

The
CHALLENGE
of
CHANGE



WHITECHAPEL MISSION
(THE METHODIST CHURCH)

Annual Report 1980

THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE

LIFE NEVER STANDS STILL! So true, for life means movement and movement needs to have a goal. Our fathers saw life as a pilgrimage — from stage to stage — to attain at last God's Promised Land.

It is clear that we have not yet attained that goal in this earthly part of our trial. On the journey, we need stopping places or homes. After the First World War it was intended to build "homes for heroes to live in" — to which many a cynic would respond, "Aye, and we're living in them." Those who come to us are men who live in hostels or lodging-houses with little privacy or possessions which they can call their own. Many live in "skippers" — derelict disused buildings — without proper bedding or warmth. Moreover, some face ill-health, and lack relatives or even friends to support their morale. In the midst of such need — the Mission exists to provide the care, which we believe Christ would give to His brethren.

Care means many things — it includes the provision of basic needs — food, medical care and clothing as well as personal counselling. For these, many come to us — and find friendship based on compassion. During the last few years, we have come to realize that, in the East End, our caring requires us to seek co-operation with other agencies, who have similar people and similar problems. We are grateful to St. Botolph's Parish Church; to Providence Row (R.C.); to St. George's Methodist Church (Cable St.) and to other agencies who have helped us and whom we have been able to help to provide food, clothing, bedding and other forms of support.

Our Medical Work, too, has continued to meet a need and we have been able to find rooms for several men and women in flats, which have been made available to the Mission. The new Deaconess, Sister Vivien Ward, has taken up the reins here since September and we have some fine Community Service Volunteers, in John McCracken from Belfast and, more recently,

Martyn Skinner from Cambridge. Constancy has been a further key factor in our caring. It is not enough to give help for a limited period, it is, however, the work from week to week that is important to us. We have indeed been grateful for limited help as is provided by 'Crisis at Christmas'. Mr Bob Blount (our Lay Assistant) has, among his many other duties, assisted in the work of 'Crisis'. We are grateful, too, for the regular help that the nurses from the London Hospital and Dr. Peter and Sister Margaret Outen have given us and, recently, Church Army helpers have shared in the Sunday work with us. From the Community Health Department, Dr. Michael St. John has held a regular surgery on a Wednesday evening, when we hold our Men's meeting.

At Windyridge, Mrs Dorothy Stowers, who was appointed Principal in the place of her husband, who died so suddenly at the end of last year, has continued his fine work and is making her own contribution to the ongoing enterprise. We appreciate deeply the fine work of all the staff at Windyridge, which has had a Royal celebration, to mark the 25th anniversary of the opening of the present hostel. We remember in great gratitude the sterling work and fine devotion of Mr John Stowers, our late Principal.

Our thanks are due to the loyal band of contributors who have sustained the work through the year. I look forward to your continued help at Christmastime and in the New Year.

With every blessing,

Yours sincerely,

JOHN H. CHAMBERLAYNE.



The Treasurer writes . . .

I welcome another opportunity to record our grateful thanks to all those who have so loyally supported us in our work and remembered us in their prayers. Although it is generally invidious to mention names, I must say a special 'Thank You' to the members and friends of Haywards Heath Methodist Church together with the members of the Woolnoth Society of the City of London, who, over the years, have given us substantial financial and other assistance.

May I again draw attention to a Deed of Covenant from Income Tax payers, as a means of giving additional help to the Mission. Many of our Covenanters are now elderly and we have lost several by death recently. This year's Finance Act has reduced the minimum period of a Deed to four years — there must be many in Methodism and beyond who already make an annual donation and they could add considerably to our income if they would make a regular promise over four years in this manner. Please write to me if you are interested — your annual donation of, say, £10.00 becomes £14.29 when we have reclaimed the tax.

God is calling us to continue and intensify this work. We have a devoted Mission Staff — please help them to witness to His love and saving grace amongst those whose needs challenge our commitment to His Gospel.

Yours sincerely,
LESLIE MOLE.

A Word of Welcome

In September we welcomed two new members to the staff at the Mission — Sister Vivien Ward and Martyn Skinner. Vivien hails from Fleetwood and comes to us via the Deaconess College, Derby Central Hall and the Birmingham Mission where she helped run a girls' hostel. Vivien has quickly settled into life at the Mission and is making a considerable impact on the work. Martyn is our new Community Service

Volunteer and should be with us for a year. He comes from Cambridge, where his father has been Principal of Wesley House, where some of our ministers are trained. Martyn does not intend to follow in his father's footsteps but does want to do social work. Certainly working at the Mission will give Martyn considerable experience in this field!

We pray that both Vivien and Martyn will continue to enjoy working with us and that their work may be richly blessed.

BRUCE YELLAND,
Circuit Steward.

George Procter helps to prepare soup in the kitchen



MAGIC

AS A CHILD, did you put a coin into a machine which then rattled away and finally presented you with a bar of chocolate and you thought it was magic?

Something far more wonderful happens when parcels of old lace, "granny nightgowns", old cotton half-slips and camisoles embroidered or edged with broderie anglais or crochet work are delivered to our door. We are able to turn them into cash which provides food for the hungry, friendship for the lonely, healing for the sick, love for the loveless, clothing for the ill-clad and peace for the troubled.

Your coins became chocolate. Your old goods can become blessings to so many needy folk. Will you help us to perform the magic?

VIVIENNE PRITCHARD

The Principal of Windyridge writes —

The 25th Anniversary year (1980) has been a year of celebration for Windyridge, and was graced by a visit from His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester on the 23rd June, which, despite the weather, was a day enjoyed by all. It was indeed a tribute to all those who, over the years, have contributed to the high esteem that Windyridge enjoys throughout the length and breadth of the country.

As will be known to most readers, Windyridge suffered a great blow due to the untimely death of John E. Stowers, the Principal of the Hostel, who had given all his energies and devotion to building the successful hostel as it is today. The effect of this tragedy was far reaching for Management, Staff, Residents and interested parties alike, but he would not have wished for things to die with him but would have spurred us on to keep his beloved Windyridge very much alive and progressive.

True to the basic concept of voluntary bodies who, sometimes at their own expense, are innovators in the treatment and provision for the more inadequate among us, the Mission has, at Windyridge, introduced two more unique features. One is a Driving Scheme carried out on the premises, and the other is an entirely new group-living experience provided for in the separate Unit which will enable young people to be able to look after themselves when they leave, at a more satisfactory level.

It is inevitable that changes occur and these bring difficulties of their own, not to mention attracting the right staff to carry out a most difficult, challenging, and rather unrewarding, work, for most of the time. However with constant encouragement and support, the burden of such pressures is greatly lightened by the Mission Executive, members of the Management Committee, our many friends

in the locality and the Home Office. We look forward to achieving many more years of service to those so very much less fortunate than ourselves.

I do not think it inappropriate to mention here my appreciation of the sympathy and understanding extended to me personally from many of your readers.

(Mrs) DOROTHY M. STOWERS



Mrs Stowers with the Duke of Gloucester and Col. J. Round (Chairman)

(At Right) The Senior Resident presents toys to the Royal Visitor for the Duke's children

Photos by courtesy of Essex County Newspapers Ltd.



MEN'S REPORT 1980

RESCUE. So many times this word rings out to us: people in prison, people in hostels, people in every walk of life, ringing on the doorbell, saying: "Will you come to our rescue?"

Owing to the recession, and the unemployment situation, our numbers with homeless men and women have risen dramatically. My greatest concern is that the age range of our clients is younger (18-30). This, of course, is a worry to us, but I firmly believe that we have to present the gospel to them as well as to our older clients. This is our real business at Whitechapel. Our Day Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays still meets, and in January this will be taking a new form of rehabilitation for the 25-30 men who attend it, in the form of Art Classes. Craft and general domestic duties.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE FELLOWSHIP. We have some 60 men who attend this fellowship, and recently this has had a new lease of life, as we have numerous outside speakers (of all denominations) and on the last Wednesday of each month we have a religious film, followed by a discussion.

CLOTHING STORE. This is in more demand than ever for all aspects of men's clothing from underwear to outerwear (what about your group doing a project for clothing for us?).



The Day Centre for older men

SUNDAY. Some 100+ men (destitute) congregate at the Mission at 5 o'clock for hot tea and biscuits. Following this, bathing facilities, de-lousing facilities, and general wash-room is available for cleaning-up purposes, plus the services of Dr. and Mrs. Outen and the nurses from the London Hospital who assist them. It is thrilling beyond words to tell you that our Church seats 150 people, and what a privilege it is to share with these men the love of the Lord Jesus on a Sunday night in our gospel service. These destitute men and women are finding Jesus as their Saviour.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that during this past year several of our men who are vagrant and alcoholic have been found bed-sitters by the Local Authority, and more recently three bed-sitters in our Sidney Street house. This is wonderful to think that at last these people have a home. We undertake to provide the furniture and bedding and all necessary equipment. We are working with the Local Authority to get more accommodation for our people, and also with other agencies in the area. Personally the accommodation has caused us a lot of extra work, but we believe the Lord will send in the means to continue to re-house people.

In June last year we took our annual men's outing to Brighton via Haywards Heath, and some 45 people filled the coach. This is our annual event which is provided by our Haywards Heath Church, and I would like to thank them through this report for their real concern for the men of this Mission. Likewise I would like to thank the boys and girls of our Stowmarket Methodist Church who have supplied us with bars of soap for our bathing facilities.

DEATH. Unfortunately death has taken its toll, owing to the cold and general deterioration of the men. A recent death was very tragic. One of our men fell off the curb, and an articulated lorry ran over his head, with deep feeling, I can assure our people that the Mission makes sure that the funeral is conducted with dignity and sympathy.

Finally, I would like to thank all the helpers who have supported me in the work amongst the men. I would also like to place on record through this report, our gratitude to our former Deaconess Sister Nora Fowler, for all the invaluable assistance that she gave us in relationship with the men's work.



Bob and Mr H. Leonard (organist) amid Harvest gifts

If your Church, Youth Club or Guild are interested in doing a project for us the following ideas would be most helpful: Each month a box could be placed at the back of your Church and members could place into it either a bar of soap or a tin of soup or an old towel. Alternatively, a collection on the same lines of bread would be most acceptable — we could collect it on the Monday.

I foresee a very difficult year ahead, with the increase of violence, alcoholism and permissiveness. Would you help us to reach out in the Saviour's name, by your support in prayer and gifts.

I remain, your humble servant,
BOB BLOUNT

Sister Vivien writes . . .



MY FIRST IMPRESSION of Whitechapel as I drove along the Whitechapel Road was one of noise and busyness. Always there is traffic, always there are people to-ing and fro-ing whenever one ventures out onto the road. There is much more to Whitechapel than its noise and busyness. Talking to some of the "oldies" has revealed to me some of the human stories of the East End, stories of poverty, stories of struggles of defeat and of survival. I've also had stories of the wonderful work that has been done amongst the East Enders in the name of Christ.

To walk along the Whitechapel Road and Mile End Road in a matter of a few hundred yards is to look upon buildings and memorials to just a few of the philanthropists who saw the need of these people and attempted to do something about it. There is Charrington's Mission now the Tower Hamlets Mission and Evangelical Church, there is a statue and a bust to the memory of William Booth and there is the building where Thomas Jackson first began his work amongst the lads of Whitechapel.

"Things is different now!" Yes, they are, the needs are different and the work is different, but the work is there and the Christian Church is there and the mission of Christ goes on. In some areas the need is more obvious than it is in others and Whitechapel is, perhaps, one of those areas. At the mission we are attempting to determine other areas of need than that to which we are already committed. The work amongst children is beginning to pick up slowly and we will, hopefully be able to begin a Boys Brigade Co. with the help of two trained officers who are members of staff of Thomas Jackson House which is the N.C.H. home next door.

What are the needs amongst the other residents How best can we make a Christian statement in the community, a community which is made up of people who are of Jewish, Asian, West Indian and British origins, of people who are students and staff at the London Hospital, who are workers in the house factories of the rag trade, who work at Watney and Charringtons brewery or at the East London sorting office? What do we do? How do we do it? Where do we go from here?

To a community that is basically uninterested in the Christian Church but, we believe, needs what Christ offers, how do we make that Christian statement?

I believe that it is God's will that we make that statement and that with God's help we shall.

VIVIEN WARD

Clothing Appeal

We are always in need of men's under and outer clothing, shoes and general apparel. Also towels, blankets, sheets and pillow cases. Would you please note that we have no further use for ladies clothing as we have only five vagrant ladies set against 100+ men, and we have in stock approximately two years supply of ladies clothing. We would be grateful if you will continue to support us with men's clothing and bedding. Occasionally we are in need of children's clothing — especially babies'. Articles of furniture, if small, and can be delivered to the Mission will be acceptable — to refurnish the flats of those men who have one. Grateful thanks to all our supporters and special thanks to Mona Pengelly and Mrs Norris who have the task of sorting the clothing.

If your are unsure regarding the size of the furniture please ring Mr. Bob Blount at the Mission.

THE MEDICAL UNIT

The Medical Unit has functioned well on Sunday evenings when Dr. Peter Outen and his wife Margaret have served the Mission faithfully for the long period of 8 years. We are most grateful for all that they have done for the Mission in building up the medical side of our work. On weeks when they are unable to be with us nurses from the London Hospital have helped us in the clinic. On Wednesday evenings we have had the Community Health doctor, Dr. Michael St. John. We are deeply grateful for all the help that our doctors and nurses have given to those who are normally outside the care of the ordinary general practitioner.

Dr. Peter Outen writes . . .

"Jack came in tonight. The last time we met was some seven or eight years ago. The changes in medical facilities here since that time are enormous. For this, we owe a debt to all the support given from around the country. I would like to take this opportunity of giving special thanks to Sister Nora who did so much to help build up this work. Unfortunately, due to failing personal health, I am having to reduce my work commitments and with regret will be unable to continue here into 1982".



Photo by courtesy of
"The General Practitioner"

Dr. Michael St. John on a Wednesday evening in the Clinic held after the Men's Meeting.

Dr. St. John: 'It's an act of faith really. I suppose I stay here because of my involvement with the local church.'

Note for your Diary: MISSION ANNIVERSARY Wednesday October 14th 1981 when the speaker is due to be The Rev. Gordon E. Barritt, OBE, MA, Principal of the National Children's Home.

A THANK YOU MESSAGE FROM SISTER NORA

I was very moved by my retirement send off and I want to thank all those who gave so generously. I shall be using some for a holiday at the end of the month and have also bought a refrigerator. Some carpeting will be next on the list. And for those who think I am putting my feet up, I find I am as busy as ever, but I shall never forget the joy of working in Whitechapel. Again, many thanks.

NORA FOWLER

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., 1Bf, 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.

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, especially Miss Vivienne Pritchard
- 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*

*A specific project on
behalf of the Mission*

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 Vivien Ward
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: Mr S. Ward)

Executive Committee for Whitechapel Mission

Revs. Deryck Collingwood, Jeffrey W. Harris
C. Leonard Tudor. Messrs. H. J. Bolton, M. A.
Booth, S. Fuller, L. Mole, J. A. Reddall,

G. Rowland, B. Yelland. Mesdames H. M.
Dunnett, Sister Vivien Ward, Miss J. Moors,
Miss S. Nicholls, Miss C. Storey.

Secretary: Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

Windyridge Management Committee

Messrs. K. L. Hollingsworth, C. A. Lawson, Dr. F.
Rilstone, Maj.-Gen. J. K. Shephard, Mr. P.
Strover. Mesdames J. Caton, M. B. Chamber-
layne, H. Dunnett, J. Eames, Miss M. Beattie.

Chairman: Col. J. C. Round, J.P.

Secretary: Rev. Dr. John Chamberlayne.

Principal: Mrs. D. Stowers.

Medical Officer: Dr. C. R. Gilbert.

Chaplain: Rev. Glenville J. Martin.