

Lifelong gratitude for Methodist child care

Happy memories
of the Homes
for Children
from a
little girl
who was there

My mother was left an orphan, and was put into the Livingstone Home (as it was then called, after David Livingstone). She grew up in the home and later married. I was her first child. She had two other children by a second husband.

When I was about seven years old she told me she was going away for a while to hospital, and if she did not come back she wanted me to be a good girl and go to a place she knew where I would be cared for.

As she feared, she did not come home again.

It wasn't long before I was to find out what she meant by being taken care of by someone who cared. I, with my young step-sister, was taken to the Methodist

Homes for Children at Cheltenham — only 24 years after the commencement of what was to become a really great and worthwhile work for the Lord.

I have an illustrated booklet giving an account of the work up to the Diamond Jubilee (1888-1948). It contains a picture of a group of children, one of whom could easily be my mother, taken about 1891. The book says that by the end of the first year 30 children had found shelter and been cared for. During the 88 years since the founding more than 2,000 children have found refuge there.

It was run in the beginning by a group of dedicated young women, and my mother would have been among the first 30 cared for.

I learned that the same matron who was there when I was there cared for my mother. Her name was Mrs Trudgeon, who we all called "Mother", and indeed she was a mother in the best sense of the word. I treasure the photo of her in this book. We loved her.

And now, after 88 years, the work is still being carried on by men and women who care, and

most, if not all, have some connection with the Methodist Church, which still maintains it — all done in and for the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who gave Himself for us.

I would like to record how grateful I have been all my life for the time I spent in the care of Livingstone Home. Once I got over the initial shock of losing my mother I could not have been happier anywhere else. I feel the Methodist Church gave me the start in life that I would not have had apart from them.

In later years I came to know the Lord as my personal Saviour, and the scripture and hymns I learned in the home will never leave me.

My husband and I spent the best part of 25 years on the mission field near where Livingstone labored. We crossed from west to east as he sought to do, but under very different circumstances — although even then it was not in the height of luxury!

I am happy that the Lord enabled me to bring help to some others as I was helped.

I.M.G. Kew.

**Bible readings
through to
March 1977**

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