

*Mrs Edna White*

# The Open Door

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

MARCH, 1944.



DR. A. G. RUTTER, who returns to the Solomons at an early date. See page 9.



"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL.

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

# Treasurers' Report

for the Year ended 31st December, 1943.

The Treasurers have pleasure in presenting the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account for the past year.

The Income from the Home Church, excluding Special Funds, was £13,060/18/-, being £1,281/4/3 more than for 1942, and £1,060/18/- over the estimate. £1,300 in all has been contributed by the Women's Auxiliaries and £180 by the Y.W.B.C. Movement.

The Medical Fund Income, including interest on the Capital of that fund, was £1,025/15/9, and as there has been no medical expenditure during the year, this sum has been added to the Rehabilitation Fund, for Medical work. Income for the Leper Fund was £179/15/2, and since closing the books, a further sum of £500 has been received from the Lepers' Trust Board for building and equipping a dispensary for lepers in our Mission District.

The Boat Insurance Fund has been augmented by transfer from the General Account of £150 (including interest £83/4/6) and by the net sum so far received from the charter of the "Fauro Chief" viz. £166/14/4. This fund, which in future years will enable the Board to make considerable savings in Insurance, now stands at £616/14/4.

Apart from one item of £5 shown as Solomon Income, workers evacuated from the Field have made their personal contributions through various circuits.

The Rehabilitation Appeal inaugurated at last Conference has been well supported by the Church. Including £1,261/17/1, transferred from the Equipment Fund, £467/11/2 subscribed for Sisters'

Rehabilitation by the Women's Auxiliaries, £1,025/15/9 Medical Income, and legacies, a total of £18,657/3/2 was received up to the time of closing the books. Considerable sums are outstanding in promises.

We have been notified that under the will of the late Mr. Samuel Gorman, the Mission will receive a bequest which is expected to exceed £23,000. One half of this sum is to be added to the Capital of the Medical Fund, and the income from the other half used for the General Fund. No part of the capital will be available for rehabilitation.

The expenses in New Zealand, including payments to Trinity College the Deaconess Institute and the National Missionary Council were £1,563/1/3, being £24/16/3 more than the estimate. The Mission District Expenses now consist chiefly of stipends and allowances of workers—European and Native—still on the Field and on furlough. It should be noted that the item "Native Agents" is necessarily an estimate, but it is considered to be adequate.

This year there has been a profit of £37/1/3 on our papers. The "Open Door" and "Lotu" have circulations of 5,725 and 7,700 respectively.

The loss of £4,217/0/1 reported last year, owing to the destruction of assets in the Islands because of enemy occupation, has now been covered by the Rehabilitation Fund, leaving a debit balance still remaining in the Income and Expenditure Account of £1,002/1/5.

W. A. Sinclair }  
T. L. Hames } TREASURERS.

## NORTH ISLAND FOREIGN MISSION DEPUTATION PLAN FOR 1944.

The Revs. A. H. VOYCE and A. W. E. SILVESTER will be the deputations for the North Island. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, the Rev. A. H. Voyce has returned to New Zealand. Both he and the Rev. A. W. E. Silvester will have a thrilling story to tell of our Native Church in the battle area, and their visit to our Circuits will be eagerly awaited.

WELLINGTON	MARCH 26 — APRIL 20	Revs. A. H. VOYCE AND A. W. E. SILVESTER.
AUCKLAND	APRIL 23 — MAY 18	Revs. A. H. VOYCE AND A. W. E. SILVESTER.
SOUTH AUCKLAND	MAY 21 — JULY 6	Rev. A. H. VOYCE
TARANAKI-WANGANUI	MAY 21 — JUNE 22	Rev. A. W. E. SILVESTER
HAWKES BAY-MANAWATU	JUNE 25 — JULY 20	Rev. A. W. E. SILVESTER
	JULY 9 — 20	Rev. A. H. VOYCE

Subject to necessary adjustments when the date of Conference is announced and if permits are obtained for Missionaries to return to the Solomons.

# THE OPEN DOOR

Price - One Shilling per Annum  
Posted, One Shilling & Threepence

The Missionary Organ of  
the Methodist Church of  
New Zealand.

VOL. XXII., No. 4.

MARCH, 1944.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

## Pacific Policy and Native Rights.

In the 1943 Annual Report of the Foreign Mission Board we wrote, *inter alia*, as follows:-

### "POST WAR PROBLEMS.

The most difficult of all the problems confronting us during the period of reconstruction will be the guidance of the native people whose minds and outlook have been profoundly affected by this world war. Their economic life has been disrupted and their standard of values has undergone radical change. Prices are being paid for their produce and labour that cannot possibly be maintained, and necessary readjustment will not be easy. Moral and spiritual problems of an unusual type are created when large forces invade and occupy a primitive country, as has happened in the Solomons. These problems will call for much wisdom and patience on the part of our Missionaries, who will be concerned not only with the sad and sordid aftermath of war, but also with seeking for our Native people the rights and privileges we claim for ourselves and for which we have fought. The Atlantic Charter must include the inarticulate peoples of the Solomons equally with the people of New Zealand. In facing these, and many other difficulties, Mr. Goldie and his colleagues will be counting on the constant prayers and practical support of the Home Church."

Since this Report was written, the Prime Ministers and other representatives of the Australian and New Zealand Governments have formulated a Pacific Policy and the terms of their pact have been published. The main purpose of the pact seems to be the safe-guarding of Australian and New Zealand interests and it appears all too obvious that this spirit of self-interest will be the main concern of the various national representatives who finally meet in council to adjust post-war world affairs.

A vital concern with us, however, is that the native peoples of the Solomons and other Pacific Groups shall share equally with ourselves in any advantages that may accrue in world reconstruction concerning which there is so much idealism at the present time. While the Governments agree, in clause 31, that the proposed South Seas Regional Commission shall, *inter alia*, "recommend arrangements for the participation of natives in the administration with a view to promoting the

ultimate attainment of self-government in a form most suitable to the circumstances of the native peoples concerned," there is no suggestion that the natives should be represented on the Commission itself. Regarding this omission the Board passed the following resolution, copies of which have been sent to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, the National Missionary Council, and the Board of the Australian Overseas Missions Dept:—

### Pacific Policy.

"This Foreign Mission Board of the Methodist Church of New Zealand notes with interest clauses 28-31 of the terms of the Pact between Australia and New Zealand on Pacific Policy under the sub-heading 'Welfare and Advancement of Native Peoples.' While appreciating much contained in these clauses this Board notes with deep concern that the suggested personnel of the proposed 'South Seas Regional Committee' with advisory powers, does not include representation of the native races. Clause 28 affirms, *inter alia*, that "the main purpose of the trust is the welfare of the native people." Few in the South West Pacific understand the Native races and their needs as do the missionaries who have lived with these people for many years and speak their languages fluently and have their full confidence; who also have reduced the numerous languages to writing, and organised and directed in a large measure, almost entirely in some groups, the educational, medical and social services.

We therefore respectfully submit that where the native races are not sufficiently developed to be represented by their own people, they be represented on the proposed Commission by missionaries duly approved by the people themselves."

In the January, 1944 issue of the Pacific Islands Monthly, the Editor forecasts a South Pacific Regional Council and states "There should be a place—an important place—on the Regional Council for the representative of the missionary organisations."

An important fact to be emphasised is that many of our native people—particularly in New Georgia, Vella Lavella and Choiseul are quite capable of formulating and expressing their views on matters appertaining to their social, economic and spiritual well-being and do not desire that this shall be

done for them by those who view their islands as pawns in a political game, and regard them only insofar as they form a bastion of defence for Australia and New Zealand. They cannot, however, as a rule express their views in English and have no desire to be at the mercy of an interpreter in whom they have no confidence. Herein lies the point of the Mission Board's suggestion that where the native races are not sufficiently developed to be represented by their own people, they be represented on the proposed Commission by missionaries duly approved by the people themselves.

Many who remember the positive assurances of 25 years ago regarding post-war reconstruction, treat with considerable reserve the almost fatuous optimism of those who predict a social, economic, educational and medical millenium in the Pacific following this great conflict. The prospect of

Governments that have done little or nothing during the past fifty years suddenly doing everything is pleasing but improbable. In the Solomons and other Melanesian groups for many years, to come, Christian Missions in addition to exercising spiritual leadership and training a native ministry, will have to select and train the school teachers, and conduct the schools, give all important preparatory training for medical assistants and practitioners and civil servants. In fact they will continue to do much more than any others can to shape and direct the destiny of the people. It is reasonable therefore for Christian Missions to expect not only substantial financial assistance from the Governments concerned for their educational and medical work but also, both for the native community they represent and themselves, a seat and a voice in the proposed South Seas Regional Commission.

## Forced Out!

REV. A. H. VOYCE'S RETURN FROM THE SOLOMONS.

It has been a source of surprise and deep disappointment to the Native Church and the Mission Board that, owing to the departure from the Solomons of the N.Z. Forces to which he was attached, the Rev. A. H. Voyle has been compelled to return to this country. His commanding officer, recognising the special value of Mr. Voyle's services to the native people in their difficult conditions and as a liaison between the natives and the Forces, extended to him the utmost consideration and all possible facilities thus enabling him to render outstanding service concerning which Major General Barrowclough himself, many of his officers and men, and the native people have written in the highest terms.

Without exaggeration it may be truly said that Mr. Voyle was doing a great work and in order that he might continue it, Major General Barrowclough offered him the opportunity, subject to consent of the High Command, to continue in the Solomons as a missionary when his military unit was transferred. Mr. Voyle gladly agreed but consent was refused by the High Command. The tragic result is that the Native Church is left for the first time without a European spiritual leader. There are matters in the strategy of war that, of necessity, cannot be known to the many and it may be that the refusal to permit Mr. Voyle to continue to exercise his ministry of the Word and the Sacraments to a brave and loyal people who needed and desired his services is one of them. It is certainly beyond our understanding in view of the fact that for some considerable time there has been little or no fighting on the island on

which Mr. Voyle was located.

We understand that a native labour corps has been organised and that unmarried native men of certain ages have been compelled to serve. If such is the case a Chaplain of the faith and persuasion of these natives, who in the Western Solomons are predominantly Methodists, should have been appointed to minister to their spiritual needs and Mr. Voyle could have been retained in this capacity if war regulations prohibited his remaining as a civilian. We are not satisfied that justice has been done in this matter to our native people who have rendered such loyal and devoted service to God and the Allied Cause.

A special meeting of the Mission Board was convened as soon as it was learned that Mr. Voyle was under orders to leave and an urgent cable forwarded to the High Commissioner of the Western Pacific respectfully requesting His Excellency to make an immediate appeal to the Commander of the South Pacific for permission for Mr. Voyle to remain and stating that we considered the spiritual interests of the natives of paramount importance. This respectful request met with a curt refusal.

The extent and value of Mr. Voyle's work among our people has been stressed in our December issue and in the "Methodist Times" in addition to the numerous letters referred to above. The following extracts from his recent letters are both illuminating and inspiring and emphasise still further the tragedy of his withdrawal.

"I have enjoyed immensely my stay here—and with all contacts I have made with the Native Church—personally and by letter. I feel that my



**BROADCASTING A SERVICE FROM THE SOLOMONS TO THE UNITED STATES.**

The Rev. A. H. Voyce leads in prayer while the native choir bows reverently. A portion of the great congregation of Natives and American and N.Z. Forces can be seen.

coming has been well worth while, and my seeking release to join the N.Z. forces amply justified, especially in view of the fact that my G.O.C. saw fit to release me for special duties. I think also that so far as the Army is concerned, the liaison work for which I was released has been abundantly worth while. On the 18th prior to leaving for Mr. Goldie's old home, I visited the scores of natives working hurriedly to complete the Memorial Chapel in the Cemetery here. There the Chiefs interviewed me pointing out that their gardens had been devastated and whilst they themselves were amply fed—as they were working—the women and children were very poorly off and asked me to approach the District Officer for assistance on their behalf. Fifteen to twenty minutes travel brought me to Kokengelo and after getting permission from the Island Command to visit Roviana and Marovo areas, I went to stay with Capt. Campbell and in the late afternoon visited the District Officer. There I saw Nathan Kera, who looked well and was indeed cheered to see me. Next morning I had Kera over for a long talk and got reports from him on all aspects of our work in that area.

Yesterday I got the use of the "Ilehe" through the kind offices of a U.S. officer and, with two Sergeant technicians, set off up the Lagoon and camped that night at Baraulu, where we received a great welcome. Had a very fine service there and the singing was delightful. Afterwards they brought to me the "Thanksgiving Offering" which was taken up at New Year time—in the vicinity of £70. I had no opportunity to check it through

until I arrived home here and then I found amongst it £20 from B. Gina and family. Left there at dawn the next morning for Saikili to see Nathan Kera's place. Caught some nice fish—hooked a sail fish but he straightened out three hooks just like nails. Baptized 10 children—including twins and here too they gave the Vinariponi—amounting to about £6. Back again to Baraulu, where I found the chiefs and teachers of the area gathered for a conference regarding Mission and other affairs.

Next I visited the Wanawana and got a great welcome from Dan Sabule, Timothy Loe, John Bitibule and many others. It was here that our Bougainville and Buka students stayed during the Japanese invasion—they having been prevented from returning home when the Japs occupied Munda. It was from here also that they returned to their home sometime before the American Forces went up there. At a very large service at the Wanawana I conducted 3 marriages and 21 baptisms. The previous day I had a long talk with B. Gina and hope some time to write of his many exploits in the Allied cause. What Gina did in many operations here is a story that would thrill our people at home if it were known.

After visiting the Wanawana I travelled down the same afternoon from Kokengelo to the Marovo in 20 minutes. The U.S. authorities there were helpfulness personified. They treat the natives well. There are two established market days per week when the troops may meet at a certain spot where Mr. Dent used to live, and trade for native wares and for fruits etc. The Naval people, treat the natives at their hospitals. In fact two native babies have just seen the light in a Naval hospital there—quite a unique thing for



On the way to worship. Crossing a stream near where the big broadcast service was held.

a naval hospital. The commander gave me transport immediately, and I travelled down the Lagoon to where Paul Havea has had to move from Mr. Dent's old place. Paul was away in his garden, but I got a tremendous welcome from Harry Raino—as he clasped my hand with both of his and put his arm around my neck and patted me—with tears of welcome in his eyes. Later Paul came and made me doubly welcome. The island is very small and contains only one permanent dwelling—where Paul and Harry live—a large house in which Lotu also used to be held. There are three large houses used by the people as shelters when they come to Sunday services. At Xmas they built a huge native church in two weeks for their Xmas and New Year services. Here in this building, 90 feet by 30, they had crowds of about 700 at Xmas and New Year and they held their "Thanksgiving" then and to me that night they brought their gifts—nearly £190. For two years they have had no stores, nor have the teachers been paid, they have been turned out of most

of their villages and yet they gave in cash and kind with ready willingness. I had a teachers' meeting there—pointed out that they would not suffer financially and if they needed money I would arrange to pay them—but their reply was "No, we do not need anything." Sunday Services next day were an inspiration—probably 400 to 500 people present. Again I conducted 21 baptisms. A choir sang "Send out Thy Light" in English, and the "Hallelujah Chorus" in Tongan.

Mr. Seaton states that the native people of Choiseul who have moved up into the hills, never forget their Lotu night and morning, the teachers are carrying on, and the native dressers, and have done a wonderful job—also the girls trained by Sister Ethel—whose monument is the lives of the girls she trained and the babies she saved on Choiseul. She should be allowed to come back—the people definitely want her—and both Mr. Seaton and Allan Campbell are very strongly of the opinion that her life work there should be "written up" for publication."

## Government Policy and Missions.

Representatives of the Australian Board of Missions (Anglican), London Missionary Society (Congregational), Vicariate Apostolics in the Pacific (Roman Catholic), Seventh Day Adventists, and Methodist Overseas Missions met Federal Ministers and Heads of Departments in Sydney on 2nd February and had a long and frank discussion on the relation of Missions to the Government.

The following statement was presented for discussion:—

(a) **NATIVE EDUCATION IN PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA.** We the Executive Officers of Missionary Organizations working in Papua and New Guinea, learn with deep satisfaction of the interest of the Commonwealth Government in native education. Missionary Organizations have been almost entirely responsible for such education. We have not been able to extend our work as fully as would have been possible with greater resources at our disposal; nor have we been able to reach the high standard which has been our aim. We are hopeful however that with the greater public interest brought about by the war increased resources will be available in the future. With these we should be able to provide staff who have the necessary sense of vocation and who are also adequately trained. We assure the Commonwealth Government of our readiness to co-operate to the fullest extent in any plans which may be made for the better education of the native peoples.

(b) **MEDICAL SERVICES.** We assume that in future plans for the native peoples the Commonwealth Government will wish to provide greatly increased medical services. In the carrying out of such plans we are of the opinion that in addition to the medical work already being done by Government and Missions it will be essential to establish a Medical School for the training of medical assistants, and we ask the Government to give the matter the fullest consideration. We are of the opinion that the medical needs of the native population could be best served by the establishment of a medical school along the lines of that which has proved so successful in Suva. It is believed that in such a school instruction may be necessary at first in the native languages but that as the people advance it should be possible to give instruction in the English tongue.

(c) **NATIVE LANDS.** We are thankful to note the deep interest of the Commonwealth Government in the general welfare of the natives of Papua and New Guinea. It seems hardly necessary to point out that the native's chief security lies in the ownership and development of his land. In view of the assurance given by the British Government in days gone by we welcome the words of Dr. Evatt in his outline of Pacific Policy in which he says—  
"The Atlantic Charter charts the line of advancing civilization in the Pacific as elsewhere . . . we must endeavour to deal honestly and fairly with an aboriginal race beyond our

own borders . . . treating the welfare of the natives as one of our most imperative duties."

To realise this aim we ask the Government to consider the abolition of the indenture system and the encouragement and instruction of the native to develop his lands for his own needs in order that he may become conscious of being an end in himself and that he may thereby more rapidly and certainly reach independence and security. It is believed that there would still be ample supplies of native labour for other productive and development work if the conditions of labour are made reasonably attractive.

Dr. Evatt who was in the Chair, after consultation with the heads of departments, declared that there would be no difficulty in accepting the State-

ment and he thought that it would be in agreement with the views of the Federal Government. He expressed his astonishment at the amount of work that had been done by Missions in the Pacific and pledged the utmost support of the Government.

The following were appointed an Advisory Committee to collaborate with the Federal Government and its departments regarding the formation of a definite policy to guide the Governments in the Pacific in carrying out their task of promoting native welfare and social and moral development.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Cranswick (A.B.M.), Rev. H. L. Hurst (L.M.S.), Rev. J. W. Burton (Methodist). The Rev. Monsignor Hannan (R.C.) could not undertake to sit on the Advisory Committee until he had consulted his superiors.

## Personal and General.

### THE LATE FRANK THOMPSON.

In the passing of Frank Thompson many of us have lost a personal friend for whom we had deep regard. With the Editor the friendship began at New Brighton in 1912 and it has grown with the years. No minister ever had a more loyal and understanding friend. He had a special genius with young men and has helped to mould many lives for high service.

Frank Thompson's vision and sympathies were wide and he was ever deeply concerned for the Kingdom overseas. For many years he was a distant member of the Foreign Mission Board, the North Canterbury District Foreign Mission Secretary and Foreign Mission Secretary of the St. Albans Circuit. In these offices his great organising ability found scope and his own generosity was both an inspiration and challenge to those to whom he appealed.

In all his missionary work and other wide Christian interests Mrs. Thompson shared fully and the Mission Board has conveyed to her its deepest sympathy and the sense of its own great loss.

### SUPPORTING A TEACHER.

Mr. H. L. Ludwigen of New York City and the U.S. Navy is good to meet. Of Norwegian parents and a member of the Lutheran Church, he visited the Mission Office recently to tell us that what he had seen in the Solomons of our Native Teachers had challenged him to a share in their work and a desire to support one of them. He paid us £15 for 1944 and one of our Vella Lavella teachers will become his annual financial responsibility and his friend and representative in this Work of the

Kingdom that has stirred his heart. This is a beautiful link between our Solomon Islands Church and our American Allies.

During his brief stay in N.Z., Mr. Ludwigen was the happy guest of Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Christian of Tauranga.

### NATIVE MINISTERS AND TEACHERS ON BOUGAINVILLE.

We have received recent word that four of our British Solomon Islands Teachers and their families who have continued their fine work on Bougainville right through the Japanese invasion have returned to their homes after many adventures. They were thin but otherwise well. Our thoughtful correspondent, Lieut. F. P. Archer who has been a planter on Bougainville and Buka for many years and is now in military service, had also heard that the Revs. Usaia Sotutu and Eroni Kotosoma (Fijians) were well and doing good work. He had however, no further news of the Rev. D. C. Alley.

### OLD COINS FOR REHABILITATION.

The Rev. C. T. J. Luxton reports 25/- for the Rehabilitation Fund from the sale of coins and adds:-

"It is possible that many of our interested supporters have some odds and ends of foreign coins, or old English coins. If these were donated to our work, they could be sold to advantage and the return from them put to the Rehabilitation Fund. Any coins or paper money of any country, and any English coins from a farthing upwards, are of interest to collectors, and as I am in touch with numismatists, I could find a ready market for them."

Please search out the old coins that you have put aside from time to time, unwanted collections etc., and send them to the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton, Penning Road, Milford, Auckland, for the Solomon Islands Rehabilitation Fund.

# Rehabilitation.

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## The Solomons Calling You!

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MISSION STATIONS AND EQUIPMENT HAVE BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY DESTROYED BUT THE SPIRIT OF THE NATIVE CHURCH IS UNBROKEN.

THE NATIVE PEOPLE HAVE LOST HOUSES, GARDENS, CANOES ETC, AND HAVE BEEN SCATTERED FAR AFIELD BUT THEY STILL PRAISE GOD.

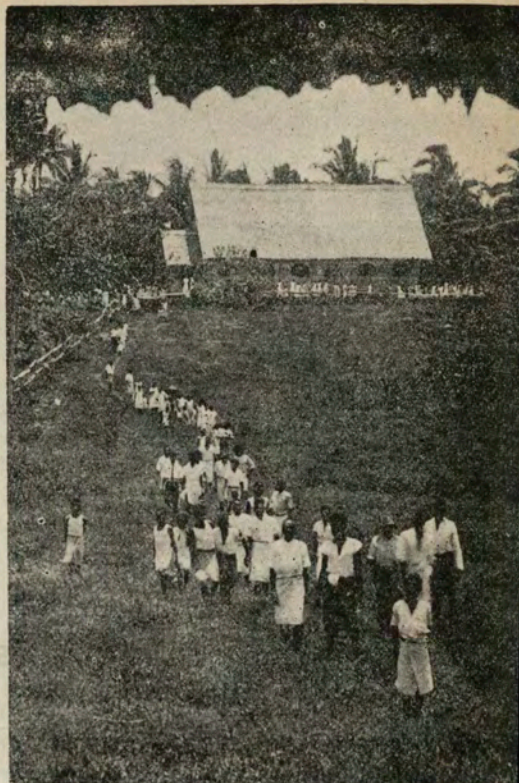
THANKSGIVING SERVICES HAVE BEEN HELD WITHIN RECENT MONTHS AND IN THE ROVIANA AND VELLA LAVELLA CIRCUITS ALONE £580 HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED FOR GOD'S WORK.

REMARKABLE TRIBUTES HAVE BEEN PAID BY ALL RANKS OF THE ALLIED FORCES TO THE LOYALTY, COURAGE AND PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY OF OUR NATIVE PEOPLE.

By the SERVICE and SACRIFICE rendered in the SOLOMONS, YOUR HOMES have been saved.

HAVE YOU EXPRESSED YOUR APPRECIATION and GRATITUDE BY A WORTHY GIFT TO THE REHABILITATION FUND?

IF NOT — PLEASE DO IT NOW — WE NEED YOUR UTMOST HELP.



Church and congregation at Bilua, Vella Lave. The church has been destroyed, like many others, but the congregation is undaunted and has erected a temporary church inland.

PLEASE HELP US TO REBUILD.



**ALL OUR HEAD STATIONS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.**

**PLANTATIONS, BOATS, EQUIPMENT, ETC HAVE SHARED THE SAME FATE.**

**IT WILL COST AT LEAST £60,000 TO RESTORE STATIONS, EQUIPMENT ETC.**

**WE ASK NEW ZEALAND FOR NOT LESS THAN £25,000. WILL YOU SHARE?**



Native Maternity Nurses trained by Sister Ethel McMillan and reared from infancy in the Home. The three babies they hold were born in the Home within two days, and their mothers are all old girls of the Home.

**REHABILITATION** means the restoration of this fine work.

**REHABILITATION FUND—Cash and Promises.**

Previously acknowledged	£14,682	5	10/-	each; Mrs. & Miss Incrocci, 8/-,	B. O. Stokes, Miss Crump, Mr. &
Miss G. H. E. Hopkins	2	0	0	Mrs. S. Kitto, Mr. S. Haughton, Mr.	Mrs. W. Howe, £10 each; Mr. J.
Mrs. F. Fitzgerald	10	10	0	& Mrs. H. Bloxham, Mrs. A. Gilchrist,	Raine, Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Abernethy,
Fitzroy Y.W.B.C.'s	15	0	0	Mr. W. Haughton, 5/- each. Coa	£5/5 each; Mr. C. R. Edmond, A U.S.
Mr. & Mrs. J. Rhodes—Tara.	2	0	0	Creek—Misses Watson, Mrs. J. Ben-	Marine, Anonymous, £5 each; Mr. &
Mangamaire B.C.	10	0	0	netts, £1 each; Miss M. Bennetts,	Mrs. F. Gardner, £2/2; Rev. & Mrs.
Penrose	3	10	0	10/-; Miss L. Thoms, 2/6; Ettrick—	Ashleigh K. Petch, Mr. & Miss Suther-
Fabian Club	10	0	0	Mr. E. A. Bloxham, £5; Mr. A. Brown,	land, Mr. & Mrs. J. Ward, Anon., £2
S. J. Hale	5	0	0	£1; Mr. & Mrs. W. Gibson, 10/-.	eash; Anon., £1/12/6; Anon, Mary &
Mr. & Mrs. H. Ramsey—Taheke	10	0	0	TOTAL	Laughton Patrick, Miss Douglas,
Mrs. F. Gunn	2	0	0	Nae Nae Sun. School	Anon, Miss E. Pasche, Miss Z. Pasche,
Mrs. W. Wright—Oue	1	0	0	Centennial Fund Conts.	Mrs. Hanham, Miss Hanham, Anon,
Glenavon Ladies Guild	10	0	0	Mrs. W. Parker, Hoki'ka	Miss Nina Wilkes, Mrs. Israel, Mrs.
Otago Y.W.B.C. Auxiliary	5	16	6	Cpl. D. G. C. Pratt	B. F. Gardner, Anon, Miss Kearnan,
Pictou Band of Hope	1	0	0	Springston Circ. (Add.)	£1 each; Miss Denton, £1/0/6; Anon,
Pukearute	7	0	0	Miss A. Spiers—Roslyn	Anon, Mr. McNea, Anon, An American
"My Extra Bit"	10	0	0	"A Soldier's Widow,"	Officer, 10/- each; Anon 5/-; Anon,
Mission Bay Sunday School	1	0	0	Glen Eden Y.W.B.C.	2/6. TOTAL
Mrs. Walker—Pleasant Valley	1	0	0	Riccarton—Mrs. J. Ballantyne, £2s,	Matamata—Mr. C. Rayner, £25; Mr.
Mr. & Mrs. T. Gwynn—Longhn	1	0	0	Mr. R. E. James, £10; Rev. & Mrs.	& Mrs. R. Hampton, Te Poi, £2; Miss
Mr. E. Wright—Balmoral	5	0	0	H. Whitfield, Mr. & Mrs. G. Taylor,	E. Rayner, £20; Mr. C. C. Rayner,
in Memory of F. Thompson	1	1	0	Miss H. Gribble, Anon, Mr. & Mrs. E.	£10; Mr. Goldie's meeting at Te Poi,
Friends in Whakatane	4	0	0	Conway, C. G. Eden, Mr. Walter	£4/11/4; Mr. & Mrs. H. Thompson,
Carterton	47	14	3	Wright, Mr. & Mrs. H. Armon, J. &	£5. TOTAL
Wakefield	11	3	0	D.F.F., £5 each; Mr. & Mrs. H. Lar-	"Helper"—Hastings
Mrs. Bun y—Stanley Bay	6	0	0	sen, £3; Miss Russell, Misses Lovew	19
A.C.—Upper Hutt	3	0	0	Smith, Mrs. E. M. Adams, Clarence	11
J.W.	1	0	0	Rd. Guild, Mrs; D. Iles, Mrs. Chatter-	6
Richmond	15	0	0	ton, Mr. & Mrs. G. H. Blair, Mr. &	<b>Westport</b> —Mr. & Mrs. W. Taylor, Mr.
Pukerua Sunday School	2	0	0	Mrs. H. B. Moore, £2 each; Mrs.	Jack Taylor, £2 each; Mr. & Mrs. P.
Rotorua	6	0	0	Dixon & Miss Woodyat, £1/10/-,	Tregurtha, Miss H. Tregurtha, Mrs.
Greymouth	4	17	0	Murray Family, Anon, Mr. & Mrs. E.	H. W. Pickering, Anon, £1 each, Mr.
Ashhurst—Bunnythorp	22	10	0	Sharp, Mr. P. G. Clements, Senior	E. Billod, 10/- . Other sums
Pukekohe	5	0	0	Girls' B.C., Mr. & Mrs. Roskruge, Mr.	£2/15/0.
Tahuna	1	0	0	& Mrs. W. Wright, Masham Ladies	TOTAL
Ladies, Astley House	1	15	0	Guild, Mrs. W. Bowman, Mr. & Mrs.	58
Anon—Nelson Suburban	5	0	0	Musgrove, Mr. & Mrs. E. Millner, Mrs.	11
"Anakiwa"—Anon	10	0	0	Caukwell, £1 each; Anon, L. F., Mrs.	4
Mr. & Mrs. S. Wills—Manga	1	0	0	Boon, Mrs. Pettigrew, 10/- each; Anon,	15
Takapuna	3	0	0	E. G. Barry, 5/-; Smaller Donations,	0
"A Friend"	3	0	0	£8/16/6. TOTAL	£37/16; Bonds
C. Carter—New Lynn	1	0	0	Mr. G. Fordham—B'kdale	£2.
Sgln. A. P. Norris—Vella La.	3	13	0	"Miser". (The Right Sort)	TOTAL
Papakura	2	5	0	—Wanganui	39
Anon—Wellington West	2	1	0	"We Two"—Onehunga	16
Rev. H. E. Bellhouse	3	0	0	Levin—Ladies Guild, Mrs. S. G. Gib-	0
Rev. & Mrs. J. Featherston—	5	0	6	son, Mrs. T. F. Gibson, £5 each;	TOTAL
Christchurch	5	0	6	Mrs. D. L. Pirani, (Leps'm), £20;	£2. TOTAL
Lt. Col. & Mrs. Blazey—Rede'fs	5	0	0	Mr. & Mrs. H. Whiting, £3; Mr.	10
"Kia Ora"—Hamilton	5	0	0	Ralph Rolston, Miss Hight, Miss J.	0
Rev. W. W. Avery (Leps'm.)	31	10	0	Rolston, £1 each. TOTAL	£2
Mr. Carman—Johnsonville	5	0	0	17th Fld Regt. & attached Units	0
Tauranga	4	5	6	(Establishing Small Ward or cots on	0
Motueka	21	16	0	Vella Lavella)	0
Anon	10	0	0	37th Btn. 3rd Div. (Medical & Educa-	0
Waiuku — Miss James, Pukeoware,				tional Work on Vella Lavella)	0
Anon. Glenbrook, Mr. R. Ashworth,					3
£1 each; Anon 5/-.				Mrs. E. M. Metcalfe, Paparoa	0
TOTAL	3	5	6	Wellington East	0
<b>Roxburgh</b> —Anon, £5; Mr. W. B. Ken-				Christchurch East	0
worthy, £4; Mrs. & Miss Parnett,				Masterton	0
£2; Mr. T. Inerocci, Mrs. & Miss				Wellington Central—Brooklyn Church	0
Capon, Mrs. F. Allen, Mr. G. B. Gil-				£9; Aro St. Church, £9/10; Wesley	0
christ, £1 each; Mrs. L. Martin, 15/-;				St. Church;—Mr. H. E. Pacey, £15/15;	0
Mrs. E. Watt, Mrs. W. Moore, Mr. &				Mr. & Mrs. T. M. Pacey, Mr. & Mrs.	0
Mrs. F. Vercoe, Mr. & Mrs. R. Harris,					0

(Continued on Page 10.)

## A Unique Church Dedication in the Solomon Islands

BY CHAPLAIN-CAPTAIN GEORGE THOMPSON. 2nd N.Z.E.F.

When the Japanese occupied the Pacific Islands they invariably found deserted villages, the natives having fled to the hills taking with them their scanty belongings and establishing themselves in newly constructed make-shift dwellings in places almost inaccessible to the invader. With the ruthless destruction of their village gardens and the loss of their canoes for fishing purposes the natives found their changed circumstances most difficult. Liberation came when the Allied troops drove out the enemy and one of the first tasks was to provide sustenance to the natives who had proved loyal to the Allied cause. The Missionary, Rev. A. W. Silvester on this particular island fled into the hills with his people and there ministered to them and rendered valuable assistance to the Allies, when they recaptured the island. The natives however remained in the hills while Allied troops guarded the coasts.

One of the first things the natives did after making temporary shelters for themselves in clearings hewn out of the jungle was to build a Church in which they could worship God. To the dedication of one such building a party accompanied the relieving Missionary, Rev. A. H. Joyce on a recent Saturday. The single track which at times to us was almost imperceptible led for the first thirty minutes along the banks of a beautiful slow flowing river which had to be crossed several times. This peaceful scene was marred by the appearance of a burnt out Japanese Bomber which had buried itself deeply in a clearing which once had been a native garden. The track now became rougher but the guide unerringly and tirelessly led us on. We travelled along a razor back ridge, slid down a precipitous ravine to the cool waters of a rippling mountain stream, then made a tortuous ascent of the other side. We had now been two hours on the trek and were gladdened to hear the sound of voices and laughter as we approached the village. The party was greeted by the Chief and the elders



Some of the women and children at the broadcast service. Note the order and cleanliness of their clothing in spite of war.

of the village who solemnly shook hands with every member. The children quickly made their appearance and smilingly welcomed the strangers. The village itself is in a very picturesque location being on a mountain ridge approximately eight hundred feet above sea level. The few dwellings which are of a temporary nature have not the appearance of the normal houses in the coastal villages, but it appeared as if all the efforts of the villagers had been directed in the building of a beautifully constructed House of God. Before the opening ceremony took place the native medical boy who was with us attended to the needs of the sick.

At a signal from the Missionary the Native Teacher called his people together and they formed up in front of the closed doors of the Church. It was a moving sight to see about one hundred and twenty black men and women and children looking with pride on their handiwork and then to hear them sing in their own native tongue "We love the place O God wherein Thine honour dwelleth." The Missionary then addressed the gathering before the doors were thrown open, after which the visitors entered being followed by the villagers. The opening hymn was "All hail the power of Jesu's Name" being followed by the Native Teacher reading Psalm 23 and offering a prayer. His language was unknown to us but was understood by God who blesses prayer and him who prays independent of colour or tongue. I had been asked to christen some babies and the lovely hymn, so reminiscent of such events in our Homeland, "When Mothers of Salem, their children brought to Jesus" was softly sung by the natives as three mothers with their little babes in their arms, with their husbands behind them stood before the pulpit. As I explained the significance of the gifts of these children back to God, the Missionary translated the words into Pidgen English which was understood by most of those present. When accepting these little ones as God's own children, it was of interest to hear the translation as "picanninnies belong God." Another Hymn "What a Friend we have in Jesus" was then sung by the congregation, being followed by an address by the Missionary. The native choir in wonderful harmony then sang several well known hymns in their own tongue and the visitors responded by singing "Onward Christian soldiers." The service concluded with the Benediction and thus completed the dedication ceremony of a worthy edifice built for the Glory of God in the mountains "Somewhere in the Solomons." It was difficult for us to realise that these very people had been amongst the most fierce and savage head hunters of the South Seas but by the transforming power of God which was proclaimed to them by faithful and courageous missionaries they have become, during the short period of forty years, a docile and lovable race. It was with regret we said farewell to our hosts and amidst parting shouts and hand wavings we set off again down the jungle trail towards Camp. One will always remember with gladness this pleasant little interlude in the midst of a life of strict military routine at a forward area in the South Pacific.

## Back to the Solomons

Special Appointment of Dr. A. G. Rutter.

Our repeated attempts to get the Rev. J. F. Goldie and his colleagues back to the Solomons have been frustrated by a general order of the South Pacific High Command forbidding, for the time being the return of missionaries to the Group. It is hoped, however that the recent advance of the Allied Forces in the South West Pacific will ensure in the near future, a modification of that order.

In the meantime Dr. A. G. Rutter's offer to return to the Solomons as a temporary Government

Medical Officer has been accepted. He has been appointed for one year at the end of which time he hopes to resume full work as our Medical Superintendent.

In the absence of the other missionaries it will be a source of much joy to the Native Church to have both the medical and spiritual ministry of their beloved physician. Dr. Rutter expects to leave New Zealand about the end of March and will be followed by the prayers of the Home Church.

## Grants for Leper Work

At a Meeting of the Lepers' Trust Board held recently a Grant of £6,000 was made to the Government controlled Leper Station at Makogai where there are 645 patients of whom 100 are from New Zealand's own Dependencies. £3,000 of this amount is to be devoted to the Discharged Lepers' Rehabilitation Scheme.

As no Central Leper Hospitals exist either in the British South Solomons or the New Hebrides, the Board made Grants of £500 to each of the following Religious Bodies doing Medical and Leper Work in either of these areas;

- Melanesian Mission (Anglican).
- Presbyterian Mission.
- Methodist Mission.

Seventh Day Adventist Mission.

Marist Mission (Catholic).

Last year a Grant of £250 to provide Christmas comforts for the lepers under their care was made to the same Religious Bodies working in the British Solomons.

This year's Grants outside of Makogai are earmarked to provide and equip dispensaries for the treatment of patients, and no money is to be used for Religious purposes.

The Mission Board has expressed its sincere thanks and appreciation for the further generous grant of £500 which will be used to build and equip a dispensary during the reconstruction of our Leprosarium on Vella Lavella.

## "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

PTE. ALLEN V. BURLEY DOUBLES HIS DONATION.

Dear Mr. Scrivin,

Where I am now, a forward area in the Pacific, I see a tremendous amount of the work done by Mr. Joyce among the natives.

I am writing because I want you to know my thoughts on the work. If you can use any of these thoughts in the service of Overseas Missions I shall feel amply repaid.

First of all I have seen a good deal of the natives themselves and have the highest admiration for them.

I have made several friends among them, the chief being Levi Papo, who is a teacher at one of the villages here.

Last week, one of my friends and I went up to Levi's village and took the afternoon service there with the natives.

It was a real thrill I can tell you to be able to take part in such a service—especially to hear the natives sing in harmony—just like an organ. We spoke through Levi as interpreter.

A night or two ago we had a native concert party here under Mr. Joyce. The whole concert was excellent, but the climax to it all was the "Hallelujah Chorus." I have heard this chorus sung by many choirs, and it never fails to thrill me, but, as the natives sang unaccompanied, with feeling and with perfect interpretation and rich harmony, I felt that I'd never before heard anything to equal it.

Mr. Joyce is performing an arduous task here and is doing it well. With the troops here, even Allied ones, his task is made increasingly difficult, but he is equal to it.

It will be a great day when Dr. Rutter comes back. We have treated several natives in the hospital here. There is a great need for medical treatment. One young girl of 12, with consumption could expect only a few short months to live. If the people of our Church in New Zealand could only realise the great need for Medical care for the thousands of loyal, brave, cheerful, Christian natives here, the £25,000 Rehabilitation Fund would be over-subscribed in no time.

Quite often when I have asked natives why they are making some of their carved walking sticks or other similar things, they say "It's for my Church." My Church ranks first for them. They all love their church and their Saviour first and best of all.

The natives are scrupulously honest and we know that everything of ours is safe with them.

Well, I must close now. From what I have seen of God's influence on the Natives, I have been inspired and strengthened myself and have decided to double my Foreign Mission donation next year, and hope that many other Methodists will do likewise.

Cheerio for now, And New Year greetings,

From your friend in His Service,

(Signed) ALLEN V. BURLEY.

## Notes of Encouragement.

### DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Lt. Col. Blazey writing to his wife from the Pacific says:—"In connection with the Mission circular you sent me—in the words of a current expression 'You're telling me.' As regards the destruction, I can testify that this is correct. In the early stages here and elsewhere many of the natives were of incalculable assistance and deserve all the post-war help which can be given. As one or two of my shows are on their property (although there is little evidence left except concrete steps) I feel that I should do something about it. Would you please give £5 from me."

### A GREAT IDEAL.

"Ebenezar," an Addington layman, has caught a vision and hopes that others may be led to help realise it. He has promised £75, to be paid in half-yearly instalments over five years, and hopes that 99 others will do the same thus raising the sum of £7,500 the interest on which would pay the salary and allowances of an additional Sister in the Solomons.

We extend our cordial thanks to "Ebenezar" and will be glad to hear from others desirous of sharing in this worthy purpose.

### THE MINISTRY OF HEALING.

We have received per the Rev. A. H. Voyce, a carefully tabulated list in excellent English of injections and other medical treatments from Abel Viuru, one of our native medical assistants on Vella Lavella. Figures are recorded for each month and total 3,403 for the year 1943.

Abel adds the following footnote—"On the 7th of March, 1943 a Jap's barge began to visit at vonunu (E'lua Mission) so we began to leave there, and also no workings in the wards and dispensary etc. After the month of March we treated the natives for injections and also for this or the treatments which are unwritten here, so we couldn't say how many or how much."

(signed) Yours Sincerely Friends,

Native Doctor Boys,

Abel Viuru, with his Assistant  
Gideon Zoleneke.

## Rehabilitation Fund

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS continued from page 7.

& Mrs. Oldfield, Mrs. C. Pearson, £1 each; Mrs. E. Douglas, 12/6; Mr. & Mrs. Spooner, 10/-; Unspecified, 8/9.	son, 10/-; "Friend", Misses Lawry, Rev. Orchard, Mr. & Mrs. H. Allen £1; Mr. & Mrs. H. Paine, Mrs Thomas, £3 each; Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Johnson, £6/6.	Edendale—Mrs. J. Feigie, £1; Mr. A. H. Sheat, Mrs. A. H. Sheat, £7/10/0 each.
TOTAL 10 11 3	TOTAL 27 16 0	TOTAL 16 0 0
Waimamaku—Anon, £10; Mr. & Mrs. W. Fell, £4; Mrs. A. S. Bracey, Mr. & Mrs. W. Froggatt, £1 each; Mr. W. Fell Senr., Mrs. M. Bracey, 10/- each; Sunday School 9/6.	Mr. & Mrs. A. Glyn Fell & Family —Pakanae 2 10 0	Kaukapakapa—Silverdale 1 0 0
TOTAL 17 9 6	Omapere—Mr. & Mrs. E. D. Jones £2; Mr. C. Lane, £1. TOTAL 3 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. W. Pittams—Tau. 1 0 0
Whangaroa 32 3 6	Dundas St.—Mr. & Mrs. E. J. King £1/10; Miss Hetherington, Miss L. Hetherington, Miss Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Roxburgh, Mrs. Marcell, 10/- each; Anon, £2; Anon, £1; Smaller Amounts, £1/9/6.	Wanganui—Mr. A. S. Wansborough, Mr. & Mrs. W. Beaumont, £5 each; TOTAL 10 0 0
Miss E. M. Blackwell—Kai. 2 2 0	Eltham 39 5 0	Mrs. T. P. Rogers—Otorohanga 1 0 0
Feilding—Mr. C. Hart, £5; Sunday School (Additional), Mr. W. J. Beard, £1 each; Mr. & Mrs. Tutty, £2; Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Curtis, £5.	Port Albert—Mr. A. Bennett, £2; J. W. Johnson, £1; Sunday School, 14/7.	Leeston 5 0 0
TOTAL 14 0 0	TOTAL 3 14 7	Anon—Palmerston North 20 0 0
Pahiatua—Mrs. A. Willis, £1; Sunday School, 5/-; Rev. E. G. & Mrs. Harkness, £10/10.	Dargaville 2 0 0	Mr. & Mrs. J. Henney, Dan. 2 2 0
TOTAL 11 16 0	Woodend-Sefton 10 1 6	Woolston "Friends" 70 0 0
Ohoka 71 17 10	St. Kilda 28 16 3	National Savings Bonds—Papanui, £1 A Widow's Gift, £3/8/0.
Pitt St. 11 0 0	Mornington—Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Lamb, £25; Mr. & Mrs. S. A. Prout, £2/10; Miss Ruth Prout, 30/-; Mr. J. Smith, Rev. & Mrs. H. E. Harkness, Mr. & Mrs. F. G. Marshall, Anon, Mrs. Kent, £1 each; Barry Harkness, 10/-.	TOTAL 5 8 0
Sandringham Sunday School 5 0 0	Hamilton 10 0 0	Liberty Loan Bonds—Mrs. & Miss Shaw—Ashhurst, 5 0 0
Mrs. B. Sanderson—Waitoa 2 0 0	Caversham 21 10 6	Misses Bowman, Remuera 5 0 0
Napier—Busy Bees, £16; "Poppy Seeds", £36/10; Mr. & Mrs. Sproule, £10; Xmas Offering Trinity Sunday School, £1/15.	Ohai 1 19 6	Flight Sergeant Wm. Henry and Mrs. Burnell (Overseas) 2 0 0
TOTAL 64 5 0	Bank's St.—Timaru—Mrs. Evans, £1; Anon, £1.	Mr. & Mrs. Dearlove, Te Poi 5 0 0
Amy Hartley Estate 20 0 0	ADDINGTON — Intermediate Y.W.B.C., 10/-; Miss A. Robinson, Mr. & Mrs. Harris, 5/- each; Mr. Benson, 2/6; Miss R. Burley, £3; Mrs. J. Dennis, £1/5; Birthday Ann. £1; Gifts. £1/6; Anon, £5.	Rev. Voyce (sale of stamps) 1 5 0
Ann James Estate 25 14 0	Waitara 8 10 0	"A Spinster's Mite" 12 6
Mrs. S. Hames Estate 25 0 0	Mrs. F. Collinge—Raetihi 2 0 0	"J.W." C/- Miss J. Harrison 1 0 0
Putaruru—Sunday School, £1; Bible Class, £1.	Cuba St. Palmerston North 40 0 0	Anon—Trinity, Dunedin 5 0 0
TOTAL 2 0 0	Trinity—Dunedin—Mr. C. E. Patey, £5/5; Mrs. West, Miss P. West, £1 each; Sunday School, £5; Miss F. Metherell, £10; Mrs. S. Lawn, £1/10; Mrs. C. E. Jones, £3.	Lawrence—Special Env. Collection £19/17/6; Sun. School, £2/2/-; Ladies Guild, £3/3/-; Trust Board, £5.
Stratford 102 7 9	TOTAL 13 13 6	TOTAL 30 2 6
Invercargill—St. Peter's Ladies' Guild £3; St. Peter's Y.W.S.C., £2; St. Peter's, £3/14.	Avondale—Mr. Blomfield, £1; L/Cpl. & Mrs. E. C. Amon, £4.	Anon—Nelson 1 0 0
TOTAL 8 14 0	TOTAL 5 0 0	The Extra Bit 10 6
Morrinsville—Mrs. W. Lawry, £2; Miss W. Blacklock, £5; Mr. John Palmer, £20	Te Awamutu—Mrs. Hebden, Sunday School, 10/- each; "Friend", Mr. A. H. Laybourn, £5 each; Mr. S. Jamie-	Mr. & Mrs. R. Craven, H'tings 5 0 0
TOTAL 27 0 0		Mrs. E. Metcalfe—Paparua 2 0 0
"We Two"—Onehunga 2 0 0		Rev. W. B. Pickering, Otaki 5 0 0
Onehunga 1 10 0		Helper, Hastings 1 0 0
Durham St. 333 17 0		Dargaville 12 5 0
North Hokianga 6 13 6		J. L. Hayes—Kaeo 5 0 0
Avondale—Mr. Blomfield, £1; L/Cpl. & Mrs. E. C. Amon, £4.		FEILDING—The Shannon Brothers £75; The Misses Shannon, £25; Mr. A. J. Lobb, £50; Mr. J. G. McVicar, £50; Mr. M. Henson, £25; Mrs. W. G. Pearce (Additional), £15; Miss L. Pearce, £2; Mrs. A. Eade, £15; Mr. A. Eade, £10; Mrs. R. Eade, £3; Mr. A. G. Jeffries, £10; Mr. J. Jamieson, £5/5/-; Mrs. E. A. Henson, £5.
TOTAL 5 0 0		TOTAL 290 5 0
Te Awamutu—Mrs. Hebden, Sunday School, 10/- each; "Friend", Mr. A. H. Laybourn, £5 each; Mr. S. Jamie-		TOTAL TO DATE £18,695 11 2

## Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board

The President of the Conference (Rev. C. H. OLDS, B.A.) presided at the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board in Auckland on 26th January, 1944. Between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 10 p.m. matters of great moment to the Kingdom of God were considered.

Feeling reference was made to the severe loss suffered by the Board during the year in the death of five members—the Misses G. Griffith and S. A. Somerville and Messrs. J. P. Blair, W. Ambury, and Frank Thompson.

Affectionate greetings were conveyed to the Native Church in the Solomons, the Missionaries, and the Australian Board. The Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, Dr. A. G. Rutter and Sister Lina Jones were warmly welcomed and associated with the meeting, and made valuable contribution to the various discussions.

The Treasurers' Report was deemed favourable and adopted. Much service and sacrifice are represented in these financial returns for which the Board expressed its gratitude. Estimates for 1944 totalling £14,400 were approved.

In moving the adoption of the Annual Report the General Secretary pointed out that the Board faces the most difficult and critical period in the history of the Solomon Islands District, but does not face it alone. He, who by His gracious power, has led primitive savages out of the bondage of their superstition and fear into the liberty of His love is the same, yesterday, to-day and for ever.

Although considerably restricted in his movements in the early part of the year by Japanese occupation and later by Allied military conditions—the Rev. A. W. E. Silvester continued to render splendid service until his return to New Zealand for furlough in October.

The Rev. A. H. Voyce, who had proceeded to the Solomons in September as a Chaplain to the Forces, was temporarily released from military duty to take Mr. Silvester's place, and has been able to render outstanding service to the Native Church and as a liaison officer between the native people and the Allied Forces. Every possible avenue has been explored for the return of Mr. Goldie and his colleagues but so far in vain.

The work of the native ministers and pastors—teachers has suffered serious interference in nearly all parts of the District, but while school work has been impossible in many places, the preaching services, in the areas from which news has been available, have been well maintained. The spiritual leadership exercised by the native ministry must be of untold value to our people, so many of

whom have been driven from their homes.

It is a source of much joy and profound gratitude to God, that amid the tragic years of war the Native Church has manifested such outstanding faith and courage. Their service to the Allies, particularly the sick and wounded and their cheerful courage and steadfastness have been convincing witness of the reality of their faith and the worthwhileness of the work of Mr. Goldie and his colleagues during the past 41 years.

### Rehabilitation.

The big task of reconstruction of buildings, replacement of equipment etc. was under careful consideration. The recommendations of the missionaries are being tabulated and every effort made to seize immediately opportunities of rehabilitation as they offer. Other and still more important aspects of this big problem are dealt with on page 1 of this issue. The importance of having an adequate fund to facilitate rehabilitation, was stressed and the earnest hope expressed that the Conference target of £25,000 will be reached by special giving.

Mrs. H. Nicolson, Dominion President, gave the M.W.M.U. Report, telling of the notable achievements and confident aspirations of our missionary women. They have had a great year and their special objective for the next two years—over and above their considerable annual budget—is £1,000 for the Rehabilitation Fund. The vision and loyalty of the M.W.M.U. have greatly helped and encouraged the Mission Board which adopted a hearty resolution of thanks.

The Youth Department is represented on the Board which expressed its appreciation of missionary propaganda among our children and youth and the hope that clearer still will come the vision.

The General Secretary was nominated for a further term of six years, from 1945, and the General Treasurers were thanked for excellent service and reappointment.

Resolutions of thanks and the Benediction brought a good meeting to its conclusion.

### Thanks and Further Suggestions for School Work.

Sister Lina Jones wishes to thank all who have so kindly forwarded parcels of pictures and cards etc. for school work in the Solomons.

Other suggestions are:—cotton reels of all sizes with paper removed, and painted in bright colours; also matchboxes, building blocks (coloured) and wooden beads. These would all be welcomed.

# WOMEN'S PAGES

# M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's  
Missionary Union of  
New Zealand.

Wellington,  
March, 1944.

Dear Fellow Workers,

Most of us have enjoyed a period of rest from meetings, and now the time has come for us to be up and doing. Let each one do her part to make this a record year in our Auxiliary work.

Let us make a special effort to gain new members, and to explore every avenue for extending our missionary work.

Perhaps there are places where the afternoon meeting is not as successful as you might wish. Have you considered the possibility of evening meetings, or even in some districts, the idea of meeting in the morning and taking lunch with you? Where one method isn't working satisfactorily, don't be afraid to venture in something new.

### District Working.

You will be planning to hold Conventions as early as possible and where not already operating, district working will be commenced. May I ask that as the need for district officers is made known, you will be ready and willing, if asked to share in the responsibility, and so realise the joy that goes with service. May you never know the regret of "lost opportunity."

### Annual Meeting of the F.M. Board.

Since my last letter to you, I attended the Board meeting and learned much of interest and encouragement. Many things impressed me. I mention but a few.

(1) That amid the chaos of war, our Native people have held their Thanksgiving services, and given over £300 as a thankoffering. If in such circumstances their gratitude to God is shown in such a practical way, what should our response be in this land of peace and plenty?

(2) The appreciation expressed in letters read by members of the Board of the work of the Missionaries and the Natives themselves.

(3) The expectation of the early return of the Dr. to the Solomons. It was good to have Dr. Rutter at the Board meeting, speaking of, and planning for the medical work which he hopes to re-commence before long.

(4) The immensity of the tasks that lie ahead and the need for prayerful and wise planning as the doors gradually open for the return of our workers. Any mistakes of the past must act as guideposts to the future. Do you ask "Where do I come in in this?" Just in being faithful in everything, in giving your time, your thought, your gifts, and last, but by no means least, your prayers for this work of ours —yours and mine.

Now because I feel sure it will interest you I am giving you an extract from a letter received by one of our members, from one of our own boys in the Pacific. Let us not be behind in our enthusiasm for the work of re-construction.

"There is certainly going to be a big job with this Rehabilitation business, but by gee, the Natives deserve it. They are most loyal and helped us a lot, tracking Japs in the jungle.

You say about your Special Objective. Well we took up a subscription amongst our regiment, the money to go towards buying hospital beds or some such thing for the new Native hospital and we raised about £250, so you can see how our chaps appreciate what the Natives have done for us. I thought that might help to stimulate a bit of interest. We here are all for them, and have made some fine friends among them.

Yesterday Rev. Joyce brought around a concert party of Natives, and put on a show. Well, it was great, and the singing was superb. They depicted a scene away back in 1902 when they were head hunters. Then the coming of the Missionaries who taught them. This was represented by singing "Stand up stand up for Jesus" and the "Hallelujah Chorus," and boy, did they sing that chorus! I've never heard it sung so beautifully.

They then went on to depict how the unchristian peoples entered their lands—the Japs. Then how the N.Zedders came and chased the Japs out, with the Yanks helping. They sort of regarded us as their saviours, as the Rev. Joyce put it, and to this they sang "Onward Christian Soldiers." It was a great show and something a chap will remember for years."

So my friends, it is our privilege to be workers together with God. "To have faith that God is at work means to know that He is always offering us opportunities of service. He is always opening some door, inviting us to some adventure in His name. If we respond and obey, He will make our obedience a channel for His power. We would surely be more ready and expectant if we realised how anxious and eager He is to work.

This is what it means to believe in the living God." May we be ready and expectant.

Loving greetings to you all.

Your friend,

MABEL R. NICOLSON.

\* \* \* \*

### NORTH CANTERBURY.

The Christchurch Auxiliary held a very well attended social afternoon on January 24th in the Durham Street school hall. Mrs. Hallam presided and gave a very helpful New Year message on "Bearing One Another's Burdens. She spoke of the loyalty of the members of our Solomon Island church—although their buildings had been destroyed they carried on, holding services in their huts—also the work among our own Maori people was mentioned. Solos were charmingly rendered by Mrs. Stewart and most enjoyable elocutionary items by Mrs. Beilby. Regret was expressed that Sister Eleanor had undergone another operation. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent to her.

## THE OPEN DOOR

The North Canterbury District Council met at Deaconess House on the morning of February 2nd and was attended by representatives of Christ-church, Rangiora, Woodend and Oxford Auxiliaries. Mrs. Hallam presided and gave a message from Romans 12 on "Humility." It was decided to combine the Annual Convention and Easter Offering meeting to be held on April 26th. Woodend reported that Mrs. Oates had given a splendid report of conference. Mrs. Hallam was asked to visit Horrelville on auxiliary business.

### OTAGO DISTRICT.

Most encouraging reports telling of meetings and "Bring and Buys" have been received from Balclutha and Roxburgh. Mrs. Alley's visit was the highlight of the year with presbyterian and Anglican guilds both attending. All followed her story of amazing courage and endurance with great interest.

In Dunedin the Y.W.M.M. called a special meeting to hear Mrs. Alley, when there were present B.C. and auxiliary members. A collection amounting to £3/2/6 was taken up and this together with a donation of £5 was handed to Mrs. Alley for the Rehabilitation fund.

The Y.W.M.M. is a very live group—its closing function for the year being a very successful sale of work when £22/12/- resulted. Addresses have been given by Rev. Slade on "Missions in the post-war world" and by Mrs. Hielt on "The causes of Failure of the prohibition issue and the great need for a spiritual revival." Our report would be incomplete without reference to the very thorough report of conference given by Mrs. Cole.

We go forward now adopting the slogan "take the trouble to double" and working as a district with the following officers:— President, Mrs. Prout; Secretary, Mrs. Hutt; Treasurer, Mrs. Cole; and inspired by these words—

"New Year, I know not where you lead  
O'er hill or vale or moor,  
But the best of all companions is going on before.  
Wrapped in the mantle of His love  
And with His courage fed  
It would be sheer disloyalty to fear the way  
ahead  
New Year, thou art my opportunity to serve Him  
with more love  
A fresh page on which to write His blessings  
And to prove His mercy never faileth  
New Year, where'er you lead me  
I can trust my guide ahead  
For "I will never leave Thee  
Nor forsake Thee" He hath said.

### SOUTH CANTERBURY.

Oamaru: At the annual meeting in August all officers were re-elected. At the September and October meetings letters were read giving an insight into the life of the girls and trainees at Deaconess House and a paper on "Getting Ready" by Sister Lina Jones. In November members entertained ladies from the Church of Christ. Letters were read from their missionaries. A report of conference was given by our delegate. There was also a sales table and a special collection which brought in £4. At the last meeting

for the year, in December, the new President's letter was read and Christmas greetings were expressed.

Woodlands Street: At the annual meeting in August two new officers were elected—Mrs. Manger, gleaners' secretary and Mrs. Butcher, subscription secretary. Mrs. Angus, who has left for Kaikoura, was also farewelled. Rev. O. Burnet was the speaker for the afternoon. In September, we combined with Banks Street auxiliary to hear an address by Rev. E. C. Leadley, who took for his subject "animal and vegetable life in the Solomons." It was decided that an invitation be sent to the conference in Auckland requesting that the 1944 conference be held in Timaru. At the October meeting the speaker was Mrs. Lunan, who has spent twenty years in Calcutta. She told of life in the great Indian city. The sales table does good business and a box for Kurahuna pennies is passed round at all meetings. In November a social afternoon afternoon was pleasantly spent. Many visitors were present. Mrs. Brown gave an interesting report on the Auckland conference. Souvenirs and presents from the boys overseas were on display. Three new members were enrolled.

Willowby: At the annual meeting in August all officers were re-elected. At the September meeting the Dominion President's message, which is always a source of inspiration, was read, also letters from the Home sisters. In October, Mrs. H. Oakley gave an interesting talk on her experiences and hardships suffered in the early days in New Zealand. Miss H. Lill gave a report of conference at the November meeting. In December a special play was given by members of the Y.W. B.C. and a Christmas tree for the special objective continues to augment our funds. The meetings have proved interesting and helpful to all who have been able to attend.

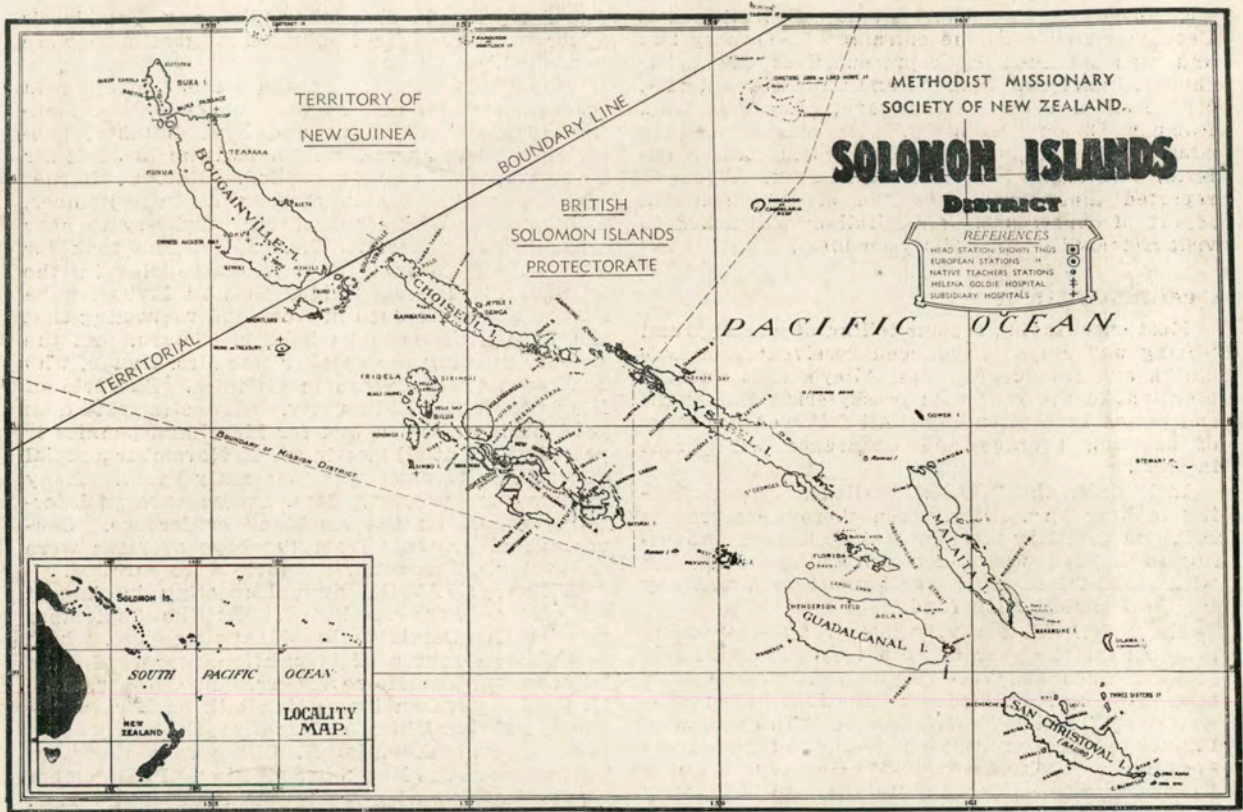
### SOUTHLAND.

Invercargill: At a recent meeting a very interesting address was given to a large gathering of members and friends by Mrs. Alley, on her work in the Solomons, and a special offering for rehabilitation was received. On December 2nd the annual garden party was held at the residence of the President, Mrs. Stanley Brown, who unfortunately was in hospital at the time. Her presence was greatly missed amongst the guests. The proceeds, were more than satisfactory being in the vicinity of £33. All members are looking forward to the first meeting for the new year, which is to be held on February 3rd.

### THE LATE MISS S. A. SOMERVILLE.

Still further heavy loss and sorrow has come to the Foreign Mission Board in the death of Miss S. A. Somerville who for many years has been an able and devoted member representing the M.W.M.U. An ardent disciple of Jesus Christ she did her utmost to share in the task of fulfilling the command of her Lord to make known His Gospel to all men. Until illness intervened she was seldom absent from a Board Meeting and took an understanding and eager part in every effort for the extension of the Kingdom of God. The deep sympathy of the Mission Board goes out to her life-long friend Miss Rochet and relatives.

THE OPEN DOOR



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