

Mrs. Greathead

VOL. XXX. No. 3.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

The Open Door

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

DECEMBER, 1950.



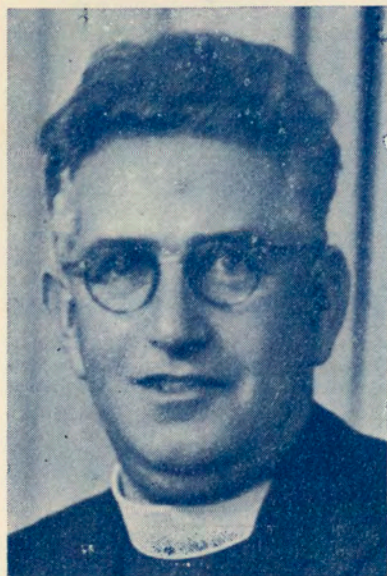
THREE LADS IN THEIR
"UPE" HATS.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL

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

Foreign Mission Dept., P.O. Box 23W, Auckland.
General Secretary—Rev. A. H. Scrivin.



HOME ON FURLOUGH



Left: REV. A. H. VOYLE

Right: REV. A. H. HALL, B.A.

SISTER LUCY MONEY

Jubilee Cruise to the Solomons

Investigations are afoot regarding the practicability of a Cruise to the Solomons during the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of that District in May, 1952. The ship in view can accommodate 350 passengers in comfort, and the cruise, if arranged, would occupy four weeks. The all-inclusive return fare from Auckland would be approximately £85 to £120—as far as can be estimated at present—but is subject to revision.

Will those desirous of making the trip please notify, at an early date, the General Secretary (Rev. A. H. Scrivin), P.O. Box 23W, Auckland.

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A GREAT RECORD

"What Ministers now become Supernumeraries?" is a question answered at every Conference with deep feeling—of appreciation of services rendered and of sadness that brethren beloved are leaving the "active work." Special poignancy attached to the answer this year in that it included the name of John Francis Goldie who has served the Church, both at home and overseas, for 54 years—13 years longer than any other on the list. The following is the 'record' of the Solomon Islands District as adopted by Conference and appended to it is the 'minute' of the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. Together they express something of the affection and honour in which this truly great missionary is held.

JOHN FRANCIS GOLDIE:

After nearly 50 years of active service on the Mission Field, and 54 years in the Ministry of the Methodist Church, and continuing 14 years longer in active service than any of his fellow ministers, John Francis Goldie, born in Tasmania, one-time Secretary to W. G. Taylor of Sydney, a pioneer of the "outback" in New South Wales and Queensland, President of the Methodist



Rev. John Francis Goldie

Church of New Zealand in 1929, has felt it necessary to leave the active work for a less taxing service in the Homeland.

In 1902, he was called to open the Work of God in the Western Solomons, an unevangelised field, and was appointed Chairman. With dauntless courage and matchless optimism, he and S. R. Rooney with their

wives, commenced work on an islet in the Roviana Lagoon, a handful of South Sea Island Teachers from Fiji, Tonga and Samoa accompanying them. From that small beginning has developed a virile Church playing a very influential part in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate and the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, whose members demonstrated their worth and stability during the recent war, and who in spite of adverse conditions, have borne a sterling witness to their faith, and produced fruit which has astonished many who held fellowship with them in the time of danger; a sure testimony to the soundness of the teaching and example given by their pioneer leader in the Christian Faith.

Throughout his unique term as Chairman, John Francis Goldie demonstrated an unflinching love and care for his dark-skinned brethren, who learned to trust him as sailor, business man, lawyer, educationist and spiritual guide. When occasion required he strenuously opposed church leaders, government officials, and commercial magnates to obtain justice for the Native people. The result was opposition from many in authority, but an abiding affection in the hearts of the native people. They came to him with troubles of every kind and found in him a good listener and adviser. His influence has been and still is dominant in the Group. He has always been a giver of confidence. There have been occasions when troubled members of his Staff have been concerned at his apparent lack of interest in their difficulties, but that concern has disappeared upon his arrival. His own quiet, forceful personality, never dictatorial but ever friendly, swept away any symptoms of ill feeling and restored courage and balance. Generous and courteous, he has always been the perfect host, and as a raconteur, his place is without equal. His love of a good story made him always approachable. He founded the Mission on sound principles which his colleagues have been perfectly willing to accept. Always he has declared that education cannot be divorced from religion and that religion must be concerned with every part of a man's life. Thus he gave his students a commonsense teaching which produced a band of pioneers, who with courage and devotion followed their leader's example.

Mrs. Goldie was a true helpmeet, of slight physique and nervous temperament, but with a wealth of love and courage for the needy children with whom she was generally surrounded, and for whom, and for the young girls of her household, she gave herself unstint-

ingly. The family life was broken in 1922 when she returned to Australia, more or less an invalid, to care for her daughters. Thus Mr. Goldie had little real homelife for 30 years, perhaps the greatest trial a missionary must face. Added to this his only son died in infancy.

The Greatheart of the Western Solomons in spite of elemental storms of nature, in trials oft, and at times almost disheartened, has fearlessly faced all with splendid stamina until compelled by advancing years to seek a quieter and less responsible service. His place in the Christian Church of the Pacific is unique, and his influence will abide. We thank God for his ministry and pray for him a blessed eventide.

REV. JOHN F. GOLDIE'S RETIREMENT:

"King of the Solomons" some called him, and there is a very real sense in which John F. Goldie has reigned in the affection of the people of the Western Solomons for whom he has lived to the utmost for 49 years. He won his leadership by the strength of his love and

his character and erstwhile primitive savage people in their thousands have risen up to call him blessed and to glorify the God he proclaimed. He has been a real missionary statesman and a wise man of affairs, but his consuming passion has been the salvation of the Solomons and toward this high end all his great gifts have been directed with steadfast zeal and purpose.

This Annual Meeting of the Board warmly associates itself with the eloquent tribute paid to Mr. Goldie by the Solomon Islands Synod and adds its own mede of praise to God for the privilege of fellowship through the years with this distinguished missionary leader who has run such a long race and fought such a good fight. His loyalty to the Board has never wavered even when, at times, he was at variance with its decisions.

The Board expresses the sincere hope that it will be possible for Mr. Goldie to return to the Field for the Golden Jubilee as its guest, and prays for him in the remaining years the peace of God that passes understanding.



Another Boat for the Mission Fleet



M.V. 'MALAKUNA.'

The motor vessel 'Malakuna' has been added to the Mission Fleet under somewhat melancholy circumstances in that her purchase was made necessary by an adverse report on the 'Daphne.' The latter was the first boat acquired after the total loss of our pre-war fleet and rendered excellent service for some years. Three years ago she went out of commission owing to engine trouble and a new engine was ordered. It was also decided to carry out an extensive overhaul of the hull, but our mission facilities proved inadequate for the task and the boat was finally towed to Rabaul and slipped. It was then discovered that the sea-worm had seriously affected the keel and planking. The estimated cost of repairs was considered too high and, on the recommendation of the Chairman and Mr. Joyce, the Mission Board decided to purchase the 'Malakuna' which was available for immediate delivery at a cost of £4,500. This new boat will be stationed in the Bougainville-Buka circuit which has been without its own sea transport since the 'Daphne' went out of commission three years ago.

Choiseul Circuit Report, 1950

By the REV. J. R. METCALFE.

On the "Matai" as we returned to the Solomons five years seemed to us to be a reasonable term in which we could expect to be re-established in our work. Those five years will soon have passed, and we now visualise another five as being required before all our workers are living in permanent dwellings, and our building programme completed. Our three material problems of food, transport and housing are definitely easier but not yet satisfactory.

Staff.—The Superintendent has spent quite as much time without as within the Circuit. So much so that the Sisters now enquire, "When are you coming to visit us again?" Sister Lucy Money has had the major responsibility for the Head Station at Sasamunga, ably supported by Sisters W. B. Poole and, latterly, Jessie E. Grant. Sister Winifred left for furlough in April after a trip round the island inspecting the Sub-Hospitals, and gathering up a number of girls for the Boarding School. Sister Lucy had a month away from Sasamunga in January visiting as far as Pangoe and holding a fortnight's refresher course for teachers there.

The majority of our Native Staff have stood by us well, but as usual there have been a few disappointments. One of our teachers died recently in the Bilua Hospital from T.B. Until his sickness gained a grip he was helpful though not brilliant. He had a puckish way with him which was attractive, and we shall miss Jonathan Pitakoe.

Five new teachers have been appointed, trained within the Circuit only, and Boaz Miavana has been sent to fill a difficult appointment at Pangoe, being the first student to leave the Training College since the war.

Local Preachers and Prayer Leaders.—We have not been able to give much time to these voluntary workers. They need and merit much more attention, and we hope will receive it from now on. We have recommenced evening classes, refresher courses, and a system of tests which must be faced in order to reach a higher status; the highest being that of full Circuit Preacher with a seat on the Quarterly Meeting. Many come forward hopefully, but the results are woefully feeble. The training and care of the local preacher should be one of the Minister's chief tasks.

Membership.—There have been 126 baptisms during the year, 21 being of adults or juniors.

During the year we had many disappointments, but near the close three of the older men came forward on their own initiative to confess their sins and declare their penitence. One of these was an ex-teacher who time after time had brought the Lotu into ill-repute. His statement certainly had the ring of truth, and we hope and pray that this victory for the Christian standard of righteousness is the herald to a new awakening to spiritual truth throughout the Circuit.

Schools.—The Sunday School is now largely taking the place of the afternoon preaching service for the children, and this year four more Schools and seventy children have been added to our list.

Our Day School attendance has now reached the four-figure mark. The teaching in many of the Village Schools is improving, and there is certainly ample scope for such. Sister Lucy has given much time to the teachers, but the task of supervision is barely touched, nor can it be until we have a fully-trained Teaching Sister to complete our European Staff. In spite of this

deficiency good work is being done, for we have received young people from outstations who are a credit to their teachers and who are holding their own with scholars at the Circuit School.

The Resident Commissioner paid a brief visit to the Head Station at Sasamunga on April 16th, and spoke to the assembled scholars complimenting them on their singing and appearance. Shortly afterwards, the Government Inspectress of Girls' Schools, spent a full day with us, and also inspected a typical Village School.



REV. J. R. METCALFE,
Newly-appointed Chairman of the Solomon
Islands District.

She was agreeably surprised at the proportion of girls in the schools, practically 50%, and at their proficiency. We were surprised when she told us that there were no records of girls attending school in the Government Offices, and that in the Eastern Solomons very few did so.

There are now 24 girls and 25 boys in residence at the Circuit Boarding Schools, which is easily a record. We have never had a better conducted company of students, and the average age is definitely lower than pre-war. We still have a few over 25, but we now have a few 15 and under who are doing well. From now on we expect the average age to fall rapidly and scholastic standard to rise slowly. The speaking and singing of English has improved noticeably.

Sister Lucy holds classes for lesson preparation, translation, and the examination of workbooks. Refresher courses have been held on two occasions for 10 days each. Time spent in this way is amongst the most fruitful a Missionary can give.

The premises now being used for our school work at the Head Station are very unsatisfactory, and the equipment not of the best, and this must continue to

be so until the building now being used as the Minister's residence, becomes free for school use.

A Girls' Bible Class of 47 is now conducted by Sister Lucy on Sunday afternoons, the girls being prepared for Senior Church Membership. We need something of a like nature for the boys.

During the year three young men have been sent to the District Training Institution, and one returned from there in May to assist within the Circuit. The Doctor has taken over another of our young men to be trained as a Dresser.

At last the Bambatana edition of Palgrave's "Pilgrim's Progress" has come to hand, a very welcome addition to our reading books. Besides this a few copies of the Melanesian Geographical Series in English are proving useful.

Welfare Work.—There are seven babies being cared for in the new nursery, which is proving very suitable. Three of these babies are from leprous mothers. Our milk bill for the babes is well over £100, and will remain so until we can arrange to have cattle again on the Station. The Government is now providing a small subsidy towards the upkeep of these children.

Maternity Work.—Corrugated iron, to replace that stolen, has now been obtained, at double the cost, and the building can be completed as soon as the pressure of other work lightens. The building, with a leaf roof, has been in use throughout the year, and thirty-four babies have seen the light of day there.

Ivy Bui, herself a Home baby at Roviana, is now doing maternity work at Senga.

Sub-Hospitals.—Good work is being done in these by capable Medical Dressers, whose one complaint is that the Government Medical Authority, whilst paying good wages, does not provide them with an adequate supply of drugs, etc., for their work.

The temporary buildings erected by the Mission badly need replacement. A beginning has been made by the erection of a Dispensary at Pangoe, Senga. This was purchased and erected from funds provided by the Lepers' Trust Board of New Zealand. It is a splendid little building, good to look at, durable, just the right size for the work to be done in it. It should serve for many years, a constant reminder of the love the New Zealand people have for the sick folk of these islands. It was opened amidst great rejoicing and is now in service.

Dr. Hoult expects very shortly to open the temporary buildings forming the Leprosarium at Bilua, in which the lepers from our Methodist District will be accommodated. Sister W. B. Poole has offered to be the Sister in charge, greatly to the delight of the Choiseul section of sufferers.

The general health of the people has been good apart from the whooping-cough epidemic. The European Staff have lost very few days from sickness.

Buildings.—On the Out-Station four churches and a number of teachers' houses have been completed. On the Head-Station, besides the buildings already mentioned, a Quonset Store and a Quonset Reading-room have been completed, the latter now being used as a class-room in school hours. Two Boys' Dormitories and an Accommodation House, the last mentioned being used for school purposes, have been opened though incomplete, being made from the meccano material. The old Store was built in Mr. Rooney's time and was the oldest building in the Mission. It has been replaced by one built of iron and concrete, which ought to have an equally long life.

Transport.—During the year the "Mandalay" has travelled over 7,000 miles without serious mishap, though once or twice conditions were anything but good. It may interest many to know and appreciate the difficulties of the work in this Mission District when the following figures are pondered. Of the above mileage nearly half, 3,050 miles, was covered travelling between Circuits; 2,125 miles was the distance travelled round Choiseul, 1,400 miles round Bougainville and Buka, and 450 miles in the Vella Lavella Circuit. The "Mandalay" was not built for carrying cargo, but on most of her trips she has carried between four and five tons. She has rendered excellent service in spite of the fact that she is underpowered, and her sails unable to stand up to much more than a light breeze. A new suit of sails is an urgent requirement.



"Mandalay."

Government.—One of our old teachers is now the Native Magistrate for Choiseul, and he seems to be carrying out his duties with common sense and a real desire to help his people. The Native Courts do some queer things in which many of our leading men concur, for there are very few natives with a sense of justice which fits in with the European idea.

Quarterly Meetings, etc.—These are always a Means of Grace and a source of inspiration. It is always a pleasure to attend them. A representative number of delegates went to Roviana to attend the first gathering of the native leaders of the Methodist Church of New Zealand in the Solomons. They thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship with those from other Circuits. It was a definite step forward in the establishment of the Native Church, and a distinct help in the co-ordination of the work of God in the Circuits. The gathering is to be an annual one.

Conclusion.—In spite of many difficulties and some disappointments, the amount of time taken up by work outside the Circuit, and Marama's absence, the general condition of God's work in the Circuit is good with definite progress in many sections, and no serious lapses. More village visitation is an urgent requirement but this cannot be given without the minimum staff of three Sisters, especially with the Superintendent away so frequently on District Work. Stephen Gandepeta and the Catechists are shouldering their responsibilities well, and more is being expected of them in the care of teachers and preachers, and the preparation of young people for full membership. This year has demonstrated more forcibly than ever that the full life is that of those at one with Christ our Lord.

Methodist "Commonwealth" Problem Solved in Ceylon

REV. G. E. HICKMAN JOHNSON ON HIS VISIT.

One of the outstanding qualities of Methodist polity is its adaptability to the needs and development of the younger Churches. For the last twenty-five years and more some denominations have been faced with the problem of "The Mission" and "The Church" which has grown up on what was at first just a mission field. "The Mission" has its own organisation and is controlled from the home base. "The Church" develops in its desire and ability to direct its own affairs.

The adjustment of the two centres of control is not easy, and in some instances has not yet been achieved. In Methodism the solvent has been found in the Synod—a Church court which at first is dominated by the missionary element but provides for an increasing number of local national members. In the course of years the indigenous Church far outnumbers the missionaries in the Synod and all its committees, and so the transition toward self-government is easily attained.

But a Synod is subject to Conference, which is held in another country 7,000 miles away from Methodists in India and Ceylon, and of which there are no facilities for them to become members. And so the question has arisen in Church affairs which has lately been so prominently before the world in the realm of politics—how may independence be achieved within the Commonwealth? How can a certain measure of autonomy for the Methodist Church in India and Ceylon be achieved without severing their connection with the British Conference?

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This question was thrashed out at the General Synod held in Mysore early in 1946, when Church Union in South India seemed unlikely to take place for a considerable number of years. Certain developments in the constitution of a Synod in India and Ceylon were arrived at, and proposals were formulated for the consideration of the Missionary Committee and the Conference. These were formally presented to the Missionary Committee and the members were asked to study them before proceeding to a detailed discussion of them. Just at that moment the unexpected happened; the obstacles which had held up Church Union in South India were suddenly removed, and our four Methodist Districts in South India, instead of exercising more self-government within the Methodist "commonwealth," in due course became part of the Church of South India. There still remained Ceylon, however; an island where the personnel and the organisation of our Church is more highly developed than in any part of India, where there is a higher percentage of graduates in the ministry than in any Methodist Church I know, and where many laymen and women in Church service are held in high repute in public affairs; obviously there was a call to develop the two Synods in the island into one Church court with greater powers of self-direction than either of the Synods had previously held.

All this has happily been carried through, and it has been the privilege of my wife and myself to attend the inaugural service, and the sessions of this new Synod, in Colombo. At the former I had been commissioned by the President of the Conference to present a beautifully inscribed Bible to the Chairman on behalf

of British Methodism, containing on the outer cover the last text from which Dr. Coke preached before setting sail for Ceylon and the first text used by Squence, one of his party of missionaries, after they had landed.

The service was a memorable one in its dignity and devoutness, and was attended by the Bishop of Colombo and delegates from the other non-Roman Churches. The order of service was quite remarkable for its beauty of expression and for its revelation of liturgical gifts in Ceylon Methodism. The days of session were remarkable, too; many contentious questions called for consideration, but both the spirit of the Synod and the controlling power of the Chairman were equal to them all. Many times did I wish that some of our faithful missionary supporters at home could have seen, as we were privileged to see, how wondrously God has built up His Church and endowed His workers in that beautiful island, to which our first missionaries sailed over 130 years ago.

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How far is this Church which has attained so large a measure of self-government self-supporting? With regard to the support of the ministry the Ceylon Methodist Church finds seven-eighths of it at present; the accepted aim of the Synod is to abolish the eighth contributed by the M.M.S. Practically all the rest of the Church's expenditure is found in Ceylon. The missionaries are, of course, the gift of the Church at home.

One other subject of vital importance must be mentioned. There is in draft a scheme for Church Union in Ceylon which is being considered by Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Baptists. A special session of the Synod has been planned for October to discuss its details; meanwhile the Committee appointed by Conference for this purpose is being asked to give its guidance on the theological questions involved. From all we heard it seems not unlikely that in the course of a few years another great act of Church Union may take place. After our experience in the Church of South India we cannot but pray that it may be so; for if there was anything lacking in our happiness among our Methodist brethren in Ceylon it was due to a vague sense of having passed from the fuller freedom and wider fellowship of a United Church to the more confined and less exhilarating atmosphere of the separated Churches.

—"Methodist Recorder."



PERSONAL and GENERAL

THE VOYCE FAMILY.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Voyce have been in the hands of the doctor since arriving in New Zealand and each has made an excellent recovery, for which we are profoundly thankful. We had expected to publish an article from Mr. Voyce's pen in this issue but have deferred it until March.

Mr. Voyce was warmly welcomed by the Foreign Mission Board on 15th November and reviewed the present situation in the Bougainville-Buka Circuit of which he is Superintendent. He and Mrs. Voyce and Grenville expect to return to the Field towards the end of January next.

Murray and Jean Voyce have been entered for 1951 at the high-school, Charters Towers, Queensland, that has been conducted so successfully in recent years by the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. To such students, whose parents are in New Guinea or Papua, the Administration of those territories grants free air transport to and from school each year.

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SISTER LUCY MONEY.

After more than three years of strenuous and valuable service on the Field, Sister Lucy Money reached New Zealand for furlough at the end of September. The whole of her first term has been spent at Choiseul where her work has been greatly appreciated by the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe and all the native people. Her training in maternity, 'Plunket' and kindergarten has been of great value to the women, babies and school-children on the head station of Sasamunga and in other parts of the circuit where her return is eagerly awaited.

Sister Lucy, after a brief visit to her home in Morrinsville, attended the M.W.M.U. Conference at Whangarei where she received an abundant welcome from the women of the New Zealand Church who have done so much to maintain and sustain her in her work on the Field. After a further period of rest Sister Lucy will engage in a deputation itinerary arranged by the M.W.M.U.

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Rev. A. H. Hall, B.A., reached Auckland for a well-earned furlough on 21st October. Since his arrival in the Solomons in May, 1947, he has been Vice-principal of the District Training Institution at Roviana and has rendered excellent service in the training and leadership of the students. We hope to publish in our next issue Mr. Hall's own account of the problems that have confronted him during the past three years in the erection of temporary buildings—for school, college, and home—learning the language, translation of lessons, improvising equipment, etc., in order to get the vitally important work of student-training re-commenced after the war. Just prior to leaving for furlough, Mr. Hall had the joy of seeing fifteen students graduate from the College—the first newly-trained men to go out as pastor-teachers for eight years.

Owing to the Rev. A. H. Voyce's inability to attend, Mr. Hall acted as the representative of the Solomon Islands District at the recent Conference in Dunedin where he was accorded a very warm welcome.

Mr. Bruce Cole also reached Auckland on 21st October after four years' whole-hearted service as a carpenter in the reconstruction of our mission stations. Lack of materials and transport have precluded the erection of many permanent buildings, but Mr. Cole has had a strenuous term erecting temporary and semi-permanent structures to facilitate the re-establishment of our stations both on Bougainville and in the British Solomons, and we are greatly indebted to him both for his work and for training a good team of native boys. He hopes to return for a further term.

Prior to leaving New Zealand, Mr. Cole had had experience as a choir-master and he has used his gifts in this direction to good advantage in the Solomons, having formed and trained several choirs. The natives love singing and have appreciated to the full Mr. Cole's efforts in this direction.

* * * *

ANOTHER VOLUNTEER.

The generous offer of Mr. H. L. J. Newton, of Woolston, to give up to eighteen months' free service in the Solomons has been gratefully accepted by the Foreign Mission Board. Mr. Newton is circuit steward at Woolston and represented that circuit at the recent Conference, during which he had the joy of seeing his son received for training for the Ministry. He is a certified electrician and has had considerable experience in the building of houses and boats and is therefore qualified to render very valuable help in our reconstruction programme. His spiritual contacts will also be of great value both to himself and the native church. This venture will be the fulfilment for Mr. Newton of what has been in his heart for a long time. He is booked to fly to the Field in mid-January.

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SISTER WINIFRED POOLE RETURNS TO THE FIELD.

After a happy furlough and some very valuable deputation work Sister Winifred Poole left by plane for the Solomons, via Australia and New Guinea, on 21st November. She is to take charge of our newly-established Leprosarium at Ozama, under the direction of Dr. G. E. Hault, and in this important and arduous task we seek for her the constant prayers and practical support of the Home Church. In no more effective way did Christ commend the love of his Father than by cleansing the lepers, and our doctor and nurses engaged in this Work are in a great succession. Their hands are also being strengthened by the generous grants of the Lepers' Trust Board.

Sister Winifred was warmly received and spoke effectively both at the recent Conference in Dunedin and the M.W.M.U. Conference at Whangarei, and also at the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. Her furlough has been a source of inspiration to herself and to all who have met and heard her.

* * * *

MR. BRIAN SIDES.

Accompanying Sister Winifred to the Field was Mr. Brian Sides who, as mentioned in last issue, has been engaged by the Board for rebuilding work. Brian is a fully-trained carpenter but is also an able and devoted youth worker of our Church and will render good spiritual leadership as he builds houses, hospitals and schools. We bespeak for him the prayers of our people.

Hyderabad Youth Takes The Lead

We can see the difference Youth societies are making to the life of an ordinary village congregation when we visit a nearby village for an evening service.

One evening last week, a group of us set out from the compound in bright moonlight to walk along the bank of an irrigation tank. A number of students had gone ahead to visit the homes and to help the evangelist, who was not well, to prepare for the service. As we drew near we were met by a gang of young drummers and crowds of excited children. Soon the narrow verandah, with an altar built of mud at one end, the walls covered with pictures and the beams strung with leaves, was filled with the Christians, while the non-Christians stood outside looking over the wall, watching everything intently. The women straggled in one by one and presented us with garlands. The students sat on mats on the ground outside, while the rest of us were given a string bed and chairs.

Then, Christudass, the leader of the Yavana Samaj stood up and led song after song, while the congregation joined in lustily and the children clapped the rhythm. Then the woman leader of the Yuvathi Samaj led in prayer and the congregation joined in the Creed and listened intently to a vivid sermon. Afterwards several families brought special thankofferings of grain, which they brought on a tray on which a small lamp flickered.

Then Christudass, who is a lively young man with flashing ear-rings, led out his young men to dance and sing for us, while he directed them, ejected small boys who were itching to join in and led the singing. The movement was vigorous and the pace increased, but

each kept his place. Then the younger lads wanted a turn. They had been trained by Christudass and were as keen as mustard. One little fellow, about ten years old, joined in manfully with his cloth well tucked up and his huge turban of at least eight yards of cloth with its ends flying.

Very often these "rhythmic-songs" contain stories of the life of Christ with each sentence repeated many times. Much of the teaching given to village Christians is through their songs, which they sing as they weed the rice-fields or herd the buffaloes.

These eager under-twelves are on our hearts. So few ever get into our schools and few go far in the village night-school, but they are the leaders of the Church of to-morrow, and we must do something for them, too. If we had a Martha or a Christudass in every village to lead them, we could start, knowing that they would help the evangelist and his wife.

"The harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth labourers into His harvest."

—E. D. J. (From the "Hyderabad Bulletin").

OBITUARY.

The profound and tender sympathy of the Foreign Mission Board and the Church in the Solomons goes out to the Rev. Fred Copeland and family in the death of Mrs. Copeland who was so greatly beloved of all who knew her; also to Mrs. A. W. E. Silvester in the loss of her father, Mr. E. Haddock of Papatotote. Both these sad events have occurred just as we go to press.

MORE MISSIONARY DAFFODIL BULBS

The Rev. W. W. Avery has a further supply of daffodil bulbs for sale in the interest of Overseas Missions. The quality of Mr. Avery's bulbs is well known and blooms from them are taking awards in most of the Spring Shows in N.Z. Intending purchasers should make early application to **Rev. W. W. Avery, 58 Elizabeth Street, Timaru.**



Generous discount, in extra bulbs, on all orders of £1 or more. Price lists may be had from Mr. Avery upon request to the above address.

By purchasing these bulbs your garden will be beautified by some of the best blooms in New Zealand and the Kingdom of God extended in the Solomons.

N.B.—Order early and avoid disappointment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Foreign Mission Treasurers acknowledge with thanks the following donations:—

LEPER FUND:

"Gratitude"—Wanganui ..	£5 0 0
N. E. L. Fensham	5 0 0
Mr. D. Collis—Sansom	5 0 0
Mr. A. Swift—Hutt	3 0 0

MEDICAL FUND:

Miss M. Austin — Titirangi	£1 0 0
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SUPPORT OF ORPHANS:

Ardmore College S.S.	£5 0 0
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GENERAL FUND:

Receipt No. 3707	£10 0 0
Receipt No. 3711	10 0 0
Mr. A. Millins	90 0 0
G.L.B. 42nd Coy.	19 8
Sister Lily White	5 0 0
Raumati Sunday School ..	2 0 0
Mr. J. Donkin—Opawa ..	2 2 0

LEGACIES:

Estate of Mary Gerry	£50 0 0
Estate of H. Ninnis	50 0 0
Estate of A. Dillon	53 7 5
Estate of Rev. W. A. Sinclair	50 0 0

Report of the M.W.M.U. Conference

By MISS GLADYS JONES.

"Have faith in God." These words immediately caught the eye of all who entered the Methodist Church, Bank Street, Whangarei, for the 36th Annual Conference of the M.W.M.U., and the many beautiful flowers all so tastefully arranged bore eloquent testimony to the same truth . . . nor could we help being impressed by the tremendous faith and work expressed in so many ways by the Missionary Sisters who were present. They, and the messages they gave, were indeed the outstanding features of the Conference and one caught many times over, not only a fresh vision of the work in the Solomons and among the Maoris, but also a vision of our own responsibilities in regard to this work.

The success or otherwise of any Conference can only be gauged by "What happens after" in the various Auxiliaries whose representatives were privileged to be present. To go back home and put into practice at least some of the lessons learned is the only adequate criterion that one's visit to Conference has been worth while. The vision of our responsibility not only carries with it the question "What am I going to do?" but also, "How soon can I begin?" for to all true followers of Jesus Christ "Hearing" must be translated into "Doing."



M.W.M.U. DOMINION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

It was so right and fitting at this our most northerly Conference where we were so much nearer to the beginnings of early Methodist Missionary work in New Zealand than ever before, that a group of our Maori friends, under the leadership of Sister Ruth Hilder, should be present at the official welcome. It was good to see them, to hear their sweet singing and to enjoy the action songs and poi dance of the younger members. Rev. J. H. Allen very ably welcomed delegates to Whangarei and referred to the dual welcome of native and white people. "It is much better," he told us, "to be missionary-minded than Union-minded." Good wishes were also expressed by Mrs. Silk, Northland District President and by representatives of various local sister societies. Mrs. Hallam suitably responded.

Altogether 89 delegates, including 27 first-timers, attended Conference, as well as many visitors.

The printing of the reports and the sending out of these to delegates beforehand was a happy inspiration, for it not only saved time in the business sessions, but gave the delegates a more comprehensive knowledge of the business under discussion. Mrs. Hallam, Dominion President, in speaking to the reports, stressed three things:—

1. The need for new members. With four new Auxiliaries, the membership had increased only by 17.

2. The need for more educational work to be done in Auxiliaries and in District Conventions. Every member should know all there is to know about our work and about our workers.

3. The importance of the Sisters' Salary Fund. This is and always must be our first and main responsibility.

The Special Objective for this year is to be two Hostels for Native Girls—one at Roviana and one at Bilua (British Solomon Islands). The three Overseas Sisters at Conference all spoke of the very great need of these Hostels.

The Stamp Money totalling £479/8/11 was allocated to the Sisters in Overseas and Home fields of work.

The 1951 Conference is to be held in Christchurch.

After some discussion in the Open Forum it was decided to print once again the Prayer Cycles for each member.

At the 9 a.m. Communion Service we were indeed "Mindful of the Love that bought us once for all on Calvary's Tree," for, in the quietness of that early morning God was very near. The call to worship and to commune with God came searchingly through a poem read by the Rev. J. H. Allen who conducted the service. Its beauty sank deep into our souls, and we prayed that God would

"Send us forth, our very lives
made sweet"

for, in this way, "Our fellows meeting
us may say,

These . . . have supped with Jesus
Christ to-day."

Again at 9 a.m. the next day we met for prayer. The singing of "Sweetly the Holy Hymn" made a deep impression. It was just right and a fitting prelude to the time of prayer that followed, our President first reminding us of the promise and example of our Lord, and that prayer is the Christian's vital breath. It was a most worth-while session and one wonders why more time is not given to seasons of prayer in our Conferences.

A very challenging message came from Mrs. Virtue, based on the words of Paul, "I am ready to preach the Gospel." Both Mrs. Stead (Invercargill) and Mrs. Sage (Carterton) brought further inspiration in their talks, the one on "I will mention the loving kindness of the Lord," and the other talk on "Abram departed by faith."

In her Presidential address Mrs. Hallam took the words of Jesus, "Freely ye have received, freely give," as the basis of a talk on why we should study and support Missions. First, because it is both God's plan and His command, and secondly because of what God has done for us. The Gospel of Salvation is God's plan for all, and is to be spread by those who receive it. His command is 'Go ye and teach.' Ours is to obey. Recalling to our minds all that we women owe to the Gospel, and what great things God has wrought for us, Mrs. Hallam said we owe the Gospel to the heathen out of loyalty to Christ. It is a debt that must be faced seriously, and is bound to be met. We need to



Girl Guides, Buin—the first Company in the District and led by Miss Jean Voyce.

study and pray, for prayer is our appointed task that we may come to know God's will and what part He wants us to do.

It was inspiring to have so many Sisters in Conference; three from Overseas (Lina Jones, Winifred Poole and Lucy Money), and three Home Sisters (Dorothy Pointon, June Winchcombe, and Ruth Hilder). Their keenness and enthusiasm, ready wit, intense interest in their work impressed everyone. The Rev. G. I. Laurenson, as Chairman at the Missionary Rally very ably introduced each one.

Sister Lina gave humorous and vivid word pictures of the questing mind of the native, and told of her work in translating the Epistles of the New Testament, Psalms and parts of Isaiah into the Roviana language. At the Missionary Rally she gave a clear and graphic picture of the Educational work in the Solomons, of the changing ideas of the people, and how it was the purpose of the Missionaries to train the natives to go and teach their own people and to bring them into the Kingdom of God. She emphasised the great need for books. These cannot be bought, but must be written, adapted or modified to suit the native conditions. Books were a necessity to give the people something in their own language and make them stronger in their Christian living.

Sister Winifred Poole at the Rally spoke of the underprivileged, lonely, unhappy leper people. As we do not hear much about this phase of the work in the Solomons, it was all the more impressive and necessary to know something of its difficulties and importance. These people are to live on the island of Ozama, near the Bilua Station, where Sister Winifred will have supervision of the work. There is much to understand, much to pray for. The next afternoon Sister Winifred spoke of her work, first at Skotolan, on Buka, and later with Sister Lucy at Choiseul. Vividly she portrayed the work, its difficulties, variety, disappointments, encouragements and joys, then told effectively the story of Mary and Martha in pidgin English. "The aim of all our work," concluded Sister, "is to bring our Solomon Island people into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Sister Lucy Money, who only arrived in New Zealand for furlough just prior to Conference, was given an opportunity to speak and briefly told of her experiences in Maternity work and among the girls and babies of Choiseul.

Sister June Winchcombe told of her work among the Maori people of Northland. Very humorously she des-

cribed her introduction to it and how she learned to drive a car. All through her talk one sensed the determination expressed in the words with which she answered the call to the work, "I'll go and do my best," and her faith and unswerving confidence "That if our Church would definitely pray the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers, He will raise them up and provide for their support." Such faith brings its own reward. The vastness of her work and territory, the great distances to be covered were clearly revealed as she unfolded the details of it. Bible lessons in schools; Sunday Schools; home and hospital visiting; adult services; clothing sales; youth camps all have their place in this great work of bringing Christ to the Maori people. Children's clothes are especially needed and a library of Christian literature is a dream to be accomplished as soon as possible. A tribute to her work comes from the Maori people themselves, "Sister, the children who have Sunday School are different."

Every Sister spoke of the great value of the Stamp money and all they were able to accomplish with it. To this Sister Winifred added her thanks for Box Money and that of the Medical and Educational Fund. Old Linen was a great asset and it was interesting to hear all that could be done with it.

Miss Jean Hartley very clearly portrayed the work of the Youth Department in regard to Missions and the Missionary education of the youth of our church.

Rev. A. H. Scrivin in a brief but telling address impressed us with the wonderful work being done in the Pacific where the Acts of the Apostles were being rewritten. He quoted the Rev. Norman Goodall as saying, "That with the possible exemption of the early Moravian church, nothing so remarkable as the work of the Methodist Church in the Pacific had ever taken place." Pray without ceasing, for there are greater things yet to come. As this was the last Conference Mr. Scrivin would be attending in his official capacity, he paid tribute to the work of the M.W.M.U., saying, "I count it a privilege to have been associated with you and thank God for every remembrance of you."

One cannot close without paying tribute to all who catered for our comfort and laboured to make the Conference a success, especially to those who had travelled many miles each day to provide the welcome cups of tea, as well as those who gave so willingly their talent of song to enrich our sessions. As we sang the closing hymn of Conference, it became the prayer of our hearts "That God be the Sharer in our daily tasks, touching every lip and every voice with praise."



Boy Scouts, Buin, with their sub-leader Murray Voyce. Grenville Voyce, the leader, took the photograph.

Methodist Missionary Enterprise

A LECTURE DELIVERED at the ANNUAL DINNER of TRINITY OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION, DUNEDIN, 1950,
by REV. C. T. J. LUXTON.

Methodism essentially Missionary in outlook.

John Wesley's proclamation that 'The world is my parish,' and his injunction to his preachers to seek 'every open door' gave to Methodism an essentially missionary outlook. Methodist theology is essentially missionary, and Methodist hymnology fans the missionary flame.

In Wesley's day Protestantism was lethargic about carrying the Gospel to the heathen. Except for the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which sent Wesley to Georgia, scarcely anything was being done.

When Wesley's preaching swept England like a flame, scattered sparks settled in other lands and there kept aglow the gospel fervour. Every Methodist was a potential missionary and long before there was a Methodist Church or a Methodist Ministry the missionary enterprise of Methodism had begun to make itself felt.

First Missionary Endeavours.

It is recognised that the first foreign missionary work was done by a layman. Nathaniel Gilbert, sometime Speaker of the House of Assembly, Antigua, West Indies, was on furlough in England and was converted by John Wesley's preaching. With him were two black slaves who were baptized by Wesley. Gilbert endeavoured to persuade the saintly John Fletcher to return with him to Antigua, but failing to do so he himself began work among the negroes, in 1759. Other European

settlers thought him mad. "Methodism meant missions for him, madness to them."

It was from this beginning in the West Indies that the inspiration of our foreign mission work really came, though it was not here that our first missionaries were sent.

With the extension of settlement in America and Newfoundland there came insistent calls for preachers, and so stirred was the Leeds Conference in 1769 that the Methodist preachers raised £70 amongst themselves out of their own poverty, and sent Pilmoor and Broadman out as the first volunteer missionaries of the church.

Dr. Thomas Coke.

Thomas Coke is regarded as the father of Methodist Mission enterprise.

He was an ordained priest of the Established Church, but having been relieved of his charge he joined himself to the Wesleys.

Of their first meeting Wesley says, "I found a clergyman, Dr. Coke, late Gentleman Commoner of Jesus College in Oxford, who came twenty miles on purpose. I had much conversation with him, and an union then began which I trust shall never end."

Missionary interest was again kindled in 1775 when two negroes who had escaped from America arrived in England and came under Methodist influence. They



In a drawing-room meeting at Wandsworth, on February 17th, 1758, Wesley himself won for Christ the first two coloured converts of Methodist Missions.

—From a drawing by Wal. Paget.

The picture shows Wesley preaching in the drawing-room of Francis Gilbert—who is shown standing at the back. In the foreground sit the Hon. Nathaniel Gilbert of Antigua, with his wife and future sister-in-law. Three of Gilbert's slaves are seen—two Negro women and a Mulatto valet. In that service Nathaniel Gilbert and the two slave women were converted—the first-fruits of a great harvest overseas.

belonged to the "royal house of Calabar" and when they were returned there they were accompanied by two German Methodists from Bristol who went out as missionaries. Both these men died almost immediately and the two young chiefs asked for successors. Coke at once issued a circular letter among the preachers asking for volunteers, but though they were forthcoming the Conference decided against sending them, considering the time not yet fully opportune.

Coke however was now fully awakened to the possibility of mission work and in 1784 together with Thomas Parker produced a Plan of the Society for the Establishment of Missions among the Heathen and subscriptions were solicited.

That same year however Wesley appointed Coke with Asbury to America, and the new demands on his time prevented Coke prosecuting his plan.

Coke in the West Indies.

In 1786 Coke was again on his way out to America when his ship was driven far off its course by storms, and in a battered and leaky condition put in to Antigua for shelter and repairs. This seemingly certain disaster and chance visit was in God's providence used for the full launching of Methodist activities for the conversion of heathen races.

It was Christmas Day, and Coke was called upon to preach to the Methodist society which had grown out of Gilbert's work established 27 years earlier. The society then numbered 2,000 and was led by a shipwright named John Baxter.

At Coke's instance Baxter gave up his work and was ordained by Coke to the ministry. Together they visited and preached and the work spread through the West Indies. So extensive did it become that Wesley sent out others to the field from the next Conference.



DR. THOMAS COKE.

The first Missionary report is dated 1789 and records Receipts £1404, Expenditure £1472. The following year — a Committee was formed for managing the affairs in the West Indies, this was the forerunner of Foreign Mission Boards. Within two years the adherents in the West Indies was numbered at 30,000.

Coke's enthusiasm led him to a perpetual collecting of moneys for Mission work and even Wesley wrote in reply to a protesting preacher, "I did not approve of Dr. Coke making collections either in your or any other circuit."

However, at Wesley's last Conference a Missionary Committee was appointed and two years later we find a resolution making a special general collection for Mission work.

Coke and Ceylon.

Dr. Coke's missionary enthusiasm was unabating. Having been prevented by the East India Co. from going to India he readily accepted the invitation of the Chief Justice of Ceylon to establish mission work there. He personally collected funds and the reluctance of Conference was overcome when he gave from his own private fortune a sum of £6,000, thus assuring the necessary funds.

However, Coke had so spent himself that during the voyage to Ceylon he died and was buried in the Indian Ocean. The death of the Superintendent led to the forming of a formal Missionary Society.

Its date is always counted as 1813 and the Conference of 1816 saw its final acceptance as an integral part of the church organization.

Thus for the first time in English Christendom a church fully recognised Foreign Mission work as an essential part of its duty and professed itself as much responsible for work abroad as at home.

The first report named 111 missionaries in a dozen countries. The Conference in 1818 entrusted the work to a Committee of laymen and ministers, with three ministers as secretaries, these were freed from circuit work three years later, thus the organisation as we know it today came into being.

A year later New Zealand was added to the list of countries served by the Missionary Society.

New Zealand.

Samuel Leigh's visit and subsequent appointment to New Zealand is a story well known to all. New Zealand and Tonga became a separate Mission district and missionaries were not infrequently switched from N.Z. to Tonga and vice versa.

Until 1855 N.Z. remained a part of the Foreign Mission work of the Wesleyan Missionary Society. While still a mission field N.Z. saw men coming forward to serve as missionaries, both among the Maoris and in the Pacific.

John Hobbs, and James Stack, lay missionaries were ordained in 1824, Hobbs later serving in Tonga, and Stack joining the Anglicans. Henry H. Lawry, James Buller and C. H. Schnackenberg and Wm. Gittos were ordained and all served with great success among the Maoris. Wm. Fletcher, the younger of the three Fletcher brothers who served on the staff of Prince Albert College was also ordained and went to Fiji in 1858.

It is interesting to note that the two first N.Z. born Methodist ministers also became missionaries. James W. Wallis, born 1842, received into the ministry and went from Blenheim to Tonga, serving with distinction. J. H. Simmonds, born 1845, served in Fiji, returning to N.Z. for health reasons, and then continued to serve in N.Z. for a long ministry, he died only 14 years ago.

(To be continued.)

CONGRATULATIONS.

We warmly congratulate Mr. Geo. G. Carter, M.A., Dip.Ed., upon the success of his candidature for the Ministry at the recent Conference. He will continue, as a Probationer, his teaching work at Buin and later, during extended furlough, will take a year's course in Theology at Trinity College.

Australian Methodist Missions

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT, 1950, OF THE AUSTRALASIAN DEPT. OF OVERSEAS MISSIONS.

TONGA.

The Church in Tonga works under an independent Conference, but always, with us, desires to keep the bond with the General Conference of Australasia strong and firm. We remember that although the Mission Board supplies the ordained missionaries to the Tongan Conference, the missionary gift of that Church in money, prayer, and service is very considerable.



Queen Salote Tubou, who is visiting N.Z. and to whom we extend warm and respectful welcome.

The highlight of the year has been the shifting of the old Church erected in 1885 to make way for the foundations of the new Church. The shifting, *en masse*, of this huge native building was something which all Europeans considered impossible, but the leading church builder, Aminiasi, supervised the whole operation, which was carried out by 1,000 people accompanied by the Tongan Band and inspired by the presence of the Queen. The Rev. Rodger Page returned to Tonga during the furlough of the President, Rev. A. E. McKay, B.A., B.D., and his presence has contributed much to the enthusiasm and interest of the people in the building of the new Church. The foundations are now laid, and this fine concrete church costing £20,000 and seating 2,000 people, is beginning to take shape.

The Tongan Church, true to its long tradition of missionary service, has again this year sent out two of its outstanding young men to work in Papua. Isikeli Hau'ofa, with ten years' service in Papua, has returned to the field after furlough in Tonga. Manisela Tonga, a young teacher, goes to take up an appointment at Kalakala on Ferguson Island in Papua.

Again we would pay our tribute to the loyalty and leadership of the Queen of Tonga in all Christian work. To our missionaries she is a wise guide in matters great and small. By her people she is universally loved and respected, not only for her wise and enlightened leadership, but for her good life.

SAMOA.

The Methodist Church in Samoa is a minority of 13,000 in a population of 72,000. The dominant mission is the London Missionary Society, with a long and honourable record of service to the people of Samoa.

The Methodist Church, with its emphases of personal evangelism and social righteousness, is felt by all to be an influence for keeping the life of the Church directed towards its real end and for the challenging of growing evils consequent upon the widespread secularism in the post-war Pacific.

The impression which remains with one after a visit to Samoa is of the fine church properties and the pride which the people take in these. There is probably no other place in the Pacific where buildings of the Church are of such a uniformly high standard.

The new Methodist Church which is being erected

at Apia is to be a chaste concrete building with a tower and a cross that will dominate the capital. The village people are supplying most of the manual labour for this with only a few permanent craftsmen engaged.

One of the outstanding decisions of the year has been that made by the Samoan Synod and the Mission Board to approach the American Methodist Church seeking a missionary to take over our work in American Samoa if American leadership could be given. It is hoped that our great American Church will respond to this appeal from Samoan Methodists.

FIJI.

The Chairman of the District (Rev. M. G. Wilms-hurst, B.A.) has thus described the present situation in Fiji:

"Fiji is becoming very much like any other land. It is being forged in the same fires and impressed with the same stamp. There is much that is good in this, but one result of it is that the Church cannot move with a leisurely step. We cannot just let things go on quietly as they have gone in years past, but must be constantly alert to make adjustments or advance as changing circumstances demand."

In the realm of Christian education the year has seen some very satisfactory progress.

The strength of the Fijian Church, however, is not primarily in its institutions but in the steadfast witness which it maintains in the villages scattered throughout the group. Here we have a picture of light and shade, of triumph and of difficulty which amply bears out the words of the Chairman.

At the Leper Island of Makogai, where 650 patients are domiciled the witness of the Church is being maintained. Rev. W. Jago writes that the number of catechists and local preachers among the patients is high. Hopes are entertained that an effective cure might be found for the victims of this dread disease.

In his Report on Davuilevu the Principal states his problems in ascending order of importance, as

1. Building and equipment.
2. Staff adjustments.
3. Spiritual advance.

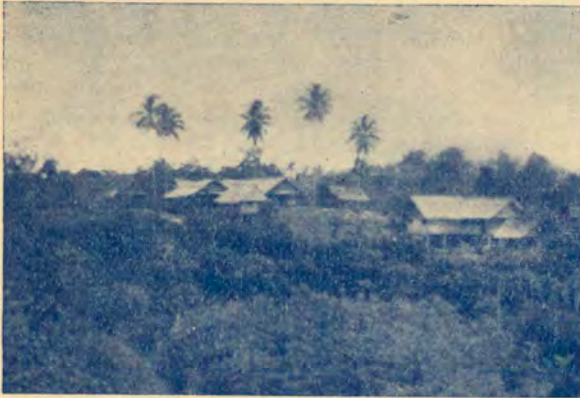
He rightly points out that in institutional life, the success of our major efforts at evangelism depends to no small extent on the provision of the equipment and the people who will do the job.

On the subject of Spiritual advance, Mr. Andrews speaks of the part which Davuilevu is playing in the Crusade for Christ. He tells of the reception of fifty young people into Church membership. The Bible school has achieved much in the development of religious drama. The training of the ministry of the young Church is proceeding apace.

NEW GUINEA.

The past year has witnessed considerable progress in the rehabilitation of this field which suffered so deeply through the war years. The rebuilding programme is now under way and will go on despite difficulties and disappointments.

The Christian message is uppermost in all our work and teaching, whether it be prayer with the sick or bereaved, or just a lecture on being clean in every-day living



Methodist Hospital, Tonu, ably conducted by native medical assistants.

Writing from the depths of experience, the native minister of Kabakada Circuit says frankly: "These are difficult years in our islands. The people are anxious for money, they are covetous and envious one of another. Many of them own motor vehicles, only because of their neighbours owning them. The young men growing up are self-important and fond of self-display. They play gambling games, and drink intoxicating liquor. When they learn hymns it is not to praise God but to be admired by their fellows. So it is clearly seen that they have far to go. They are taught the way of salvation, and if we who are their leaders make straight paths for their feet they will win through."

Every Circuit Report speaks of the splendid work being done by the mission sisters in this great area. Nurses and teachers alike are rendering their special services in abundant measure.

It is now seventy-five years since Dr. George Brown and his pioneer party of Fijian and Samoan missionaries landed at Molot to establish the work of the Methodist Mission in New Britain. The years have seen much of tragedy and triumph. We believe that under God's guidance "the best is yet to be."

PAPUA.

Women's Conventions and the beginning of the 'Women's Meeting for Light' have met a need in village life. This organisation in which women meet for devotions, health talks and handicrafts has been recommended by Synod to the women of the District. At the Kiriwana Jubilee services held just before last Synod, a Communion service was attended by 600 people.

The Women's World Day of Prayer commenced an awakening among our village and station women and big girls. Since then, on the first Friday of each month, eighty to one hundred and twenty-five have gathered for prayer and fellowship. The women of the two nearby villages and of the Government station have in turn conducted the whole of the meetings.

At East Cape the work of the printing press is making a real contribution not only to the education of the people, but to their Christian development. The Chief Inspector of Schools, after a recent visit, made the following remarks in his Report:

"The East Cape trainees are the only considerable number of native printers in Australia. The work that they are doing is particularly good. Unlike other Missions, they are concentrating on vernacular texts."

NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS.

As this Report goes to press, news is coming to hand from the survey party which is at present at work in the highlands area seeking to find a suitable site which our Mission may use as a base of operations. Rev. E. A. Clarke, L.Th., late of the Papuan District, and Rev. G. H. Young, of the New Guinea District, together with three pastor-teachers from each of the above-named Districts, are engaged in this most important task. It is not possible at this early stage to forecast the location of the new station, but this will be announced at the earliest possible moment. In the meantime, with the help of missionaries of other denominations, and with the courteous co-operation of Government officers, the work is going ahead. It is proposed that Mr. Young, together with the native staff, should remain on the chosen site and begin a ministry of helpfulness and inspiration amongst a people who up to the present time have not come under Christian influence.



New Guinea Highlander.

This work, which is a pioneering venture of our Church, will call for much in resources of man-power and funds. In neither of these matters can we neglect our existing fields. But we believe that our missionary history will repeat itself here. In giving ourselves and our gifts to this Adventure for Christ we shall find that "Our light is not the less" as we share it with others.

Foreign Mission Board Annual Meeting

By the REV. A. A. BENSLEY.

A memorable meeting in many ways. Memorable because of noted absentees, Mr. C. E. Taylor was not there, that is, in the body, neither was Mr. P. E. Patrick, but we know they were there in spirit. Great men who were greatly used for God who have entered in where they can see things we greatly desire to see. Also, our honoured General Secretary, was presenting the business for the last time as General Secretary. Many were the tributes paid to him, glowing, warm and sincere, which Mr. Scrivin heard with blushes. How radiant was the face of Mrs. Scrivin as these sincere words were read. Much has been spoken of the fitness for the position of his successor from South Australia, the Rev. H. K. Bartless, L.th., and we hope and pray for fine service for him, but it will long be remembered what Mr. Scrivin has done for God and the Kingdom. Then also, Rev. J. F. Goldie, forty-nine years Chairman of the Solomons District, retires as from next Conference. What a figure to pass from the Pacific. He has done more to shape the Western Solomons than any living man. Will a real biography of John Francis Goldie ever be written. Some of the fine Christian natives of Roviana would be able to do it.

We sympathised with the Board Treasurer, Mr. Gapper, in the so recent death of his beloved lady, and with Mr. Copeland in the serious illness of Mrs. Copeland.

The President of the Conference, Rev. H. J. Odell presided, and city and distant members of the Board were duly welcomed, and the welcome was spread over visitors like Sister Winifred Poole, on furlough from the Solomons, who returns shortly to be nurse in charge of the leper station on Ozama, our new enterprise, or new beginning to an old one. "If Thou wilt Thou canst make me clean." I will, be thou made clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. May many be made clean through the loving human touch, through prayer, and through science, all working together. The Executive of the M.W.M.U. were present, to be at the Board meeting, and on their way to their Conference at Whangarei.

It was a stiff agenda to get through, largely because of these special matters. The figures, sheets of them, were all so helpfully explained, that no one got a headache. Since we have mentioned these troublesome things, we had better dispose of them. The Rehabilitation Fund is beginning to melt, and soon it will do so like a snowball under a warm sun. Some of the members said it would be a good thing when it had entirely disappeared as the Treasurers are beginning to get worried about the general fund. It seems to be there as a beautiful and unfailling cruse of oil, at which people look and rather guiltily give 10/- to the General Fund at the annual effort when they ought to give £10. The Rehabilitation Fund is for all the necessary houses and hospitals and boats and not to take a cut at when the general fund shows a debit. The carpenters in the Solomons have made a good start at sawing great chunks off these thousands, and houses for missionaries and hospitals for the sick are gradually rising from the ruins. The lay treasurer pointed out that in the past five years the general income from circuits had increased only by £1400, and that in golden years. Phew! Boats! We are well afloat now, but 'Daphne,' the first to come after the war years, having done a great job of work, is now a floating wreck and is for

sale to the highest bidder. Poor Daphne! She will have to be replaced and to do that will take another slice off the Rehabilitation Fund. We must really be building up the general fund while most people still have too much in their pockets, or we will soon feel terribly naked. Let subscribers double their gifts when next the time comes and they will receive an increase of joy in the triumphs of grace in the Solomons. We need £25,000 each year from circuits. If the people had been at the meeting of the finance committee, which finished after 10 o'clock one night, they would understand the reason why.

For the first time we are able to wipe most of the "One wanteds" from the stationing sheet. What a truly great joy. Talented and gifted young people are almost jostling each other to take up the waiting tasks. Five have been sent out this year and there is a waiting list. We are not yet really dead! When the call comes, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" fine young people from among us respond, "Here am I, send me." Praise be to God, the vine sends forth its green shoots and ripening clusters. That is one reason why that general fund must receive attention and what a glorious reason. Most of them are so eager that they fly out to their job and that hits the fund. These days they have either to fly or wait for months.

The new General Secretary proposes to travel by car on his deputation travels and bring a Talkie with him. This will cost more but we move with the times and no one would have it otherwise. For years Mr. Scrivin has trailed his heavy bags up and down the country and shown a self-sacrificing example of economy. He came to the task when we were truly on the rocks, but his example became infectious and the funds grew. Now, may his mantle be on Mr. Bartlett, and may a like loyalty and devotion produce the goods.

What a fine story we heard of our translation work. A thing to warm our hearts and send us to our knees in thankfulness. This is how perhaps thousands of the people on the great island of Bougainville will be able to read the Living Word in their own tongue. There was a fine Buka Christian boy named Usaia Keranki who sat down with Margaret Sotutu, the wife of our Fijian minister there, day after day and week after week translating the Word into the language of the people of those parts, and two or three books of the New Testament were finished. But Usaia was suffering and before long he died of T.B. A Solomon Islander Robert Louis Stevenson. O that Living Word we have to preach and live. How such stories shame our flatness and apathy and deadness.

Now we have almost come to the end, or ought to have, and we have said nothing of so much, the singing, the fellowship, the prayers, the great imponderable things that are for the saving of the world. The love for Christ and His Kingdom, the wealth of young love poured at His feet, the Doctor who is to continue beyond the eighteen months he at first specified, the M.W.M.U. and its President, Mrs. Hallam, who presented her report, who spoke of the deathless love and unmeasured service, of the work of this noble army of women who will not cease from prayerful service for Solomon Islander or Maori, for the building of the city whose foundations are already laid, and for the fellowship of all the saints. To God be the praise and Glory!

WOMEN'S PAGES.

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

221 Cambridge Terrace,
Christchurch.
November 14th, '50.

Dear "Open Door" Friends,

The past weeks have been full of events in connection with our our missionary task of spreading Christ's Kingdom on earth.

The end of August closed another year of steady progress in our M.W.M.U. work and we are thankful to God, for His continued love and guidance; truly He never allows Himself to be a debtor to those who seek to serve Him.

Early October found Auxiliary women heading northwards on the business of the King of Kings. Our Whangarei friends gave us a real Methodist welcome, and we congratulate the Northland District Council for inviting the M.W.M.U. Conference to Whangarei, the successful carrying through of all arrangements and trust that the inspiration gained will in days to come have much fruit.

While in Auckland on my way to Conference I paid a brief visit to the Airdale Street Mission, where I found Sister's Daphne and Jean busy in their different spheres of Maori work. Sister Nance was on holiday. It was also a rich experience for me to attend the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board; interesting to follow the agenda, listen to the discussions and findings and realize more fully the problems and needs of both the Board and staff on the field.

We have been happy to welcome home on furlough: the Rev. A. H. and Mrs. Voyce and their family, also Sister Lucy Money and Rev. Allen Hall. We pray for all these workers a time of rich renewals both physically and spiritually. It has been a joy to have had Sister Winifred amongst us; and I know she will be very much in our thoughts and prayers as she takes up her special work among the Lepers in our Mission Field overseas.

At the close of the M.W.M.U. Conference, I spent a few very interesting days with Sister Dorothy Pointon in the South Hokianga District. I was glad of this because I think many of us know very little of the work of our Sisters in the Home Field. We travelled many, many miles together in one of the new cars purchased by our Special Objective; visiting Maori homes, meeting groups of Maori women; conducting Sunday Schools and Church services. One sensed that it is only a very real love and compassion deep within the heart that can keep our Sisters in such places of isolation and oft times loneliness.

Briefly I will try to give you my impression of our Church Conference held in Dunedin. To me it appeared as a very big piece of machinery undergoing its annual overhaul; every section, however large or small, was taken separately, carefully examined, necessary adjustments made, worn pieces discarded or repaired, new pieces added to and so on, until after ten days of concentration the reading of the journal told of a great machine awaiting power to drive it on into another year of service. This is where every member of our Church comes in; without the Divine Power the perfect machine is useless. Let us see to it that the Missionary wheels are kept turning. The women

representatives and ministers' wives were entertained one afternoon by the Dunedin ladies. A trip to Company Bay in perfect weather; the lovely "Eventide Homes" in their setting of well-cut lawns and gardens was good, but it was with very mixed feelings we passed through the various homes and chatted with the inmates; leaving Company Bay we were taken to the St. Clair School Hall for afternoon tea where a pleasant afternoon closed. The Youth Demonstration was excellent, and the Missionary Rally, with Rev. Allen Walker as speaker, was just wonderful.

Each year the M.W.M.U. decide on some special need either in the Overseas or Maori work as their Special Objective. To facilitate the education and training of native girls in the Solomons, it is very necessary that Hostels be provided on the Stations, so this year the M.W.M.U. "Special Objective" is to be: "Hostels for native girls at Bilua and Roviana."

May the Christian Season renew again the message Jesus came to give, and the New Year with its message of new life and revival stir our hearts to greater efforts in His Service.

My Greetings to all readers.

Yours sincerely,

LILIAN HALLAM.

* * * *

Nelson District Council Convention. The Convention was held at St. John's, Nelson, on May 4th. The President, Mrs. White, led the opening Devotions. A tribute was paid to the memory of the late Mrs. A. Holdaway, of her readiness to serve, the great interest she had in Missions, and the faithful and unsparring way she had done the work of Gleanings Secretary. After singing Hymn 99, delegates were welcomed. The Roll Call was answered by 4 Motueka delegates, 1 Moutere, 4 Richmond, 3 Stoke, 8 Nelson—a total of 20. Letters were read from the Dominion President and Secretary, and from Mrs. Nelson of Murchison, who wrote that a Gleaners' Group has been formed in their Fireside Club following the visit of Mrs. Petch and Miss Tunnicliffe. The Treasurer reported over £90 for the quarter. Mrs. Pierce has been carrying on the Gleanings' Secretary's work, and reported 76 letters a month sent. The Stamp Secretary has sold 2300 stamps for £4/6/-. The Depot Manager has received letters and reported 15 parcels sent to various destinations, and 13/- to Sister Eleanor Dobbie. The Reporter has sent reports to the "Methodist Times" and the "Open Door." Auxiliaries reported as follows:—**Blenheim:** The patchwork donation apron is coming on and they are planning for Special Objective. Held two meetings, one addressed by Sister Merle Carter, and the other by Rev. Luxton, who dedicated the Easter Offering. Two new members. **Lower Moutere** held one meeting at Mrs. E. Chambers' house when the Vice-President paid a tribute to their late President, Mrs. A. Holdaway. They have sent parcels and money. **Motueka:** They have held three meetings. Mrs. Fry, a member of this Auxiliary, has passed away. Mrs. Hulbert gave a talk on their trip to England. Parcels have been sent. **Nelson:** Meetings have been well attended. Easter

Offering day was very wet, nevertheless 22 women listened to an inspiring Easter message given by Rev. A. K. Petch. Easter Offering is some £26 to date. Sister Rita Snowden gave her lecture on her Australian tour (and films) when £16 was realised for Special Objective. **Picton:** Ten members and 2 visitors were present to hear Rev. Luxton. This Auxiliary is sad at having to report the death of a member, Mrs. Powell. **Richmond** were pleased to have Mrs. L. White present at one meeting. They have welcomed the Rev. C. and Mrs. Bell, and sent stamps and parcels, and are planning a Silver Tree for Special Objective. **Stoke** raised £9 for Special Objective at a Garden Party and have sent stamps.

In the afternoons we were privileged to hear Mrs. Blick of Penang, Malaya, as our speaker. Mrs. Blick has spent many years there as a missionary and had a very interesting story to tell. Afternoon tea closed a very enjoyable Convention.

Southland District Council.

The Annual Meeting was held on August 10th. The theme of the Devotions was "Those whom God calls, He equips." Twenty-eight members responded to the Roll Call, all Auxiliaries being represented. A warm welcome was extended to the representatives of the new Edendale-Wyndham Auxiliary. Quarterly reports showed an increase of 33 members. All annual Balance Sheets and reports were presented and our President complimented each Auxiliary on the year's work. The following officers were re-elected: President, Mrs. R. Stead; Secretary, Mrs. W. Hefford; Treasurer, Mrs. Clearwater.

Otago District Council.

The Annual Meeting was held in Trinity Schoolroom on August 8th at 7.30 p.m. Miss Purdie presided, and during the Devotional period prayer was offered by members for Overseas Sisters, Home Sisters, Kurahuna, the Dominion Executive and our Missions in general. There were 65 members present and two visitors, Sister Mabel Morley and a member from Carterton. Two new Council representatives were welcomed, Mrs. Rawley of Mornington and Mrs. Hunter of Roslyn. The Annual Report was presented. Four District Council meetings had been held with an average attendance of 30. At the last Annual Meeting it was decided to hold the meetings in the evening, and as a result the attendance had been much better. Dunedin South, which affiliated at the end of last year, and Mornington, this year, have done excellent work during their first year. The number of Auxiliaries is now 12, and membership 261, an increase of 2. The Balance Sheet showed a slight increase on last year. In May the Dominion President, Mrs. Hallam, paid an unexpected visit to Dunedin on her return from Southland, and she attended the monthly meetings of Roslyn Evening and Mornington whose Presidents had contacted other groups so that members could be present. All Auxiliaries in Dunedin and Mosgiel were represented and all expressed appreciation of the opportunity of meeting Mrs. Hallam whose monthly letters are of interest to all. During the past two years the work in Dunedin has been reorganised. We had one afternoon and two evening groups, and now have three afternoon and three evening groups. The country Auxiliaries in the District, Balclutha, Broad Bay, Milton, Mosgiel, Roxburgh and Waikouaiti have been visited by District Officers and are maintaining their membership and interest. All District Officers were re-elected with the exception of the Stamp Secretary, Miss Clyde. Mrs. Duke congratulated the District on the year's work. Sister Mabel expressed her pleasure at being present to hear such a heartening report and to see such enthusiasm. A short social gathering and supper brought an enjoyable evening to a close.

Wellington District Council.

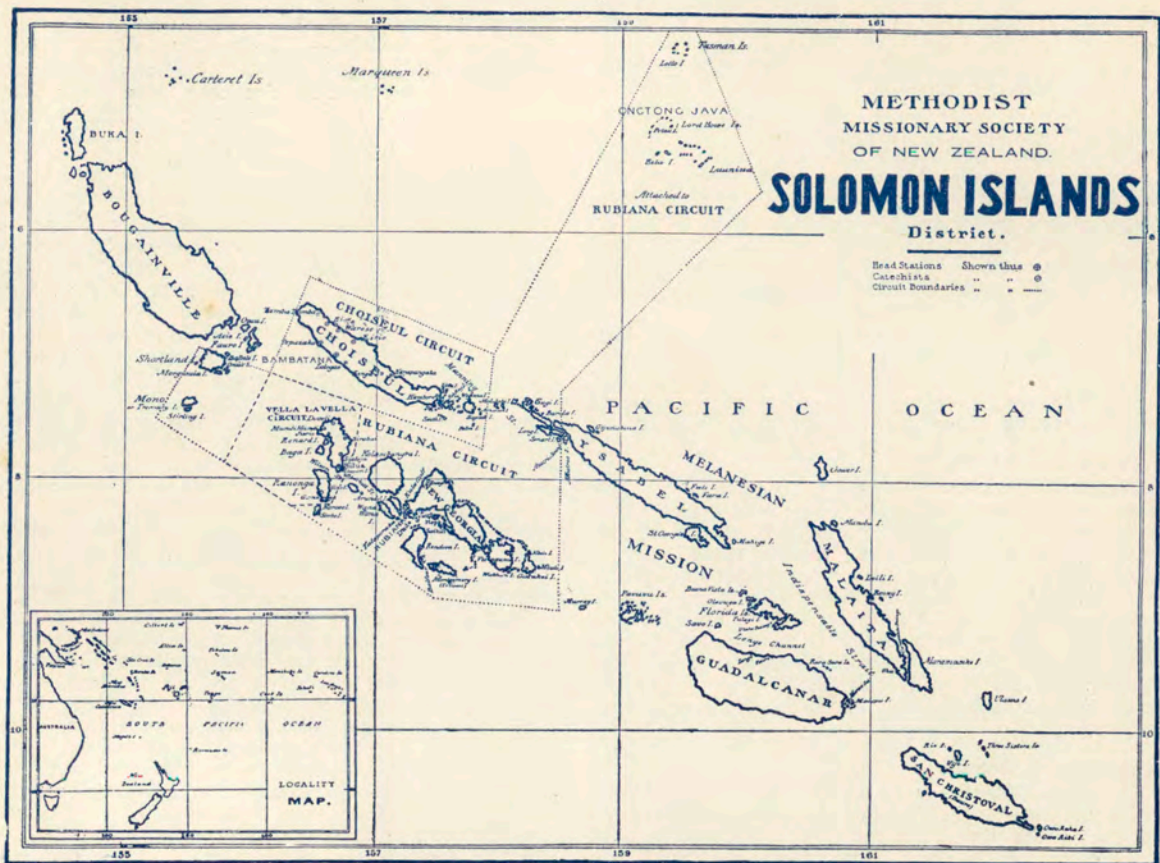
The Annual Meeting was held in Wesley Church Schoolroom on August 11th. The following officers for the year were elected: President, Mrs. Field; Secretary, Mrs. Carr; Treasurer, Mrs. Bruce. The Secretary's report revealed a very good year's work and the Income for the year amounted to £849/6/3.

South Auckland District Council.

The Annual Meeting was held in St. Paul's parlour on August 4th, Mrs. W. B. Williams presiding over a large attendance of delegates and visitors. Hamilton, Hamilton East, Cambridge, Huntly, Te Kowhai, Rotorua, Te Awamutu and Taumarunui were represented and apologies were received from Otorohanga and Te Kuiti. Mrs. Haylock from Taumarunui was specially welcomed, coming in reply to a special invitation. She reported good news of the early possibility of the formation of an evening Auxiliary. The meeting opened with a Devotional period. The annual report presented by Mrs. Matthews covered a wide field of service by all Auxiliaries. Membership stands at 278 including 164 Gleaners. Proxy letters sent regularly have been acknowledged and much appreciated. The highlight in the year's work has been the special objective which raised £156/14/1. The Balance Sheet presented by Mrs. Fisher showed an income for the year of £519 19/4, an increase of £13. Both reports were adopted and the officers thanked and presented with flowers. Remits were discussed on their merits and delegates empowered to act according to the findings. Mrs. E. C. Maunder was elected President, all other officers re-elected. A special tribute was paid to Mrs. W. B. Williams, retiring after six years. A gift of an Electric Toaster and a Shoulder spray were presented and reference made to the high value of her spiritual leadership and guidance as Foundation President. Mrs. H. Darvell gave a bright informative talk on her trip of 2000 miles in three weeks through the South Island with her husband and Rev. Te Tuhi on deputation work, and her impressions of the imperative need of the call for spiritual help and comfort for the Maori people. Afternoon tea and fellowship followed the pronouncing of the Benediction.

Thames Valley District Council.

The Annual Meeting was held at Te Aroha on August 14th at 11 a.m. This was preceded by a short Executive meeting. Mrs. Penn opened with prayer. The Roll Call was as follows: Eastport Rd., 4; Mata-mata, 9; Morrinsville, 3; Ngatea, 2; Paeroa, 4; Springdale, 1; Te Aroha, 5; Thames, 1; Council, 9. Proxies arranged for Tauranga, Rotorua, Te Puke and Whakatane. Financial Statement for the quarter £307/1/4, Stamps £21/10/11, Gleanings, £80/0/7. The Depot Manager reported a good supply of parcels forwarded to the Sisters. A letter was read from Mrs. Jenkins of Whakatane. Following a discussion on same, the Secretary was asked to write and see if it would be suitable for Council members to meet Whakatane members on September 11th. The Te Aroha President would contact the Springdale President to discuss ways and means of helping them over a difficult time. Owing to removals of some of their members it is feared they cannot carry on as an Auxiliary. Following a discussion of the Remits, members adjourned for lunch. In the afternoon the Rev. Penn took the chair and conducted the Annual Meeting. The Annual Reports were received and adopted. The Treasurer's Statement showed an income of £540/15/8 for the year. Following the election of officers the Rev. Penn conducted a short Communion Service for the Dedication of officers and members. During the afternoon tea that followed Mrs. Fauvel thanked the Misses Saunders and helpers for their hospitality throughout the day.



Missionaries' Addresses

- Rev. J. F. Goldie, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
 Rev. A. H. Voyce, Koau, Buin Bay, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
 Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, Bilua, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
 Rev. Trevor Shepherd, Teop, Sohana, New Guinea.
 Rev. A. H. Hall, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Rev. G. A. R. Cornwell, Skotolan, Sohana, New Guinea.
 Rev. F. H. Woodfield, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Rev. G. G. Carter, M.A., Dip.Ed., Koau, Buin Bay, Sth. Bougainville, New Guinea.
 Dr. G. E. Hoult, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Mr. Bruce Cole, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Mr. C. D. R. Palmer, Koau, Buin Bay, Sth. Bougainville, New Guinea.
 Mr. G. H. J. Yearbury, Teop, Sohana, New Guinea.

- Mr. Grenville Voyce, Koau, Buin Bay, Sth. Bougainville, New Guinea.
 Mr. Brian Sides, Bilua, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Grace McDonald, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Effie Harkness, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Winifred Poole, Bilua, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Merle Carter, Teop, Sohana, New Guinea.
 Sister Lucy Money, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Eva Saunders, Skotolan, Sohana, New Guinea.
 Sister Joyce McDonald, Bilua, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Joan Brooking, Koau, Buin Bay, Sth. Bougainville, New Guinea.
 Sister Davinia Clark, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Jessie Grant, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Myra Fraser, Roviana, Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
 Sister Jane Bond, Bilua, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.

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"THE OPEN DOOR"

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