

SSM21

Helping the poor

Shepherd-street Mission nears the half million

SINCE Shepherd-street Mission, Preston, began its work in 1876, it has helped over 497,000 poor people, including 268,000 children, in time of need.

Reporting this at the 73rd annual meeting of the Mission, yesterday, Mr. W. A. Margerison, chairman of the Board of Management, said that while the Children's Bill of 1948 gave impetus to the proper care of unfortunate children, no amount of legislation would attain this end.

The determining factor was the quality and character of the family or organisation into whose care children were placed.

The majority of the children who came to the home were the "by-products" of cruelty, neglect and immorality.

To what extent better housing would minimise neglect he was not prepared to say, but invariably the neglected and unwanted child came from a hovel.

Eleven children had been returned to their parents during the year. Three had been admitted, and on September 30th there were 30 children in the home.

GOOD REPORT

A visit by two Home Office inspectors produced a very satisfactory report, and on the recommendation of that department, authority had been given for extensions and alterations, costing £5,000, which was now in progress.

"Under the existing high costs, maintenance of our home and family has been very heavy, but thanks to the continued support of our many friends, a very successful flag day, and the all-time record total of £1,350 from the 'Lancashire Evening Post' annual appeal, we have been able to meet our liabilities," said Mr. Margerison.

"In recording the Mission's deep indebtedness to the proprietors and Editor, we are always mindful of the part the 'Post' has played. Through all the changing fortunes of time it has been a channel which has never run dry. Without this help, our activities would have been considerably restricted."

Mr. Margerison announced that Mr. Arnold Horner, former editor of the "Post," had accepted an invitation to join the committee. He also thanked all those who had helped the work of the Mission.

INTEGRAL PART

The Mayor (Alderman F. Jamieson), presiding, said the work of the Mission had been an integral part of the life of the town. It could not be measured in terms of money—it personified the true spirit of God, Christianity and good-fellowship.

Mr. S. T. Maxwell, honorary treasurer, said income of £5,610 was an increase of £580, while expenditure of £5,552, an increase of £795 gave a surplus of only £58—compared with a surplus of £273 for 1948. Public support during the year brought £4,210, an increase of £657. Total capital funds now stood at £26,219. But for increased support there would have been a deficiency.

He was sure that the people of Preston would see to it that the work of the Mission was maintained.

The Rev. J. C. H. A. Fordham, moving the re-election of honorary officials and committee with the addition of Mr. Horner, commented: "If there is any work that can be called work nearest to the heart of Christ, then it is the work of homes like Shepherd-street Mission."

The Rev. H. N. Armstrong, seconding, said he was rather surprised that the State did not help the work of the Home.

Mr. Horner and Mr. F. C. Messham thanked the Mayor and speakers.

D.P.

5/12/49

Shepherd Street

Mission

"POST" £1,000 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

"IT is a good job there is a Shepherd-street Mission, or I am afraid many children would not know what a home is like."

That sentence in a letter received at Shepherd-street Mission, Preston, from a girl, now married who found refuge there, expresses perfectly the spirit of the work which has gone on for 71 years.

The work of Shepherd-street Mission is a glowing page in Preston history. It is a work that goes on in spite of a perpetual battle for funds.

It is because we of "The Lancashire Daily Post" know the value of the work that we seek, every year as Christmas approaches, to persuade readers to give generously to an appeal on behalf of the Mission.

CREATE GLADNESS

The story of Shepherd-street is both sad and glad; sadness felt for the suffering of children, gladness because the home has changed that suffering into happiness.

You read reports of magistrates and matrimonial courts, of mothers and fathers sent to prison, of cruelty and neglect visited on children, of tragedies of drink and degradation, of homes broken up by matrimonial upsets—but do you ever pause to think of what happens to the innocent kiddies involved in domestic upsets?

Someone has to look after these children. Often, that someone is Shepherd-street Mission.

This year, the need of Shepherd-street is greater than ever, for rising prices hit a family of 50 more seriously than they hit a small family, and there are extensions to be considered.

A BID FOR £1,000

They have a wonderful idea at the Mission for developments, not by enlarging the present premises but by purchasing cottages in the vicinity and fitting them up each to accommodate about 10 children, with a foster mother in charge of each colony. But all this will swallow up money on top of the £3,500 a year it costs to run the present premises.

Are we being bold in suggesting that this year, "Post" readers will eclipse all their previous efforts and send us £1,000 to give to Shepherd-street? Last year you gave £866.

This is how you can help. It costs £66 a week to run Shepherd-street. There are industrial firms, business houses, churches, clubs, and other organisations who could comfortably take on the task of running the Mission for one week by sending us that amount.

If you can't send us £66, send us £9 10s. to run the home for a day or even 8s. to run it for an hour—and we shall also appreciate the odd shillings and coppers to fill in the minutes.

WAY TO HAPPINESS

But whatever the sum you contribute, the need is urgent. Make your effort now.

From the managing director (who can send the firm's cheque) to the clergyman and parish priest, the club secretary, the shopkeeper, mine host at the local inn, teachers, and others, there are a host of people who can help. Don't leave it to the other fellow; give yourself a happy Christmas by helping to create one for Shepherd-street's unfortunate children.

It should be easy to organise a collection, write a cheque, buy a postal order, or put some cash in an envelope.

The address is: The Editor, "Lancashire Daily Post," Preston. Every donation will be acknowledged in these columns.

You'll find it's a lovely feeling to help children who can't help themselves.