gained personal knowledge of all who attend the services, and the zest with which they go about their multiple tasks, together with the long hours of laborious work each day are proof enough of the validity of their calling and their sound belief in the value of the work. The five-day week may be the

innovation which is to increase output and enlarge usefulness in some spheres but with our staff it is neither practicable nor desired. Each day begins with a sense of urgency and responsibility. Each evening has its formidable array of matters demanding thought and prayerful activity on the morrow. That is the way it is, and that is how we like it to be. To all who have any share in our work, to all who write us encouraging letters, to all who remember us in their prayers, and to all who give us their support, may we say a sincere Thank You! Many who for years have generously and systematically sent their gifts have passed on. Gratefully we remember them, and we trust that for the work's sake, and for their blessed memory, others may be constrained to join the list of our subscribers.



WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE

*A. D. Clifton*



Sister Hilda and Sister Ethel



Rev. J. E. Thorp

## “Deep calleth unto deep”

In the early 'twenties, when I was a local preacher, it was our custom to hold a prayer meeting in most chapels at the close of the Sunday evening service, a practice which, alas! is not so popular nowadays. Often an appeal would be made,



Holiday Home

and it was no unusual thing for genuine conversions to be witnessed at such meetings. There were dangers, of course, and in little country chapels there was always the risk of repetition, and occasionally prayers of undue length would be offered. I still have a sense of chastening when I recall how one old

man gave the Lord my text and preached what he considered to be a better sermon than mine at Thornton Lane, in Lincolnshire! In an endeavour to avoid these pitfalls, and at the same time encourage young beginners, I would sometimes ask for



General View of Wintlyridge

one or two brief testimonies to be given. What joy it was to hear people who had hitherto been regarded as “good listeners,” but whose word had not been heard, speaking with reverent joy of their religious experience.



A Double Harvest

Now where there was readiness to stand up and testify, one and another eagerly awaiting an opportunity to speak—there was warmth and power. That was the place one loved to visit. That was where one might expect conversions. There it was a

joy to preach. And conversely, where you had the "dumb tongues," it made hard going. To our great delight we have heard simple, straightforward, warm-hearted testimony borne since coming to Whitechapel. There lies the secret of the good "atmosphere" one senses on rising to conduct a service. In the congregation there are those who "know in Whom they have believed," and they "speak of that which they do know." Our Whitechapel Fellowship meeting in mid-week, tends to foster this precious impulse to share the best things, and a sense of quickening in the hearts of the people has resulted. "There is a sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees." Whilst we look with natural anxiety over the wide field of the Mission's activities, appreciating fully the valiant efforts of our splendid and indefatigable workers, and trusting with them that the wherewithal to meet our costs will be forthcoming, we do indeed rejoice over this manifestation of the Spirit among our people, and to this we attach supreme importance, for we know that "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."



His First Offence

“To comfort and to bless,  
To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and  
fatherless,  
Is angels' work below.”

## Form of Bequest by Will

For the guidance of Friends who may desire to bequeath money for the Rescue Homes, for Destitute Orphan Lads; the Holiday Home, Southend-on-Sea; or the general work of the Whitechapel Mission, the following Form of Bequest is appended for their guidance

*I Give and Bequeath to the Superintendent, for the time being, of the Whitechapel Methodist Mission, 279, Whitechapel Road, London, E. 1, for the use of the said Mission, the Legacy or sum of £ (free of duty), and direct the said last mentioned Legacy or sum to be paid within twelve months after my decease from the proceeds of my real and personal estate, but primarily out of my personal estate, and the receipt of the Superintendent shall be sufficient discharge to my executors*

NOTE—The Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1891, enables Testators to give by Will for the benefit of any charitable use not only pecuniary Legacies, but also tenements and hereditaments of any tenure

The Will must be signed by the Testator at the foot or end thereof in the presence of two independent Witnesses, who must sign their names, addresses, and occupations, at the same time, in his presence and the presence of each other