

Mrs. White

The Open Door

The Missionary Organ
of the
Methodist Church
of N.Z.

MARCH, 1929



NURSE MURIEL STEWART.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

UNITY PRESS, AUCKLAND

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Names and Postal Addresses of Missionaries, Missionary Sisters and Lay Missionaries

SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION DISTRICT

MISSIONARIES.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. J. F. GOLDIE | ... | ... | ... | ... | Pukenui Road, Epsom, Auckland. |
| Rev. V. Le C. BINET | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |
| Rev. J. R. METCALFE | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |
| Rev. A. A. BENSLEY | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |
| Rev. TOM DENT | ... | ... | ... | ... | Patutiva, Marovo, Solomon Islands |
| Rev. A. H. CROPP | ... | ... | ... | ... | Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea |
| Rev. A. H. VOYCE | ... | ... | ... | ... | Kieta, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea. |
| Rev. F. H. HAYMAN | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands. |

MISSIONARY DOCTORS.

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|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Dr. E. G. SAYERS | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Dr. CLIFFORD JAMES | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |

MISSIONARY SISTERS.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sister ETHEL McMILLAN | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |
| Nurse LILLIAN BERRY | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Sister MAY BARNEIT | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |
| Sister ELIZABETH COMMON | ... | ... | ... | ... | Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea. |
| Sister LINA JONES | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Sister JEAN DALZIEL | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Nurse EDNA WHITE | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Sister GRACE McDONALD | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |
| Sister VIVIAN ADKIN | ... | ... | ... | ... | Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea. |
| Nurse MURIEL STEWART | ... | ... | ... | ... | Gizo, British Solomon Islands. |

NATIVE MISSIONARIES.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| Rev. JOELI SOAKAI | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Rev. NAPATALI FOTU | ... | ... | ... | ... | Simbo, Roviana, Solomon Islands |
| Rev. PAULA HAVEA | ... | ... | ... | ... | Roviana, Solomon Islands. |

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THE OPEN DOOR.

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 Probert Chambers,
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Editor: Rev. E. P. BLAMIRE

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VOL. VII. NO. 4.

MARCH 20, 1929.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

SPECIAL MISSIONARY YEAR

RESOLUTIONS OF CONFERENCE.

1. That in view of the rapidly growing need of our Solomon Islands Mission and the need for extensive and intensive work in that Field, the Conference directs that a special missionary effort be made throughout the Connexion in 1929 with a view to raising permanently the missionary spirit of the Church.
2. That in this special appeal the spiritual objective of all missionary work occupy an outstanding position, and that it be a campaign of missionary education and inspiration as well as appeal.
3. That an appeal be made to our people to contribute £20,000 this year to Foreign Missions, of which amount a certain sum shall be devoted to medical work.
4. That Sunday, May 26th, be set aside as a day when the whole Church shall give itself to prayer on behalf of Foreign Missions.

Immediate and Urgent Needs of the Mission Field.

The General Secretary recently paid a visit to the Mission Field to confer with the workers. After full discussion in the Mission Synod the following were declared to be immediate and urgent requirements:—

1. A fourth European Missionary for Bougainville.
2. A Missionary Sister or Sisters for Siwai, Bougainville.
3. A technical instructor for the head station at Kokengolo, Roviana.
4. An additional teaching Sister for Kokengolo, Roviana.
5. A new Sisters' Home for Bambatana, Choiseul.
6. Erection of the Helena Goldie Hospital.
7. A launch for Dr. Sayers to enable him to do medical patrol work.
8. Sufficient funds to put all the medical work on a solid foundation.
9. A second Missionary for Senga, Choiseul.

A Year of Special Missionary Effort.

The President appeals to the whole Church for support.



REV. J. F. GOLDIE, President of the Conference.

The Church has decided that there is to be no retreat from the advanced positions we have taken up on our Mission Field. I thank God for that decision. Any hesitation or faltering on this matter would have been disloyalty to our Lord, and treachery to our dark-skinned brethren in the Solomons. The Banner of the Cross has been planted with great daring in these advanced positions, and this decision means that "the men are to be brought up to the colours, and not the colours back to the men."

But it is one thing to *decide* that a thing is to be done, and it is quite another thing to *do* it. When we took over the Solomons as our own field of labour some fears were expressed that our chief difficulty would be to find the *men* to do the work. The question of finding the money did not seem so difficult. Now, however we have to re-adjust our ideas. Devoted young men and women—fully qualified in every way—are freely offering for this work. Filled with the love of Christ, they are willing to leave home and friends and good positions, and face

all the discomfort of the strange new conditions of life which obtain in the Solomons, are willing to brave the very real dangers of a malarial climate, that the people there may be won for Christ, and *we cannot send them* because we have not the money which is absolutely necessary for their equipment and support.

The lack of necessary capital for natural growth and extension will cripple any business, and in many cases will mean the loss of the capital already invested. When this loss includes not merely money, but years of sacrificial toil, years of hardship and ill-health, and in many cases the sacrifice of life itself, as in our Mission district, the loss is tragic.

Extension of the Work.

The work of our Church in the Solomons has extended in all directions since New Zealand took charge in 1922. In that year we had only 13 European workers in the field; to-day we have over 30. Since that year we have established five new European Missionaries' Stations. Two new hospitals, in charge of highly-qualified medical men and staffs of trained nurses, are in full swing—doing splendid work for the native race. A well-equipped sawmill is enabling us to make good use of our beautiful native timbers for our buildings, and to build and repair our own boats. In 1922 we had hardly touched the great and still heathen island of Bougainville, but to-day we have at work on that island three white Missionaries and their wives, two Mission Sisters, and about 20 fine Native Teachers on stations of their own. In 1922 the Mission District raised locally the sum of £2,520, but in 1928 the local income had grown to £6,134—considerably more than double—and in addition the people had built their own churches and teachers' houses, and in many cases helped to pay the teachers' stipends.

The Missionary Income Stationary.

During the same period—while some splendid gifts for special purposes had been received—the ordinary income of our Foreign Missionary Society in our Home Church has remained almost stationary, and the Board of Missions

is faced with the alternative of a policy of retrenchment—which means recalling some of our workers and closing their stations—or asking our Home Churches for more generous support for this great enterprise. We, therefore, want to place the whole position frankly before our people and ask them in the name of our Lord, not to let us down. We have faith in our Methodist people, and are asking this year that the Church should give special attention to the Missionary enterprise of New Zealand Methodists. More knowledge of the scope of our Missionary operations and the problems we are facing, more sympathy with the difficulties of the Native Church, more support in earnest wrestling prayer for God's blessing, and more sacrificial giving. We are asking for the amount of £20,000 this year, instead of the amount usually subscribed. This will mean heroic giving on the part of many, and it will mean some sacrifice for all, but it will mean great blessing for the Church here and in the Islands.

Shall We Retrench?

It may occur to some to ask whether we cannot balance accounts by curtailing our expenditure in the Mission district? Needless to say that this has been carefully considered by the Boards of Missions and by the Mission Synod. Every year the estimates of expenditure have been most anxiously considered and carefully revised, and every year the Board has strained its resources to the utmost to meet the absolute necessities of our ever-growing work. But the amount allocated has always been several thousands below the carefully framed estimates of expenditure, and to me has fallen the painful task of ruthlessly pruning again—not only the estimates, but the hopes and expectations of our workers, and to tell the Sisters on Choiseul that they must still live on in the old house that is literally tumbling about their heads; to tell the Sisters on Bougainville that they must be content for a while longer with a leaf humpy to live in; to others that they must still do their work in a native canoe, as there is no money available for a boat or a launch; and, worst of all, to tell the natives who have pleaded for teachers so long that they must wait a little longer. No, we cannot retrench without endangering much of the work already done. At the present time in our Solomon Islands district, for the number of workers engaged, we are spending considerably less, and raising more than any other Mission district in the Pacific, and yet our work

will challenge comparison with any other. In the considered opinion of missionary experts who know intimately every Mission field in the Pacific, our work in the Solomons compares favourably with that of all the other districts they have visited. But our work will be crippled by further retrenchment. This year the Board has decided to close one of the white missionaries' stations on Choiseul. What effect this will have on the minds of our young native converts it is not difficult to determine. Another missionary society may occupy the ground, but it is like leaving our deserted infant on the door-step of another. It is a quaint notion of progress to open a new station on Bougainville by closing one already established in another part of the field.

I feel sure that we have only to put the position frankly before our Methodist people and the needs of this great work will be met.

A Challenge to the Church.

The glorious traditions of our Methodist Church challenge us to see this great work through. No other Church has seen such triumphs in the Pacific as our own beloved Church. From Tonga right through to New Guinea her messengers have gone at the command of our Lord, preaching the Cross of Christ, and everywhere they have gone the Cross has triumphed. The untamed passions of cruel, blood-thirsty savages have been subdued; from the fetters of gross superstitions and grotesque delusions men have been delivered; and from darkness and ignorance and degradation as deep as hell whole communities have been saved, and brought into the light and liberty and happiness of the Christian life. The difference the coming of the Christ makes to these people is the difference between life and death, between heaven and hell, and these miracles of Grace are taking place wherever the Gospel is being proclaimed in the Solomons to-day.

The Challenge of a Great Opportunity.

Again, we are challenged to-day by a magnificent opportunity. The missionaries of yesterday laboured under quite different conditions. The work that could not be done immediately could be done next month or next year. It is not so in any part of our Mission field to-day. There, as elsewhere, it is the day of rapid change. Civil government follows hard on the heels of the missionary, and often by its unsympathetic attitude and hampering

restrictions renders a difficult task harder still. A godless commercialism—out to exploit the native for selfish ends, and with countless evils in its train—make our work the more urgent. An anti-Christian civilisation is penetrating every corner of the Pacific, and the unconverted native must go down before it. There is nothing but the Gospel of Jesus Christ can save him. The opportunity is there to-day and our Church must take it or lose it for ever. Doors open to us this year will be closed next year.

Again our own pledges to our Native Brethren challenge us. We cannot repudiate our responsibility in this matter. We have said to Sister Churches: "Hands off—this is our job." We have said to our Methodist brethren in Australia: "Leave this work to us." We stand pledged to the Native Church to see the business through, and we cannot, without disloyalty to Christ and dishonour to ourselves, fail in our support of this great adventure.

Come Over and Help Us.

Once again, the Command of our Lord, the heroic efforts of the Native Church, the deep need—the urgency that rings in the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us," all challenge our faith, our courage, our love. We cannot pass these by without passing Jesus by. As I pray and plan for the work of the missionaries, the doctors, the nurses, the teachers, the appeal of the thousands yet unreached comes to me with the urgency of despair. The black hands from dark Bougainville—stretched out in mute appeal—seem to me to bear the "print of the nails," and in their cry I hear His voice Who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these my brethren, ye did it unto Me." I think of the heroic yet pathetic efforts of our Native Church which is sending out its best young men to preach, and making sacrificial gifts of money, and I say, No, we cannot—we dare not—let them think we have failed them.

Mrs. Goldie Appeals to the Women of the Church.



MRS. J. F. GOLDIE.

I feel it is hardly necessary to appeal to you women of New Zealand for I believe that our people in the Solomons are already very dear

Love and Sacrifice.

to you. I see so many women smile lovingly at Gina as we walk through the streets of Auckland. Something else I see blooming gloriously wherever I go—a flower which has become sacred to many of us—the red Hibiscus. Twenty-one years ago on one black day, the boys and girls carried masses of it, the day God's awful voice thundered in my ears, "Be still!" Many times through the years, this flower has spoken its message of love and sacrifice. It has accompanied some of the flower of Tonga and Samoa's womanhood, and your own beautiful girl, Gladys Chivers. I would like you to remember too, some of our gentle-natured, beautiful native girls, who have wooed and won so many to the feet of the Master. Many of them left their homes with their husbands, to carry the message of love and peace to the darkest corners of the Solomons. Many of them gave their lives. Have you heard of Ruth, and of dear little Rebekah, who, by her winsome beauty, attracted the first Bougainville natives across to Mono? She told them such wonderful stories of Roviana, that they longed to go there to school, and there they found the Saviour whom Rebekah

loved so well. They never rested until they had taken the Lotu back to their own Bougainville. Do you know Miriam, who has lived for so many years on Bougainville, exiled from Roviana, fighting for the people she calls her children? But the sweetest of them all is Grace! A gentle little woman with a very soft voice and a beautiful face—daughter of a long line of chiefs, she is now at the hardest post of all—the King's village. Grace has suffered greatly, but has been utterly faithful for twenty years, and has taught many to love the Christ, by her own understanding love. There are many others I wish you knew, so that you might love them too. These little women have given their very hearts' blood that this work should live.

The doctors and their wives, the sisters, and

many of the other workers who are now in the Field, are all known to you, for they are your very own. So I know you will be thinking of them all through the year. They are there amongst much peril, working side by side with the Master, doing the work He delighted in doing on earth, and is still doing—healing the lepers, restoring the demented, giving dear little children back to their mothers' arms.

Dear women of New Zealand, when you see the red Hibiscus glowing and beautifying your wonderful country, will you pray that it may yet be the symbol of life to the people of the Solomons. Pray earnestly that not only the right people, but enough money will be given so that this work for which many have died and lived, may not suffer.

An Appeal to Auxiliary Women.

By Mrs. G. Bowron,

President of the Methodist Women's Missionary Union.

May I ask you all to make the most of the great opportunity we have this year of seeing and hearing Mr. and Mrs. Goldie, as they



MRS. G. BOWRON,
President of the N.Z. Women's
Missionary Union.

speak to gatherings of our people all over the Dominion. Let us show our appreciation of the wonderful work being done in the Solomon Islands by a worthy response to the appeal that is to be made for increased interest and support. No Church has a more romantic Field nor more devoted workers than ours. Let us see to it that we do not prove unworthy of the sacrifices and labours of our devoted Missionaries by failure in prayer and sacrifice on our part.

The Foreign Mission Journal says that it is the custom in many places to endeavour to preach one great missionary sermon in the year and expect that to enlighten and inspire the people. "How would it do to put all the salt we expect to use for an entire year into one dinner?" Some pastors think that their main business is to keep everything quiet and smooth in the church. It is like rubbing a cat to hear it purr: but remember that when a cat is purring it is not catching mice.

"A living sacrifice" is the life poured out in loving ministry for others. How often our own lives are impoverished because we reserve them for ourselves!

An Appeal to the Men of the Church.

By Mr. T. P. Hughson, Vice-President of the Conference.

The late Conference in Auckland was unique in its demonstration of evidences of the liberality of New Zealand Methodism. The opening of Trinity Theological College free of debt, the opening of the beautiful chapel at Wesley College, Paerata, the handsome gift of an anonymous donor of £11,000 to assist needy Methodists are all proof of this.

But while we thank God and rejoice in such liberality we have to note that our Foreign Missionary income is not increasing. I specially desire to draw the attention of the men of New Zealand Methodism to the fact that we are making this year an outstanding effort on behalf of the Foreign Mission Fund. The

Conference has placed the target at £20,000, and this I am sure will be reached.

If men who are able will double their ordinary subscriptions, the objective will undoubtedly be gained.

We are thankful for what the Women's Auxiliaries and Bible Classes are doing, but we look to the men of the Church to rally to the assistance of this great work. Meetings for men will be held this year in every circuit, when information will be given and the claims, particularly of the medical work, will be stressed. I appeal to the men to put their strength into this year's effort.

An Appeal to the Young Men and Young Women of N.Z. Methodism.

By Miss Elsie Sewell,

Travelling Secretary, N.Z. Methodist Young Women's Bible Class Movement.

The Conference days which have just concluded in Auckland have indeed been days which will live long in the memories of the delegates. Perhaps the most striking fact was that in all the public functions one was conscious of a sense of expectancy that this year is going to be one of widening horizons and increased missionary interest in our Church.

Very often when people in New Zealand read of the great world movements, or of a Conference such as was held at Jerusalem last year, we experience a sense of unrealness, of isolation—we are so far from the fields of all these happenings. But surely the Family Consciousness—the bonds of Brotherhood can annihilate this feeling. As Mr. Goldie told us of the work being done in the Solomon Islands, we realised that this share of the world's task was our own. Had anyone asked, nineteen hundred years ago, who was doing the most vital work in the world of that day, no one would have named an obscure teacher in Palestine with a following of a dozen disciples; but the then unregarded Jesus was setting at work the strongest of all forces by shewing in His life the truth of what God is—that work changed the world. Is not all the missionary work of our Church just such work?

It is a remarkable coincidence that the theme for our Easter Camp Studies this year

should be "Widening Horizons." The policy of our Bible Class Movement has from the beginning been largely missionary, and so closely is our life connected with that of our Church that we must share the stimulus of contact with the front-line workers of our far flung fields which is coming to our Church this year. We are glad that this is so, because we believe that the wider our interests, the greater our giving and spending in this work, the more vital and full will be our life. Dr. David has expressed this belief in the following words:—

As wider skies broke on his view
 God greatedened in his growing mind,
 Each year he dreamed His God anew
 And left his older God behind.
 He saw the boundless scheme dilate
 In star and blossom, sky and clod,
 And as the Universe grew great
 He dreamed for it a greater God.

The Bible Class members extend to Mr. and Mrs. Goldie and their family the very warmest of welcome and the assurance that we shall listen to their story with the greatest of interest because we feel that we have a share with them in the work to which they have given such splendid service.

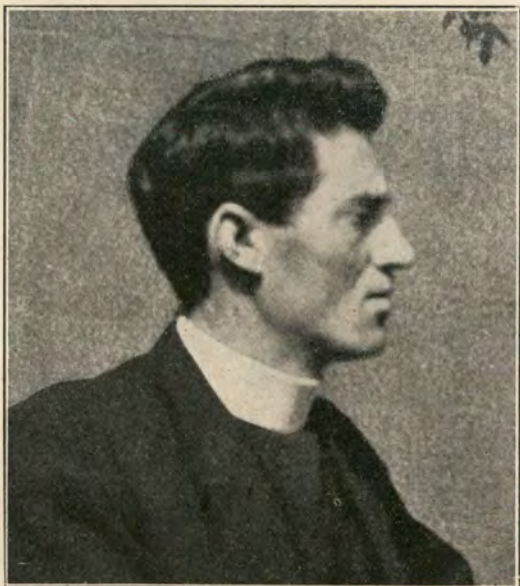
The Rev. E. P. Blamires, General Secretary, appeals to the Young People.

"Widening Horizons" is the title of the Camp Studies this year in the Y.W.B.C. movement, and already thought is stirring, vision is clarifying, purpose is forming. Let us apply it to the Christian adventure of Missions. As we come closer to the heart of Christ, we discover it is beating with an unceasing compassion for humanity. The Great Shepherd is yearning for the "other sheep—not of this fold," and His dream is of "One Flock, One Shepherd." The Methodist Church of New Zealand is this year seeking to share more truly than ever the purpose upon which our Lord has set His heart. Our Bible Class Movement, and our Y.P. Societies are a part of the Church, and will, I

am sure, take an active part in the Missionary campaign of 1929. When the Missionary deputation comes along we will regard it as one of the important dates on the calendar. Our stewardship will be prayerfully considered. (A rise in salary may be beautifully celebrated by a rise in missionary giving!) Our personal disciplinings will be permeated with the missionary spirit, and it will be a great and good thing if some one near to us should catch from us the glow. Seven thousand Bible Class members can make a notable contribution to the success of this year's programme.

N.B.—Be sure to read without delay "Roads to the City of God," by Basil Mathews.

Rev. A. H. Cropp.



REV. A. H. CROPP.

After seven years of hard pioneering work on Bougainville and Buka, the Rev. A. H. Cropp has at last been able to leave on furlough. His long-delayed ordination took place at the recent Conference in Auckland. Mr. Cropp was the chief speaker at the great missionary meeting which crowded the Pitt Street Church, and the story he had to tell in his own quaint and humorous fashion captured and

thrilled the audience. He is the stuff of which great missionaries are made. He had asked to be sent to the most difficult and the most dangerous mission field in the Pacific, and he has had his desire abundantly gratified in the work on Bougainville and Buka. Glorifying in hardships and revelling in difficult tasks, he has laid solid foundations in these islands of the Western Solomons, as the pioneer European missionary.

He had scarcely landed at Auckland before he was begging to be allowed to return to his loved work and people. The thought of two missionary sisters alone on the mission station at Skotolan, constantly haunted him. In order to secure permission to return immediately he consulted a doctor, and, armed with a favourable medical certificate, he gave no peace to the President of the Conference and the General Secretary, and finally consent was given. So, after three months furlough he takes up his work again. Many in New Zealand will be disappointed at not having an opportunity of hearing Mr. Cropp's great story; but he will be remembered in prayer as he and Mrs. Cropp and their infant child return to their beautiful station at Skotolan.

The most momentous fact in the universe, so far as we know, is that 800,000,000 human beings are still groping in ignorance without knowledge of God.

The Solomons Revisited.

By the Rev. W. A. Sinclair.

In accordance with the resolution of the Board of Missions, that I should visit the Mission field and attend the Mission Synod, I left Auckland on Monday, October 22nd, for Sydney. After spending three days in that city, I left on Wednesday, October 31st., accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Clifford James, by the S.S. Mataram, for the Solomon Islands. Tulagi, the seat of government, was reached on Thursday, November 8th and there Dr. James and I called on Captain Kidson, the Acting Administrator. We also interviewed Dr. Hetherington, the Chief Medical Officer, and discussed our medical work with him. Dr. Hetherington, a Canadian Methodist, is most sympathetic with Missionary work, and spoke very appreciatively of the work of Dr. Sayers. He stated that it was their intention to spend more money on medical work.

It was not until Wednesday, November 14th, that Hawthorn Sound was reached in the Western Solomons, where I found the Rev. J. F. Goldie, Chairman of the district, awaiting my arrival. The head station at Kokengolo was reached next day, and early opportunity was taken to confer with the Chairman regarding the programme for my visit.

Some of the members of Synod had not then arrived, and it was Saturday, November 17th, before they had all reached Kokengolo, where the Synod was to be held. Friday and Saturday were fully occupied in an inspection of the College, School, Hospital, Sawmill, and Banga plantation.

HEAD STATION.

The head station at Kokengolo, Roviana, is now crowded with buildings—too crowded—Mission house, Sister's home, doctor's house, headmaster's house, church, college, school, school boys' houses, hospital, store, electric power and wireless houses, and sawmill, finding a place on this point of land. Surrounding the station is the coco-nut plantation of over 100 acres. A new Mission house is needed, and provision must soon be made for it.

About 50 students have been in residence during the year, and the College is under the principalship of the Rev. J. F. Goldie, with the Rev. F. H. Hayman as assistant. It is now recommended that Mr. Hayman be recognised as Vice-Principal. Nine students have been sent out as teachers during this year.

The school under the headmaster, Mr. Hayman, has a large attendance, and is doing good work. Sister Lina Jones specialises in Kindergarten work, but also assists in the older school classes, and in the college. Native assistants under the direction of the European teachers are proving their worth.

GENEROUS GIVING.

The income of the Mission Field for 1928 amounted to the munificent sum of £6255, of which £1000 is ear-marked for the Helena Goldie Hospital, and £100 for the new Theological College at Auckland. The direct gifts of the native people of the Roviana circuit were no less than £2,500.

On Sunday a welcome was extended to Dr. and Mrs. James and myself. Monday was devoted to interviews with the Chairman concerning educational, medical and other matters preparatory to the commencement of Synod. Tuesday morning saw all the members of Synod, ministerial and lay, together with the native ministers and teachers, gathered for a most helpful Communion service. Synod opened in full session on Wednesday morning, and continued until the Journal was signed on Saturday morning. There was full and frank discussion on all matters and important recommendations were made to the Board of Missions.

VISITATION OF THE DISTRICT.

On Tuesday, November 27th, I said good-bye to Kokengolo, and set out on a visitation of the other Mission stations. As my time was limited, I was unable to visit Patutiva, in the Marovo Lagoon, where the Rev. and Mrs. Tom Dent have done such fine work, and have what is regarded as a model Mission station.

In view of his early departure for New Zealand, the Chairman was only able to accompany us as far as Bilua. I had as fellow passengers on the Mission vessel, the Tandanya, the Revs. A. H. Cropp and A. H. Voyce, also Dr. James, as it was thought advisable that he should, at the earliest possible date, see the work and the conditions existing on Choiseul and Bougainville. From Bilua to Rabaul, the Tandanya was captained very capably by Mr. Cropp. We took with us from Kokengolo five students, who were to commence work as native teachers at Bougainville. At Bilua, two teachers for Buka were taken on board, while in the

Shortland Islands, two more were picked up for Bougainville, making a party of nine new teachers for Bougainville and Buka.

VELLA LAVELLA CIRCUIT.

Our first call was made at Bilua, on the island of Vella Lavella, where the Rev. A. A. Bensley is the Missionary in charge. Since I was there eight years ago, the Mission house and Sister's home have been re-built, and a fine new Native Church erected. The Mission launch, the "Bilua," is having a Semi-Deisel engine installed, and when this is completed, the station may be said to be well equipped.

Sister May Barnett, at the Sister's Home, has a number of particularly fine girls under her care, who are receiving a good practical education. Sister May will soon be leaving for a well earned furlough.

The plantation was inspected, and was found to be in good order, but the work on the plantation is greatly hampered through lack of proper equipment. A new central, modern, copra drier instead of the present three old-fashioned driers, and a motor truck, would much facilitate the working of this large plantation.

CHOISEUL CIRCUIT.

Our next call was made at Bambatana, on the island of Choiseul, where the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe has resided for a number of years. I regret that time could not be spared for a visit to Senga on the other side of the island, where the Rev. V. Le C. Binet has done such fine pioneer work. The work at Bambatana was found to be in a healthy condition, the singing here being particularly good.

The Sisters' Home is in charge of Sister Ethel McMillan and Grace McDonald, and here also excellent work is being done in the education of native girls. The house is in a very dilapidated condition and the erection of a new building is imperative.

As the Synod determined that Bambatana should be the location of the second medical station and the headquarters of Dr. James, very careful attention was given to the selection of sites for the doctor's house and the native hospital. It was decided to erect the doctor's house on the hill, but an ideal site for the hospital is not available. The most suitable situation possible was selected. The clearing of the sites and the erection of buildings was to be put in hand immediately. Most of the timber for the doctor's house had already been cut

by our own sawmill. The hospital is to be a native building which will cost the Mission very little, as almost all the materials and labour will be supplied by the native people.

SHORTLAND ISLANDS.

A visit was paid to Mono, in the Treasury Island. A Tongan teacher is in charge of the people of this island. Dr. James put in a very busy day here and worked until late at night ministering to the ailments of over fifty people. Faisi had to be visited to get a clearance for our vessel, as we were about to proceed from the British Solomon Islands to the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. To enter our boat in the Mandated Territory we had to make a journey of 100 miles up the east coast of Bougainville to Kieta, which was the nearest point of entry for Bougainville. We then had to make the same journey south again to reach Siwai, our Mission Station on the south-west of the island, thus wasting two days in useless travelling, but necessitated by the boundary line between these two practically British territories.

BOUGAINVILLE—TONU.

We arrived at Siwai beach on the south-west coast of Bougainville on Wednesday, December 5th. This beach has a notorious reputation for its dangerous surf. Here Mr. Voyce lost his phonograph and other belongings on his first landing, and here a few months ago, when the Chairman of the district landed, the ship's dinghy was smashed. I was, however, particularly fortunate, as there was practically no surf, in marked contrast to my landing there on my previous visit eight years ago, when our boat was capsized in the surf, and we had some rather exciting experiences.

It took a considerable time to land the teachers and their belongings, also the boxes of goods sent by the Women's Auxiliaries. These had all to be re-packed in benzine cases, as they had to be carried by the natives to the Mission Station at Tonu, a distance of ten miles. When this work had been completed, Dr. James and I led the way on foot to Tonu. The road, about twelve feet wide, was in excellent condition, as there had not been any rain for a week or more. It runs for almost the whole of the distance through dense bush, and is splendidly shaded by magnificent trees, some of which are 200 feet high. Pigeons coo-ed and parrots screamed from the tree-tops. One of the teachers who was with us was sent on in

advance to Tonu to inform Mrs. Joyce of our arrival. He returned with a bicycle, but I had determined to complete the journey on foot, and this I did without any discomfort. The carriers with their heavy loads straggled in later. We found Mrs. Joyce and baby well, and needless to state, she was delighted to welcome her husband and the visitors. Mr. Joyce had been away just over six weeks, and during that time she had seen only two white people, one a recruiter of labour boys and the other a Government official. During all these weeks this brave woman had directed the work of the Station and had lived among these dark-skinned people, just being won from heathenism. Tonu is an ideal place for a Mission Station. The soil is rich and tropical fruits and vegetables are produced in abundance. The paths are lined with a great variety of variegated crotons, and gaily coloured flowers give charm and beauty to the place. A stream of clear water runs through the Station and there is a spring from which a perennial supply of delightfully cool water can be obtained. Close at hand is a large and deep bathing pool, and a dip in it after our long walk was most refreshing. Mr. Joyce has introduced an immense variety of tropical plants, shrubs, flowers and fruits, so

that the place is a veritable Garden of Eden.

After lunch and a short siesta we paid a visit of inspection to the buildings on the Station. The Church, which was opened during the visit of the deputation, is an attractive little building. Mr. Joyce has various plans in hand for the improvement of the Station, including a new semi-native Mission house and alterations to the teachers' and students' houses. Evening lotu brought a busy and interesting day to a close. We slept so soundly that neither Dr. James nor I felt a severe earthquake which occurred during the night.

Next day was fully occupied. We visited the native village adjacent to the Mission Station and saw the grave of the chief who was cremated when Mr. Court was at Tonu. An exhibition of native drum beating was given for our edification. Dr. James was kept busy in attending to many cases of sickness, some being very serious.

In the afternoon fully 250 people gathered for the welcome meeting. This number would have been greatly increased if there had been time for the people to come in from the distant villages. Words of warm welcome were spoken by some of the Tonu people and also by Mr. Joyce. Then the new teachers, seven in num-



SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION SYNOD, 1928,

And Mission Staff.

Front Row: Mrs. James, Dr. James, Rev. W. A. Sinclair, Rev. J. F. Goldie, Rev. Tom Dent, Dr. Sayers, Mrs. Dent.

Second Row (standing): Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, Sister Lillian Berry, Rev. Josli Soakai, Sister Edna White, Rev. F. H. Hayman, Sister Linda Jones, Miss Ula Goldie, Mrs. Bensley, Rev. A. A. Bensley.

Back Row: Rev. A. H. Crepp, Rev. A. H. Joyce.

ber, spoke in Roviana, and Timothy Kutamai interpreted what they said into the language of Siwai. It is a most difficult language, and Mr. Voyce has still to use some pigeon English in his addresses. The people are delighted at the advent of so many new teachers, and they were not backward in giving expression to their joy.

SAPOSA.

An early start was made next morning for the Siwai beach, and the ten miles walk was accomplished in good time. Again there was an almost entire absence of surf, and we were soon aboard the "Tandanya," on our way to Saposa, about 90 miles further up the coast of Bougainville. Saposa is a delightful spot, and an ideal place for a mission station. There is a very safe anchorage, deep water, good fishing, numerous small islands, and a friendly people. Soraken, a port of call for steamers is close at hand. If funds were available, a missionary could be placed here with great advantage. In

the meantime the work must be carried on by native teachers.

SKOTOLAN.

Skotolan, our head station, on the island of Buka, is situated on the steep hill-side, and the mission-house and Church, which crown the hill, are reached by a flight of more than two hundred steps. The pathway is lined by crotons and trees and shrubs of various kinds. The mission station has been carved out of dense bush, and already there is a coco-nut plantation of over eighty acres. These wonderful results have been secured in seven years, and are due to the tireless efforts of the Rev. A. H. Cropp. We were welcomed by Sisters Elizabeth Common and Vivian Atkin, who had been in full charge during the two months Mr. Cropp had been absent from the station. We were pleased to find the Sisters well and happy in their work.

Another article will be required to tell the story of what I saw at Skotolan, and also later in New Britain and New Guinea.

Work Amongst the Women of Davuilevu, Fiji.

By Miss I. Hames.

The gaily dressed lady in the accompanying picture is Nellie, the nurse at Davuilevu, our central training institution in Fiji. Nellie completed her training several years ago at the War Memorial Hospital at Suva, and last year worked for several months with Mrs. Suckling, child welfare expert. Now she cares for the women and children of Davuilevu and other villages in the same district. In the picture we see her all ready to take part in a native dance.

Nellie works among the women and particularly the wives of Davuilevu students. When their three years in Davuilevu are ended, they will scatter far and wide to different parts of Fiji and Rotuma, and some perhaps as far as the Solomons, Papua, New Britain or the northern territory of Australia.

Mrs. Sutherland, Mrs. Sharp and the sister at Davuilevu have held a weekly sewing class for these women, and another class across the river at Nausori for the women and girls of Nausori, Vunimono, Kuku, Veraba and Vani-vaivai.

Young and old, all love their sewing classes. They come in all weathers, rarely absenting



NELLIE, A FIJIAN NURSE.

themselves, except for illness. Some bring their babies. They are very grateful to their teachers, and make good progress as needle-women. They make garments for themselves, their husbands and their children, and secured nine prizes in the Suva show last October for sewing and basketwork.

A few months ago twenty women from a village ten miles away asked to be allowed to



MRS. SUCKLING.
Child Welfare Expert, Fiji.

join the Nausori sewing class, and have since cheerfully travelled this distance every week.

This enthusiasm is very encouraging. But we wish we could do more. Our students' wives in Davuilevu have come from all parts of Fiji and Rotuma. They represent every district. Their husbands will be teachers and preachers and leaders of their people. We want to fit these women better to take their place beside their husbands as community leaders. We hope that in the future they will be able to receive more training in mothercraft. They are pitifully helpless when their children are sick. We are, therefore, very glad that there is hope of the appointment of a European as well as a native nurse at Davui-

levu; for we know that the results will be far-reaching. Homes will be cleaner and infant lives saved.

The Fiji Medical Department has already placed child welfare experts in three provinces, and they are doing magnificent work. But the remaining seventeen provinces need help too. One Fijian baby in every five dies in its first year. The relatives and friends say, piously, "It is the will of God," and hasten to prepare the funeral feast.

Superstition and dirt still hold alarming sway even in Christian Fiji. They cannot be dispelled unless we teach our women and girls.

A Governor's Tribute.

The Hon. Staniforth Smith, Acting Lieut.-Governor of Papua, after a visit to the Mission Station at Salamo, Papua, wrote as follows to the Rev. M. K. Gilmour:—

I enjoyed very much the evening I spent at Salamo; it was a great pleasure not only to meet you and Mrs. Gilmour again, but so many of the other missionaries.

I need hardly say how pleased I was by the splendid work being accomplished by your Mission and also the very fine modern hospital for the natives, so well arranged and splendidly equipped. As you know, I have always hoped that the Missions would make this an adjunct to the higher duty of Christianising the nation, as our Saviour did during His sojourn on earth. In fact, I think the alleviation of pain and suffering opens their hearts for the message of the Gospel.

"On visiting one of our villages in Haidarabad, I asked an old woman to say for me the Lord's Prayer. She said, 'Our Father, Who art in Heaven,' then she paused. I saw by the look in her eyes that she had not stopped because she knew no more. 'Go on,' I said.

Looking up into my face she answered. 'Padre, it is enough.'"—G. M. KERR.

Never was it more clear than to-day that Christ is the hope of the nations. For those who realise this truth there can be no higher ambition than to be allowed, like St. Paul, to preach the Gospel where Christ is not already named.

Missionary Table Talk.

Nurse Muriel Stewart.

Information has been received that Nurse Muriel Stewart arrived safely in the Solomons, and was welcomed by the workers there. She is assisting Dr. James in the hospital at Bambatana, on the island of Choiseul.

Rev. V. Le C. Binet.

The Rev. V. Le C. Binet left Auckland by the Maunganui on March 1st for Sydney, *en route* for the Solomon Islands. Mrs. Binet is remaining for some time in Auckland.

Sisters on Furlough.

Sisters Lilian Berry, May Barnett and Ethel McMillan are due for furlough this year. They will receive a hearty welcome, especially from the women of the Church.

Sister Lily White.

Sister Lily White, after one term of service on the Mission Field in the Solomons, has resigned her position as a missionary sister on account of ill-health. Sister Lily did fine work at Senga, on the island of Choiseul during an influenza epidemic, and, doubtless, lives were saved by her ministrations. We trust she may have a speedy recovery.

Usaia Sotutu.

Usaia Sotutu, a Fijian teacher, and his wife, Keresi (Grace), after furlough in Fiji, returned to their work on Buka and Bougainville recently. Usaia did excellent pioneer work on those islands, and during Mr. Cropp's absence on furlough will have very important duties devolving upon him.

Miss Rewa Burton.

Miss Rewa Burton, daughter of the Rev. J. W. Burton, General Secretary of the Methodist Missionary Society of Australasia, qualified at the recent Sydney University examinations for her Bachelor of Arts degree. Miss Burton was born in the Mission House, Dilkusha, Fiji, on the banks of the Rewa River.

Miss Clare Burton, second daughter, passed with distinction, and fourth on the list, in the Massage Course, at the Sydney Medical School. Our hearty congratulations.

Mrs. Sayers.

Mrs. Sayers, wife of Dr. E. G. Sayers, is booked to leave on her return journey to the Solomons, by the April steamer, taking with her, Kathleen, her infant daughter. Our hearty congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Sayers on the gift of a daughter.

Dr. Clifford James.

Dr. James has commenced his work on the island of Choiseul. The Rev. J. R. Metcalfe writes: "Two large native houses, 20ft. by 45ft., were opened for the doctor's use within a fortnight of his arrival. We were very glad to get the doctor into his own premises as our house was gradually being filled up with serious cases, and he was giving up to one hundred treatments daily on our verandah, in execrable weather. He has saved a number of lives already, and people are coming in from all directions to be attended to."

Mr. Ray Dudley.

Mr. Ray Dudley, an Indian by birth, but brought up and educated as a European, has been accepted as a candidate for the ministry and has entered Trinity Theological College, Auckland. Mr. Dudley has gained the B.A. degree of the New Zealand University and has already spent a year in circuit work at the Hutt, where he has been most successful in his work, especially amongst the young people.

Sister Jean Dalziel.

Sister Jean Dalziel, after furlough in New Zealand, left by the "Aorangi," for Sydney, on February 25th, *en route* for the Solomons. She is to undertake work in the hospital at Roviana, under Dr. Sayers.

Teacher for Tonga.

A certificated teacher is needed by the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. Full particulars may be received on application to the Rev. W. A. Sinclair, Probert Chambers, Queen Street, Auckland.

Gladys Chivers' Memorial.

The late Mrs. Chivers was the first European worker to lay down her life on the Solomon Islands Mission Field. Before leaving New Zealand she was an active Bible Class worker and leader. The Young Women's Bible Class Union has raised a sum of about £100 for a memorial to their former fellow member. It has now been decided that the Children's Ward in the Helena Goldie Hospital is to be known as the "Gladys Chivers' Memorial Ward," and the money in hand will go towards the erection and furnishing of the ward. A suitably-worded tablet is to be placed in the ward.

Mr. J. W. Court.

After thirteen years as Missionary Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Court has this year retired from office. He has seen wonderful developments during those years and a great increase in the Missionary income of the Church. By his visits to the Mission field he has become thoroughly acquainted with its needs, and by generous gifts he has stimulated others to give. A hearty resolution of thanks and appreciation of Mr. Court's valuable services was passed by the Conference.

Mr. A. J. Buttle.

Mr. A. J. Buttle, of Auckland, has been appointed Missionary Treasurer for 1929. Mr. Buttle is a son of the late Mr. James Buttle, who was one of the most generous supporters of our Missionary work, and is a grandson of the late Rev. George Buttle, a pioneer Maori missionary.

WOMEN'S PAGES

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

OUR PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Christchurch,
28th February, 1929.

Dear Auxiliary Friends,—

Just now is the time when most of our Auxiliaries are busy making plans for organising the Easter Offering. By the time you receive this copy of the "Open Door" the envelopes will have been distributed. May I beg for a really sacrificial offering this year. It may require an effort to ask some friend or acquaintance to take an envelope—but *just there* is one avenue of "sacrifice." Shall we offer to God that which costs us nothing? His values are different from ours!

On January 18th Nurse Stewart left these shores for the scene of her labours. Many prayers and loving thoughts accompany her. Now we must get busy and collect her salary. To make up this sum each Auxiliary will need to increase its contributions. As we think of this young servant of God leaving home and friends and venturing forth into the untried and strange life—to give unselfish service to the sick and needy, our hearts warm towards her. Well, this is the moment to translate our feelings into action. Emotion which brings forth no fruit in deeds is worse than useless, and is even weakening to the character. How much in coin of the realm is our interest worth?

The Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Goldie are now established in a comfortable home in Epsom,



THE EXECUTIVE OF THE NEW ZEALAND METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

Back Row (left to right): Mrs. Buxton, Sister Mabel Morley, Nurse Beck.
Sitting: Mrs. F. Thompson (Secretary), Mrs. G. Bowron (President), Mrs. Purchase (Treasurer).

a suburb of Auckland. They have two daughters with them and a picturesque native boy from the Solomon Islands. They are prepared to give a year of unselfish effort toward stimulating Mission zeal in our land, and it is worthy of note that Mr. Goldie said that as he went up and down the Dominion he would endeavour to help us to realise "the consciousness of God." We rejoice that he comes to us with such a sense of our true need. Let all our members join in prayer that his labours among us may be crowned with success.

The Y.W.B.C. Union is eagerly looking forward to having Mrs. Goldie present at its Dominion Camp at Easter time, and Mrs. Avery hopes to arrange a District Conference at Eltham a little later when Mrs. Goldie will be invited to meet as many of our Auxiliary members as possible. At Blenheim they are planning for the celebration of their majority year and will try to secure Mrs. Goldie's presence there. So that, for many of us there is the prospect of a "feast of good things" in the near future.

Sister Jean Dalziel's first furlough is now over and she is returning to her work with a glad heart and renewed strength. Her last memories of our land will be a source of inspiration to her, as she was farewelled at a very large meeting of the Auckland Auxiliary and friends. This was held in the Dominion Road Sunday School, which presented a most attractive appearance, being in its best holiday dress to welcome Mrs. J. F. Goldie, who was presented with a beautiful bouquet of her favourite colours—shades of gold, amber and brown. Three native boys also gave two songs in their own language, Sister Jean taking part in one of them. To hear their rich and tuneful voices singing the praises of God makes one's heart rejoice at the wonders God hath wrought.

Before this appears in print, Mr. Binet also will have left New Zealand to return to his work in the Solomons. We must not forget to pray specially for the wife and mother left behind for a time to care for the little son.

Now, my dear friends all over New Zealand, let us each in our own Auxiliary strive to make this year the most progressive we have had yet; confident that the One Who has given us this work will Himself aid us to fulfil it.

I am, on behalf of your Executive,
Your sincere friend,
Mary E. Bowron, President.

Home Notes.

MRS. GOLDIE.

The Union Executive is anxious to utilise Mrs. Goldie to the best advantage, without unduly taxing her strength. Therefore, any Auxiliary wishing a visit from her will please write to the Secretary, Mrs. F. Thompson, 28 Repton Street, Merivale, Christchurch, at once, and as far as possible the requests will be favourably considered.

MISSION BOARD.

The annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, held in Auckland, February 18th and 19th, was attended by Mesdames Bowron, F. Thompson, Hodder, Stevens, Misses Somerville and Carr, also Misses Sewell and Griffiths representing the Bible Class Movement. The meetings were intensely interesting, especially as there were present the Revs. J. F. Goldie, V. Binet and A. Cropp, from the Solomon Islands. Mrs. Bowron ably presented the work of the Union in her report.

NURSE MURIEL STEWART FAREWELLED.

Again came to Auckland Auxiliary the privilege of bidding God-speed to a Sister for the Solomons.

Nurse Muriel Stewart was entertained at a gathering in the Y.W.C.A. drawing-room, the President, Miss Somerville, being in the chair.

The whole atmosphere was one of warmth and goodwill. Nurse Muriel is known to few of our women, but the impression was one of conviction that here was a woman, thoroughly trained and consecrated, whose personality and skill would touch both the bodies and souls of her darker sisters, bringing healing and light.

During the afternoon our Honorary Life-President, Mrs. Dellow, handed to the guest a wallet of notes from the Auckland friends. Musical items were rendered and afternoon tea served.

It has been a privilege to have our Dominion President in our midst, and opportunity has been taken for consultation on many aspects of Auxiliary work.

ASHBURTON AUXILIARY EN FETE.

The Baring Square Hall was gaily decorated with coloured streamers, ferns and flowers on the afternoon of February 6th, when the members of the Auxiliary celebrated their third birthday. Interest culminated in a most decorative and unique birthday cake, the gift of Mrs. R. Buxton (President). Three tiers, displaying suitable decorations, crowned with picturesque figures representing notable Solomon Island natives, took the fancy of all. A fine programme of excellent music, songs, etc.,

was rendered and a dainty afternoon tea served, after which the Dominion President, Mrs. Bowron, cut the cake and willing helpers distributed a share to all.

In the evening a gathering of the young people of the Church was entertained by the Auxiliary and a very pleasant evening was spent. At both meetings Mrs. Bowron spoke of the needs of the missionary work in the Solomon Islands, and appealed for more interest and help on the part of every section of the Church.

New Zealanders on Australasian Mission Fields.

The Methodist Church of New Zealand, in addition to its many workers in the Solomon Islands, has several representatives on the Mission Fields controlled by the Church in Australia. The Rev. C. M. Churchward, in an article in "The Missionary Review," dealing with the Training Institution at Davuilevu, Fiji, makes special reference to two of these workers. He says:—

"To begin with, the member of the European staff who has had the longest period of service there is "Ben" Sutherland. A more faithful or a more able man it would be difficult to find. He has been with us for the best part of 18 years, year in and year out, training Fijian lads to use their tools, and to make tables, church-seats, chairs, safes, wash-stands, chests of drawers, and writing desks, of which any carpenter might be justly proud, and to build houses in which no one need be ashamed or afraid to live. But more than that: unconsciously, maybe, yet none the less effectively, he has been training the lads in habits of industry, regularity, thoroughness, neatness, exactness, and thrift, and so helping to build Christian characters—characters bearing some resemblance to that of the Carpenter of Nazareth."

"Next, my thoughts travel to our Primary School Headmistress, Miss A. Hames, up there on yonder hill, in charge of over one hundred Fijian and Rotuman children (mostly boys), from five to fifteen years of age. Most of these are children of men in the Teachers' Training Institution and of the Theological Students (such children are educated free),

but others are children of natives not at Davuilevu, paying fees of £2 per annum. All these children are in Miss Hames' hands during their most plastic years, being moulded and fashioned for the varied parts which they will have to play in life later on. And Miss Hames is doing her work well and thoroughly."

Mr. Sutherland belongs to a family, the members of which have rendered valuable service in Whitely Church, New Plymouth, and Miss Hames bears a name well known and highly honoured in New Zealand Methodism.

In addition to these, the Misses Griffin, Graham and Tolley are rendering most acceptable service in Fiji. Mrs. Harris and the Misses Blamires, Harford, Ferguson and Goulton are serving the Church in Tonga.

The Rev. Rodger Page gives high praise to the teachers who have gone there from the Dominion. Writing of Miss Gwen Blamires as she was leaving on furlough, Mr. Page says, "I'm very glad Miss Blamires is coming back. She has a good grip of the language and has won the affection of her girls and is exerting a very fine influence over her school. At our Monthly Fellowship meeting last Sunday quite twenty of her girls stood up and made confession for the Master."

Writing at a later date, Mr. Page says, "We are wanting another teacher. Do you happen to know of one who would care to come. Our educational work is growing and we are faced with an increasing demand for teachers. If you can help us, Tonga would be very grateful."

Who will respond to this appeal from Tonga?

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