

*"I keep six honest serving men (they taught me all I knew)  
Their names are What, and Why, and When, and How, and Where,  
and Who."*

*Kipling.*

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The  
Methodist Church of New Zealand.

# Our First Century

1822-1922

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SCHEME OF CELEBRATIONS

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*"The Time is out of joint. O rare delight  
That ever we were born to set it right."*

*Horton.*

*"Oh for a thousand tongues to sing my Great Redeemer's praise."*  
C. Wesley.

## The Centenary Celebrations

Great Inaugural Meeting at Wellington Conference, February, 1921.  
Inspirational and Educational Gatherings in every District during 1921.

### SUBJECTS—

The History of our Church.  
The Genius and Characteristics of Methodism.  
The Doctrines of our Church.  
The Place of Methodism in the World's Life.

(Sets of suitable slides will be available for Lantern Lectures.)

### COMMEMORATION SUNDAY, 22nd January, 1922.

(The hundredth Anniversary of Rev. S. Leigh's landing in New Zealand.)

### CENTENARY CONFERENCE, February, 1922.

In Auckland.

### THANKSGIVING SUNDAY. Early in 1922. (Date to be fixed by Conference.)

On this day Centenary services will be held in all our Churches.  
Thanksgiving Meetings during the following week.

## The Centenary Volume

300 Pages. Well Written. Well Illustrated.

A record of one hundred years of **Missionary Heroism—Evangelistic Successes—and Constructive Christianity.**

Author, **Rev. W. J. Williams**, Editor of "The Methodist," "The Vanguard," and "The New Zealand Methodist Times."

Hearts will be "strangely warmed" by reading this Centenary volume.  
Every Methodist should read the book. Talk about it. Order a copy through your Minister.

*"They perceived that this work was wrought of our God."*

*Neh. VI., 16.*

## **Our Centenary—Why we commemorate it.**

The golden sands are running low in the hour-glass of our first century. Before we turn the horologe which shall tell the years till 2022 A.D., we would have all our people briefly dwell with gratitude on the heroic past, then turn with high resolve to prepare for the crowded hours of glorious life in our second century.

Samuel Leigh, after five notable years in Australia, and a short visit to Maoriland, went back to England, took to himself an excellent wife, and gathered the wherewithal for a Mission in New Zealand. He landed with Mrs Leigh in this country on 22nd January, 1822. Around them was the fiercest savagery, with European and Maori bestiality most vile. They had but commenced the survey of their new field of effort when Walter Lawry called at the Bay of Islands en route for Tonga Tabu. He, in his own chartered ship, helped in the attempt to find a suitable starting point for Mr Leigh's work, and travelled more than two hundred miles, confronted daily with debauchery and cannibalism. Then on to Tonga, where he commenced a Mission equally dangerous and even lonelier.

In 1823, Messrs Stack and White reinforced the Leighs at “The Bay.” It had been originally intended to commence the Mission in the Thames Valley, but intertribal war made this impossible. Whangarei, Oruru and other parts were visited, but ultimately the Whangaroa District was chosen, thirty acres of land were bought, and the Mission launched.

### **The Following Outstanding Facts form Land Marks Along Our First Century.**

1. On Sunday, 8th June, 1823, the first Methodist service was held within fourteen years of the “Boyd” massacre, in the same locality. On this day the Rev. S. Leigh preached from the text, “Ebenezer, Hitherto hath the Lord Helped Us.”
2. Messrs Turner and Hobbs came in August of the same year, and, Mr Leigh being in poor health, returned immediately to New South Wales.
3. “Wesley Dale,” the Mission house at Kaeo, near Whangaroa, was destroyed by Maoris in January, 1827. Later in the year, however, three of those intrepid missionaries, after a short sojourn in Sydney, tried again, on the Hokianga, and were cheered by good success. Then came the palmy days of the Maori Mission, romantic and inspiring.
4. In 1840, James Watkin, Wesleyan Missionary, took The Evangel to the South Island before any other Church was represented there; and in the early forties, circuits began to be formed among the settlers in both Islands.
5. Rev. Robert Ward pioneered Primitive Methodism in this land in 1844. Some Bible Christians who attended his first service (an “open-air,” in New Plymouth) joined forces with him, and the cause prospered well. A Bible Christian chapel had been built in Taranaki in 1842.
6. The United Free Methodist Church “struck the trail” at Rangiora, in 1860. Their pathfinder was Mr George Booth, Rev. M. Baxter coming a few years later.
7. In 1877, in Christchurch, the Bible Christians made a second and more successful start, with Mr E. Reed as pastor, closely followed by Rev. W. Keast.
8. We closed up our ranks in 1896, and again in 1913, forming an unbroken “Methodist Church of New Zealand.”

*“The Centenary is a memorial of consecrated courage.”*

*"O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be."*  
R. Robinson.

## The Thanksgiving Fund.

OUR AIM : : : : : £40,000.

**SUPERNUMERARY  
FUND.  
£8500.**

To enable the Church to increase the annuities payable to retired Ministers and to Ministers' widows. In these days of H.C.L., these annuities are pitifully inadequate. For the prestige of the Church and for the love she bears to those who are laid aside, she lays this claim upon our hearts. Let this be a "Mortgage on our Honour."

**THEOLOGICAL  
COLLEGE.  
£8000.**

Our Second Century will be coloured by the Ministry of the men to be trained in our Theological Hall. Our Church is happy, indeed, in having as Principal Rev. C. H. Laws, B.A. It is for us to provide a suitable College. Every Church has just the Ministry that it deserves.

**CHURCH BUILDING  
AND LOAN FUND.  
£8000.**

In the second century of New Zealand Methodism, we shall need new sites, modern Church buildings, up-to-date Sunday Schools and Parsonages. We must wipe out Trust debts, and embark on new ventures. For all these, money can be had from the C.B. and Loan Fund free of interest, but the present capital is quite insufficient for all claims. This additional amount of £8000 will be in circulation in the Connexion through all time, saving upwards of £475 per annum in interest.

**FOREIGN MISSIONS.  
£5000.**

The splendid work nobly begun in the Solomons is to become our charge. An inspiring field. A responsive people. (They themselves raised £4000 this year for Foreign Missions.) This allocation of £5000 will greatly help our special Equipment Fund.

**WESLEY TRAINING  
COLLEGE.  
£3000  
(if required).**

On the farm at Paerata new buildings are to be erected for the accommodation of the lads. The foundation stone of the present wooden College at Three Kings was laid by Sir George Grey, Good Friday, 1848. This date pleads eloquently for a new erection. Surely after seventy-two years, it is high time that the desired buildings were completed.

**DEACONESS WORK.  
£3000.**

Here we have much encouragement. For women's special work in Circuit and City Missions for work as Missionary sisters in the South Seas and among Maori women, we are training SIX STUDENTS now. The future of our Deaconess Order is bright. This allocation is all needed to help the Institute and to develop the work.

*"The Centenary is a God-given opportunity for consecrated gifts."*

*"I am sick of opinions. Give me . . . a humble, gentle love of God and man."*  
J. Wesley.

**MEMORIAL CHURCH** We will all desire to erect a worthy memorial of  
at Kaeo. the faith and courage of our Heroes on the spot  
£1500. where they risked all for the salvation of the  
Maori.

**LOCAL PREACHERS' ASSOCIATION.** Of these good men, it might be said, "Their line  
£1000. is gone out through all the earth and their  
words to the end of the world." By encourag-  
ing our Local Preachers and helping to supply  
libraries for them, we shall be doing a very fine  
thing for "New Zealand, their Parish," in which  
they preach hundreds of sermons every Sunday.

**WORK AMONG MAORI GIRLS.** Not yet have we adequately dealt with the pro-  
blem of training the future wives and mothers  
of the young Maoris. Our Missionaries and our  
Methodist Women's M. Union are urgent in their  
plea that something should be done for our  
Maori girls NOW. Synods are recommending  
this to Conference. No definite allocation has  
been made yet. Our Maori people purpose to  
raise £2000, and it is hoped that we Pakehas will  
contribute £3000 for this object, both sums to  
be additional to the £40,000.

**FOR WORKING EXPENSES.** £1500. (Less than 4% of anticipated total.)

**BALANCE UN-ALLOCATED.** £500.

N.B.—The General Secretary has been set free generously by St. Albans Circuit officials to undertake a preliminary canvass with associated laymen in January and February, 1921. It is highly desirable to secure a substantial sum before next Conference. Already unsolicited promises from a few friends have assured a very considerable amount.

Now just a word with you please, reader. Just a word with your very own self. You see what we are aiming at. You surely want to help us. It is all for God and for those He loves that we are "getting busy." Will you seriously ask yourself "Is it not up to me to do what I can"? Earnestly ponder the spiritual phase of our movement as well as the financial. If you cannot give much money your heavenly Father knows; but if you can afford substantial help, we ask you to think—quietly and honestly think—as though no one but yourself and God were concerned in this matter; think. Ask yourself "How much can I give in Christ's name?" Not "How little will it be respectable to offer?"

One friend has promised £2000. Are there not three or four others in each Island who can and will do the same?

Two have promised three-figure gifts. Are there not scores of well-to-do Methodists who can do the like?

Two-figure promises are flowing in. Several thousands could follow in this. And if you can give only the "Widow's mite," the Divine voice will whisper in your heart, "You have done what you could."

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven."*

Mal. III., 10.

## What of the Future?

Discovery, Invention, and Research, with Economic and other re-adjustments will result in physical conditions and a social order that will almost "make all things new." The coming age will be as different from our own as was the "Aotearoa" of Marsden and Leigh from the New Zealand of to-day. But in the Kingdom of Heaven there is ever room for things "both new and old." We are well assured that, though changes great and far-reaching will come from many sides, the Christian verities will never be out of date nor the Fruits of the Spirit out of season. "We must get rid of God," shouted a street orator recently. Bawl as he might, however, his plight when the soap-box collapsed was a forcible hint that as he could not escape the laws of nature so he could not dispose airily of nature's God. Is it not to prevent men from supposing that they can get rid of the Creator, and to lead them so to love, that they will not want to get rid of Him, that Methodism has received her commission? Our Church stands as a witness for the Eternal, and as a distributing station for those spiritual voltages which, by the mercy of God, do persist in their mighty and silent influences through all times of flux and change.

"Truth still abides—God is not dead,  
And though some forms depart,  
A broader knowledge domes the head.  
A larger hope the heart."

We submit that all should yield to the urge of the future, and emulate the alert service and the generous sacrifices by which our Methodist heroes made this commemoration possible for us.

Scan the storied past of our Church in these Islands, and you will see that she is at her brightest and her best when she holds strongly to these victorious certainties:—

Deliverance from sin now by the Love of God.  
Conscious and joyful communion with the Comforter.  
Comradeship with all who love the Lord Jesus.  
Family Religion.  
Missionary Enthusiasm.  
Generous and Systematic Giving.

Some of these terms are old-fashioned, but they represent facts which are eternally fresh, and spiritual forces that will make any Church to triumph. For Methodists they should be "the irreducible minimum." May these certitudes grip our Souls.

We face the challenge of the Twentieth Century in these Celebrations, and we will pray and work:—

For a warmer life within our Church.  
For more loyalty to Methodism and her doctrines.  
For a fuller knowledge of our History.  
For a revival of intercessory prayer with a re-building of family altars.

For a Centenary Thanksgiving Fund of £40,000 to strengthen some of the most important agencies of our Church. (The objects of this Fund are shown on Page 6.)

"Now God save you, Merry Gentlemen," as the old-time greeting has it.

"We give you good morrow. Pray you lend us your thought and your aid."

We commit to God our venture and rely upon you all for your help in this our Centenary, ours and yours.

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*There, where our vanguard camps to-day our rear shall rest to-morrow."*

*"We'll crowd Thy gates with thankful songs,  
High as the heavens our voices raise."*

*I. Watts.*

## Our Centenary Visitors.

Invitations have been sent to:—

Rev. Samuel Chadwick, of the British Wesleyan Conference.

A Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America, to be appointed by the Board of Bishops.

Prince Tugi, Consort of the Queen of Tonga, and a member of our church.

The General Conference of Australasia has appointed

The Rev. Alex. McCallum (President) and Rev. J. G. Wheen (Missionary Secretary).

## Gipsy Smith.

Has been invited to conduct an Evangelistic Mission throughout the Dominion in 1923.

N.B.—It is earnestly desired that in the meantime Revivals may be experienced in all our Circuits as an important phase of the Centenary movement.

## Centenary Points.

### 1. LEAGUE OF PRAYER.

To revive the practice of Intercession and Supplication. There is no greater need in our Church than Prayer—United, Continuous and Believing.

### 2. RELIGION IN THE HOME.

The rebuilding of the Family Altar in every household would mean a renewal of vital religion in our land. Devotional Manuals are recommended to those who need them for Domestic Worship.

### 3 STUDY CIRCLES.

It is urged that in Study Circles and at Week-night Meetings, our people shall have their attention centred upon the great facts of Methodist History, and on the Doctrines and Polity of our Church. Suitable Text Books are recommended.

### 4. GRADED EXAMINATIONS.

Prizes will be awarded among our young people on the results of examinations. Text Books:—

**Junior:** Telford's "Popular History of Methodism."

**Intermediate:** "What Methodism Stands For," by Fitchett.

**Senior:** Findlay's "Wesley's World Parish."

*"The Centenary is a Divine Summons to a Consecrated Life."*

*We break new seas to-day  
Our eager keels quest unaccustomed waters.*

*So, Ho for the Pilot's orders \* \* \* \* \*  
Whatever course He makes,  
For He sees beyond the skyline and He never makes mistakes.*

*J. Ozenham.*

## Centenary Officials

**General Secretary:** REV. ALBERT C. LAWRY, Rugby St., Christchurch.

**Organising Secretaries:** REVS. T. G. BROOKE and W. A. SINCLAIR,  
Auckland, assisted by REV. C. H. OLDS, B.A., Christchurch.

**Chairman of Central Committee:** REV. P. N. KNIGHT, B.A., Auckland.

**Conference Conveners of Central Committee:** REVS. C. H. LAWS, B.A.,  
and W. J. ELLIOTT, Auckland.

**Treasurers Centenary Thanksgiving Fund:** MESSRS. JAMES BUTTLE  
and W. R. TUCK, M.A., LL.M., Auckland.

*“Then Samuel took a stone . . .  
and called it Ebenezer, saying  
Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.”*

Samuel Leigh's text at the first Methodist Service in  
New Zealand.

*“Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea.  
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee.  
Our hearts, our prayers, our hopes, our tears,  
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears  
Are all with thee—are all with thee.”*

*(Longfellow, “Building of the Ship.”)*