

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION

Founded by REV. THOMAS JACKSON, 1896

"Where in life's common ways
With cheerful feet we go;
Where in His steps we tread
Who trod the way of woe;
Where He is in the heart,
City of God, Thou art!"

—F. T. Palgrave.



SOUND CINEMA	WOMEN'S MEETINGS
HANDICRAFTS	MEN'S MEETINGS
YOUTH CHOIR	SAVINGS BANKS
PHYSICAL TRAINING	CLOTHING CUPBOARDS
GUIDES, BROWNIES, TEENIES	SUNDAY SCHOOLS
SCOUTS, CUBS	CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR
CAMPS and OUTINGS	YOUTH CENTRE
CANTEEN, ETC.	



Please send your gifts to

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

Whitechapel Witness

Being the ANNUAL REPORT, December 1950

Superintendent and Secretary :

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, E.1.

Working Lads' Institute—Youth Centre, 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

Holiday and Rest Home—Southend-on-Sea. Tel. 68206.

Windyridge Farm Home—Thorington, Essex. Tel. Brightlingsea 129.

Whitechapel House Hostel—153 Tulse Hill, S.W. 2. Tel. TULSE Hill 1391.

The General Office is at 279 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

All gifts gratefully received and acknowledged.

Superintendent—Rev. A. E. D. Clipson. Tel. Bishopsgate 8280.

Superintendent's Secretary—Mrs. G. Wilson.

Deaconess—Sister Molly Fishwick, B.Sc.

Pastor—Harold Bowes.

Solicitors—Messrs. Butt & Bowyer, 14 National House, Moorgate, E.C.2.

Auditors—Newport Nelson & Co., 79 Bishopsgate, E.C.2.

Bankers—Barclays Bank Ltd., Mile End Branch, 234 Whitechapel Road, E.1.

Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission and Working Lads' Institute and Homes

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Mr. S. W. Newman.

Superintendent and Secretary—Rev. A. E. D. Clipson.



Some of the Staff

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Front Row (left to right)—Mr. J. J. Barnes, Sister Molly, Mrs. F. Hall, Pastor H. Bowes, Miss M. Field, Mr. G. Hopwood, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. G. Wilson, Mrs. Clipson

Back Row—Mr. F. Hall, Mr. W. Mackender, Mrs. J. D. Smith, Miss K. Gilliatt, Mr. B. Andrews, Mr. J. D. Smith, Mrs. Hopwood, Mr. R. Stammers

(Absent—Rev. A.E.D. Clipson, Mr. & Mrs. Tomlinson, Mrs. R. Stammers, Miss O. Stammers, Mr. Neasham)

Whitechapel Witness

The preparation of this report is being begun just prior to the day which marks the centenary of the birth of the Founder of the Mission—October 16th, and sitting by my side is Mr. J. W. Brittle, now far advanced in years, but youthful in spirit.

Mr. Brittle was friend and fellow-worshipper with Thomas Jackson in those far-off days when the latter was a local preacher at Sheffield and working in a foundry. The friendship continued down the years, and Mr. Brittle has ever been a most generous helper in the projects upon which the Mission has embarked. Still he continues not only to take a lively interest in all we are doing, but to contribute to our funds, and here he is in his eighty-fifth year, just returned from a holiday in Finland, spending a few days with us over the Anniversary - Centenary celebrations.

Among our many visitors during the past few months we have had the pleasure of entertaining Madame Amoureux and Mademoiselle Vigel, of Paris, Mr. and Miss Jackman, of New Zealand, M. Roland Schneider, of Strasbourg, and Miss J. M. Lodder, of The Hague. All of these friends were greatly impressed by what they saw of the work, and we have received letters from each which will be cherished and re-read many times.

In September we welcomed Pastor Harold Bowes as a member of our staff, and already he has made for himself a place in all hearts. It is our hope that eventually he will take his place in the Methodist ministry.

Here in Whitechapel, the services, Sunday and weekday, including Women's and Men's meetings and Youth activities are greatly enjoyed. On Sunday evenings a Social Hour with

Group at the Anniversary Tea



films and refreshments, follows the service, and always overflows into our flat at the top of the building in which we live. We are a happy crowd without a doubt! The visiting of the homes about us is systematically carried out, and is bearing fruit. The London Hospital Free Church Chaplaincy is entrusted to us, and much has been accomplished through that avenue of service. Those who have their stalls outside on the broad pavement are all numbered among our friends, and have dealt very generously with us on many occasions.

The Home of Rest at Southend-on-Sea has been in full commission throughout the season, and already some friends have booked for the Christmas period. Many letters of appreciation have been received from people who have enjoyed or known of its facilities, and we are really proud of this place where so many have found peace and contentment. 562 people have been entertained as against 444 last year.

Here is an extract from a letter which came with 10/- which we returned, thinking that a guest had overpaid—"... the extra 10/- was very willingly given by us as we did not think 10/- was half enough for the trouble which your staff at Southend went to. If we could have afforded it, we would have given more, as we had the very best of attention and really enjoyed our stay, which we hope to repeat next year".

The Windyridge Farm and Home at Thorington, originally the gift of the late Mr. and Mrs. Atterton, and now comprising

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sixteen acres of freehold ground, with two good houses, two good bungalows, recreation room, barns, garages, glasshouses, cowsheds, piggeries, and poultry houses and pens, has had its full complement of youths throughout the year, and there the happy family spirit, for which the place is famed, has been maintained under the guardianship of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hall, who for so long have faithfully discharged their duties and done much more. Their responsibilities increase, but their loyalty and zeal are equal to every occasion and situation. Mr. and Mrs. R. Stammers, and Miss Stammers, and Mr. Andrews are all still with us and working happily and successfully at their appointed tasks. During the year Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Smith have joined the staff, and Mr. Smith's ability in the agricultural realm and his popularity with the boys, together with Mrs. Smith's quiet influence indoors, have ensured that they have won the confidence of staff and boys alike.

"Whitechapel House," our hostel on Tulse Hill, by the time this Report is printed will have reached its second milestone. In spite of trials and tribulations Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson have held on their course and have maintained the good work begun by them in 1948. Staff changes for various reasons have been too frequent, and Mrs. Tomlinson's state of health a few months ago necessitating hospital treatment threw a heavy burden on them. Happily, Mrs. Tomlinson has made a good recovery. Mr. Bernard, who joined the staff as Assistant Warden in October, 1949, had passed away before the Report in which his name appeared was out of our hands. His passing was a severe blow to us, and we shall not forget his devotion to his task, nor the eagerness with which he embarked upon it. Next week another Assistant Warden, Mr. Neasham, will take up his duties.

Any scrappiness in presentation, or any omissions from the above account of our work will, I trust, be excused. Our Mission Anniversary, an important occasion, is upon us on October 14th. I write these notes on October 12th. On October 13th I am called to go into the London Hospital—this time as a patient. It may well be that the printers' proofs will be checked there. My wife and I trust that all our friends will bear in mind our need before the Throne of Grace.

Yours in the Service,

A. E. D. Clifton

N.B. After three weeks of kind and skilful treatment, discharged on November 3rd, returning to full work after brief holiday. Warmest thanks to all friends for their sympathy and help. A.E.D.C.

Our "Thomas Jackson" Centenary —The Mission Anniversary

by Mr. Owen A. Rattenbury, J.P.

The Anniversary meetings were preceded on the Saturday by a concert arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard and much enjoyed by the good audience.

On Sunday Rev. S. C. Fittall, B.D., preached in the morning and Rev. Robinson Whittaker at night with fine effect. Mr. Whittaker felt that the sight of the splendid congregation was an inspiration in itself.

Throughout the week-end the one disappointment was the fact that our Superintendent, who had arranged so magnificently for this celebration of the Jackson Centenary, could not be there to see the results of his labour. He was in the London Hospital under observation by the doctors. Regrets and good wishes were expressed and he was remembered at the Throne of Grace by all those who publicly prayed.



Rev. Thomas Jackson

The 100th birthday was a great occasion. In the afternoon Mrs. Harding as usual presided. She took us back in thought to that birthday and to the home-life of the lad. Of course he was a real boy and got into trouble, but his mother saw to it that he escaped the consequences of it. What a wonderful ministry followed his conversion in the Sheffield chapel on his first Sunday there!

Then Ivydene Harding, the chairman's daughter, delighted the large company that filled the hall with her singing, as she has so often done before.

Rev. C. Leonard Tudor then told how as a boy he first saw Thomas Jackson. At that time he was going about the country carrying specimens of sweated goods to arouse public indignation against the sweating that took place in the East End.

It has been most encouraging over the past year to see several of the boys awaking to a sense of responsibility, choosing their own job for the future, and becoming completely rehabilitated in the work of their own choosing. After leaving us two have gone into the merchant navy, two into nursery work, two into building, one into the army, one into farm work, one into a wood-yard and so on.



Dr. W. A. Bullough and Mr. J. D. Smith

We are constantly having visits from the old boys and it is good to see them, also letters from grateful hearts of both boys and parents.

We have started evening classes again for the winter months, these include leatherwork, basket making, weaving, and other handicrafts, and the boys are showing interest and promise.

A recent visitor from the North East who has been staying at Windyridge for a few days wrote in a letter to a relative of his: "This is a grand set up, in an ideal setting for the work, with fourteen acres of market garden, a nursery with flowers all around, workshops, and stock from bees to cows; I should imagine that if the Devil himself was sent here he would be changed".

Well, we look and labour for 100%, but we have our disappointments; however, "We'll praise Him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come".

"It may interest you to know that I consider Windyridge one of the most significant studies I made this summer. You may rest assured that I intend to do something with it".

(Professor Tom Bennett, University of Chicago, in a letter after his visit in 1949).



Field Day at Windyridge

The Tulse Hill 'Family'

by Mr. & Mrs. F. L. Tomlinson

In this time when a semi-paganism characterizes so much of our communal life, when distorted human relationships abound, homes broken or unsatisfactory, families where real affection is almost unknown and sin is the order of the day, the deep instinct of Christ's Church toward redemptive social work can find stimulus indeed. We gratefully recognize the State's increasing concern for the victims of this unhappy state

of affairs, the deprived child and the misguided youth, but at the same time are conscious that all this welfare work should be done at the highest level. The Church, knowing that "man cannot live by bread alone", must be ready with its own consecrated and well-equipped personnel and its own financial resources to take this challenge and help keep all social service allied to the campaign for Christ's Kingdom.

It is Whitechapel Mission's privilege and honour to have been able to make some endeavour in this direction. Whitechapel House, Tulse Hill, the newest of the Mission's branches, only just two years old and with a capacity of 15 places, has already received 62 lads who have been placed on probation by various Courts, to make their home under its roof for a stipulated period. The Hostel has earned a useful reputation in Magisterial and Probation circles. Enquiries for vacancies are always more than we can accept and we are so often sorry to disappoint Probation Officers by being unable to give a lad the opportunity sought for him.

A remarkable thing is the way in which lads of such diverse disposition and temperament do so quickly feel "at home", do so quickly respond to the warmth of a good family atmosphere. Behind the necessarily firm discipline there is an air of ease and freedom and willing co-operation which visitors invariably notice and speak about.

In general the lads have earned good reports from their employers which in most cases is marked gain. Their leisure activity is full and varied - handicrafts and useful hobbies, sport well and cleanly played, regular use of our sound projector showing instructional as well as entertaining films. The handicraft work is of such good standard that at a recent Lambeth Borough Youth Exhibition of Work, Whitechapel House took no fewer than six prizes.

Needless to say, under all this full activity runs an under-current of Christian thought and direction. With the Superintendent's weekly visit when an informal service is held, morning and evening prayer and very many impromptu discussions on the Christian attitude to life's problems, ample opportunity is found to "sow seed and point the Way".

Beyond doubt, most of these lads fully appreciate the provision made for them and while a few, after returning to their old environment, do find trouble again, there is about the country a growing band of "ex-Tulse Hill" lads doing well and looking back gratefully on the period spent with us as the best months of their lives. Pleasing testimony comes in frequent letters from old boys and in the way in which barely a week passes

Mr. & Mrs. Tomlinson and Family



without a visit from one or more of them, often from quite distant places.

Mere words can convey little of the value of this contribution to the remedies for the ills of this age.

Visitors to London, whether for the Festival of Britain or at any other time would find a welcome and an interesting experience at the THOMAS JACKSON MEMORIAL PROBATION HOSTEL for lads at Whitechapel House, 153 Tulse Hill, S.W. 2.

Any Questions?

by Sister Molly

"Can we come in?" This is a small gang of lads, rough and unwashed, and it is 'Cub night' so in they come, to taste something of the friendliness and the discipline that is offered.

"Can he come too? Is he too little?" Four little children climbed the stairs in the motherly care of an eight year old girl. To meet this problem of 'minding the little ones' the Teenies meet twice a week, at the same time as their older sisters, and there are toys and games and stories for them.

"Is it pictures?" Yes, it is. Last night it was the Children's Cinema, and we shrieked with glee when 'Snooky' rescued the baby from the on-rushing train. Tonight it is pictures of Jesus in the Children's Lantern Service. There are hymns on the screen, and one little mite ran from her seat, and like David of old, danced before the Lord as we sang 'Yes, Jesus loves me.'

"Can you help me?" Many times this is asked; by the homeless and destitute; the old and lonely; the troubled and distressed. We cannot always give them what they ask, but none who come in real need and willing to be really helped, go away unheard and unhelped.

"Why do you come?" A young African lay dying in hospital; a Methodist and the son of a Methodist preacher.

It was a nurse on the ward who asked why we took an interest in him, and what claim he, a Negro, had upon us, but to the lad himself it was no strange thing; we were sent to him by God. Thousands of miles away his father wrote to us: "Your Christian love has drawn me nearer to my son's bedside, and for this I give God thanks".

"Why do you do it?" Let Dr. Stephenson give the answer:

"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".

Sister Molly



From the Office

by Mrs. Gladys Wilson

My first acquaintance with the Whitechapel Mission came through offering to help with the holidays of the children there in the summer of 1948. This offer, made at the suggestion of the Rev. T. D. Meadley, B.A., B.D., then minister of the Askew Avenue Methodist Church, Hull, at a time when help was urgently needed, was readily accepted by the Rev. A. E. D. Clipson.

Eventually the day came for me to set out on this interesting adventure, and I arrived at Whitechapel as a complete stranger ready to join the party of girls going to camp. A warm welcome awaited me and I soon felt very much at home chatting over a cup of tea.

The following day, amidst great excitement, over 20 of us set off to spend a week under canvas at Windyridge, Thorington, in Essex. This holiday was a real thrill to these East End children, and it was a joy to me to share in their happiness.

Whilst at Windyridge I saw something of the valuable work done at the Mission's Home and Farm there. On returning to Whitechapel after the holiday I spent a further week at the Mission, during which time I visited the Hostel for Boys at Tulse Hill, and had a further insight into this work of giving young fellows of 17 to 21 years of age a fresh chance in life. Each Sunday the 15 boys from Tulse Hill and the Staff come to Whitechapel for tea and attend the evening service. What I saw of this great work amongst the boys both at Windyridge and Tulse Hill impressed me as being really worth while.

Then, too, I visited several members of the Mission in their homes—tenements, drab little houses, or rooms in back streets, and found what the Mission meant to such people.

I went home deeply impressed by all my experiences, and could not but feel the need of the people of the East End for the help and comfort derived from the Mission.

Throughout the winter months the challenge of this work remained with me, so much that in the spring of the following year I was happy to have the offer of again helping with a children's holiday, this time at the Mission's Southend-on-Sea Holiday Home. This was an unforgettable experience. A sea-side holiday was such a treat for these children, and for some it was the first time they had seen the sea.

Then followed a further short stay at the Mission, when I had the opportunity of joining in the activities in a small way,



Mrs. G. Wilson

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A Happy Group at Southend

and I returned home feeling more than ever the challenge of this work, and a strong urge to be in it myself.

Shortly afterwards the opening came to me, in a most unexpected way, when Mr. Clipson asked me to join the Mission Staff as his Secretary, and I felt it was a definite call to me to share in what is being done at the Whitechapel Mission by

those who feel it a privilege to do this particular type of work, and who give themselves heart and soul in such a multitude of ways.

Southend Holiday Home

by Mrs. L. Hopwood

Our Holiday Home has been in full swing again this season, and whereas last year we had 444 visitors this year we had 562, the youngest being eight weeks old and the eldest ninety-one years.

We have received many letters of appreciation, especially from the old people, who love to come to our Home for a nice restful holiday. We find a wonderful fellowship when we meet together in the lounge for prayers after breakfast and if you could just see us all together singing that well known hymn, "What a friend we have in Jesus", you would say with us it is worth it all. One old man, who had never had a holiday before, was so delighted with everything, that each lunch time he came in with a bunch of flowers for the Home, by the end of the week, both the lounge, writing room and dining room were full of flowers.

We have had lots of people amongst our visitors who live alone in one room. How thankful they are to be able to come to our Home, if only for a week or a fortnight. It is indeed a grand work for the Master, to be able to brighten these lonely hearts for a short while.

Mr. E. Roberts



A Notable Congress

by Rev. W. Upright

One Sunday morning towards the end of August, as the congregation was dispersing from the Grootte Kerk of The Hague, I thought I heard behind me a familiar voice. Turning round my surmise proved to be correct. It belonged to the Superintendent of the Whitechapel Mission. Then I learned we were to be colleagues together, representing Methodism, at the 12th International Penal and Penitentiary Congress which was due to open that evening with an official reception in the historic Binnenhof, or Town Hall.

Altogether 450 representatives from 33 different countries assembled for the opening session, including most of the leading executives of the prison administrations of the world. The Congress itself has no executive powers; it cannot force its findings on any government; but throughout its existence much has been achieved in the way of penal reform; it has been a great inspirational and educative force; its decisions have not only commanded attention, but have generally been accepted and put into operation by the various governments represented.

Mr. Sanford Bates, the Congress President, claimed in his Presidential address, that since the first Congress 75 years ago, the old principle of retribution and revenge has been definitely laid aside, and it is now recognised that the one principle governing the treatment of the wrong-doer is the proper protection of society. And this is best accomplished by the reclamation of the wrong-doer. To protect society you cannot keep men and women in prison indefinitely; sooner or later they come out, and it depends upon how they come out, and what sort of men and women they are when they come out, whether society has succeeded or failed in its purpose of protecting itself.

Dr. James Bennett, Director of the Bureau of Prisons, U.S.A., stated that in the United States they recognised that this reclamation or reformation of the criminal must proceed from within; it could not be imposed by external regulations; and consequently they recognised the priority and importance of religion in bringing about this inner change.

To cover the wide field of enquiry and at the same time facilitate discussion the Congress divided into four main sections, with full plenary sessions only on alternate mornings: Section I considered the application of psychiatry to the classification and treatment of prisoners. Sections II and III dealt with administrative problems, such as: the treatment of habitual prisoners; the organisation of prison labour; the alternatives to short term imprisonment; and the conditional release of prisoners. Section IV was the one where Mr. Clipson was assiduous in his attendance for it dealt with questions in which he and the Whitechapel Mission are specially interested, such as: the treatment of juvenile offenders, hostels for young people



Just about to begin!

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on probation, approved schools and Borstal Institutions, together with the further question, whether some of the methods found to be successful with juveniles might not be extended to adult offenders.

continued on last page of report

All ready for the Entertainment!

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Christmas Festivities

Christmas still brings us golden opportunities of brightening the lives of the unprivileged. Always it is a truly festive season at the Mission. Mrs. Clipson and her helpers are hard at work for weeks in advance preparing for the forthcoming gatherings. All the pies and cakes and sweets are made by them here on the premises. Parcels of food and clothing and toys are made up and distributed to every man, woman and child who comes to the meetings and organisations connected with the Mission, and every parcel is specifically individual. Every re-

recipient is known personally, and a suitable gift is selected. All sections have their own parties and entertainments, and especially do the young folk look forward to having Santa Claus come out of his quaint little house with his huge sack of delightful surprises. This year a special gift of food from overseas friends is being handed out over the Christmas season.

No poverty? No need for parcels and parties? Come and see! It would warm your heart to know just what goes on, and how much it means. The time of good will and rejoicing is the traditional time for opening the heart and the purse. We shall greatly appreciate any gift that you feel disposed to send us, and it will be promptly and properly acknowledged. Warmest thanks for all your generous help and for your prayers.

A. D. Clipson



Mr. & Mrs. Clipson and Family

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A NOTABLE CONGRESS—continued

On these questions no less than 150 preparatory papers were submitted by experts from different countries and on the facts thus presented the subsequent discussions of the Congress were based. On two occasions in my hearing Mr. Clipson intervened in the discussions with telling effect. Once in the full plenary session when all representatives were assembled in "The Hall of the Knights" he put in a brief but powerful plea that there should be a true and close co-operation between the psychiatrist and the chaplain, for only thus could success be achieved; and again in the fourth section, which met in the loveliest room of all, the famous Treves Hall, when he pointed out that in Britain the work among delinquent youth had always had, a religious basis; and from this he went on to stress the need for a deep sense of vocation, and the importance of personal character among all those engaged in this kind of work. It is not too much to say that the Methodist Church was better and more effectively represented in this International Congress than any other church or religious organisation in the world; and in that small but highly efficient team of Methodists, the Superintendent of the Whitechapel Mission undertook a worthy part.

Windyridge Farm and Home Management Committee

Revs. A. E. D. Clipson, W. J. Goodall, Lt. Comm. Denton, R.N., Messrs. O. A. Rattenbury, J.P., A. Gurton, J.P., A. McBain, T. England, S. W. Newman, Mesdames A. E. D. Clipson, Harvey and Ruffles. Medical Attendant: Dr. J. Wright. Chairman: Lt. Comm. Denton, R.N.

Whitechapel House Hostel Management Committee

Rev. A. E. D. Clipson, Rt. Hon. Lord Ammon, Messrs. O. A. Rattenbury, J.P., L. G. Freeman, W. E. Cotton, The Hon. May Ammon, Mesdames A. E. D. Clipson, F. C. Yelland. Medical Attendant: Dr. Crosbie Walsh. Chairman: L. G. Freeman.



Five ways in which you can help us

1. BY REMEMBERING US IN YOUR PRAYERS
2. BY SENDING US A DONATION
3. BY TAKING A COLLECTING BOX
4. BY A COVENANTED SUBSCRIPTION
5. BY ASSIGNING US A LEGACY

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 Home 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.