

“ Still the weary folk are pining
For the hour that brings release ;
And the city's crowded clangour
Cries aloud for sin to cease.”

HENRY SCOTT HOLLAND

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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

HIDDEN TREASURE

BEING THE
ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER, 1948

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 8280

Sister—Bishopsgate 2712

Holiday Home - Southend-on-Sea

Telephone—Southend 68206

Windyridge Farm Colony and Home - Thorrington, Essex

Telephone—Brightlingsea 129

Whitechapel House and Hostel - 153, Tulse Hill, S.W. 2

Telephone—Tulse Hill 1391

The General Office is at 279, WHITECHAPEL ROAD

E.1, where all gifts will be gratefully received

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Some of the Staff outside Brunswick Hall



Front (left to right)—Mr. F. L. Tomlinson, Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Hopwood, Mr. Hopwood, Mrs. Clipson, Rev. A. E. D. Clipson, Mr. P. Hall, Mrs. Hall, Miss O. Stammers, Mr. B. Andrews, BARRIS—(Rev. J. E. Thorp, Mrs. Thorp, Sister Molly, Mr. Mackender, Mr. B. Dullgal, Mr. B. Stammers. Also—Mrs. Harding (left), Mrs. Pruce (centre) and Mr. O. Rattenbury, J.P. Windyridge boys in rear.

Hidden Treasure

Someone said in my hearing quite recently how often it is remarked that Home Mission work is regarded as a kind of "poor relation" in church circles, as it lacks the glamour attaching to Overseas Missions! All we can say to that is, "Come up and see us sometime." Those who have been will bear us out when we claim that no work is more full of vivid colouring and interest than this. When I hear the "Belisha" hymn, "Where cross the crowded ways of life," I always feel that hymn belongs to Whitechapel, for a more colourful, cosmopolitan multitude than that which throngs our wide pavements with their many-hued stalls could not be found anywhere in Britain. And of the many who cross our threshold in the course of a year, some thrown up like flotsam on the surging tide of humanity swirling by; others coming deliberately, threading their anxious way maybe hundreds of miles of set purpose because they desire to come to this particular place; and always the steady passing to and fro of "our own," whose homes lie near, there are those who give us glimpses of the inmost shrine of their being, where deep thoughts of holy things too profound, too sweet for utterance lie waiting for the moment of unveiling—precious, hidden treasure. True it is, that—

"Down in the human heart, crushed by the Tempter,
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore,
Touched by a loving hand, wakened by kindness,
Chords that were broken will vibrate once more."

This has been a year of progress in many directions. Not all that we desired has been realised, but we have much for which we would thank God. Much work has been wrought in the material sense upon our various buildings, and much more is still to be done. At the present time, Brunswick Hall is a forest of scaffolding, and we are holding all meetings in the Working Lads' Institute. The Home at Southend has been renovated, as noted elsewhere; the new Hostel is completed and open, and further work will soon be in hand at Windyridge. But far more important than any material gains is the fact that the Kingdom has been advanced, and young life dedicated to the service of Christ.

In the course of the year, Mrs. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood (Southend-on-Sea), Sister Molly Fishwick, B.Sc. (Whitechapel), Mr. Brian Duligal (Windyridge), and Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Tomlinson (Whitechapel House), have joined our staff, and are very much at home with us. Very valuable help has been given by Mrs. Buck in the office, and we all regret that owing to ill health she has had to relinquish the task for the time being. She and Mrs. Clipson had a long and happy association

together as Sister Dora and Sister Nellie some years ago. Mrs. Will Jackson has also given great help in our Tuesday classes, and we hope will long continue to assist in the work which has held her interest and allegiance through the years. The entire staff is working in harmony, and when, on our Anniversary Day, we all got together for the first time, it was a joyous and thrilling experience. To our many friends we would say a sincere Thank You for all the prayers, the good wishes, the lavish gifts, and with them we look forward eagerly to the extension of the work, and the deepening of the spiritual life of the whole Mission in its five centres in the days that are to come.

A. D. Clipson



Anniversary Tea, 1948

The New Hostel

"Whitechapel House," our new Hostel at 153, Tulse Hill, S.W. 2, is at last officially opened. What a succession of disappointments and indeed disasters occurred before the triumphal day! Twice in my predecessor's time it was practically ready, and twice it was smashed up by enemy action—the second



Whitechapel House—Front of Hostel

time in such a manner as to necessitate almost the entire rebuilding of it. As anyone knows who has had anything to do with such a building project, there are innumerable snags which crop up day by day. However, the ready co-operation of the architect and the contractors helped us over all these difficulties, and we were able to turn our attention to the formidable matter of furnishing. Here again we were fortunate in being led to where almost all our requirements could be met, and the work went on swiftly. Next we wondered who might come to perform the opening ceremony of what would be a

Home Office Approved Hostel, and we thought it would be fitting if the Home Secretary himself would visit us. The request was made, and in a very gracious reply we were told



Opening of Hostel by Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P.



Warden receiving first boy

that the Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P., would come on Saturday, October 25rd. In the absence of Lord Quibell (who was detained at Scunthorpe, the Freedom of which Borough he had just received) Lord Ammon, an old and faithful friend of the Mission, made an excellent Chairman. The weather was beautiful, and all went off splendidly. Both Lord Ammon and the Home Secretary paid generous tributes to the work of the Mission, and we were given the assurance by Mr. Chuter Ede that we would have the full backing of the Home Office in our work. As he pointed out, it is possible for us

to do what even the Home Office cannot do, working as we do on a voluntary basis and not being likely to be challenged in the House of Commons if we make a mistake! Altogether it was a masterly and statesmanlike speech, delivered in a free, forceful and genial manner, and we all felt the Minister had come among us as a friend, well informed on the matters with which we are most concerned and eager to be of help and to give encouragement. The Rev. Robinson Whittaker spoke on behalf of the London Mission—his theme being "The only wealth is life," and again, striking tributes were paid to the effective work of the Whitechapel Mission among delinquent boys through many years. After the opening, tea was provided, and the company inspected the Hostel, all alike expressing pleasure and offering congratulations upon the provision made for the reception of the boys.

In all there is accommodation for fifteen boys. Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Tomlinson (late of Leicester) have taken over the duties of Warden and Matron. Already they have found a circle of good friends to aid them, and with the eight lads at the moment in their care they are quite at home. This is the first Hostel of its kind in the country, taking as it does the most difficult age-group—the 17-21 years group. Upon this point the Home Secretary dwelt in his address, and tendered his congratulations. Usually, boys of this age are sent to Homes, the distinction being that in the case of a Home they are under constant supervision throughout the whole twenty-

four hours, as at our own Windyridge, but in a hostel they are housed and cared for, but go out to work as though living in lodgings.

Although we have spent a great deal of money, and gone to every extreme to provide for all that is required in such a place, there is much yet to do. Any of our friends who can spare suitable books, cast-off men's and boys' clothing, games, etc., would do great service if they sent them to us for the Hostel. If any are ambitious to do something even more helpful — we still require a billiard table, a piano, wireless set! Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson are always happy to have people call to see the Hostel, and draw their own conclusions as to its usefulness.

There are still people who ask, "What has all this to do with the church — and with the Methodist Church in particular?" As we see it, it has everything to do with the church. For years the country has been grappling with the very serious problem of juvenile delinquency. Only one among the many grave problems of our age, it is nevertheless a great problem, affecting as it does the most promising and potentially the finest stratum of our society. From the "man in the street" so often we hear "What are the churches doing?" Any church which keeps open its doors for divine worship, which sees to it that the glorious gospel is proclaimed is doing a wonderful work, but here is an extra. It was Wesley who said, "Go to those who need you most." And with one end in view all the time, and that, the salvation of souls, our people are engaged full-time in this work of rescue and rehabilitation. Every member of the staff is consecrated, and all alike labour under a sense of privilege. To Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson we tender our best wishes in this great new venture, and we trust that the passing years may bring them increasing satisfaction in the great work to which they have put their hands.

The boys who come to us usually come from the courts, on probation and with a six-months



Mr. Roberts and Mr. Green



Mrs. Clipson

responsible place in the community. Please remember in your prayers this important part of the work.

condition of residence. Not all stay the course and overcome their failings; in work of this kind it is hardly to be expected that we should have one hundred per cent results; but the great majority do and now and again we have an exceptional boy who shows great promise, who needs that little extra which friendship and understanding and warm fellowship can supply, and given that he has the making of a really good man. Already in the new Hostel we are noting one or two who have possibilities, and so far as we are concerned, no effort will be spared to meet their need, encourage their efforts to make good, and place them eventually upright on their feet, and filling a useful and

After Three Months

(By Sister Molly)

"Thenceforth, no place on earth will I count strange, For every place belongeth to my Christ."

The Mission certainly belongs to Him. No one can hear of the days gone by without a stirring of the heart, knowing that here mighty things were done under God's hand, that have left their mark, not only on the lives of individuals, but on the shape of public opinion. It is His still, for



Sister Molly

here in recent days there are those who have been "ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven." Whitechapel is His, with the scars of its old wounds, and the new life soon to be lived in the great blocks of flats, nearing completion. And the people are His; little children so often deprived of much that is childhood's right — green fields and trees; old folk, weary and alone; and all the busy multitudes that pass our doors. They are His, and He has given them to us, to teach, to tend, and to shepherd for Him.



Rev. A. E. D. Olipson

The Holiday and Rest Home

How great is the alteration at Southend since I wrote a paragraph touching upon it in our report a year ago! On November 11th, Mr. and Mrs. Hopwood and Mrs. Kennedy came from Bradford to take over. Owing to some misunderstanding with those who had the work of renovation in hand, the place was in a fearful state of upheaval, and my heart ached for our friends after their weary journey when I saw the condition of things. However, they made for themselves nests among the chaos, and cheerfully set about cleaning up room by room. So far did they make progress that they were able to receive a few guests at Christmas. Then efforts were made to prepare for larger parties in the Spring. One disappointment followed another, the wet weather, constantly finding a way in through a roof badly shaken by bombing, brought us to despair above once. One by one the difficulties were met, one by one they were overcome. Thanks to the generosity of The National Corporation For the Care of Old People, who made us a grant of eight hundred and fifty pounds towards the renovation and furnishing of the Home, we were able to expedite matters, and by the early summer we were ready to deal with the many who were seeking admission.

Figures may not convey much, but we like to keep track of what goes on in our branches by putting them down and seeing that they duly appear again in the appropriate places. The following figures represent a great deal of sacrificial labour on the part of our staff, they represent not a little expense on the part of the Mission, they represent much journeying to and



Holiday and Rest Home

fro, they represent also, a veritable new lease of life for some, a healthful change and much-needed rest for many, a respite from the claims of family and toil in the din and smoke of busy city streets, and I just wish that space would permit me to publish a few of the letters we have had from happy people who have been to our lovely Home at Southend. Here are the figures. Between October, 1947, and September 30th, 1948, two hun-

dred and fifty people enjoyed the hospitality of the Home. The large majority of these were from East London, and upon them there lies as yet the memory of unspeakable horrors during the war. Of the two hundred and fifty, seventy-nine were catered for without any charge at all for their week's holiday with full meals. Eighteen more were received at a reduced rate owing to special circumstances, and the other one hundred and fifty-three were taken at a price considerably below that of an ordinary seaside boarding establishment. We do not compete with boarding houses, nor do we aspire to do so. The Home was established in order to provide a place where people who otherwise would not be able to have a seaside holiday might come for the rest and recuperation which are so needful, and primarily the people of Whitechapel. We try to honour that principle still, and we are hoping that in the coming years even more will be able to share the joys of a holiday at Southend-on-Sea.

The friends who now have charge of the Home are well known to us, for they were members with us at Bradford. That they will spare no effort to make the establishment a one hundred per cent. success I have no doubt at all. They have maintained the family worship, and by close association with the little Methodist Church nearby, they have formed a wide circle of friends. Close personal attention is given to every matter that arises, individual needs are studied and taken into account, and we are exceedingly fortunate in having three such people take charge of what, after all, is an important part of the Mission's work, and carries with it a large measure of responsibility.

Mr. Roberts, eighty years of age if spared until next May, is one who enjoyed a holiday there this summer. An old and faithful member of the Mission, a devout christian, and unfailing in his regularity at worship, although he has to be taken over the road in the chair once used by Thomas Jackson. Mr. Roberts is beloved by all who know him. His photograph appears in this report, and at the helm is his friend Mr. Green (in his eighty-first year), another of our regular worshippers. Both also are members of the Men's meeting, and popular soloists.



Women's Outing to Southend

The members of our Women's meetings have almost without exception enjoyed their term at the Home, and all alike have been loud in their praise of the arrangements made for their comfort.

On July 5th, one of our Women's Outings bore down upon this lovely retreat, and after partaking of refreshment on the lawn, disported themselves among the various attractions provided by the enterprising inhabitants for the allurements of visitors. Not least among the blessings conferred upon us that day was the gift of a large freezer full of delicious ice cream!

It had been planned to build a larger and up-to-date Home on this site, but unfortunately the plans were not put before the local authority before the war. Consequently the whole situation is changed by recent enactments, which no one could foresee, and it will be a considerable time before such a project can even be contemplated. Nevertheless it is borne in mind, and in the meanwhile, we have here a house that is good for years to come, and which should continue to supply a badly felt need, particularly among those who dwell in our neighbourhood in East London. We trust that our friends who have so generously helped in past years will continue to give aid in order that this useful work may be continued and extended.

Down on the Farm!

There are times when one wishes that our Windyridge Farm Colony was a bit nearer to our headquarters! Some seventy-five miles separate us, but when those miles are traversed as they often are, one feels well rewarded. Situate in the peaceful Essex countryside, a mile or so westward of Brightlingsea church, and overlooking a lovely valley there stands the solid, modern house, the original gift of the late Mrs. Atterton, and clustered around it, the additional houses and buildings, set amid approximately twenty acres, which now constitute the Colony. Many the lads who have come to regard that place as Home in the real sense of the word. A real family spirit is in evidence, and such are the ministrations of our Warden and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hall, that frequently boys, who have finished their course and returned to their own locality, come of their own free will to spend a holiday and give a hand with the work.

It is always interesting to walk around the fields and gardens and converse with the members of the staff and the boys as they go about their work. That lad would indeed be difficult to deal with who could not here find something to hold his attention and kindle his enthusiasm! With patience, and



Planting potatoes — and more — for future growth

obvious enjoyment in the task, each member of the staff sets a constant example of a high and happy standard of life. But among the very happiest memories of my life will be the evening gatherings of the whole family around the fireside, when we have worshipped together, and have drawn very near to the Throne of Grace. One who delighted in this fellowship, and whose wise and tender words have helped us all on many occasions, Mr. W. Stammers (father of Mrs. Hall, Miss Olive Stammers and Mr. Ronald Stammers, all of whom are valued workers on the staff) — and one might add — truly a father in Christ to many of the boys — after sharing our great joy in a memorable service at Thorrington when some of the lads were received into membership, was swiftly called Home to his reward. Lovingly and gratefully will we remember him, for he exerted a great influence for good upon us all. Our sympathy is with Mrs. Stammers and her fine family, and with them we rejoice in the “sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Home Office Approved” signifies a high standard. There is constant supervision and, of course, requests for improvements, alterations, extensions. This is all in line with normal progress, and always we are made to feel that the efforts of our staff, and the facilities we provide at Windyridge, are fully appreciated by those in high places. Certain it is that we have no difficulty in filling vacancies as they arise. Few days pass without an enquiry concerning the possibility of receiving yet another boy, and with all the good will we can exercise we often have to disappoint those who aspire to placing a lad for six months in the care of our Windyridge people. Lack of home influence is undoubtedly the cause of most of the young folk who come to us having set off in the wrong direction, and we endeavour to rectify the false start by providing the kind

of home life in which we believe. One parent, himself in a responsible position, and not without means, said to me, “Well, when you have put a child in the care of a convent, and then given him a good education, what else can you do for him? What more is one expected to do?” Well. We think a lot more is expected. We can only work within certain limits. Often, if we could, we would begin with the parents!

The fields at Windyridge provide a good camping ground, and many of our boys and girls went over from Whitechapel in the month of July to live under canvas. Our own little girl (eight years old) went with them, and richly enjoyed the experience, coming back as brown as a nut. Our two oldest boys went with the lads for their week, and they, too, had a very happy time. Mrs. Wilson, of Hull, who although unknown to us, had expressed a desire to help with some such camp, came and joined our Mr. and Mrs. Mackender and Mr. and Mrs. Moore in taking charge. Later we received a beautifully written souvenir from Mrs. Wilson, giving a detailed account of the whole holiday. I wish we could afford to circulate it, for it is moving. After the camp Mrs. Wilson spent a few days at the Mission. She ends her tribute with such words as this:

“At 10 o'clock each morning the gong sounded in the Mission for prayers and all in the building gathered together for a short while including the children and cleaners. One morning we had sung:

“Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go
My daily labour to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know
In all I think, or say or do.”



Transplanting—from the hot-bed of vice to the warmth of a christian home!

"As we dispersed those words were still singing in my mind, and I passed others on the Mission stairs going about their duties singing the same words. There was power in that little gathering, and when I was back home



Springtime

again I felt I was one with them in spirit even though I was miles away.

The little I saw of the work of the Mission gripped me and I felt there was a tremendous challenge about it —

the personal touch counted for a great deal — tireless in their efforts for others. I am certain these people feel it a privilege to do this type of work."

The above are extracts from Mrs. Wilson's souvenir which lies before me.

In concluding these notes on Windyridge, I will let Mr. Frank Hall, the Warden, put what he feels into his own words.

" 'To God be the Glory, great things He hath done,' is the line that comes to mind as we look back over the past few months work here at Windyridge. Of those accepted into the Home in that period, ten have completed their course satisfactorily, and eight are still in residence and doing very well. The *family spirit* has been maintained, and the "*Backs to the Land*" spirit has given us a record produce, the *Team spirit* has been good, and several cricket matches have been enjoyed both at home and away; but best of all, the *Holy Spirit* has been with us, and in this few months eight lads have made the initial surrender to Jesus Christ, and four of them have since been accepted into the membership of the Methodist Church."

FRANK HALL.

How YOU Can Help

- *By Remembering us in Prayer*
- *By sending a Donation now*
- *By a Sunday School Toy Service*
- *By sending parcels of Clothing*
- *By asking for a Speaker*

N.B. A COVENANTED Subscription is worth almost double value. Let us send particulars.



—And this is "Charlie"—without home or family, but not without friends because he belongs to us—and loves his Lord. (Photo by kind permission of Rev. Robinson Whittaker)

Form of Bequest by Will

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for the Holiday and Rest Home, the Boys' Hostel or Farm Colony or the general work of the Whitechapel Mission we append the following form of bequest.

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.