

R.D.H.
Jing

10th November, 1971

Miss E. McKay
Adelaide Bible Institute
VICTOR HARBOUR, 5211

Dear Miss McKay,

We are sending you the information about the Retta Dixon Home and trust that this will be some help to you. You were asking about the possibility of someone going to help for 5 or 6 weeks. Mr. Pattemore would welcome this. It may be that the Home would not be functioning on a normal basis because of the school holidays and the children's camps, but in any case they would appreciate your help, which could be given.

How did you have in mind going? The cheapest way from Adelaide would be by coach and under ordinary circumstances they go through quite quickly. The Home would be prepared to provide all the food and hospitality without charge. On a short-term basis I'm sorry that under ordinary circumstances we cannot do anything to help with the travelling expenses.

You were wanting to know a little bit more about the Home - while it is called Retta Dixon Home actually there are eight cottages and the Superintendent's residence. The children are housed under what has been called the "cottage system". The number of children in each cottage vary slightly - generally averaging from about 8 to 12 and as far as is possible are graded according to the average family. The youngest is generally about three to four years in age and the oldest about fourteen. They are all Aboriginal or part coloured children.

They go to different schools in the Darwin area, leaving about 8.30 and returning about 3.45. They take a cut lunch with them and this is prepared generally by the older children under the supervision of the cottage parent. All food and clothing for the children is provided by the Home, as is the food for the Staff. There is generally an average of about 80 children in the Home.

The cottages are "all electric". There is a frig in each, an electric stove and other appliances. The meals are prepared by the cottage parents for the children in their cottage. Light washing is done in the cottage but sheets, towels and other heavy items are done in the laundry on the site by paid help.

- 2 -

Children attend the A.I.M. Community Church for the Sunday morning service and Sunday School. The House parents are responsible to go with the children in the morning. Attendance at night is optional. Usually only the older children are allowed to go at night and supervision is arranged with those of the staff who are attending.

A roster is arranged so that house parents can have a day off each week, as well as some time during the day while the children are at school. Furlough is granted after three years and help given with travelling expenses to the capital cities. There is a small salary available.

No doubt you would like to have a lot more information than is given here, but we would say that there is urgent need for staff and any help would be appreciated.

We are enclosing a preliminary questionnaire for you to answer so that we might get to know a little more about you.

Looking forward to hearing further from you and praying that the Lord will guide and direct you to the place of His appointing.

Yours sincerely, in Him,

E. A. Collins
General Secretary

EAC.JMB
Encls.