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THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP

SHEPHERD-ST. MISSION WORK

PRESTON APPEAL

AS in past years, "The Lancashire Daily Post" makes an appeal to its readers to express the spirit of the festive season by contributing to the funds of the Shepherd-street Mission, Preston, which, all the year round, does wonderful service for the poor people of the town. The need to-day is greater than ever, and the hope is, therefore, that the response will be greater.

The first subscriptions are announced in the third column on page one.

Preston takes great pride in the work being carried on at the Mission, which, once again, is to brighten Christmas morning for 2,000 poor children by providing them with breakfast and distributing amongst them toys and gifts.

Christmas morning at the Mission is an institution; in its 57 years of existence it has provided 60,000 children with their chief Christmas event.

Each child admitted is carefully selected, and only necessitous ones receive the bounty. When they crowd round the Mission doors at eight o'clock, they will be greeted by the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. Pimblett), Mr. W. A. Margerison (chairman of the committee) and others.

A contribution, however small, to defray the cost of the treat and to help the mission in its other work, will be welcomed and acknowledged in the columns of "The Lancashire Daily Post." Last year over £200 was raised by this appeal.

Many organisations do their bit in this direction. For instance the Leyland Congregational Sunday School has, over a period of about 20 years, sent more than 4,000 toys, in addition to over £30 taken in special collections. The Women's Guild, too, has contributed about £25. These and other bodies are making another special effort this year.

THE CHILDREN'S HOME

Money is also needed for another activity of the Mission—the children's home, which at the moment looks after 51 orphan and neglected children, feeds them, educates them, and starts them in life. In this way over 1,500 children have been cared for and turned into good citizens.

There are children in the home who have been admitted temporarily to relieve their parents



"The Children have a Happy Christmas . . ."

at a difficult time. Two of them come from Lytham on the recommendation of the N.S.P.C.C. Their mother having had an operation and being still ill, was unable to contribute to their maintenance. Another couple of children have had their mother taken to a mental home, and their father is working out of town. Yet another child has lost his mother, and the father is away; he will be at the home till the father can accept him.

The children attend the day schools, and when they have finished their education suitable work is found for them. During this year two boys have become apprenticed in the building trade, and three girls have gone out to domestic service.

They don't leave till they have work to which to go. But that is no difficulty, for as Mr. T. A. Slater (the secretary and missionary) says "we get more applications for children to start work than we can provide."

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Two children have won scholarships this year—a boy for the Preston Grammar School, and a girl for the Deepdale Modern School. The headmaster of the Grammar School (Mr. N. Hodgson) has defrayed the cost of the boy's books—typical of the spirit of this school, the boys of which regularly make a collection among themselves to provide the children of the home with spending money on their annual holiday.

The children have a happy Christmas—the festivities include a dinner, presents and sweets, all from the Grammar School—in company with former Shepherd-street boys and girls who spend the day at the home. Father Christmas also visits them on Christmas night.

Such is Shepherd-street Mission—and more, for it has its social and spiritual comforts for outsiders, such as the Sunday School, and various methods of providing entertainments for the poor outside the home.

All this wonderful work is done with money from subscriptions and invested funds, but there is an overdraft which is a burden on the minds of the officials. At the end of September it amounted to £517, and by the end of November it was £561. The invested funds amount to £10,008, and the income from this, in addition to the subscriptions, helps the home to carry on.

The need is great; be as generous as you can and your own Christmas will be all the happier for it.