

Stone laying at site of new church

Before about 1000 people, the Minister of Maori Affairs, Mr Hanan, re-established the Whiteley Memorial Stone at a public stonelaying service on the site of the new £57,406 Whiteley Methodist Church on the corner of Liardet and Courtenay Streets, New Plymouth, on Saturday afternoon.

The Methodist Church was doing good work for the Maori people, Mr Hannan said. Hostels had been set up and now young people living away from home, instead of being thrown on their own resources, had the advantage during their formative years of living in Christian homes.

With the great migration of Maori people to city areas, there would be grave problems if young Maoris were not helped. The church could help.

Mr Hanan announced that a new Methodist Church project, which would be an experiment in the care and welfare of young Maoris, was to be established in Auckland. He added that he could say no more than this.

He thanked the Methodist Church for what it was doing for the Maori people and then re-established the historic stone.

EXPRESSION OF FAITH

On behalf of the Whiteley Church board of trustees, Mr L. M. Moss said the new church was an expression of the faith of the congregation, the minister, the Rev. W. H. Greenslade, the trustees and the people of New Plymouth and Taranaki.

"We have not been unmindful that worthy and dignified buildings in other lands were not built without much effort and sacrifice," said Mr Moss. It was that view of the trustees that they would do less than their duty if the future church, planned to bear its witness over the next 150 years, was less than worthy of its high purpose.

"And so the difficulties of our times have not deterred this people from striving to give to future generations something worthy of our faith," he said.

He added that Mr Greenslade had worked unceasingly and, on behalf of the trustees, asked him to lay the foundation stone. Mr Greenslade said that when negotiations had started for a new church after the destruction by fire of the old church, the trustees had been told that a church was not a commercial asset. But, he added, there was no greater asset than a Christian church.

Mr Greenslade then laid the foundation stone. The Whiteley Collect, used the day after the

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