

WHITECHAPEL METHODIST MISSION



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REPORT 1978



A child
from
another land

THROUGH AN OPEN DOOR

The changes in East London have been enormous. Gone are the small houses and many of the small shops and, with great relief the intense poverty of shoeless children and ragged schools. In their place are modern schools and large blocks of flats — the tower blocks which so often isolate people from one another. The old character of dockland too has changed so often for the worse as the old, decaying warehouses await long-deferred decisions on their future.

Yet amid change — there remain the central needs of human beings. As John of Patmos wrote in the New Testament, “I have set before you an open door” — which takes many forms in the crowded conditions of London’s East End. Despite new houses, day-by-day many men and women come to our doors to receive help. How grateful we are to those who send clothing,

spectacles, as well as food and gifts in kind, to enable us to provide assistance to some of these needy ones. We are most thankful also to all our donors who provide the means to enable the life of the Mission to continue.

Help means helpers. We have been blessed in the service given over the past four years by Pastor Malcolm Thomas, who has now gone into a social work appointment. In his place, we have Mr Bob Blount, from Rochdale, who has charge of our men’s work and has rapidly come to work closely with many welfare agencies. Our deaconess Sister Nora Fowler has visited many Churches, describing vividly the work of the Mission. She has worked so devotedly here amongst the men and the women in our two women’s meetings and in the work with our young people. In the office, Mrs Beryl Crofts and Mrs Dorothy Slater, our part-time secretarial staff, have worked very efficiently to enable the work to prosper. At Windyridge the staff under Mr and Mrs Stowers have had their own trials and successes as the Windyridge report herein indicates.

Through our open door, many come too for healing. Each Sunday, many homeless men (and those living in lodging houses), who would not go or be welcomed anywhere else for treatment, come to Dr. Peter or to a Nurse to receive treatment. Sometimes the doctor suggests that a man should stay for a day or so in one of our few beds in the basement — or to stay overnight and then go for further treatment to one of London’s hospitals.

The intensity of the need is expressed by Michael Quoist in his prayer, entitled — “Lord why did you tell me to love? You have forced me to open my door. As soon as I started to open the door I saw them, with outstretched hands, burning eyes, longing hearts. They are too hungry, they are consuming me :” Some of these longing hearts come to us from all parts of Britain and Ireland but there are others from overseas — the African, the Bangladeshi, and the West Indian.

We believe that many who come through our open door, go out again with a lighter tread and a grateful heart. They have received not simply food for their hunger and healing for their wounds but, through Christian love and care, they have also found a new hope for themselves and for others and a new courage to face life ahead. Our plea is one with that of John Wesley, "Open a door which earth and hell may strive to shut but strive in vain" —

By your help — in gift, clothing and prayer — you will enable the door to remain open and the work to go on. Christ can live again through us and through you for some who come to us.

With God's blessing upon you.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN H. CHAMBERLAYNE



Nora and Bob

Our Treasurer writes —

Once again I thank all who have supported us this past year, and appeal to you to keep up the good work. Our dedicated and hard working team at Whitechapel is deeply appreciative of all your help — by your prayers and your generous gifts. We hope that you will encourage new friends to take an interest in this work — especially would we ask those who pay Income Tax to consider giving the Mission a Deed of Covenant for seven years — by this means every £1.00 donated — at present rates of tax — brings in nearly £1.50. In recent years we have lost by death several loyal, long service Covenanters, so the need is pressing. I shall be pleased to supply full details and the necessary forms to anyone who feels able to help in this way.

These inflationary years have not been easy financially and although God continues to bless this work of ours and we have been able to extend it, money is vital. When making your Will, please do consider a legacy to the Mission — it will be well used. Working for the Lord in Whitechapel is rather special — certainly different from anything we see in Methodism elsewhere, and our Superintendent and Staff daily minister to the needs of the unfortunate people who, to say the least, are far less conscious of God's love than most of us.

Please therefore continue to make their task that little bit easier — God bless you all.

Yours sincerely,

LESLIE MOLE

Sister's Snippets

Many of our loyal Women's Meeting members remember the early days of the Mission. Here are a few memories as they look back through doors to past years.

"I am an old lady now but I remember that my mother insisted that we go to church twice on Sunday and Band of Hope on Wednesdays. The Rev. Thomas Jackson and his wife treated us all as his children. We would get a slice of bread and jam and a mug of cocoa and it would taste like nectar. I wonder if children would appreciate it now as we did then."

"As I looked at the clean, neat medical centre in our basement, my mind went back 40 years to a crowded, dusty and sometimes smelly dim hall packed to the doors with happy, friendly folks at a Saturday night concert, enjoying a sing song and a cup of tea, and I thought of all the friendships we had."

Another remembers how hands went up in horror when 'pictures' were introduced.

These folk who have known unemployment and often real poverty come through our Mission doors and impress me with their deep simple faith.

And what of the youngsters? What doors are open to them?

Mother was having difficulty in getting small boy (4) to school. "I'll tell Miss (the Head) about you." "I'll tell God about you," he replied. He knows about the highest authority. We pray that the faith of our children will be as strong as our older folk's because they have passed through Mission doors.



Tailpiece

Down our way we dine off silver plate, or so you might have thought a few days ago. It happened like this. We lost our Communion plates. We imagined that one of our friends in his efforts to imbibe a little more wine discovered the bottle in the cupboard and thought the plates might bring a little financial aid to his wining. So, we put out feelers in the hopes the plates might be returned. Two days later one of our ladies brought in two large plates which she thought were dinner plates — found in a box under a coat she said. We explained they were church plates. "Oh my Gawd" she said, and crossed herself. "I've got two more at home." We duly received two more, but sad to relate they weren't ours. Life at the Whitechapel Mission in the East End of London is never dull. The unusual things often happen!

NORA FOWLER

The Doctor's Open Door

Thank you for your continued support during the year. The Medical Room is serving many for minor ailments and more serious illnesses. The sick room is being used increasingly and shows the necessity for a place where the temporary sick find rest and care.

"J" had a heart operation and after convalescence needed 'all day' accommodation. The Hospital rang and asked if we could take him while on special tablets until he was stronger.

Activity Time

Another man through this facility has been attending Church on Sunday mornings.

I must add a word of appreciation for nurses and medical students who help us so readily.

DR. PETER OUTEN

Introducing Bob

The City of London — it means big business! But on its borders in the East End of London, you will find the outcast, the vagrant, the alcoholic, and the homeless men and women!

Ever since 1896 the OPEN DOORS of Whitechapel Mission have attempted to live out the Gospel — by serving homeless men and women who congregate in the area of Whitechapel. These men and women, who are a cross-section of society's outcasts are always welcome at the Mission. Many of them are tired, hungry and cold on arrival. But in most cases, they want more than just food and rest. They need encouragement and moral support — someone to talk to, someone who will be interested and who will listen patiently to them. This is a service we offer to them. On Sunday evenings we offer our premises to these people from 5 to 10 pm and on Wednesday from 5.30 to 9.30 pm.

The work also includes on two mornings a week, an old people's dinner club. We are open for men to come for clothing, baths and a general clean-up on Monday and Thursday mornings. The Mission does open its doors wide for these people as a place where we can share our love of Christ with them.

Please help us in our work, by supporting us in prayer, gifts of men's clothing, gifts of money and gifts of food.

May God richly bless you.

BOB BLOUNT

P.S. Please help us to keep our doors open!

THE CLOTHING STORE

'A' is living rough and is incontinent. She comes for a bath every week and needs a complete change of clothes. This is just one of the claims on our CLOTHING STORE. We can do with clothing for men and women of all ages, except fashion shoes. Also old spectacles, razors and blades, pots, pans, etc. You name it, we can find a home for it, but please try and discover if anyone is coming to London, parcel postage is very expensive. Our particular need is for men's underclothing and overcoats, as many who come to us are sleeping rough and need warmth on cold days.



Two Community Service Volunteers (Andrew Carmichael and Christopher Gray) have been helping the Mission in the past twelve months. The help of voluntary assistants is a great strength to the Mission.

For the first time in our long history of caring for the young offender, we opened our doors to young women of the same age range as the men and became a mixed community as from 1st January 1978. The change was anticipated with great enthusiasm and much preparation, for the basic motivation behind the project was the provision of a more natural environment for the residents and one which might be particularly helpful for those who have difficulty in relationships with the opposite sex, or indeed, those who have problems of sexual identity as individuals.

Initially the project seemed disastrous and we began to think of Windyridge as a half-way house between the Courts and Holloway Prison; however, certain teething troubles had been anticipated and with a little patience



WINDYRIDGE, NAYLAND

things began to settle down. Although the declared enormous demand for hostel placements for women never materialized we eventually settled for a small mixed unit which is proving so successful that we hope to maintain this separate unit which is of family size nurturing four boys and four girls towards a greater degree of personal responsibility and confidence. (In all, we have 24 young people who are being cared for by the staff.)

Another Open Day was held in the early part of the Summer and thanks to the generosity of the Whitechapel Mission Executive Committee a further substantial sum was raised in aid of our Amenities Fund which was launched some few years ago with the object of building our own Swimming Pool. Alas! despite every effort being made it seems that prices today for such a scheme have become so astronomical that it is highly unlikely that we shall ever see this dream materialize and consideration is now having to be given to the provision of some other constructive amenity to meet an urgent need for some sport activity.

In common with residential establishments throughout the country staff shortages are presenting a major problem and we believe that it is now possibly the best time to explore the use of voluntary assistance in differing areas of our daily life and moves towards this end are already under way. Perhaps we may have something hopeful to report next year.

A source of pride and sense of achievement is that we managed to attain 176% production of lambs from our small flock of sheep — a figure well above the average for this year

The Mixed Unit



Open Day

thanks to the tender care given. Pig sales have also exceeded our usual expectation. Cattle and horses have also been very productive and provided a source of interesting and therapeutic work.

The internal decorations and maintenance of the buildings have kept the Building Trades Department fully occupied in a very useful and practical way.

In the light of these facts it is perhaps quite unnecessary to reiterate our belief that one of the most valuable means of therapy for the very disturbed young people who come to Windyridge is the caring for animals, the sowing of seed and harvesting of produce, the birth of successive generations which all bears

witness to the stability and wonder of nature itself. Even for the most inadequate and simple resident, it is possible to relate the work, the caring and the guidance necessary to produce good stock to the fact that if they as individuals will accept the responsibility of work, allow themselves to be cared for and guided in their young lives then they too have the opportunity to leave Windyridge as good and reliable "stock".

JOHN STOWERS
Principal.

Thank you for your support for the Windyridge Appeal at Whitsuntide. The original intention to provide a swimming pool has proved too costly so a Games Hall or some similar amenity will need to take its place.

* * *

VISITATION has continued in The London Hospital, in particular among Free Church patients and those of other faiths. Please inform us when nurses or patients come to the London Hospital, so that we can visit them.

FORM OF BEQUEST BY WILL

For the guidance of friends who may desire to make bequests for 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, 212 Whitechapel Road, London, E.1., 1BJ. 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, and addresses, and occupations, at the same time, in his presence and the presence of each other.

If you have already made your Will, kindly add a Codicil directing a legacy to the Whitechapel Mission.

We wish to express our thanks to Mr Warder (Stepney Camera Club) and Mr A. Crow, who have assisted us in the provision of photographs.



Through our Open Door

OUR THANKS TO:-

All our helpers in so many ways and so many places

- all who give so much
- our various committees and officials
- all helpers from the local hospitals. Our Sunday workers and all those who assist us during the week, including Miss Vivien Pritchard, who helps us in a voluntary capacity.
- Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Reynolds our organist and pianist
- our solicitors, auditors, bankers and printers
- our friends at the Home Office, in the Woolnoth Society and in many of our Churches.

**YOU can help
our work by . .**

*Praying for our work
and workers*

Sending a donation now

*Having a collecting box
in your home*

*Covenanting your gift
(Details on request)*

*Making a Legacy in
your Will*

*Arranging a Gift Service
or Carol Party in
your church*

*Sending clothing
parcels*

*Asking for a Mission
speaker for one of
your meetings*

THE WHITECHAPEL MISSION FOUNDED 1896

General Office, 212 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ

(Entrance Maples Place)

ALL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

Superintendent: Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

Deaconess: Sister Nora Fowler.

Sister Mary Chamberlayne (retired).

Associate: Mr. Bob Blount

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. L. Mole.

Solicitors: Messrs. Butt & Bowyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, WC1R 4JJ.

Auditors: Messrs. Barker, Hibbert, Smiles & Co.

Bankers: Barclays Bank Ltd., Mile End Branch, 234 Whitechapel Road, E1.

Centres of Christian Activity

Whitechapel Mission: 212 Whitechapel Road, E1 1BJ. Tel. 01-247-8280.

Windyridge: Nayland, Colchester. Tel. 0206-262332.

Thomas Jackson Memorial Hostel (N.C.H.): 3 Maples Place, E1 2EE. Tel. 01-247-0718. (Superintendent - Miss Sheila Smith)

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Matron: Mrs. J. E. Stowers.

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