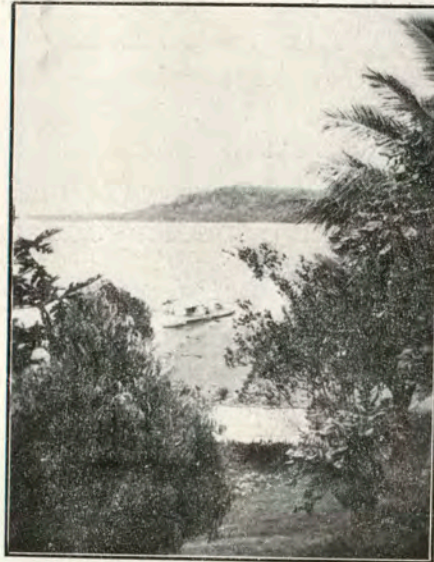


# The Open Door

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

DECEMBER, 1943.



The beautiful island of Dokedoke—  
often referred to as Bethlehem—  
where the chief Sakiri lives whose  
letter appears on page 8.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL.

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



# **REHABILITATION of the SOLOMONS**

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## **MEANS RESTORATION OF:**

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### **DISTRICT TRAINING INSTITUTION.**

Where the Native Ministry is Trained and where the new School for Girls will be situated.

### **SCHOOLS and COLLEGES.**

Where such excellent educational work has been done in the past.

### **TECHNICAL and AGRICULTURAL TRAINING.**

With its peculiar advantages and opportunities for a developing race.

### **MEDICAL WORK.**

The return of Doctor and Nurses and the training of native medical assistants.

### **TRANSLATION of SCRIPTURES.**

Giving to the people God's Word in their own tongue.

### **FULL WORK of MINISTRY.**

Support and encouragement of Native Ministry that all may know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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## **South Pacific Conference.**

At its Annual Meeting on 27th August, the National Missionary Council of N.Z. adopted the Scheme for a South Pacific Missionary Conference which had been under discussion for some time. The National Missionary Council of Australia has also approved the Scheme. The time suggested is January 1945.

The Chairman stated some of the desired results to be:

1. Problems common to widely separated areas can be dealt with by the united delegates.
2. The Church at Home ("sending country") can see the new powers developed by Island Christians.
3. A positive influence can be exerted on political development.
4. Through personal meeting of delegates the various Native Churches can be guided towards ecumenical reunion.



# THE OPEN DOOR

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The Missionary Organ of  
the Methodist Church of  
New Zealand.

VOL. XXII., No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1943.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

## The Solomons

By the Rev. JOHN F. GOLDIE.



Rev. J. F. Goldie

The situation in the Solomons is clearing up, and many of the islands recently in enemy occupation have been recaptured, and are now being used by our own New Zealand troops, and our American cousins, as bases for further drives against the Japanese invaders. Looking at the position from a Mission point of view, it is not too much to

say that indirectly our New Zealand Methodists have made a notable contribution to the satisfactory progress already made. When founding the Native Church in the Solomons we builded better than we knew. Had the natives of the Solomons been left untouched by Missionary effort, the difficulties of our troops fighting there for the defence of the Homeland, would have been very much greater. We are constantly receiving testimonies from our own men, as well as from the Americans at the front, as to the loyalty and faithfulness of our dark-skinned Methodist people. Of course the natives are not taking part in the actual fighting, but they have saved hundreds of lives in the battle area, and all through the dreadful struggle, have proved the genuineness of their Christianity by self-sacrificing efforts for the safety of wounded and lost men, and by keeping their services for prayer and worship going. In a letter from a New Georgian Chief received last week he says: "When we had to fly to the forests and mountains, we had to be content with simply holding regular family worship. Every little house became a church, however rudely constructed. It was impossible for us to gather in any great numbers for public worship, but we all felt that God was with us in our homes, although they were only bush shelters. I arranged," he added, "with the teachers that wherever they found themselves driven, they were to burden themselves with the care of Christ's Flock in that locality." Some of

our Methodist Teachers were impressed by the Government to do important work, and these acquitted themselves well. One of the American Officers said, "There are very many members of the Methodist Church amongst our American and New Zealand troops in the Solomons, and I want to say that never were we so proud of being Methodists as now, when we see the results of Mission work in these islands. A lady in New Zealand told me the other day that her nephew, writing from the Solomons, said: "I have never been a supporter of Missions before, but when I get home I shall work hard in their interests." There are hundreds of such testimonies to show how worth while our Overseas work has been. If all this will give our Home Church a clearer vision of the implications of the Gospel of Christ, and our responsibilities to our dark-skinned people in the islands of the sea, and in other dark corners of the earth, we shall be grateful to God.

So much for the past and present, but what of the future? While we rejoice at this justification of our Mission work in the South Seas, we surely ought to look upon it as a challenge to the people at home—not only in the churches but all honest serious-minded folk—to do something about it; for a great deal of work of previous years will have to be done over again when the enemy is driven out. Our Methodist Church was first in the field with a proposal to raise a fund to restore the devastated Mission Stations; to build again the ruined churches, schools, hospitals, and villages. This is one of the first things we must do. But there is an opportunity for a much wider work.

There is the challenge of a magnificent opportunity for the Christian Churches in the Mission Field to make a grand witness for Christ by a great united effort to save the Pacific Islanders—an effort that no other influence could frustrate. Shall we pocket our pride, shed our suspicions of each other, close our ranks, and work together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. In our own particular field we do not clash much with other churches. The Head of the Melanesian Mission is a most brotherly man, and anxious to co-operate with us, and we respect each other's boundaries. This can be said also of the South Sea Evangelical



Mission. There seems to be no reason however, why we should not get closer together and work as one body in all matters affecting the welfare of the native race. I am not without hope that in the future a Council of Christian Missions may be called into being, to consider problems common to all. This would be at least a step in the right direction, and could easily be extended to include Missions operating in adjacent districts. This would make simple many of our common difficulties.

There is also the suggestion that the Government of this Dominion should make some gracious gesture to mark the appreciation of the friendly co-operation of our Solomon Island people in this great struggle. The sons of New Zealand are fighting in those islands not merely to defend the islanders, but to defend the homes and cities in their own Homeland. There will be sacred spots over yonder where the boys who have made the supreme sacrifice will lie buried, and these will be hallowed ground to our black-skinned friends. But there will be many mothers and fathers in the Homeland who will receive the lads back again from the great adventure because of the kindly help of Christian natives. To save New Zealand homes, the homes of the natives have been over run by the red ruin of war, and many think that this calls for some recognition by our Government. At the present time if a grateful New Zealander desires to express his gratitude by a gift of money to restore the wrecked homes, schools, hospitals, and churches of our suffering island friends, the gift must be very limited, or the long arm of the tax collector is stretched out to intercept and frustrate the kindly intention. This should not be. At least all such gifts and legacies should be free from taxation. Every man and woman of understanding will heartily agree with the suggestion that what the natives of the Solomons have done to assist our troops should be recognised by our Dominion Government. But many of the ideas expressed as to the form such recognition should take might easily do more harm than good if carried out. In a matter of this kind wise and experienced missionaries—men who know the natives and their needs, and have given long years of service to help them—should be called into consultation. Many gifts are not of much benefit to the native.

Friends of the native have also some anxiety as to what the political position will be when peace comes again to the Pacific. New Zealand had some bitter experience in Samoa after the last war, and if we heard less about the mistakes of Australia in her well-intentioned experiments in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, it was only because these more primitive people had no means of voicing

their complaints. This statement must not be construed as meaning that New Zealand and Australia have not attempted to discharge their trust faithfully—putting always first the welfare of the natives. They have always made the interests of the natives of paramount importance. But the best intentioned laws and regulations can be made irksome, if not impossible, by the men who have to administer them, and the choice of Administrators has not always been governed by the highest considerations. Men of little or no experience of Native Races have for political and other reasons been placed in the most important positions, while less important positions in the Administration have sometimes been filled by untrained men who were temperamentally unfitted for the jobs they were called upon to do. It is inevitable that under such conditions serious mistakes should be made—mistakes which often meant hardship and injustice to the native. I have had to call the attention of Canberra, and also the Colonial Office in London to many such injustices—both legal and illegal. These have generally been remedied, but sometimes reluctantly, and consequently with a distinct loss of prestige for the local Administration. This need not have occurred if the Officials responsible had been willing to avail themselves of the influence and assistance of the Spiritual guides of the Native people—missionaries of vast experience and great knowledge of the native life and character. It is safe to say that the development of the Native Races of the Pacific has been greatly retarded—probably by more than a generation—by the reluctance of officials to avail themselves of the co-operation of experienced Missionaries. Rather than appear to share their authority with anyone outside the sacred circle of "Government," they have been content to blunder along in ways that meant cruel injustice to the native. This ought not to be allowed when peace comes again. These forces ought to be united for the proper development of the Native Race to achieve the success we all desire and hope for.

#### THE SEASON'S GREETINGS.

We wish all our readers a Happy Christmas and a New Year rich with God's blessing and upon which shall dawn the day of World Peace.

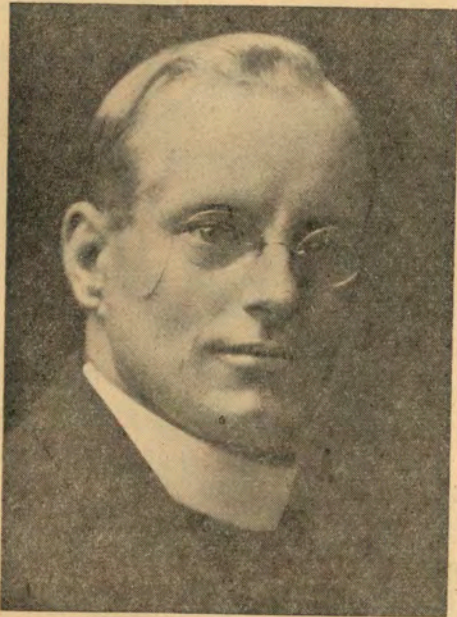
In a special sense we remember those away from home in the service of Empire, and those whose loved ones have made the supreme sacrifice.



## A Message of Greeting from the Rev. A. W. E. Silvester.

Upon my return I am privileged to bring the greetings and love of our Native Church to the people and Mother Church of New Zealand. Coupled with their message is my own.

We have greatly appreciated all kind thoughts and earnest prayer knowing that by them there has been vouchsafed to us protection and guidance. Through them we have been enabled to be faithful in the path of duty.



Rev. A. W. E. Silvester.

There has been no regret at the choice that was made and we look back with deep gratitude, triumphant faith and a sure knowledge that the best of all was, God was with us. We have known the encircling strategy of the enemy, the sense of grave danger and peril but also the joy of deliverance for we have seen together the hoisting and unfurling of the beloved Union Jack over our island. Together we joined in the Dedicatory service and prayer. The memory of this impressive ceremony will live long in the hearts of those who were associated in it. It was conducted on the top of a mountain ridge, in a dense jungle area and at the spot from which a magnificent service was rendered to the Allies to enable them to prosecute their policy of advancement towards the day of peace and freedom.

I desire to pay my tribute to the splendid loyalty and devotion of our Native Church. There are

those who have been refined and developed, and when called upon for any service however menial have never failed. With a consistency far exceeding some of our efforts, not counting the cost, facing perilous situations they discharged their duties thereby saving numerous lives of airmen, soldiers and sailors. Feats of heroism have been performed which have assisted our cause and also been a magnificent witness to the worthwhileness of missionary enterprise. As one has said, "These things could never have been accomplished if it had not been for missionary activity. They have their roots in the Gospel message." Certainly our Native Church has preached one of the greatest and most vital sermons many men have ever known. The result will be evidenced in days to come. There have been those who could not bear the strain but may be out of the refining discipline their characters will be recreated in Christ and they will make their lives tell in the future to the advancement of God's Kingdom. On the whole our native teaching staff have rendered magnificent service of which we as a Church can be justly proud.

Throughout the whole period, as we received supplies, the medical orderlies and maternity nurses who had been organised by Sister Merle were able to carry on a splendid work so that, until disorganised by the Japanese occupation, the healing ministry was most effective. We had a minor epidemic of dysentery but the necessary medicine became available and although some deaths occurred the situation was soon in hand. Apart from this period the health of our people was very good and injections systematically given.

Throughout the whole period we were able to continue the services of our Lotu. Changes were made to meet necessary situations but the Gospel message was ever proclaimed to strengthen our people in their trying experiences. At times through other duties I could not associate, yet back in the bush the people gathered for worship and prayer. The witness of the Cross was maintained. After the entry of the Allies united services were also held and the various units of the American and New Zealand forces were represented. Much appreciation of this form of service has been received and the natives by their singing and witness have stimulated deeper interest in the things of God. During the many months of disorganisation, trial and occupation of our circuit no native life was lost through enemy activity. We had a

(Continued at foot of page 4).



## Fidelity and Courage of Native Church

Fine Gesture by our New Zealand Forces.

The following letter, written by the Commanding Officer to the General Secretary should be a source of gratification to the whole Church. The Foreign Mission Board has gratefully accepted the generous gift and the terms under which it is made, and greatly appreciates the fact that the Native Church and our European workers are rendering such splendid service.

Sir,

This letter is written on behalf of 17th Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery and ("E" Section Div. Sigs.) and (20 L.A.D. N.Z. Ordnance Corps) attached to 17th Field Regt.

During the recent operations in which this unit took part, the loyalty of the natives of this island was clearly demonstrated and their fidelity, courage and will to serve the British Empire and our Division was of great assistance to us and undoubtedly saved many N.Z. lives. It was very obvious that their attitude was due in no small measure to the excellent work done on this island by the representatives of your mission.

The natives' only return from the War to date has been the destruction of their hospital and the consequent loss of certain regular medical attention so essential to the maintainance of their health and educational services so appreciated by them and so necessary to adjust their outlook to the impact of "Civilisation."

It was thought by all that some tangible appreciation might be shown by us for their loyalty and assistance and the most helpful method seemed to be a subscription to raise a sufficient sum to establish a bed or beds or perhaps a small ward in a new hospital which it is assumed you will be aiming to provide when the war leaves this island. The response to the suggestion was immediate and the amounts promised individually by the members of

the three units guarantee a sum of approximately \$900 if your mission will accept it on the following trust:—

To establish a bed, beds or small ward to the extent of the fund, such equipment to be used freely by the mission and its medical representatives for the treatment of any native requiring attention, regardless of his faith or creed. The above beds or ward to be known as a gift to the natives of this island from the 17th Field Regiment, New Zealand Artillery and attached units as a lasting appreciation of their courage and loyalty.

If your mission will notify this H.Q. of your acceptance of this trust, steps will be taken immediately to collect the amounts and forward a draft to you.

For reasons of military security, it is not permissible to tell you the numbers of men contributing, but you should know that it is from men of probably every creed, faith and church known in N.Z. and from many "Non-performers."

This H.Q. would also like to place on record its appreciation of assistance given by your Rev. Silvester and Rev. Voyce by interesting addresses to all ranks; also by arranging facilities for small parties to attend the native services.

If you approve the suggested action, then on receipt of your acceptance a copy of this letter will be handed to the local chief through your representative and a draft for the amount will be forwarded you as soon as the fund can be collected and remitted.

This action is being taken with the full cognizance and approval of Major-General H. E. Barrowclough, D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C. N.Z.E.F.I.P.

(Sgnd.) John G. Warrington,

Lt. Col. (Temp.), Acting Comd.  
17th Field Regt., N.Z.A.

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### A MESSAGE OF GREETING FROM THE REV. A. W. E. SILVESTER (Cont.)

few who were wounded, two were taken prisoner but escaped and rejoined their people. Deaths we had from sickness but none could be traced to Japanese activity nor did we suffer through air raids and fighting after our Allies entered into our area.

It has been a joy to have been with our people and I am able to return in health and strength because of their loyalty, love and magnificent service. The Native Church as a whole has been wonderful and God has become a greater Reality.

I also pay my tribute to the work and fellowship of the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe and Sister Merle Farland in the days in which we were associated together.

"To God be the glory great things He hath done." To us is given a commission to guide, lead and sustain these Native Christians in the future. May we be loyal to the great responsibility.

Christian Greetings and thanks to all.

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### EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL.

Sister Lina Jones expresses sincere thanks for numerous parcels of pictures and postcards to hand for school work in the Solomons.



## “What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee.”

BRAVE BUT POIGNANT LETTER FROM THE LEADING CHIEF OF THE ROVIANA LAGOON  
TO THE REV. JOHN F. GOLDIE.

November 9th, 1943.

My Father,

Your name has been constantly in my thoughts and in my heart. I have been wondering how and where you are, and I have prayed that you and Marama might be kept in good health, also Ula, Nellie and Piga Senda. My heart has been very heavy at this long separation, but you have the joy of being with your family.

Now, my father, I will tell you something of myself and family, and of the people you love so greatly. As you know, my own family is still growing. There are my wife, Daiana, Joseph, Cecile, Ula, Nellie, and Juda. Juda is a boy, and was born on September 23rd, 1942. We have suffered many hardships, but we have been preserved in a very wonderful way. God's love and care never failed us. At times since you left we have had trouble and sickness, but not too severe. The real difficulties of myself and family began on September 28th, 1942, when the Japanese troops landed at Rendova Harbour—just opposite my island, and we had to take to the bush. A fortnight later they took possession of our station at Kokeqolo. The people of Dude, Roviana, and Bethlehem fled to Canaan, Nusa Hope, and Saikili, and remained hidden there for some time. Our chief difficulties were (1) Constant fear of Japanese soldiers, (2) The discomfort of sleeping in swamps swarming with mosquitos, (3) Constant hunger, because the Japanese had deliberately destroyed all our food gardens, and we were left without food. (4) Our loin cloths and other clothes, blankets, etc. had to be bartered for food, and so as the months went by we were naked most of the time.

During this time of distress many of our people died because of hunger and sickness caused by exposure. Boas Veo died on the 6th of July, 1943, and my heart was very heavy. All the people mourned for him, as he was a great Christian man, and greatly respected. In my own village of Bethlehem ten of our people died, also many at James Pitu's place at Roviana, and many of the Dude people died away from their homes at Canaan. Oh, Sir, war, famine, and sickness brought us all very low. We appeared to be walking in the shadow of death, and we were very helpless and weary. Mr. Goldie, you will remember David Hitu and Ege, the father of Renesi. On July 7th, 1943, the Japanese soldiers caught them, and led them into the bush and killed them. In this time of trouble we were all afraid, but there came

to our minds the words you so often used, “Totoso matagutu si rau maqu kalavarai koa Goi.” (What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee). We confess to being afraid, but God was with us all the time, and our faith did not fail altogether.

There were many children born during 1942-43, and this was a cause of joy, in spite of adding to our difficulties in this-time of trouble. Then came the day of deliverance and rejoicing. Even as I write this letter to you the horror and darkness seem to be rolling away, and pressing towards us comes the light, and we shall soon be happy again.

A few words about the Church in New Georgia. Sir, at the time we had to fly to the forest we had to be content with simply holding family worship. Every little house was a church. It was impossible for us to gather in any great numbers for public service, but God was with us in our homes—although they were only bush shelters. I arranged with the teachers that wherever they found themselves driven, they were to burden themselves with the care of Christ's flock in that locality. Opeti Pina, your own office boy, cared for the Ekelesia at Dude. James Pitu shepherded the little flock at Roviana. Isaac Maibule took charge at Canaan. Timoti Nina also proved himself a true disciple of Christ, and seemed to have no thought for his own safety and comfort, and during this time of difficulty and danger was never weary in carrying on God's work.

The enemy invaded Wana Wana, and the Church of God was scattered and persecuted, but the faith of the people did not fail them, and Daniel Ia Bule and Joni Bitibule (son of Boaz Veo) were true servants of God, and carried on their work—preaching and teaching, and encouraging the people to be loyal to Christ. At Kusage, where they were in great numbers, I sent Sidney Leke to take charge of the work, as Josaia, our teacher there, had been pressed into the service of the Government.

Oh, Sir, since the enemy invaded our islands we have suffered much, and in these hard times even our own Government has imposed very many hardships. The flock which you cared for has been driven hither and thither, stricken and scattered, without a shepherd. Many of us like orphans have cried for you to be sent back to us. We longed for the comfort and guidance of your presence.

I have had some work for the Government to do, and I have done this gladly, as I am anxious

(Concluded on page 9.)



# Rehabilitation in the Solomons

## Choiseul Head Station Destroyed.

We have already reported the destruction of all our head stations in the Solomons with the exception of Sasamanga, Choiseul. News has now reached us from the Rev. J. D. Metcalfe that this station, which was his home, has also been destroyed. Recent news of Japanese activity on Choiseul caused us to apprehend this grave news.

The Rev. J. R. and Mrs. Metcalfe and Sister Merle Farland had their homes here at the outbreak of war. The Late Rev. V. Le C. Binet and Mrs. Binet also served at Sasamanga and it was here too that Sister Ethel McMillan lived for most of her 27 years in the Solomons during which she rendered such outstanding service to the people of Choiseul, particularly among the women, girls and motherless babies. Here too Dr. Clifford James was stationed during his valuable, and all too short, term in the District.

In the midst of this further destruction and loss we are greatly uplifted by the following assurance of a Government Official to Mr. Metcalfe:—

"I got your letter of April a few weeks ago and was glad to deliver your message to all concerned, who are fit and well and carrying on wonderfully under great difficulties. I naturally cannot say much but I am very pleased with the way things have gone so far. Things have been tough but everyone has stuck to it in a most commendable way, and the war has brought out qualities which one never thought existed in such strength. I hope too that you will be able to return as soon as conditions permit."

## Destruction of Boats and Equipment.

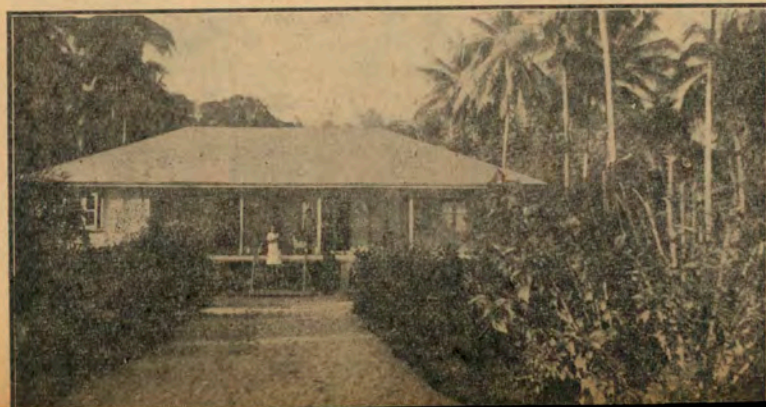
### EXTRACT FROM A RECENT LETTER FROM THE REV. A. H. VOYCE.

"There is absolutely nothing here. All equipment has gone, but the Native Church is loyal, steadfast and triumphant over loss and destruction."

"I visited next morning before leaving—a spot very familiar, where there used to stand a saw mill and boat repair sheds and I saw the unmistakable remains of the "Saga" at the water's edge—with her mast sawn off short and I stood on her deck—I mean side—once more, with very mixed feelings, and I souvenired some copper sheathing from there—and then I also gazed at the shattered remains of the Te Karere, the gift long ago of the S.S. Children of N.Z.—And through it all I felt—Well, we valued all this—and now it's gone. But it can be renewed and built again, if not on this spot, then elsewhere. And the Native Church remains, loyal and true, also with many broken vessels, but they too can be renewed in the Hands of the Divine Potter."



Part of Mission House, Choiseul, destroyed.



**HELP US TO REBUILD THE  
WASTE PLACES!**

**SEND YOUR SPECIAL  
REHABILITATION GIFT  
NOW!**

---

**Sisters Home Choiseul,  
destroyed.**







## Personal and General.

### THE LATE MR. WALTER AMBURY.

In the death of Walter Ambury one of God's good men passed to higher service and the Foreign Mission Board was bereft of an able and devoted member. Mr. Ambury was a member and Lay Treasurer of the first Executive Committee in connection with the N.Z. Auxiliary of the Foreign Mission Society appointed by the Conference of 1903 and which held its first meeting at New Plymouth on June 5th of that year. He joined the Board in Auckland in 1926 and has been a valued member ever since. He had a great love for Overseas Work and served this imperial cause and other departments of the Church with eager zeal.

### THE LATE MISS GLADYS GRIFFITHS, M.A.

Miss Gladys Griffiths was appointed by the Young Women's B.C. Union in 1928 as their first representative on the Foreign Mission Board and continued to serve in that capacity with consecrated ability until her Home Call. In her passing the Board has suffered great loss and the Young Women of our Church a representative of proved ability and great devotion.

### M.W.M.U.

At a recent meeting of the Foreign Mission Board deep appreciation was expressed of the able leadership of the retiring M.W.M.U. Executive under the presidency of Mrs. C. E. Taylor and its loyal and generous co-operation during the past 3 years. A warm welcome was extended to the new Executive which will be based on Wellington under the leadership of Mrs. H. Nicolson.

By means of their photographs in this issue we introduce the new Dominion President, Secretary and Treasurer to our readers and bespeak for them constant prayer. They follow in a great succession which by God's grace they will ably maintain.

Attention is drawn to the M.W.M.U. Conference Report on page 10 and the new Presidents first letter on page 12.

### ENSURING THE FUTURE.

Fielding holds an honoured place as a Missionary-minded circuit. One important reason of the consistently high level of its contributions is the missionary vision and challenge constantly before the children of the Sunday School. The children grow up with the missionary cause in their hearts. In a recent letter Mr. C. E. Taylor, the Superintendent of the School, writes:—"Our Sunday School has had the biggest year yet for Missions. . . . Our full contribution from the School is £60 made up as follows:—

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Foreign Missions—Rehabilitation | £20 |
| General                         | £20 |
| Home Missions—General           | £10 |
| Maori Work                      | £10 |

The above with £5 to the Masterton Orphanage makes £65 given to outside objects from the S.S. itself (not Bible Classes) and it is a great joy both to teachers and scholars to be privileged to make the gifts."

**WELL DONE!** A fine record of Missionary service has been established by Mrs. W. Taylor of Otahuhu.

For twenty years this devoted worker has been Circuit Foreign Mission Secretary and, with her helpers, has steadfastly set her face towards an increased total every year. She is sad that, for health reasons, she has to give up this work she has loved so well but rejoices in the knowledge that she has, by steady increase, brought the Circuit F.M. total to £100/9/1. We warmly congratulate Mrs. Taylor and thank God for such loyal and successful effort.

### MISSIONARY BULBS.

The Rev. W. W. Avery's "Daffodil Day" has grown to be quite a big event during the past seven years in the Willowby Circuit and surrounding district. The display of flowers on that occasion will not have been surpassed in quality in many places in New Zealand. Mr. Avery is well-known as one of New Zealand's authorities on the daffodil and has been selected as judge in many important shows. He is a great lover of flowers, with a genius for instilling that love in the hearts of others. Authorities state that he has started more growers than anyone else in New Zealand.

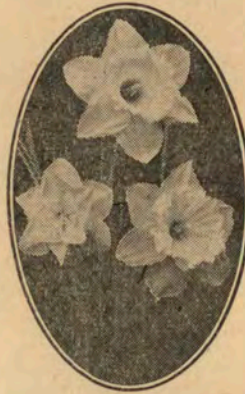
Mr. Avery expects to settle in Timaru having accepted an invitation to Timaru South, and is disposing of a large number of bulbs. As in the past, he desires that the Kingdom of God should benefit as a result of the sale, and is hopeful of raising fifty guineas for the Solomon Islands' Rehabilitation Fund, and also something for our Leper work. He is anxious to receive orders by the end of the year in order that the bulbs can be distributed early in January. Liberal discount in extra bulbs will be given on all orders of £1 or more. Please forward money with order direct to Rev. W. W. Avery, Willowby R.D. Ashburton. This is an excellent way to help the Mission funds and beautify your own garden at the same time.

### BONDS V BOMBS.

A N.Z. airman who had flown over Munda and seen the utter desolation of our District Institution has sent us some Bomber Bonds for the Rehabilitation Fund, stating that he could think of no better use for the bonds than to repair the damage of the bombs.

"A Widow" nearing the end of life's journey has forwarded £34 War Savings Bonds happy in the knowledge that the money will be used in rebuilding the mission stations that have been so greatly used in bringing in the Kingdom of God in the Solomons.

Generous gifts of Government Stock have also reached us for the Rehabilitation Fund. Further such gifts will be gladly welcomed.





## Cheering News from the Rev. A. H. Voyce

It is a great joy not only to be back again amongst our beloved islands, but to be working again with our own people. As you will have heard, I approached the G.O.C. and he gave his consent to my taking over from Mr. Silvester.

This very generous gesture on the part of the General Commanding on this island (Major General H. E. Barrowclough, M.C., D.S.O.) is very greatly appreciated by me, and by the Native Church, and the value this will be to the cause of our Mission Board will no doubt be patent to all. The more one thinks of the matter, the more one realises how important it is to have an officer acting as a liaison between the Armed Forces and the Natives, and it is a matter for extreme satisfaction that such an officer should be a Missionary.

Of course, my assignment to this position is temporary, and pending Mr. Silvester's return after furlough, or some relief coming to replace him, but it seems to be definitely likely to hold good for 3 months. Of course I am on immediate call if required to go on to places I know well.

On arrival, after leaving the plane, I was taken immediately to see the G.O.C., and I stayed there to lunch, meeting amongst others Dr. Ted Sayers. I had met Mr. Silvester on the road. There was to be a service at 1.30 and the G.O.C.'s A.D.C. drove me down. We were a few minutes late. What a sight met our eyes—300 to 400 people seated under the trees with Mr. Silvester in an improvised pulpit. The natives were in the centre—about 70 of them—and were singing beautifully. Mr. Silvester spoke to the troops. The whole service made a deep impression on all—and scores said afterwards how they had enjoyed it—and especially the Native singing. Many people are getting quite a new insight into Mission Work and these combined services will do much to further the Missionary cause.

I am going to be exceedingly busy, I know, but I can rejoice in that. Already I am planning how to take the services on Sunday. I do not plan to attempt the local language but will do something in Roviana. I hope to get over the whole circuit soon—and to other islands as well. 15 of my Bougainville and Buka Circuit boys are not far away, and I hope to get them over. As time goes on I hope to contact and help the Native Church in all our Islands.

To-day we had very fine services. At 10 a.m. we had a Native service on the gravel of a river bed. I took about 15 of the troops in with me and they would not have missed it for worlds. I gave the natives the messages I had from you and Mr. Goldie. The afternoon service was here on the beach—much bigger than last Sunday. I have changed the method of service. Instead of having all the singing done by Natives, I have secured some U.S.A. hymn books and we had the troops singing, and they did very well. The natives sang two general hymns, we had two choirs, and the troops sang three hymns. I gave an address.

I am setting up a tent for use of Service men and I have moved into a repaired native house. I am fixing the tent up as a reading and writing

room for troops and if any papers, magazines and books could be sent by any friends—per post—they would be greatly appreciated—also any envelopes or writing paper. These items are exceedingly scarce, especially in the forward area.

Note—Mr. Voyce's address is:-

810500 Capt. A. H. Voyce, C.F.,  
16th M.T. Forward,  
2nd N.Z.E.F. I.P.,  
N.Z. A.P.O. 150,  
OVERSEAS.

"What time I am afraid I will trust in Thee."  
(Continued from page 5.)

to help. But my right hand has always held on to the Work of God, as I don't want that to suffer.

My surprise was great, and my happiness greater when I met Mr. Voyce on my island (Bethlehem). He came and slept in my house, and we talked until late into the night. But seeing him made my heart cry out for you, my father. When can we see you again? How long before you come to us?

My great love to you and Marama. God keep you both is the prayer of

Your son in the Gospel,

J. F. G. Sakiri.



Mrs. L. N. Denby, Dominion Treasurer, M.W.M.U.



## M.W.M.U.—29th Annual Conference

By Mrs. M. E. VIRTUE.

The 29th Annual Conference of the M.W.M.U. was held in the Bi-Centenary Hall, Pitt St, Auckland on 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th October, 1943. It opened with a social in the evening of the 12th presided over by Rev. E. T. Olds. Dominion officers were on the platform. Mrs. Lewis on behalf of the Auckland members welcomed the visitors. Special greetings were read from Mrs. J. F. Goldie and Sister Merle Farland, music and supper brought a happy gathering to a close.

At 9.30 on Wednesday morning we met together for the Communion service in Pitt St. Church. Rev. W. Walker presided, and Rev. C. H. Olds President of Conference gave the pre-communion address. About 200 women took part in this wonderful service which was a fitting beginning to our Conference. We then adjourned to the Bi-Centenary Hall and Mrs. Taylor in her opening remarks said that we were workers together, and then broke off and said "Anyone feeling lonely, if so put up your hand," no hand went up. Then she asked for our sympathy for all aching hearts, to mothers especially who are living through these anxious days.

Special greetings were sent to Queen Salote of Tonga on the silver jubilee of her reign.

Roll call—90 delegates, 45 Auxiliaries represented, 42 first timers, 10 executive officers, 3 officers elect, Revs. Goldie, C. H. Olds and G. Laurenson additional conference delegates. An invitation to hold the 1944 Conference at Timaru was accepted.

Some interesting items in the Dominion Secretary's report showed that we now have 4343 members an increase of 23, our income for the year is £5667/6/3, an increase of £406/1/9, it is interesting to note that the income in 1940 was £4911 so that during the intervening three years (all war years) the M.W.M.U. has risen by over £756. The Gleaners Boxes have contributed £173/17/2 a record, the Stamp fund this year is £376/7/7 a small decrease on last year owing to Centennial stamps being unprocurable in many places.

A very interesting item was that our "Special objective" for 1943 the equipment for the Maori Youth Centre, for which we pledged ourselves to raise £300 went right to the hearts of our women and we gave £720/18/8. £509/8/2 was put into a new fund which was opened last year for Sister's Rehabilitation, we paid over to the F.M. Board £1345 for Sisters salaries and £1136 to H.M. Board. We were fortunate in having 10 Sisters and Deaconesses at Conference each giving their reports and all proved most interesting.

Sister Ivy Jones has just completed her 15th year of work amongst the Maoris, she said at long last her dream had been realised in that the Maori Youth Centre was now a real thing, there is a little Maori Chapel at one end of the building, very chaste with a Maori carved pulpit and christening font, it is in this little chapel that folk come to be married, and others to have their babies christened, this youth centre meets a great need.

Sister Lina Jones who has been 18 years in the Solomon Islands told us how she is getting to-

gether equipment, so that when the time comes for her to return to her work, she will be ready. Sister Netta Gittos spoke of her difficulties at Kurahuna in trying to mould the characters of her Maori girls, it is not an easy task. The delegates were guests at Kurahuna to tea on Wednesday, after a tour of inspection, when we saw some splendid exhibitions of handcraft, we sat down to a delightful tea. Later we were entertained by the girls whose singing was much enjoyed. Other Sisters who spoke during Conference were Sisters Elizabeth Common, Grace McDonald, Effie Harkness, Olive Bott, Dorothy Poynton, Violet Kruse, Heeni Taylor and Atawhai, they all had very interesting stories to tell of their work. The Secretary read reports from Sister Eleanor Dobby and Sister Irene Hobbs.

We welcomed Miss Carr who came in her invalid chair. She has made a great contribution to our work for many years.

Mrs. Taylor in her Presidential address told of God's call to her to take up this work as President, her first message to us was, "when God calls don't be afraid to venture, when He leads we can follow safely, when He calls He equips," she closed with the words of the hymn which she loves to quote "This, this is the God we adore."

The finance committee had a strenuous time. Stamp money was allocated as follows, Solomon Is. Girls School, £100; Solomon Is. Equipment Fund, £39; 12 Home Sisters, £12 each (£144); Deaconess Retiring Fund, £25; Hamilton Youth Centre, £50 and Sister Lina's Building Equip. fund, £18/7/7; this being the amount collected by the "Lotu" stamp fund per Rev. A. A. Bensley.

Our special objective this year is to be £300 for Solomon Island Sisters Homes Fund. Rev. G. Laurenson spoke of the urgency of the Maori work, he would like to be able to put seven more deaconesses on the field and two Maori minister's. There are as many Maori children under 15 years of age as there were Maoris 30 years ago.

District council reports were very interesting, all spoke of the growing interest where councils have been formed, and it was decided to make them universal. On Thursday evening a public meeting was held in Pitt St. when combined choirs rendered sweet music to a full church. Rev. J. F. Goldie said in 41 years he had only seen one Spring and how he had enjoyed seeing the flowers in season! He spoke appreciatively of the work of the M.W.M.U. and for prayers and practical sympathy. Christianity is the most destructive as well as the most instructive thing—destructive in that it breaks down evil practices—and shows to the natives the love of God.

Friday afternoon saw the closing session of conference, it started with a hymn period, when many favourite hymns were sung, then came an "open forum" when questions that were concerning the women of to-day were asked and answered. The induction of the new officers followed, beautiful shoulder sprays were presented to the outgoing and incoming officers. Mrs. Taylor in presenting Mrs. Nicolson the new President, told her of the love and loyalty of the women and assured her that the







# WOMEN'S PAGES

# M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's  
Missionary Union of  
New Zealand.

54 Apuka Street,  
Brooklyn,  
Wellington, S.W.1.

Dear "Open Door" friends,

It is a real pleasure to me to bring to you the greetings of the newly-appointed M.W.M.U. Executive.

I think it is a wise provision in our Constitution that makes the term of office only three years, (though looking forward that seems a very long time) for it means that others have an opportunity of sharing that wonderful experience that comes to those who serve in this way. If it means much to us why should not others have that joy too?

Conference days are past and I leave others to tell you of the fine spirit that pervaded all our sessions. Just one or two things I would make mention of.

We wish to publicly acknowledge two anonymous gifts. One of £200 for the Solomon Island Girls' School, and another of £1 to the Solomon Island Rehabilitation Fund. To the donors we say a sincere "Thank you."

Things really seem to be moving in more ways than one as far as the Solomons are concerned. We are still waiting to hear that Mr. Goldie and Mr. Luxton have actually flown away, and what a thrill it is to know that Mr. Silvester is safely back in N.Z. There are many in this country and among our Native people in the Solomons who will never forget what he has meant to our Mission during this time of crisis. To Mr. Silvester we extend a very warm welcome, and pray for him a time of re-creation in the highest sense of the word.

I wish you could have shared with us the very beautiful Communion Service which preceded our first Executive meeting. The Rev. A. K. Petch seemed to bring us just the message needed at that moment, and we went into our business session feeling that a blessing had descended upon us as we re-dedicated our lives to the work of the King of Kings.

Now what of the year ahead? We have a splendid Special Objective for the year—£300 towards homes for Sisters in the Solomons. Anything over and above that amount to go to the Solomon Islands Girls' School. I know you will respond to that, but there's one thing I want to remind you of. It was with a little concern we noticed that the income for Sisters' Salaries was down a bit this year. Don't let us forget our first obligation—Sisters' Salaries.

We are accepting the responsibility of another Sister in the Home Mission work, and also increases that are due in the salaries of two other Sisters. Gleaners. I wonder if there are some readers of this page who are unable to attend Auxiliary meetings? We would be glad to receive you into our circle of Gleaners. Write to Mrs. E. Kellow, 17 Ludlam St., Seatoun, Wellington, and she will be able to put you in touch with your nearest Glean-

ings Secty. who will see that you get a box and also the monthly letters telling of our work. We need you each one, and you will feel you "belong."

### Missionary Literature.

We would be glad to receive any literature dealing with Missionary work in any country. We want Missionary plays etc. so if you have any of these you have no further use for would you send them to our Secty. Mrs. Riddell, 37 Resolution St., Lyall Bay, Wellington?

Already we have had enquiries for these things, from country Auxiliaries who do not have much opportunity of getting speakers. Can you help us?

Now we are again drawing near to the season of "Peace to men of goodwill." To many of you that will be a time of deep longing for those who are absent in the service of their Country. For them we pray God's special care and His peace in their hearts. Let us wrap round them that marvellously enfolding garment called prayer. May those who watch and wait be conscious of the peace that only comes to those who "Rest in the Lord."

During the weeks when meetings will be few, may you be renewed in body and mind, and ready in the New Year to take up the tasks that await you.



MRS. H. NICOLSON,  
Dominion President, M.W.M.U.



## THE OPEN DOOR

"Never let your zeal flag: Maintain the spiritual glow: serve the Lord." The standard set before us in the past has been high. Let us see to it that we fail not.

Our cause is a great one. Let us match it with our deeds. My wish for you all is just His best.

Your sincere friend,

MABEL R. NICOLSON.

### HAWKES BAY.

This district adopted the district working last year. Gisborne, Wairoa and Dannevirke have been visited by Napier members. The small group at Wairoa, whose church is without a minister has been having a struggle to keep going. In spite of this they have sent contributions of money to the special objective, stamp fund and Kurahuna. Napier evening branch is flourishing. Dannevirke arranged a meeting in July on the occasion of a visit by Mrs. Virtue. The attendance was about 40, and included Presbyterian and Salvation Army friends. Waipawa Ladies' Guild has also been visited and interest in missionary matters has been aroused. Napier District Council is doing good work in mothering the weaker auxiliaries.

### MANAWATU (Palmerston North District Council).

In September the President of the Manawatu District Council (Mrs. Boniface) the secretary, treasurer and stamp secretary paid a visit to the Foxton Ladies' Guild with a view to forming a branch. There were 17 ladies present and 4 apologies. The president was absent on account of the school holidays. Mrs. Chittenden was in the chair and gave the visitors a hearty welcome. After the Guild business Mrs. Boniface took the chair and introduced the visitors. Mrs. Fisher spoke of the Guild work at Cuba Street. Miss Moir spoke on the collecting and cleaning of stamps, and it was found that Foxton had a very live stamp secretary in Mrs. Hughes, who had just received £1/3/6 for the sale of stamps. Mrs. Boniface then gave facts and figures and aims of the missionary auxiliary, and with the aid of a blackboard, gave some interesting items of the work. This was listened to with great interest. Miss Cunningham then told a little of the financial year just passed, and urged the Guild to become members of the M.W.M.U. Mrs. Chittenden, in replying, said they had been intensely interested and would certainly consider being linked up. A very happy afternoon was concluded with afternoon tea and the Benediction.

### WELLINGTON.

The annual thanksgiving service of the Methodist Women's Missionary Union was held in Wesley Church, Taranaki Street, on Tuesday, September 14th. The president, Mrs. N. J. Smith presided. Rev. Ashleigh Petch led in prayer and a sacred solo was rendered by Miss Bennell. The speaker of the evening, Chaplain Darling of the U.S. Marine Corps, was welcomed by Mrs. Smith.

The offering amounting to £146 was presented by representatives of local auxiliaries and was dedicated by Rev. W. A. Burley.

A communion service followed, conducted by Revs. W. A. Burley, A. K. Petch and A. O. Harris.

The annual "After Conference Rally" of the

Methodist Women's Missionary Union was held recently at Wesley Church, Taranaki Street. The President, Mrs. H. N. Smith, presided, and extended congratulations to the new Dominion Executive.

Reports of the recent conference held in Pitt Street Methodist Church, Auckland, were read. The President quoted the following words from "Streams in the Desert"—"Look up and not down" to obtain our special objective. Mesdames Coventry contributed vocal duets.

During conference a donation of £200 was received from an anonymous donor towards the Solomon's Girls' School.

### WANGANUI.

On Monday, November 1st, a combined meeting of Wanganui Auxiliaries was held in Trinity Church Pariour to consider the appointment of officers for a District Council. The attendance was not large but all auxiliaries were represented. The officers elected were:— District President, Mrs. P. S. Whitlock; Treasurer, Mrs. J. Leitch; Vice presidents, Mesdames Peters, Martin and Browne; Stamp secretary, Miss Emens (Marton). The distributing secretary, Mrs. Wilks, was appointed at conference. The appointment of a secretary has not yet been made.

### NOTE:

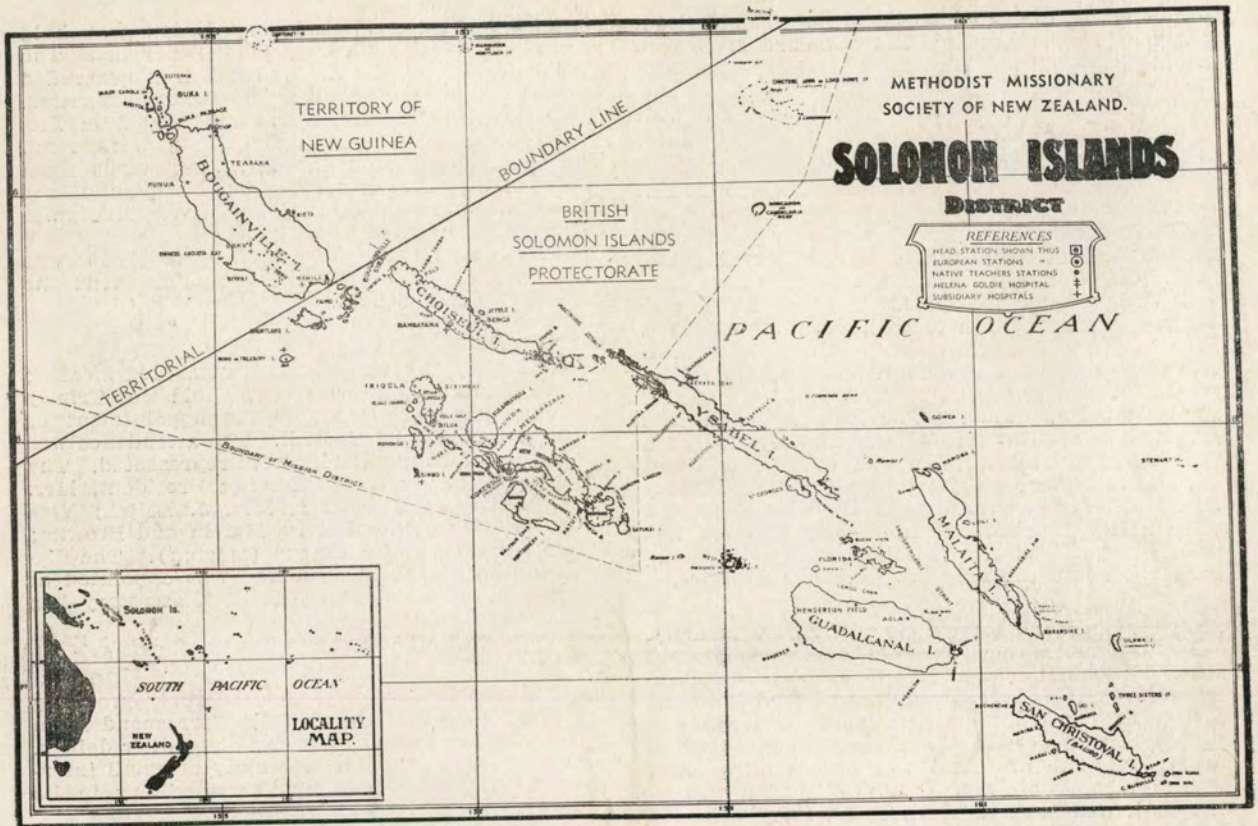
All auxiliaries are requested to reply promptly to the request of the District Correspondent in their district asking for a report of their doings. These reports, though seemingly of small interest locally, may help another auxiliary in its working.



Mrs. J. C. Riddell, Dominion Secretary, M.W.M.U.



## THE OPEN DOOR



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## Our European and Native Staff and the Native Church need your Prayers and Practical Support more than ever.

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