

The Open Door

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

SEPTEMBER, 1942.



The late Mr. J. H. L. Waterhouse, for many years a Christian Educationalist in the Pacific (see page 4).

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL.

Price: ONE SHILLING per Annum.
Posted, One Shilling and Threepence.

THE OPEN DOOR



Rev. J. R. Metcalfe.

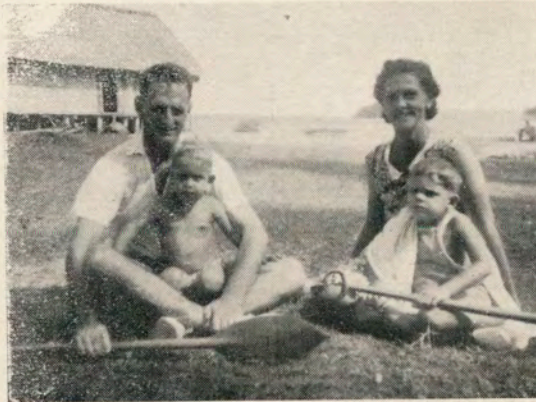


Sister Merle Farland.



Rev. A. W. Silvester.

PLEASE PRAY DAILY
FOR OUR WORKERS
ON THE FIELD
AND FOR THE
NATIVE CHURCH.



Rev. D. C. and Mrs. Alley and their boys.

The Revs. J. R. Metcalfe, A. W. Silvester and D. C. Alley and Sister Merle Farland — whose photo and diary appear on page 10 — are still on the field and need your constant prayer and support.

REHABILITATION (Continued from page 1)
ment and stores. Our fleet of boats will also have to be refitted or replaced.

Our opportunity for spiritual leadership and educational and medical service will be greater than ever, and we simply must not fail the people of the Solomons who will look to us more than ever for help and guidance as we emerge from the confusion of war.

With confidence therefore we appeal to our readers for eager and generous support for REHABILITATION of our work in the Solomons as outlined in the following Conference Resolution:

"That in view of the inevitable deterioration and possible destruction, of Mission property

and equipment in the Solomons as a result of the evacuation of our European Missionaries, a Special Re-habilitation Fund be established and commended to the whole-hearted support of the Home Church.

"In the event of any of the estimated expenditure being saved owing to Mission workers being temporarily employed in New Zealand, such amount be credited to the Rehabilitation Fund.

"All circuits and contributors are earnestly urged to increase their support if at all possible to enable the Mission Board to prepare for the Rehabilitation and extension of our Solomon Islands work at the earliest possible moment."

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The Missionary Organ of
the Methodist Church of
New Zealand.

VOL. XXI., No. 2.

SEPTEMBER, 1942

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

REHABILITATION.

There is no need to-day to tell people where the Solomons are. War has thrust these islands into the head-lines of the World's news. The map of the Group is frequently seen in every newspaper and its name is on many lips. Armies and navies have suddenly awakened to its vast strategic importance—a fact realised by missionaries and by the Japanese—for many years past.

It is a source of reproach that while enemy occupation and the consequent threat to our own shores have created such vital interest, the spiritual needs of the thousands who inhabit these islands have made little or no appeal to many in New Zealand. But to those who have had the missionary work of our Church at heart the Solomons have been head-line news for a long time, and they rejoice that amidst the fury of war again raging round their shores our people are sustained by the sufficient grace of Him in whom they have put their trust. This titanic struggle creates many uncertainties in the native mind, but amid them all there towers the abiding certainty of the Cross of Jesus Christ through which they have entered into peace which the world can neither give nor take away.

We have a glad confidence in the Native Ministry upon which greatly added responsibilities devolve during the absence of so many white leaders. From time to time encouraging messages have trickled through to Mr. Goldie and others. The following extracts from a letter from one who for years in Papua was a trusted colleague of the editor indicate the spirit of these men:—"We have not ceased from our tasks, but we are doing just the same as we used to do when you were here with us Not one thing are we forgetting. Yes, so far as we are concerned, we are abiding well. All the missionaries (native teachers) are very well, also at Oiabia our church life is nothing but good. Also school is held from week to week. We are not in the least afraid re our tasks. We do nought but wax strong."

With Japanese naval forces only fifteen miles away and the mission station already machine-gunned, Margaret Sotutu, wife of our Fijian minister at Buka, wrote in February by the last mail from that island. "We are unafraid and will carry on as if nothing had changed."

Thus are new Acts of the Apostles being

wrought. How reminiscent of St. Paul is Inosi Ugwalubu's calm assertion, amidst so many dire difficulties and with the future so dark and uncertain,—“We do nought but wax strong.” This is triumphant faith built up as a result of the missionary enterprise of the Church, and in such we glory and take comfort in these days when we are separated from immediate contact with our sisters and brethren on the Field.

Such faith and courage should challenge us to really sacrificial effort to ensure the full rehabilitation of the Work at the earliest possible moment. The Allied successes in the Solomons encourage us to hope that that moment is nearer than we dared hope. This task of Rehabilitation will be heavy and we must be ready to grapple with it the moment the opportunity occurs. To launch an appeal when the day comes for our workers to return will be too late. We must have everything ready for that glad day. Since our own Rehabilitation Fund was approved by the last Conference similar funds have been established in Britain and Australia and on another page we publish the Australian President-General's eloquent appeal to all Methodists to stand loyally behind the Mission Board as it accepts the issues of the day and prepares to face the heaviest financial demand of its history.

Pending the return of our evacuated workers a few stipends and salaries will be saved but this saving will be far more than off-set by the cost of evacuation alone. Just what the cost of Rehabilitation will be it is impossible to state, but it is certain to be considerable. A report is to hand that our Gizo property has already been destroyed. Bilua, the head-station of our Vella Lavella Circuit, and where the Helena Goldie Hospital is situated, is only 15 miles north of Gizo which has been reported in enemy occupation; and Roviana, where our District Training Institution, Technical School, Hospital etc. are situated, only 35 miles south-east. Our three head-stations on Bougainville and Buka are practically adjacent to important strategic points occupied by the Japanese for many months. In the event of these important stations being damaged or destroyed we shall be faced not only with a huge re-building programme, but also the replacement of essential and valuable equip-

(Continued on inside front cover)

The Position in the Solomons.

By the Rev. John F. GOLDIE.

We have watched with growing concern the extension of Japanese power in S.W. Pacific, and more especially the tightening grip of enemy forces on the Solomons. What this invasion might mean to our Mission Work; the reaction of the natives generally, and our Christian people particularly, to this intimate contact with the enemy; and the uncertain position of our European Workers who had remained on the Field; caused us great anxiety.

When I left the Solomons on my long overdue furlough the Japanese had not entered the Group, but when at Rabaul, where I had to catch the plane to Australia, the enemy was bombing the place so intensely that it seemed evident that their intention was to occupy the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. It was then a question whether I should go back to the Solomons in view of the probability of enemy advance in that direction, or continue on the way to Sydney by plane, which was to leave Rabaul a few days later. The matter was taken out of my hands, however, by the captain of the steamer deciding, in order to save his ship, to leave part of his cargo, and sail while the going was possible two days before he was due to leave, and while I was visiting a mission station in the Baining Mountains 40 miles from Rabaul, in company with the Chairman of the New Britain District. There was nothing left for me to do but come on to Sydney by plane—the last plane to leave the Territory.

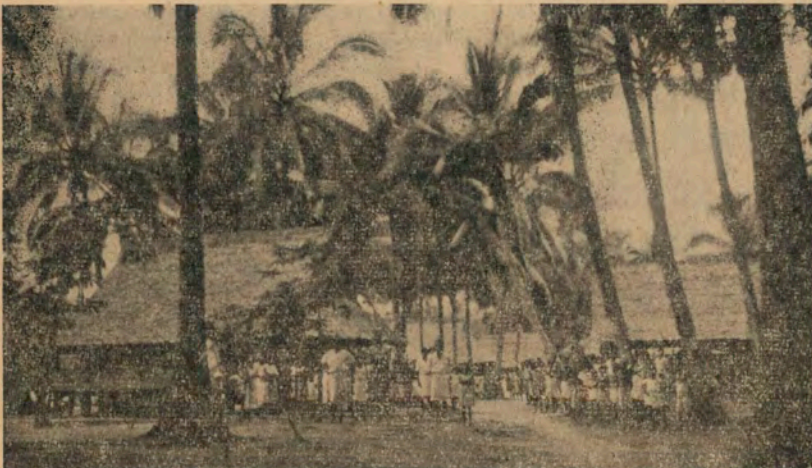
After establishing themselves at Rabaul, the Japanese invaded the Solomons, and made a strong

base at Kessa—a few miles from our Buka Mission Station. Presumably, our station was much too near for their liking, so they dropped a few bombs on it, and then machine-gunned it. What damage to property was caused I cannot yet estimate, but understand that only one native lad was injured there. They also established bases at Buka Passage and Kieta, and passed on to land forces at Faisi in the British Solomons. They then proceeded to attack Gizo—30 miles from our head station at Kokeqolo—occupied Tulagi, the Government Head Quarters, and established several bases on the Island of Guadalcanar.

Since this occupation by the enemy all postal and other means of communication with our Mission District have been very uncertain. Occasionally a letter has reached us by some quite mysterious route—probably by some of our planes, and also by evacuees escaping to Australia from that direction. It was very fortunate that Dr. Rutter and Mr. Leadley were able to get our Mission Sisters and some distressed planters and their wives away from the Islands while the invasion was taking place. Nurse Farland refused to come away, and in her last letter to me—written while it was still possible to leave,—she very defiantly refused to leave her work, and joined Mr. Silvester at the Hospital at Bilua.

After the invasion of Buka and Bougainville, Mr. Luxton was strenuously engaged in moving about, making the best arrangements possible for the carrying on of our work in the various stations in the Bougainville Circuit, when he and our Mission vessel "Bilua" were commandeered by the local Government Officials to take themselves and other evacuees to Port Moresby—over 1000 miles away. From there he intended to return, but the naval authorities immediately impressed the "Bilua."

The Rev. Don. Alley managed in some mysterious way to get a letter through to me in March, and although the enemy forces were then completely in possession of Bougainville and Buka, he was still on his station at Teop, and with the loyal help of his native



Part of Menakasapa Village, New Georgia.

staff was carrying on the work as far as possible considering the unsettled state of affairs, lack of necessary stores etc.

Mr. Voyce, who was on furlough when the invasion took place, was unable to get a permit from the military authorities to return to the Solomons, and the native teachers are carrying on the work at Kihili in his absence.

No word has come directly from Mr. Metcalfe since April, but he was then established at Kokegolo, and had just returned from a launch trip of inspection right round Choiseul, and reported all well with our native agents who were all doing their work as usual. The Solomon Islands Government Office now established in Sydney has been very good, and sent on a message of cheer from the General Secretary to our workers on the Field last month. There was some doubt, of course, when we sent the message as to it reaching Roviana, but it was evidently received by the Resident Commissioner, who is still at his post, and will probably reach our people eventually. The Resident Commissioner replied on July 10th and again on July 28th to the effect that all our workers in the British Solomons were well, and carrying on their work.

A party of evacuees—planters and others—managed to reach Australia in a small boat early in July. Some of these came from Bougainville,

and had to pass right through the British Solomons. They informed us that Gizo was in ruins—our own buildings included—but they also called in at Bilua, and found Mr. Silvester still carrying on his work, and Sister Merle Farland in charge of the Hospital, and doing good work, although many of our natives, especially the women, had taken up their abode in the hills. They reported the European workers all well. They also reported that many of our lads in the Government Service were standing up to their jobs and rendering fine service.

That seems to be the present position in the Mission Field. I am in constant touch with the naval authorities here about our vessels and other matters, and with the War Damage Commission with regard to our properties in the Mandated Territory. The naval authorities will do their utmost to assist us in the matter of communication with the District, and promise to procure my return to the islands at the earliest possible moment. We are watching with intense interest the offensive action now being taken against the Japanese bases at Tulagi and Guadalcanar by our fighting forces, and hope that it will be completely successful in ejecting the enemy from the Solomons. Whether that action is completely successful or not we trust that we will be able to get back to join the workers already on the field, sticking so bravely to their posts in the face of difficulty and danger.

Birds of War.

By the Rev. C. T. J. LUXTON.

A few days ago I was in a little N.Z. country town when an aeroplane flew overhead; from houses, offices and shops came people to gaze at the still infrequent sight of a plane.

My thoughts went back to Buka. No planes had been seen there until less than four years ago. (More than one old native seemed to hold me responsible, as they appeared just after my arrival.)

At their first appearance the natives were terrified and many fled to the bush. As they became more common their appearance would be greeted with the excited cry of "Balus!" (An eagle, or pigeon, or any large bird is called a 'balus'.) Not infrequently the children were temporarily released from school to see a 'plane, and one Sunday while preaching I had to let the people leave the church to see a 'plane pass overhead—they then returned and I continued with the sermon.

Eventually a flying base was established nearby. Catalina flying-boat patrols were as regular as the dawn and the sunset, while quite often other

'planes also appeared during the day.

In January I visited Kihili. Here, 'planes were not quite so frequently seen, and I found some very scared natives who told of the great noise made by unseen 'planes in the night. By this time the natives knew of the raids on Rabaul, only half an hour by 'plane; (indeed, a local boy had returned wounded from Rabaul's first air raid.)

A 'plane then began a daily appearance; it flew low over a near-by harbour—it circled a small island where our mission boat was anchored—it flew low over the mission station. For several days it appeared regularly just as morning school closed and all would stand and watch and wave. Several times there were flashes from the 'plane as though one of the crew was signalling with a mirror, (a favourite game of the natives.)

The 'plane was much larger than anything we had seen at Buka, it was a big four-engined flying-boat. It was some days later that I made contact with another European and had my suspicions confirmed—it was a Japanese 'plane.

M.W.M.U. CONFERENCE.



Mrs. C. E. Taylor
Dominion President
M.W.M.U.

PRESENTATION TO SISTER ETHEL McMILLAN.

Last week, writes the Rev. J. F. Goldie on 1st. July we had a little gathering in a private room at the Christian Club to make a presentation to Sister Ethel from members of the European Staff in the Solomons. We did not make the affair a public one, but we had present to honour Sister Ethel: Mr. Amos and Miss Leslie from the Melbourne Office, Mrs. Ross (Sister Mabel Davey), Sister F. Neale, Mrs. Oldridge (Nurse Yandell), Mr. Gill, Mrs. Metcalfe, Mrs. Goldie and Nellie, and myself. Some of the old Sisters spoke of Sister's wonderful work in the Solomon Islands District for so long a period, and we presented Sister Ethel with a really good gold wristlet watch and a Government Bond for £10. If ever great service deserved recognition, Sister Ethel's splendid work did.

In the return of mankind from the far country
to its true home,

In the restoring to men of their lost knowledge
of thyself,

In a recovered experience of their dependence
on thee,

In a new reverence for Nature as thy creation,
In a new understanding that as thy children all
men are brethren.

Hallowed be Thy Name.

The 28th. Annual Conference of the Methodist Women's Missionary Union will open at Napier on Tuesday, October 13th. The Dominion President, Mrs. C. E. Taylor of Feilding, will preside and associated with her on the platform will be Mrs. B. A. Flavall (Secretary) and Mrs. C. M. Goldsmith (Treasurer). At this Conference Mrs. Taylor and her executive officers will enter upon the final year of their term of office and their successors for the three years commencing October 1943 will be nominated. During the past two years Mrs. Taylor and her Executive have fully maintained the high standard of leadership characteristic of the M.W.M.U. Movement from its inception.

Those of us who have navigated the difficult and dangerous coral seas know how vital to progress and safety auxiliary power is. Not infrequently it is the means of helping the boat from stormy waters to a safe anchorage and, at times, has been vital in avoiding shipwreck. The M.W.M.U. was founded as an Auxiliary to the Home and Foreign Mission Boards and has never failed to be true to its name. Both Boards and the Church as a whole are under a great debt of gratitude to this fine Movement which so steadfastly and with increasing power maintains its high service.

The forthcoming Conference will face problems, including the peculiar difficulties of the war-stricken Solomons, and we commend the sessions and those who direct them to the earnest prayer of all our readers.

DEATH OF MR. J. H. L. WATERHOUSE.

Our readers will be sorry to learn of the death, in a Sydney Hospital, of Mr. J. H. L. Waterhouse, who for nearly seven years was Head Master of our school at Roviana in the Solomons. Mr. Waterhouse had been in poor health for some years, and passed away on August 20th. He came of a well-known Methodist family, his mother being one of the Lawrys—sister to the late Rev. A. C. Lawry—and was one of the many who lost their lives in the wreck of the Tararua on 29th. October 1894.

Mr. Waterhouse had spent some years in our Mission in Fiji, and when I met him first in 1919 he was acting as Assistant to the Chairman of the New Britain District, and in that year came to us in the Solomons, where he did excellent work as a teacher. After leaving our Mission he did some botanical work in Bougainville for the Kew Gardens (Eng.). The Rabaul Administration offered him work in their Education Department, and for some years he has been in charge of the Government School at Nodup, Rabaul, where by his ability, and great sympathy for the natives, he rendered a fine service. A courteous, kind-hearted, Christian gentleman, for whom Europeans and Natives had an affectionate regard, and one whom we could ill afford to lose.

Missions and Christian Re-union.

In "Christian Re-union"—"A Plea for Action"—Hugh Martin states the "practical" case for unity under three heads, one of which is Missions. He writes:-

The mission field calls for unity.

We need union because our present divisions are holding up progress on the mission field.

It is not surprising that missionary minded folk with their wider outlook upon the affairs of the Kingdom of God should be amongst the foremost to realize the urgency of this issue. Those who think only in terms of the parish or of the congregation or of denominational prosperity may be blind to the situation, but not those whose primary concern is with the carrying of the Gospel of Christ to every creature. In "The Human Situation," McNeile Dixon has some hard things to say of the narrowness of the outlook of the average man. "The majority of us are rustics whose daily perambulations round the village pump mark the limits of our travel. 'The winds of the world,' in Walter Pater's phrase 'have not ventilated our brains.'" Surely one of the great gifts of the missionary enterprise to the Church is that it brings the winds of the world to ventilate our brains. So we find that the movement towards Christian unity received an altogether new impetus at the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh in 1910.

From the vantage point of the missionary outlook with the winds of the world blowing round men's heads, not only is the closer unity of the churches abroad seen to be of vital importance, but unity is seen to be indivisible. A division in the Body of Christ anywhere weakens its power at all points.

We are often told of the splendid way in which the younger churches of the East are leading the way to unity. Less is said about the extent to which we in the West are delaying their progress. They are reluctant to act against the wishes of their mother churches. Bishop Azariah, the Indian leader of the aggressively missionary diocese of Dornakel, has often said that while reunion might be important in the West, it was a matter of life and death for Christianity in the East. At the Faith and Order Conference at Edinburgh in 1937 he declared, "No happy home is possible for a young married couple if their parents are not on speaking terms with one another. . . No union in the mission field is feasible if the home churches continue to look upon these unions with suspicion." One remembers sadly that the chief obstacles to the success of the South India scheme are to be found not in India but in the West. So also at-

tempts have been made from the West to damp the ardour of the United Church of China. The younger churches cannot move far unless the older move too.

We have transplanted all our European and American divisions to the East. True, we have for the most part agreed not to compete, and divided the land into spheres of influence, so that a man here becomes a Christian according to the Baptists, and a man yonder an Anglican. That is better than a conflict for the same man. But the result is often that the Christian converts are separated by Western issues from fellow Christians a few miles away and may be refused communion in a Christian church if they move into another area. The facts that reverence for our Lord is far more widespread among the educated classes of India than is any desire to associate with the Church, and that many educated Chinese are willing to be Christians but reluctant to be Church members, are not unconnected with our divisions.

In every report of the series of World Missionary Conferences during the last thirty years there has been a persistent and steadily growing demand for progress towards a united Church. At the last, held at Tambaran, Madras, it is no exaggeration to say that unity was called for by every section of the conference, even when its subject seemed to have little to do with that topic. Any lingering doubt as to the urgency of Christian unity in Africa and the East must be dissipated by its vigorous findings, which may be fairly represented by a paragraph from the Report of the section on Co-operation and Unity:

"While we are profoundly thankful for the growth in brotherly love and understanding that has come with increased co-operation, and while we are convinced of the need for its yet further extension, there are certain parts of the Christian obligation which in our judgment demand more than a co-operative basis. In particular it has been found that in most cases co-operation in the great evangelistic task stops at the point where pastoral care is needed for the building up of a Church. We can act together in the presentation of the Gospel to men and in the winning of them to the Christian faith; but there is evidence that in the next necessary stage co-operation breaks down owing to divided church loyalty. From this standpoint, therefore, as well as from the growing spirit of unity that has resulted from common working at a common task, has come in many fields a deep and growing conviction that the spirit of God is

(Concluded bottom page 6)

REHABILITATION of our War-Devastated Overseas Missions.

An Appeal by the President-General of Australia, Rev. H. M. Wheeler.

It is now well known that we are suffering grievously in our Overseas Mission Work. The Islands of the Pacific are united in a fellowship of suffering. The cruel entanglements of war are upon us. Our buildings are being destroyed, our people bombed, and our Missionaries, Teachers, Doctors and Nurses scattered. Our whole enterprise for the cause of Christ is cruelly disrupted. The full story cannot be told now, and indeed the end is not yet at hand. In some areas the work of many years is in ruins, but not all of it, and not the best of it. There is a work of God which is beyond the destruction of man. When the veil is lifted from off these days, our hearts will be thrilled, because of the great number of men and women worthy to be named with those "who endured as seeing Him who is invisible. They are enduring many things even at this moment. And they belong to us and we belong to them! They are our care, and more than ever we must take them, and the great cause for which we all stand, into our hearts, our prayers, our sacrifices.

What is the answer of our Church to all this? There is only one answer—"You may destroy our buildings, we shall rebuild; you may scatter our people, we shall regather them; you may let destruction loose, but you cannot destroy our faith in the ultimate triumph of our Lord Christ. IN

HIS NAME WE CARRY ON."

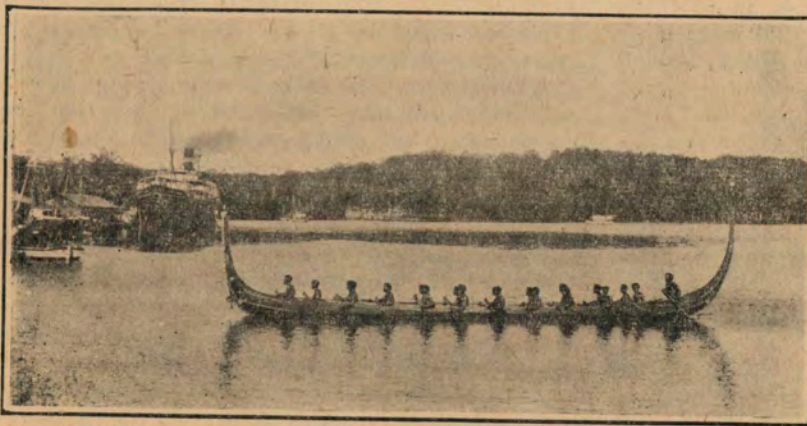
There can be no other answer and the first instalment of it must, here and now, be wrought out on the Home Front. "Neither war nor pestilence lasts for ever." We must therefore be ready to proceed at the breaking of the dawn. Whenever the war recedes from our Mission area we must be ready to begin a work of reconstruction. We owe it to the men and women who laid the foundations of our work, to our Missionaries who are straining at the leash to resume their ministries, and to our beloved and faithful native people in the Islands, to proceed with determination to rebuild the waste places. God forbid that we should be unready for that great day. We must prepare for it—and prepare for it now.

Our Overseas Board has all this in mind. With fine courage it is accepting the issues of the day. The Board knows that it will have to face the heaviest financial demand of its history. Aware of the urgency of the situation it has determined to prepare for a full scale resumption and expansion of our work. The Islands of the Pacific must be won for Christ.

Believing that our people share with the Board this sense of urgency in preparing for the day of a new beginning, we ask for a whole-hearted and generous response to the appeal which it is about to make.

This is no time to think in small terms. This is the biggest task ever committed to our Church. Let us then think in large terms and let our response be commensurate with the situation, and with this new constraint which our suffering Church is putting upon us. It is the constraint of our Lord Himself. And "He showed unto them His hands and His feet."

"The Missionary Review."



Gizo Harbour, where the Japanese have been reported in occupation and our new Mission premises destroyed.

(Continued from page 5)

guiding the various branches of His Church to seek for realisation of a visible and organic union. We recognise that not all share this conviction and we respect their views, but for many it has become the dominant concern and care."

PLEASE forward promptly all Foreign Mission money to the Treasurer—Rev. W. A. Sinclair, Probert Chambers, Queen Street, Auckland C.1. Delay means overdraft charges.

Future Strategy in the Bougainville and Buka Circuit

By the Rev. A. H. VOYCE—Superintendent.

I have been persuaded by the General Secretary to write of my "Vision of what is to be" in the Bougainville and Buka Circuit. This may appear to be "super optimism" considering the international situation existing there to-day, but it is an earnest of brighter days to dawn.

The Present Position—Japanese Occupation.

The strategic importance of Bougainville and Buka to either side in this titanic struggle for supremacy in the South Western Pacific can not be denied. Geographically its position commands the approaches to Rabaul from South to East. The possession of its air fields, and its seaplane bases, both actual and potential, are no doubt important considerations; and the fact of so many commodious deep water harbours capable of giving shelter to very many large vessels, makes the control of Bougainville and Buka no unimportant consideration in strategy. On the South end of Bougainville is a large harbour called TONOLAI, the use of which as a naval base has often been considered, and its approaches are well guarded by the Shortland Islands, the port of which is FAISI. Then there are fine harbours at KIETA, TEOP, SORAKEN and BUKA PASSAGE on Bougainville and QUEEN CAROLA HARBOUR (often referred to in broadcasts as KESSA), on Buka. All of these,



Bougainville Initiates wearing Upe Hats.

including the port of FAISI are to-day in the hands of the Japanese, and unlikely to be relinquished lightly, and are now targets for Allied bombings.

Mission Strategy.

The Circuit is divided into three sections, which need to be studied in the light of geographical position.

1. Buin Section. This comprises the whole of the Southern end of the island roughly from KIETA across to the Northern end of KAISERIN AUGUSTA BAY. The headquarters are situated at KIHILĪ in Buin Bay. Here we have an agricultural lease of 375 acres. It has for years been the Superintendent's hope that a station of really important agricultural value should be established here, somewhat in the nature of an agricultural school for Natives from all parts of our District. Here also is situated the Circuit Training Institution, where the brightest and best of the lads from all sections of our Circuit are trained prior to proceeding to our Training College at Roviana. This Institution is in charge of Sister Ada Lee. From this Station the Superintendent directs the work of the whole Circuit and supervises about 70 stations in control of Native Teachers.

Up the west coast is the populous district of Siwai, and north again, BAISI, NAGAVISI, BANONI and TUPI districts. The work of Methodism began in SIWAI about 1917 and this year is the SEMI-JUBILEE of our work there. From Kihili, up the east coast, and in the large hinterland LULUAI Valley lying between the coastal range and the CROWN PRINCE RANGE, are the districts of KIETA, TOIUMONAPU, and VISAL. KIETA is the chief port, and Administrative headquarters of the New Guinea Government on Bougainville and it is proposed to station a senior Native Agent in this central position who shall have general oversight of the east coast districts and carry out mission work amongst the indentured labourers of KIETA township and hospital.

2. Buka Section. The name is somewhat of a misnomer, as, in addition to widespread work on Buka and small adjacent islands, a large section of the work is carried out on North-west Bougainville. The central station is at SKOTOLAN on the west coast of Buka. Here we have an agricultural lease of 200 acres, a considerable part of which is planted with coconut palms in full bearing. The station is in charge of the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton, and associated with him are Sister Elizabeth Common, the Rev. Usaia Sotutu, Fijian Minister and his wife, Margaret.

Our circuit vessel, the "Bilua," which is commanded by Mr. Luxton, is located here, and serves the whole circuit. From Skotolan about 40 outstations are supervised, the majority of which are around Buka and on the adjacent islands. Opposite the Head Station on the northern end of the island of Petats, is the village described by no less personages than the last two Administrators of New Guinea as the finest village in New Guinea Territory. The excellent condition of this village is the result of untiring work and guidance on the part of Methodist Missionaries and Teachers. When I first saw the village in 1926 it was a haphazard collection of primitive native huts, very dirty, with pigs everywhere. To-day it is a beautifully clean village, where town planning has been much in evidence and pigs are banished from the island. The people are clean, eager and earnest Christians, keen to learn, and displaying much initiative. They certainly merit the high praise of Sir Ramsay McNicoll, the Administrator of New Guinea.

Forty miles south on the west coast of Bougainville lies the populous primitive district of KUNUA. It has always been a vision of mine to see this district controlled by a resident Native Minister or Catechist. We have here about a dozen stations and there is great scope for extension work. It is a "dream" that some day we shall have a string of stations down Bougainville's west coast, linking up with the work in the Buin Section at BANONI.

Within the last twelve months Mr. Luxton has been able to make a start in this direction by placing one of his senior teachers, WILLIE PITAKOMOKI, on the coast of KUNUA. The latter has opened a central school for natives of that district where the prospects are promising.

Another circuit dream has reached fruition in the commencement by Mr. Luxton at Skotolan of a Technical School, where, despite serious lack of tools and equipment, he has been able to teach carpentry to natives from all sections of our circuit. This is destined to prove a very valuable contribution to our Missionary work. Mr. Luxton envisages the training of better native builders, of making circuit and school furniture, fostering canoe craft, and encouraging native arts and crafts of all kinds. He himself has had building and cabinet-making and engineering experience qualifying him for this important work.

3. Teop Section.

The headquarters of the Teop Section are located on the small island of Teop, half a mile off the most north-easterly point of Bougainville. From here the Rev. D. C. Alley directs a wide-spread work, which has grown rapidly under his energetic leadership, and to-day he has about 40 stations to care for. To Teop also there would have been

appointed this year a Nurse, had the war situation not intervened. It will, no doubt, be the first post-war appointment in our circuit. Apart from the area under Mission influence, lying on the mainland opposite the island of Teop, Mr. Alley



The Rev. D. C. Alley on patrol in the Mountains of Bougainville.

has two big areas at some distance. One comprises the TAUNITA and the RAMAZIN valleys to the west, where amidst wild, mountainous country he has a number of very effective stations. The other is some 20 miles to the south in the districts of ROTOKAS and VOHE. Here he has about a dozen stations, some of them far inland towards the very active volcano, Mt. Bagana, 6560 ft. in view of whose southern side some of my own stations are located. It is another of my "visions" that some day it will be possible to control a long chain of native stations linking up the work of the Buin Section with that of the Teop Section, not merely inland by way of Mt. Bagana, but down the eastern coast to KIETA; and also to open up a chain of stations across the island linking up the Buin and Buka Section work somewhere in the vicinity of BURUATA. In these areas of our Teop Section are our greatest opportunities for extension work and service. Incidentally, it was here that the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, when he was superintendent of the Circuit, was asked by the then Resident Magistrate at Kieta, to "open up" our work.

Finally it is my hope that, sooner or later, Mr. Alley will be given a small printing press for the publication of monthly lessons and other helps, to increase the efficiency of our teachers.

Perhaps in these dark days when the Japanese are in control of these shores, it will prove a tonic to see a "vision of what is to be," when the pursuits of peace replace the wantonness of war. There is no doubt the native church will then need our practical help and our prayers as they never needed them in the past.

"Your young men shall see visions."

Personal and General.

WELCOME NEWS FROM THE SOLOMONS.

We have received the following welcome message from the Sydney Office of the British Solomon Islands Government:

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that under date 28th July the Resident Commissioner in the British Solomon Islands advises that all is well with the members of your Mission in the British Solomons."

This news of the well-being of Sister Merle Farland and the Revs. J. R. Metcalfe and A. W. Silvester at such a recent date is most encouraging in view of the fact that the Solomons have been in enemy occupation for some considerable time. Except in the remote possibility of his having crossed from Bougainville to the British Solomons, the message would not include the Rev. D. C. Alley. Our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs. Alley and her two small sons who have had no news of their loved one since the end of February. We believe however that he is still with his people in the mountains of Bougainville.

The good news from the Solomons encourages us to hope, not only that those on the Field will be able to maintain their great work, but also that the evacuated workers may be able to return in the not distant future.

REV. V. Le C. BINET.

We greatly regret that ill-health has compelled the Rev. V. Le C. Binet to seek retirement from circuit work but rejoice to know he will be able to continue his editorship of "The Lotu", our Children's Missionary Magazine. Fifteen years experience in the Solomons added to real literary ability specially fit Mr. Binet for this work which he has so successfully carried out for the past five and a half years. He maintains the paper on a high level and it is much appreciated by children and adults alike. The circulation of "The Lotu" is 7,400 and it is safe to say that each copy is read by two or three people. This gives Mr. Binet regular contact with more than 15,000 readers and we pray that he may be long spared to continue this rich and able ministry.

SYMPATHY.

Some readers of "The Open Door," in common with many others in New Zealand, are passing through the deep waters of sorrow as the casualty lists report their loved ones as dead, wounded or missing. We extend to them our deep sympathy and pray they may be sustained by the ever suffi-

cient grace of God.

REV. A. B. CHAPPELL, M.A., F.R.E.S.

The Foreign Mission Board has lost a valued member by the death of the Rev. A. B. Chappell. Mr. Chappell was deeply interested in the Missionary work of the Church and was a member of the Mission Board for many years. His "Manual of Missions" and "Missions" were valuable contributions and have been widely used in Dominion Leadership Training. He was also associated in a timely Report on The Labour Problem in the Pacific: and published an independent review entitled "The Stir in Samoa." At the time of his death was engaged on A History of Methodist Mission among the Maori through 50 years.

We extend to Mrs. Chappell and family our tender sympathy in their great loss.

REV. M. K. GILMOUR RECALLED TO PAPUA.

The Rev. M. K. Gilmour's numerous friends will be delighted to learn the Australian Board of Missions has asked him to accompany the Rev. J. C. Rundle on a special survey of the Papua District immediately permits to travel are granted. It is



Bromilow Memorial Church, Dobu, built by the Rev. M. K. Gilmour and technical students.

a distinct honour to this great missionary and a glowing tribute to the outstanding value of his 33 years in the District that, at the age of 70, he should be asked to return to the Field. The whole of our European staff was evacuated from Papua some months ago and it is hoped the visit of the Revs. M. K. Gilmour and J. C. Rundle (Chairman of the District) will not only encourage the Native Church but also prepare the way for the return of all the white workers.

Extracts from the Choiseul Circuit Report, 1941.

By the Rev. J. R. METCALFE.

Ever since the writer came to Choiseul twenty-one years ago constant reference has been made to the approaching appointment of a Government Officer to take charge of this Island. This year the long expected has happened and I am happy to report that all the fearful anticipations of trouble and upset have been dispersed. The Officer sent to open up the work could not have been bettered. He has shown patience, insight and sympathy, with a quiet firmness and impartiality, which have won immediate respect and a ready response. His presence at our Church services conducted by Native Teachers has won golden opinions, and his appreciation of the services of the Teachers and their wives to the village communities has been most generous. So far the natives have taken very kindly to this revolution, which is the dominant feature of the year and a definite milestone in Choiseul history.

The other outstanding event, which would have been the most prominent any other year, is the retirement of Sister Ethel McMillan from the work. Almost the whole of her twenty-seven years of Island service was given to Choiseul. Often for long periods she was the only white member of the staff on the island. During the whole of that time I do not think she met a Government Official more than once a year.

There have been no epidemics this year though we have had more deaths, than for some years past; 60 in all, 23.02 per 1000 of baptized persons. The birth-rate cannot be correctly given, but it is cer-

tainly over 30 per 1000, and without doubt our numbers are steadily increasing. Among those who passed hence during the year are Emosi Tozaka the man who more than any other brought peace to Choiseul; and Noa Dapkana, a cheerful old fellow who lived to be amazed by the passing of an aeroplane. Telling us about this he said, "I have seen an aeroplane. With these eyes I have seen it I was amazed. I was afraid." The old order passes giving place to new, but unfortunately too many promising youngsters are passing also.

Good work has been done at our three Sub-Hospitals, although there has been an unbridgeable gap owing to furloughs of Sister Vera and Dr. Rutter. The Medical Orderlies have given good service especially Emosi Kulo and Etuini Vagipio, the ones farthest from our Head Station. Once again many Seventh Day Adventist people and Roman Catholics were treated, and the former have shown their gratitude by contributing to our Annual Offering.

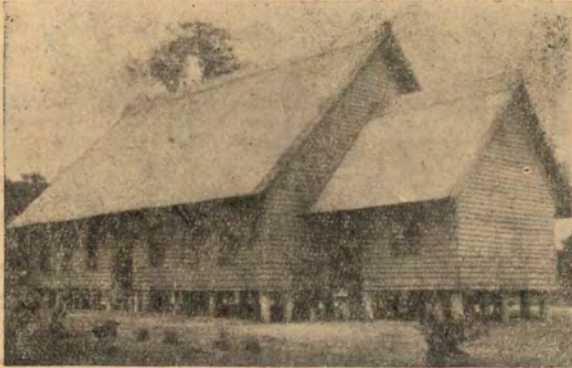
The work among the women, girls and babies has been carried on to the best of our abilities. Marama has filled the gap on many occasions. Just at present we have only one baby under a year old which is less than at any other time during the last seven years, and probably longer. This seems to indicate that the additional work among the women is producing results. About half the girls in the Home returned to their villages when Sister Ethel left, but just as many came to take their places and are fitting in very well.

This year we have had an epidemic of Church building and renovation, some of it quite overdue. About one third of our churches have been re-opened or are on the waiting list, and without exception they are an improvement on the previous buildings. The one at Pangoe is a handsome structure, the rostrum being exceptionally good, planned and executed entirely by the teacher and his helpers.

The time previously put into copra making has been used for gardening and we now have



Sister Ethel McMillan with her Girls and Babies.



New Church at Pangoe, Senga.
Pangoe is our largest station on the north-eastern side of Choiseul.

large gardens on land loaned by the local people, but it will be some time before we shall reap the benefit from our labours. We have instituted communal gardening this year, the boys doing the heavy work and the girls the light, with satisfactory results so far. The Government are taking more interest in agriculture and their expert visited us during the year, unfortunately for us at a time when circumstances made it impossible for us to take full advantage of his helpfulness. We are hoping for another visit at a more opportune time. However, two of our Choiseul boys have been sent to New Guinea for Agricultural training.

Our Annual Offering has fallen off considerably, owing to the collapse of the copra market. Still the return is better than we had expected since many villages handed in bags of Trochus shell. Sea-Bangara, a very backward cause, has shown greatest development, more than doubling its previous contribution.

Sunday School and Day School returns show a slight increase in attendance. The Day Schools have been given more attention and there is a decided increase in the number of days schooling is given.

There are now 15 resident students and 6 locals in the Circuit Training Institution. At the beginning of the year four were sent to the District Training Institution, and during the year 3 have had to be sent out, but 7 others have been received. In spite of our disappointments the work is on a better footing than hitherto.

During the year special instruction has been given to the Teachers and Local Preachers, and Local Preachers' Examinations have been held. This has claimed a considerable amount of time, but it is eminently worth while and has resulted in greater efficiency and an increased keenness in service.

The Quarterly Leaflet issued from Kokengolo continues to be of great help to the Teachers and we hope it will develop into something still more valuable before long.

Our Quarterly Meetings continue to be an inspiration and are a definite rallying point in our Island life. The people realise their value and now see that our Government Officer is but enforcing work begun and cared for, up to the present, by the Church Quarterly Meeting, i.e. the care of infants and the sick, cleanliness of person, home and village; school attendance; the making of good paths and bridges; the settlement of disputes; and social service in general. They also realise that the men best fitted for Government Headmen are ex-teachers and local preachers who have paid most attention to schooling. The three Leading Headmen so far appointed are either Teachers or ex-Teachers, and almost all the Village Headmen are Local Preachers, all appointed on a community vote. Some of the backward villages are quite unable to produce a satisfactory candidate for the Government position.

Arrangements were made for another evangelical tour, and Nathan Kera, to whom we are greatly indebted, was loaned to us for the occasion and led the party. The services were well attended and good resulted, but our preparatory work was hardly good enough, and some of the meetings failed to grip. Kera said the best meeting was at Lologai where we have a very much alive teacher, Nataniela Gedi, who has lifted the people considerably during his two years there.

We obtained a Radio Set during the year which is rather expensive to maintain both in time and money, but which keeps us in touch with the outer world in these days of stress. But for it most of the Days of Prayer called for by our King would have gone without recognition by us, the news arriving after the event. As it is we are able to send word to the Teachers together with a helpful outline of service, and it was very cheering to receive word from our Government Officer after one of these Services telling me how well our Teacher had acquitted himself. And so a difficult year comes to a close with a realisation of God's fullness and our emptiness, of God's gracious providence and our feeble response, of God's illimitable capacity to send the power and our failure to tune in correctly and receive. Yet, in spite of our halting steps, our insufficient grasp of spiritual truth, and our failure in endeavour, we still report progress.

"For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind."

WOMEN'S PAGES

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

9 Ranfurly Avenue,
Feilding,

August, 1942.

My Dear Friends,

How are you? It is almost too much to hope that you have escaped the prevailing epidemic but I do trust you have experienced renewal of strength and energy to live each day your "Utmost for His Highest."

August! What an interesting month it is! It calls up visions of Annual Meetings: Balance Sheets and Annual Reports: but it also speaks of a Great Renewal of life all round us. I have seen the young lambs frolic about and in my garden, a plum tree is decked in her Spring array. So August brings to us a message of Resurrection and New Life and as we go out into our new year of Auxiliary work, I pray we too may experience a fresh in-filling of God's Spirit of Love so that all our daily walk whether in the home, in the street or in the Church, may be radiant with the Light that can only come from a Spirit-filled life.

I trust your Annual Meetings were heights from which, following the backward glance over the year's work, you had a vision of greater things ahead! Never be satisfied with past experiences whether personal or Auxiliary. God beckons us always upward and onward and in the Christian Army there must be only one word—"Advance"! I have already heard of two Branches and one Auxiliary which have set out to double or treble or at least increase their income this coming year and I cannot resist repeating the glad good news from our Methodist Women in England. For the year ending Jan 31st 1942, they, for the first time, reached an income of six figures—£102,634 an increase of £5,861 on the previous war year. Then Easter offerings for the same year were £12,615, an increase of £2,043! My friends what shall we say in face of such facts: what shall we do with such an example before us!

Workers.

I have little to report concerning our Workers since last I wrote. Sister Grace has completed her deputation work in South-Auckland and is now on furlough. Sister Elizabeth is doing loving service as Sub. Matron of the Astley Home for elderly ladies in Auckland. We know her work there will be a labour of love.

Sister Lina is doing effective work in the Foreign Mission Office in Auckland and is very happy there.

Sister Vera has been appointed Sub. Matron of Tauranga Hospital and is renewing happy associations with Rev. and Mrs. Bensley. You will be sorry to hear that Sister Atawhai has to enter Hospital shortly for further treatment. We have her specially in our prayers.

Conference.

With permission given to travel and failing any unforeseen developments in the war position we move steadily toward Conference in Napier in October and ask your Special prayers that God's Hand may be upon all our planning and upon all Conference deliberations.

Intercession.

To-day, as never before, comes the call to engage in the Ministry of Intercession. Countless numbers of our members are under the shadow of bereavement or are filled with anxiety and foreboding. To all such we send an assurance of our prayers and ask God to be their shield and stay in every hour of special need. Let us remember in our prayers, the women of the world—the mother hearts of every country for we all belong to God and to one another.

Close.

I do want to say a very sincere "thank-you" to all our women for their splendid loyalty throughout the past year of service. Words cannot express my own appreciation of all the love and prayer and understanding which have upheld us as an Executive! Reports to hand show a wonderful spirit of continued self giving and we are deeply grateful.

And now, forward we go into another Auxiliary year, sure of God's guidance, pledged to serve Him more sacrificially than ever before and just thankful that He deigns to give each one of us a place in His great Kingdom Building Work.

My grateful thanks and my love to you all,
Your friend,

ISABEL TAYLOR.

MANAWATU.

According to reports received; in spite of the lack of petrol and other difficulties, all auxiliaries in this district are progressing favourably. Meetings are held regularly and interest is well maintained. Rongatea, holding meetings quarterly, held a "bring and buy" last quarter; twelve members present. Sisters' letters and President's message much appreciated. Woodville, opened this year with a garden party; having games, competitions and a stall. A Thank-offering service

THE OPEN DOOR

was held this year for the first time, with a satisfactory result. **Pahiataua** was able to get speakers from Woodville and the Salvation Army when they invited members from other churches. Expressions of appreciation of President's messages and Sisters' letters. **Felding** is more fortunate still in having the President in person with them, she has spoken at two of their meetings this year. April meeting was in the form of a service for the Easter Thank Offering which amounted to £18/17/-. **Palmerston North's** big day was the Convention held on June 3rd. with a most encouraging attendance—a day full of sunshine and inspiration. "Trust more, pray more, work more, for the coming of the Kingdom of our Lord."

* * * *

WELLINGTON.

The Annual Meeting of the Wellington W.A. was held at Taranaki St. on Friday, 14th. August. The President, Mrs. Nicholson, occupied the chair. After the opening devotions, the secretary, Mrs. N. McDonald read a very excellent annual report, which proved that Methodist women are still very actively interested in Auxiliary Work. The treasurer, Mrs. Denby, presented the annual statement, which showed an increase in income for the year of £72. Rev. A. K. Petch occupied the chair for the election of officers which resulted as follows:—**President**, Mrs. Nicholson. **Secretary**, Mrs. Trembath. **Treasurer**, Mrs. Denby. After the Rev. Petch had congratulated the ladies on a year of very good work, he closed the meeting with prayer.

Lower Hutt presented a fine report of work for the past year at their Annual meeting. Members are indebted to Mrs. Swift for her leadership in devotional sessions, bringing a challenge to us and creating a worshipful atmosphere in our meetings. Easter Offerings showed an increase and the dedication of our gifts took place at a special service conducted by Rev. F. J. Parker. The Birthday League is proving a splendid way of raising funds and its membership now stands at 64. Contributions have been maintained towards Kurahuna Funds, gleanings boxes, and the stamp department, while the Balance Sheet showed a total income of approximately £40, being an increase on that of last year. Special speakers have addressed many of the meetings, including Mrs. Smith (Salvation Army) whose subject was "India;" Mrs. V. Wakeelin from the British and Foreign Bible Society; Rev. R. B. Gosnell, "Missionary Work in Fiji and North Auckland;" Mrs. Nicolson, "God's care," (with special reference to the safety of our missionaries.)

* * * *

WEST COAST.

Greymouth. Mrs. Bensley has done much in keeping members' interest keen, despite fluctuating membership and bad weather causing lessening of attendance. A box for the Iepers is now kept on the table at each meeting, as well as one for Kurahuna and the general fund. **Reefton.** This small group is working steadily. They derive great inspiration from the President's Quarterly letter. **Hokitika** report a new member. They have a fine leader in Mrs. Hanna.

Acknowledgments.

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous contributions:-

Special Medical Fund.

Pitt Street	12 0
Kia Ora	5 0
"In Sympathy"	1 0 0
M.W.M.U.	100 0 0

Leper Fund.

Previously acknowledged	£1314 10 8
P.G.W. Dargaville	17 6
"N"	5 0 0
St Johns Jun. C.E. (Papanui)	5 0
"Olwen"	1 0 0
M.W.M.U.	43 7 9

Total to date £1365 0 11

Rehabilitation Fund.

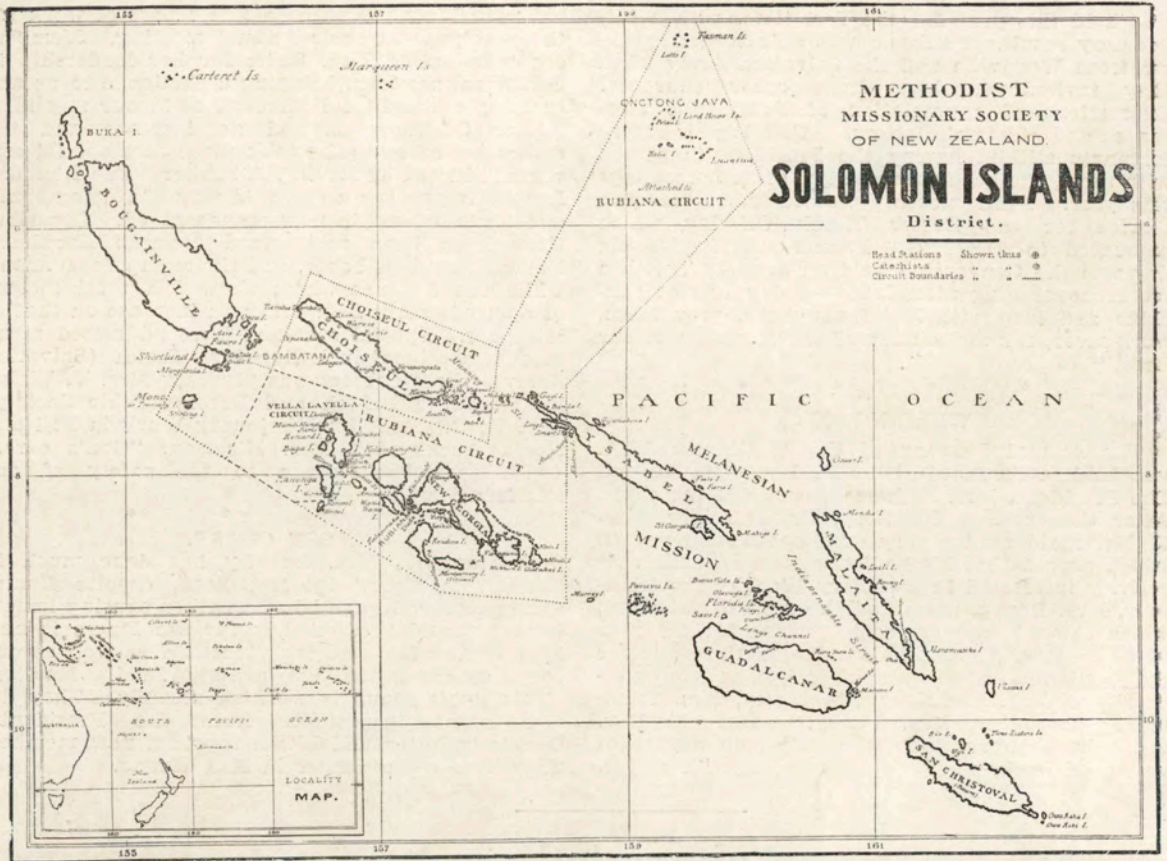
Miss A. M. Worsley	2 0 0
"N"	5 0 0
"Joyful Tenth"	2 0 0
Hamilton Circuit	1 0 0
Warkworth Ladies' Guild	5 0 0
M.W.M.U.	5 0 0
Snell's Beach	1 15 0

General Fund.

Anon	12 10 0
Anon	1 10 0
Kia Ora	2 6
"Country"	1 10 0
Anon	25 0 0
"Thankful Heart"	1 0 0

"O Master of the waking world,
 Who hast the nations in Thy heart—
 The heart that bled and broke to send
 God's love to earth's remotest part—
 Show us anew in Calvary
 The wondrous power that makes men free.
 On every side the walls are down,
 The gates swing wide in every land,
 The restless tribes and races feel
 The pressure of Thy pierced hand.
 Thy way is in the sea and air,
 Thy world is open everywhere.
 O Church of God! Awake! Awake!
 The waking world is calling thee.
 Lift up thine eyes! Hear thou once more
 The challenge of humanity!
 O Christ, we come! Our all we bring,
 To serve our world and Thee, our King."
 —Frank Mason North.

THE OPEN DOOR



The Challenge of the Solomons in War Time!
Our European and Native Staff and the Native Church need your Prayers and Practical Support more than ever.

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