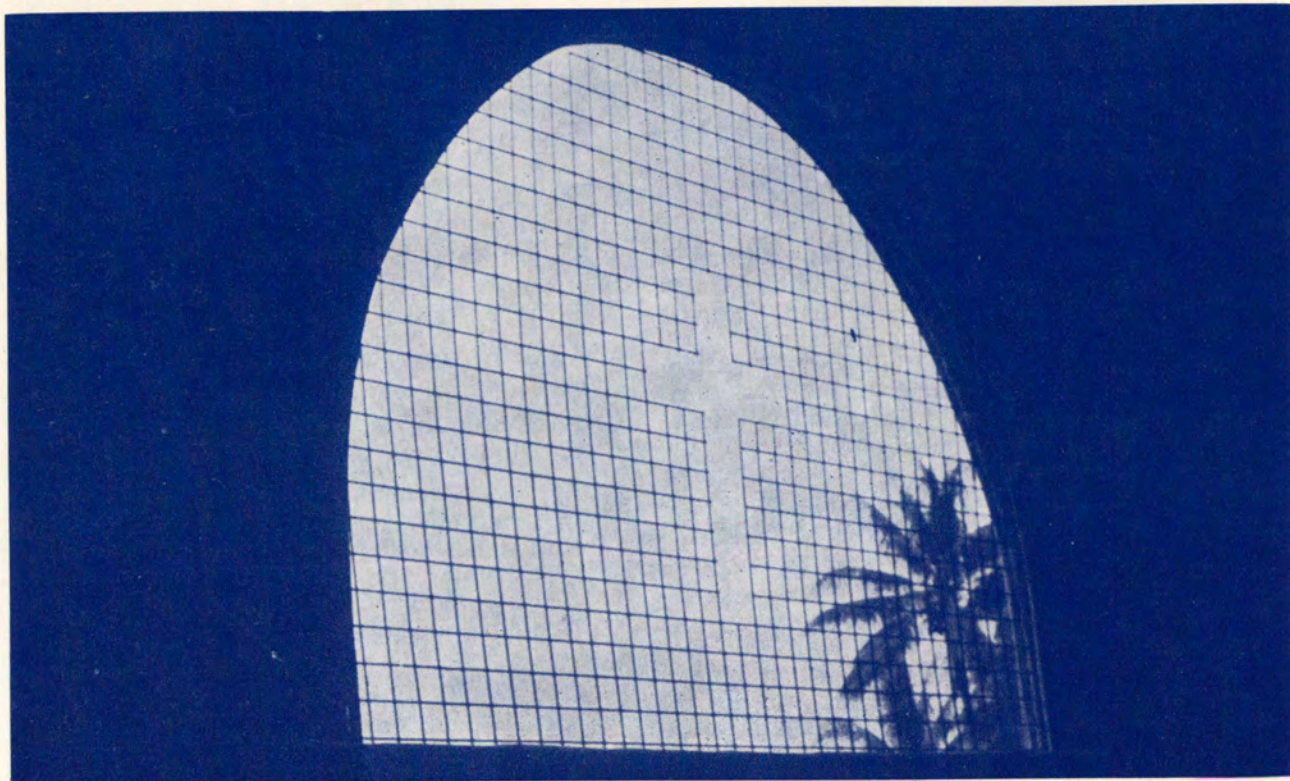


THE OPEN DOOR

The Missionary Organ of the Methodist Church of New Zealand



OUR CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

Cut in ex-army steel mesh to form the window of the Methodist Church at Skotolan, Buka Circuit.

Photo: Mrs. P. F. Taylor.

This number features . . .

Methodism Serving New Nations

Price: Two Shillings and Sixpence per annum.

Posted: Three Shillings.

General Secretary: Rev. S. G. Andrews.

Foreign Mission Department, P.O. Box 5023, Auckland.



At Christmas



As you pray and give to your friends, please include in your devotional and general Christian programme the following matters:

1. The missionary needs of our own Church, whose overseas programme and staff needs are set forth on pages 8 and 9.

2. The Inter-Church Aid programme of the National Council of Churches, now related through C.O.M.I.C.A. to the overseas missions activities of the Churches. Inter-Church Aid comes into special focus with the annual Christmas appeal of the N.C.C. Whether through the Remembrance Bowl or otherwise, try to have each Methodist Church and family a contributor to this appeal.

Throughout the world 170 Christian Communion work together in the World Council of Churches. In addition to doing very many things together which formerly they did separately, they endeavour to stand behind one another in times of material need. This "Inter-Church Aid Programme," as it is called, is one of the new features of the church situation in our age. These churches contribute over £15,000,000 per annum in goods and money, to help one another, in addition to the support they give to their own denominational enterprises.

In New Zealand the churches in the National Council of Churches participate in this programme by means of an annual Christmas Appeal. In the past years, New Zealand contributions have included the following:

- £20,000 for various projects in emergency situations in Europe.



- £12,000 to help the churches working among the refugees in Germany, Greece, Palestine and Hong Kong.
- £7,000 to assist churches in Korea.
- £25,000 to church projects in India, Pakistan, Japan, Malaya, Hong Kong, and Indonesia.
- **In New Zealand**, the N.C.C. continues to support Mr. and Mrs. Brewster in the Christian Teachers' Training College in **Indonesia** where millions are clamouring for learning, and the supply of teachers is quite inadequate.
- In newly-independent **Malaya** we support Mr. J. Atkinson, who surveys the 600 New Villages so that the churches and missions can work effectively as a team.
- Scholarships are needed for 15 students in **Indonesia** where there are fewer doctors than in New Zealand.
- An **Asian Student Secretary** is required for strengthening the Christian witness in the rapidly expanding universities.
- The Christians of **Ceylon** have asked help in the completion of their chapel in the University of Ceylon, where the future leaders of that now independent country are being nurtured.

Contributions should be handed in to your local Church or sent direct to the General Secretary, N.C.C., Box 297, Christchurch.

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The Missionary Organ of
the Methodist Church of
New Zealand

VOL. XXXVII. No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1957.

Published Quarterly.

Methodism Serves New Nations

1957 will be remembered as the year in which two new nations were born within the Commonwealth. The old colony of Gold Coast, in West Africa, has become Ghana, controversial, it is true, but nevertheless a nation. It is in Ghana, that later this month, the assembly of the International Missionary Council is to meet. Ghana stands in West Africa, one of the points where Islam as a missionary faith stands over against the missions of the Christian Churches. The Methodist Church is one of these. Ghana holds the largest overseas missions district of British Methodism. The readers of Mr. Eddy's article in this number will realise that Methodist glory is not a thing of the past, great as the record of the Gold Coast mission has been. The Methodist Church of Ghana is reaching out to a mission field of its own.

August 31st was Merdeka Day in Malaya, where the Methodist Church, sponsored first from America, has a large work among Chinese and Indians. Christian conversion of Muslim Malayans has long been forbidden by the treaties of the British with the formerly reigning sultans! Everyone knows that the Chinese are the problem community in the Malaya of today. The fact that our Church and other missions are at work among them is a matter of great significance. The new constitution is designed to secure Malayan and Mohammedan dominance. The Methodists of Malaya deserve our prayers. Reference to page 8 will bring to light their plea for help with New Zealand missionaries. Has someone a call in that direction? And they are not blind to new occasions. There is real and practical inter-church aid these days among the Methodists of Malaya and those of such neighbours as the Philippines.

The article by Mr. J. M. Miller, of our Solomon Islands mission staff, dealing with Christian work as he saw facets of it in Japan, is also significant. Have the Christian nations missed their post-war opportunity in that land, where the late forties witnessed a great yearning after the Christian faith?

Nor is the South Pacific without its new nations coming to birth. A recent speaker forecast the need for some future federation of South Pacific peoples. Each island group is almost too insignificant to stand alone. At present none knows it. But there is a rising nationalism, nowhere more present than in Western Samoa, United Nations Trusteeship Territory, where New Zealand as Trustee announces a scheme of limited self-government for Samoa to take effect in 1960. Samoan Christians have come to our notice in New Zealand, because in recent years so many of them (3000 in all) have come, more or less permanently to reside amongst us. Of these, some hundreds are Methodists. Some, but not all of these, have been drawn into our fellowship in various city churches in Auckland and Wellington. There are outlying groups in such places as Tokoroa. Their presence was the reason for the recent visit of the Methodist Chairman of the Somoan District, whose article on Samoan Methodism also appears in this number.

A true nation consciousness has yet to be born among the Solomon Islands people, and likewise an awareness of their common interests with their neighbours in the Pacific. The fact that they have been helped and evangelized partly by Tongans, Fijians and Samoans, has had its part in their awakening to the wider world. Their part in the New Guinea Highland mission is a significant and Christian stirring amongst them of a concern for a wider world.

"Only the best is good enough for Africa."—J. E. K. Aggrey.

Prelude to Ghana

by the REV. G. T. EDDY, Chairman of the Ghana Methodist District.

Since last March, newspapers and their readers have become familiar with the name of Ghana, adopted at Independence as the title for the former British Colony of Gold Coast. There are strong suggestions in some quarters that, politically, all is not well with the new State. Such assertions, we are in no position to discuss. We notice only that in Ghana we have the first all-African State to attain independence this century. It is not surprising if some mistakes are made. But there are able African leaders there, and not a few of them are Christian and owe their training to Christian schools, including Methodist ones. Most of the people of Ghana are either animists or Muslim. The march of Islam in West Africa has been startling. But there is a great Christian missionary record in Ghana: Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodists; not to mention the recent arrival of many smaller missions, and the irruption of many African sects.

Achimota College, of which the famous Aggrey of Africa was once Vice-Principal, is a missionary name to conjure with. Later this month it will be associated with the Assembly of the International Missionary Council, at which New Zealand's representative will be Messrs. Brash (N.C.C.) and Foulkes (Anglican). Australasian Methodism will be present in the person of the Rev. C. F. Gribble, General Secretary of Methodist Overseas Missions in Australia.

This article, from the pen of the Rev. G. Thackeray Eddy, Chairman of the Ghana District, largest overseas missions district of British Methodism, was written specially for "The Open Door."

Ghana is very much in the news, but under its old name of the Gold Coast it has been Methodist news for a long time — more than a hundred and twenty years. The Gold Coast District of the Methodist Church celebrated its centenary in 1935. The African love of a specially designed cloth for such occasions was met by the production of a very colourful fabric ornamented with a floral design in which portraits of John Wesley and Thomas Birch Freeman were incorporated. This cloth, used to make the traditional "man's cloth" (worn like a Roman toga) and the women's costume of blouse and wrap-around skirt, graced colourful processions and meetings in every part of the country, but most of all in the historic town of Cape Coast, which can claim to be the home of the mother Church of Ghana Methodism, and indeed of the Methodist Church in Nigeria and French West Africa as well.

Under the pulpit of the great Wesley Church in Cape Coast lie the mortal remains of the earliest missionaries, Rev. Joseph R. Dunwell, Rev. and Mrs. Peter Harrap, and Rev. and Mrs. George O. Wrigley, whose heroic self-sacrifice in the early years did so much to establish the tradition of the literal laying down of life to bring the Gospel to West Africa, then so grimly known as "the White Man's Grave." None of these five missionaries lived more than six months after reaching this country.

T. B. FREEMAN.

It was the portrait of Thomas Birch Freeman, however, that was chosen for the centenary cloth, because, whereas, others had so heroically died in this work, he succeeded in living for it to a ripe old age, dying only in the nineties, within the memory of our oldest living ministers and members. It was during his long life that Methodism was firmly established in the Colony and also in the neighbouring territories.

In the present century the District has seen tremendous growth. In the early 1920's there came what has been called the Ashanti awakening, when the preaching of a fiery prophet, Samson Oppong, carried the flame of the Gospel into the smaller towns and

villages of Ashanti. The present generation has the glory of taking the next step northwards, and in 1955 our Northern Territories Mission was established.

SELF SUPPORT.

What are the fruits of a hundred and twenty years of Methodist enterprise and sacrifice in this part of West Africa? Statistics alone are impressive. Sixty thousand full members of the Methodist Church; a total Christian community connected with the Church estimated at 150,000; 1,100 Methodist congregations,



The Rev. G. T. Eddy greets the Duchess of Kent on her arrival at the Ghana Independence Service.

and 800 schools—these are only a few of the impressive items from our District Annual Report. The District is proud to have become self-supporting (not dependent upon any grants from the Missionary Society in Britain for any of its African staff or Circuit and Institutional work) since 1936, and the total income raised and expended within the District now exceeds £120,000 per annum.

But statistics alone can give little idea of the rich and varied life of the Church. This life ranges from that of simple village communities living in "far bush," whose Church building may be a simple structure of "swish" and thatch, to sophisticated town congregations worshipping in large impressive buildings like the great stone Church in Accra, with its magnificent hammerbeam roof (made in Canada). To cater for the needs of such diverse congregations is often a problem. Some of our ministers are sent to the University College of Ghana to take a divinity degree, in an effort to cater for the more educated section of our city communities, as well as for our schools and colleges, but the work of the ministry for the most part has to be carried on at a simpler level, though every minister may find educated people among his principal congregations. The needs of the villagers are for the most part met by Catechists, trained and untrained. One of the latest ventures of the district is Freeman College, where a two-months' course of elementary training is provided for our Circuit Catechists. From among the most successful of these some are selected from time to time for a full year's course, after which they become "District Catechists," and are stationed by the Synod. The normal three-year ministerial training is carried on at Trinity College, Kumasi, in co-operation with the Presbyterian Church.

A VISIT FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

As I write this article I have just returned from a Chairman's visit to one of the older circuits of our Central Province. Leaving the main road, which like many of the principal roads of the country is quite a good tarmac one, a swish road of very uneven surface carried us through the tall forest to the circuit town. Here an enormous crowd had gathered about half a mile out of the town to meet us. The children from the Methodist School in their uniforms (blue dresses for the girls, khaki shirts and shorts for the boys), men and women wearing a bright print cloth, the uniform of an organisation called "Christ's Little Band," the Choir in their robes, and the members of the congregations in brightly coloured cloths, made a colourful scene. A brass band led the procession into the town.

Here amid houses mainly of swish, but with many more recent ones built of concrete blocks, stands our fifty-year-old Church, no doubt on the site of a much earlier building. Its walls are of thick swish, well plastered with cement, and inside it is cool and airy. But the swish walls have begun to lean outwards and have had to be supported by buttresses, and the congregation is eagerly planning to build a new and more modern building.

SUNDAY IN A GHANA CIRCUIT.

Sunday morning began early, with Holy Communion at 5 o'clock. This is the usual hour for Communion Service at the circuit chapel, and for class meetings on other Sundays. Holy Communion is greatly prized by the members, being a privilege attached to membership, and about 200 people were present. We began in complete darkness, but it was full day light when the service ended an hour and a half later. At 9.30 there was the morning service—Morning Prayer, with sermon preached by the Chairman in English and interpreted into Fanti by the minister. On this occasion there were no "extras"; but this was unusual. Commonly such a visit is the occasion for baptisms, both adult and infant, and it may also be made an opportunity for other events of importance in the life of

the local Church, which it is desired to link with the Chairman's visit.

After lunch and short rest, we set out to visit three different centres in other parts of the Circuit. Here members from the outstations gathered to meet the Chairman. Often the chief sends out members of his Company to fire muskets to give notice of our approach, and sometimes he himself, resplendent in his bright cloth, head-dress and sandals with the large gold ornaments, comes out under his state umbrella to meet us. But always there is a procession of the Methodist people—their Choir, their school children, and their congregation. A parade through the village is followed by a service in the village chapel. During the parade we may notice, be it confessed with regret the multiplication of Christian Church buildings. Methodists were there by far the first, but Roman Catholics, Anglicans Presbyterians, Apostolics, Pentecostals, and many more, including novel forms of half-christianity of African origin, have now come in to complicate the simple alternative: a pagan or Christian.

A RECENT NEW MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE.

This particular Sunday concluded a week of special prayer and propaganda for the latest undertaking of the Ghana District, our Northern Territories Mission. Sunday morning's subject therefore, chose itself: the sermon was devoted to telling the people of the south about the work among their fellow countrymen in the North. "Fellow countrymen"—but that is hardly yet how the Southerner thinks of the Northerner. After all there is far less kinship between the Fanti of the coastal region and the Dagarti of the North-West, 600 miles away, than there is between the citizens of Britain and of New Zealand, though they are separated by half the globe! Crossing the Black Volta which is the boundary between Ashanti and the Northern Territories, one leaves the forest far behind, open-steppe-land with small trees and shrubs taking its place. Dress, houses, the manners and customs of the people, language—all are different. Paganism, or more accurately animism, is still the religion of the majority, but mosques here and there remind us that Islam will be a formidable rival to the Gospel in this area. Nevertheless, the Synod of 1955 took its courage in its hands and stationed a minister, the Rev. Paul Adu, an African full missionary zeal, at Wa. This year the Missionary Society has joined in the enterprise with a woman worker, Miss L. Harvey, at Lawra. Thus the Methodism of the Ghana District is reaching out into the regions beyond, and obeying the command, "Freely Ye Have Received, Freely Give."

The coming of Independence for Ghana brings new responsibilities and challenges to the Church. The noble part it has played in education for many generations means that many of the leading men of the community have grown up within its fellowship or under its care. Perhaps we may fittingly conclude this article with a quotation from the Chairman's address to the Synod in the year of Independence 1957:

"To the lay members of our Church I say simply our Lord's words: 'You are the salt of the earth.' It is to you, and especially those of you (of whom we cannot but feel justly proud) who occupy the positions of the highest responsibility in the professions and in public service, that we look to be the bulwarks of real freedom, justice, and morality in national and civic life. Your integrity and moral courage is the guarantee of your country's stability and progress."

Malaya and Merdeka

The Rev. J. H. Haines, who wrote this article, is a former New Zealander, working with the Methodist Church of Malaya, at Kuala Lumpur. He discusses in this article the outlook for Christian work in this new independent nation.

Writing more recently, Mr. Haines appealed for the help of New Zealand Methodists in finding two senior nurses, one for Malaya and one for Sarawak, on three-year contracts in each case.

On August 31st this year a new nation was born in South-East Asia and a new member added to the British Commonwealth of Nations. On behalf of Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Gloucester formally handed over the reigns of government to the Chief Minister, Tengku Abdul Rahman. Throughout the day there were processions, speeches, garden parties, and then at midnight, at the request of the government, some 25,000 young people gathered in Merdeka (freedom) stadium (built especially for this occasion at a cost of one million dollars U.S.) to shout again and again Merdeka, Merdeka. Thus in all the pomp and splendour of the occasion, Malaya took her rightful place in the family of nations. That this independence has been won not by uprisings and gun-fire, but by peaceful arbitration around the conference table is a tribute both to the British and the Malaysians. Merdeka Day was thus celebrated in an atmosphere of goodwill and friendship.

MALAYA IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

South-East Asia is a significant part of the world. It contains the attractive, historic and prosperous countries of Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Borneo, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and the Philippines. It is the home of 150,000,000 people of many races, cultures and religions. It produces a large proportion of the world's supply of natural rubber, tin and rice. South-East Asia is an area of distinct economic, political and strategic importance, and at its heart is Malaya as the cross-road.

Malaya is like a long bridge that leads from the Southern extremity of the Asian continent to the islands of Indonesia and Australia. Its history has been one of successive waves of commercial, political and cultural influences which have swept over it in a dual process of creation and destruction. Portugal, Holland and Britain have in turn been Malaya's masters, and before that tribute was paid to China and India. Slowly and painfully, a Malayan nation has come to birth assisted by the unifying forces of education and commerce. Malaya will continue to be a bridge between East and West where ideas and goods are exchanged.

HIGH LIVING STANDARDS.

While four-fifths of the country is still in virgin jungle, yet its people enjoy the highest standard of living in Asia. In 1951 the average national income was \$270 U.S. as against \$60 in India. The human element in the Malayan economic scene is not disregarded. Most workers are covered by the Employee's Provident Fund, which represents the most comprehensive social security system in South-East Asia.

The economic development of Malaya is closely related to the important factor of the pluralistic nature of Malayan society. It is not only a question of different languages and dialects, different religions,

standards, fears and prejudices which make it difficult to develop a feeling of loyalty and national unity; it is that there are hundreds of thousands of people living in Malaya who remain aliens despite long residence. Unrestricted immigration in the last century, brought boat-loads of people out of the overcrowded cities and towns of South China to develop the new industries of tin and rubber. To-day the Chinese are the dominant figures in the world of finance. Tamil labour from South India and Ceylon came to build the roads and railway system, and stayed on to become the mainstay of the plantation labour forces as well as providing thousands of white-collar workers.

The Methodist Church, now the largest Protestant Church in Malaya, began its work in Singapore in 1885. The first missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. W. F. Oldham, came with a one-way ticket and no guarantee for financial aid for their work. They were fortunate in being able to make contacts with many forward-looking Chinese business men, who desired that their children should learn English. Thus began at an early date the Methodist Schools which now number 68 with an enrolment of 50,000 students. There are over one hundred churches from Singapore to the border of Thailand with services conducted in 8 major languages and dialects. The work of the Methodist Church in the Philippines, Borneo and Indonesia is an outgrowth, of Malayan Methodism.

THE FUTURE.

On Independence Day there was great rejoicing and shouts of Merdeka! echoed throughout the land, but at least three major problems still await solution. The first problem is that of communalism which divides the people in water-tight groups. The problem must be tackled at the education level and vernacular schools replaced with a national school system, so that Malays, Chinese, Indians and Europeans study and play together. The mission schools are multi-racial but are in the minority. Then when Chinese stop looking to Formosa or China as their home, and Indians to India, then and then only can Malaya be united.

The second problem is that of Communist terrorism which has caused the country to live under Emergency regulations for the last nine years. The cost of this Emergency to the people is not less than \$250,000 U.S. a day, and this money could certainly build a lot of urgently-needed schools and hospitals.

Thirdly, Malaya must diversify her economic situation. All of her economy is built around tin and rubber. If anything happens to depress the prices of these commodities on the world market, then Malaya faces a bleak future.

All of Malaya and her friends rejoice in her new status, and pray that this nation will, under God, continue to prosper and to be a force for democracy and liberty in South-East Asia.

Methodism in Samoa

by REV. R. W. ALLARDICE, B.A.

The author of this article (the Rev. R. W. Allardice, B.A.) is Chairman of the Samoa (Independent) District of the Methodist Church of Australasia. Recently Mr. Allardice visited Auckland, Tokoroa and Wellington to see the Methodist Samoans and to advise regarding the best form of Methodist ministry to them. In speaking to the Mission Board he paid tribute to the work of Mr. and Mrs. Beckingsale, New Zealand workers in the Mission in Samoa, and appealed for support in filling both mission and government teaching posts there.

THE PEOPLE.

The Samoans are members of the great Polynesian racial group which embraces Tongans, Maoris and many other brown-skinned communities of the Pacific. Many family connections are still maintained between Samoa and Tonga and marked similarities of language exist.

Village life with its apparently carefree communal pattern is nevertheless controlled by age-old customs which claim certain social duties on the part of all the younger generation and bestow certain privileges on the chiefs and orators—the traditional family leaders in Samoa.

The Samoan is polite, generous and hospitable, and his houses are generally set in tidy villages along the seashore. These houses are sturdy, airy structures, well suited to the humid conditions which accompany the heavy rainfall.

A desire for full self-government is present to-day among the more educated Samoans. At the same time the outside world is impinging more and more on the island peoples and many of the "ills" of contemporary civilisation bring confusion to their minds as they plan the course which Samoa must pursue if true, self-critical, self-government is to be achieved.

THE CHURCH.

Widespread acceptance by the people of the outward forms of the Christian religion, coupled with an almost complete lack of any obvious (overt) heathen practices may easily lead the casual observer to form false, or at best, inadequate conclusions as to the quality of the life of the Church. The reference to Samoa in missionary circles as "an evangelised field" has also contributed to these inaccurate appraisals of the Samoan Church.

A more faithful investigation would reveal that the Samoan Christian is still emerging from the darkness which enthralled his mind and soul for thousands of years. This does not mean that the Church is not flourishing. On the contrary, there is greater evidence that the Church has won a permanent place in the life of Samoa.

The marked gap between faith and practice is a clear challenge to the Church, as well as a clear indication that the Way of Jesus has not yet become the Way in which all Christians in Samoa are walking.

SAMOAN LEADERSHIP.

There are twelve Samoan ministers. They have the oversight of the village Catechists, Pastors and Teachers and work in close co-operation with the small missionary staff. For the past ten years a Samoan minister has been the District Secretary.

From the Methodist point of view Samoa is a mission district within the jurisdiction of the New



REV. R. W. ALLARDICE

South Wales Conference. Financially, however, Samoa is independent of Australia, and it was with real pride in their own achievement that Samoan Methodists witnessed the dedication of Wesley Church in the capital city of Apia, built by Samoans to the glory of God and financed by their own efforts.

Under the guidance of the New Zealand Government, Samoa is moving towards self-government. Similarly, plans have been made for this Methodist District to assume the status of an Island Conference within the space of a few years.

The training of suitable leaders is essential to the success of this very important step, and already selected young men have been sent both to Australia and the United States for further education.

It is our sincere hope that those Samoans who are at present in New Zealand for various reasons will also be able to contribute to the building up of a stronger church when they return to their home land. As they share in the life of the church here we believe that they will be challenged to a more personal response to the claims of Jesus Christ. This surely will be reflected in later life as they in turn become leaders of their own church in Samoa.

Annual Meeting

OF THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

This year's annual meeting was held at Pitt Street Parlour, Auckland, on Thursday and Friday, October 17th and 18th. The President of Conference, the Rev. Dr. R. Dudley, took the chair and addressed the meeting on his recent visit to the field. Important suggestions were made concerning mission policy. His address is being cyclo-styled and made available to Board members for later consideration.

Other addresses were given by the Revs. R. W. Allardice, visiting missionary from Samoa, T. Shepherd (Solomon Islands representative) and C. J. Keightley (New Guinea Highlands). The Board took note of the service of the Revs. A. W. E. Silvester and R. Thornley, who now leave the Board after some years of membership, and of Mrs. W. Patterson, the retiring Y.W.B.C. representative, who is to be replaced next year by Miss M. Astley (Youth Director).

FINANCE:

This meeting marks the occasion of the annual review of our missionary finance. For some years the rising giving of our circuits and people has been failing to keep pace with the mounting costs and the recent unsteadiness in the income in the Solomon Islands. This tendency has been present for some time, but, till recently its effect has been masked, as far as our Church public is concerned, by the surpluses from former years (now exhausted) and by several years of record giving in the Solomons.

Faced with the prospect of a serious deficit in next year's accounts, the Board took two steps. First, it resolved to further the conversations in the Solomons,



REV. S. G. ANDREWS.

"to divide 1958 between the field and the home base."

whereby the Solomon Islands Church may take over full responsibility for the support of its own native workers. Secondly, a resolution was prepared for submission on to the Church Conference, pointing out the serious situation, and urging all circuits, whether budgeting or not, to work for increasing income year by year. Conference intends to introduce in 1960 a connexional budget, wherein missionary needs will be presented as part of a total budget. This will mean that circuits are asked to share proportionately in the missionary programme of the Church. Those (numerous) circuits therefore, that so far have not attained to the Dominion average (about 14/- annually per Church member at present), are urged to do so without delay, and all circuits requested to plan for annual increases.

To meet our higher costs and growing overseas programme, more like £1 per member rather than 14/- is at present required. Failing a large rise in missionary giving, the Board will have no option but to reduce our overseas staff as from 1959.

CHAIRMANSHIP: SOLOMON ISLANDS DISTRICT.

Last Conference commissioned the Board to nominate to Conference 1958 a successor to the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, who is to leave the Solomons in February to return to Victoria. After much consideration in committee, and in the Solomon Islands Synod, the Board resolved to ask Conference to appoint the General Secretary, the Rev. S. G. Andrews, temporarily next year to Roviana Circuit, with a view to his serving as Chairman for that year. Mr. Andrews will go out alone in January, and will divide the year between the field and the home base. In New Zealand, the Rev. Albert Blakemore, former Clerical Treasurer, has consented to act as deputy General Secretary and Clerical Treasurer for next year. There will be little or no deputation for overseas missions next year in our New Zealand circuits.

The Board intends to nominate the Rev. G. G. Carter, M.A., for appointment by the 1958 Conference as the new Chairman of the Solomon Islands District, to take office in February, 1959.

OUR PUBLICATIONS:

As Manager of Publications, Sister Lina Jones reported on the work of "The Open Door" and "The Lotu." "The Open Door" recorded a slight profit on the year's operations, which helped to offset a loss on the "Lotu" which was less than expected. Editors were re-appointed—"The Open Door": The Rev. S. G. Andrews; "The Lotu": The Rev. E. C. Leadley and Sister Lina Jones.

C.O.M.I.C.A.:

This latest combination of initials represents the new Commission (of the National Council of Churches) on Overseas Missions and Inter-Church Aid. This has replaced the former National Missionary Council. The first meeting of C.O.M.I.C.A. was held at Wellington in August, when the Rev. S. G. Andrews and Mr. S. N. Roberts represented our Board. Information on the respective overseas missions activities of the constituted Churches was shared. The Commission also planned the Inter-Church Aid programme of the National Council of Churches.

Methodist Women Confer

... IN AUCKLAND

WAITEMATA, AUCKLAND and FRANKLIN DISTRICT COUNCILS combined to make the Conference at Pitt Street a happy, friendly and helpful time for all who were present.

THE BEGINNING.

On Sunday afternoon, October 13th, at the opening Communion service, conducted by Dr. Raymond Dudley, President of Conference, we were asked to find, in our missionary service, those in particular need and to extend to them our active sympathy.

Before our actual business began on the Monday morning, Mrs. S. T. Carter, our Union President, told us to look back briefly in thanksgiving, to take stock of the present, and to decide what road we were to take in the future, prayer being the most important influence in all our work and in the work of the Missionaries and Sisters.

There were 129 representatives present, fifty of them being first-timers. Our Conference next year is to be at Blenheim.

DEVOTIONALS.

In her devotional talk on Tuesday morning, Mrs. White (Nelson) said that just as Christ would do nothing without knowing it was God's will, so should we follow His example, daily feeling we are being directed by God Himself. On Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. Bruce (Wellington) spoke of the Beauty of Holiness, which could only be attained by walking in the company of the Master, grace, love and beauty being personified in Him. Mrs. Grounds (Wanganui) on Wednesday morning asked us to think what is the ultimate value of life. How much are we worth by spiritual standards? Jesus showed the value of personality, and as we have no knowledge of God apart from Christ of the Cross, we should measure our standards by His, in quality, not in quantity.

REPORTS.

The Secretary's report showed an increase in membership, which is now 6196 as against 5925 last year, though the total number of Auxiliaries is the same, 219. Three new Sisters have joined the Staff in the Solomon Islands this year, and Sister Effie Harkness has retired. All other reports showed progressive interest maintained in every department of the work.

Rev. W. Ford, Senior Youth Director, reminded us that the future Missionaries, Sisters and M.W.M.U. workers were NOW in the Sunday Schools. He spoke of what the Youth Department do to foster missionary interest, and the practical results of that work. The Study "Tell Everyman" could well be used in auxiliaries with great advantage.

FINANCE.

We were very pleased that our total income for the year was £562/12/4 more than last year, being £13,841/9/2. Of this amount £2462/6/0 was raised for our Special Objective which was to erect a Girls' Dormitory and Maternity Annexe at Siwai in South Bougainville. These two projects cost £1504/14/0. To the balance was added £46/8/3 to make £1000 to be held towards a vehicle to be used as a Mobile Ambulance in the Siwai district. £866/4/9 Stamp

money was divided among the Overseas and Home Sisters, while £582/7/5 Medical and Educational money was divided amongst the Overseas Sisters, Missionaries' wives and wives of the Pacific Island missionaries. £3500 was given to each of the Home and Foreign Mission Boards towards Sisters' salaries, with a gift also of £200 each.

KURAHUNA.

All the Union Officers emphasized that second only in importance to Sisters' Salaries and Executive Fund was Kurahuna, which was our sole responsibility, and therefore our second objective each year. Every auxiliary was urged to keep this prominently before its members. In the report of Kurahuna we heard what some of the "old girls" are doing, which stressed again that whatever we give or do for Kurahuna is money and time well invested—in the lives of the Maori girls trained there.

VISITORS.

The Civic Reception was held on the Monday afternoon, when Mr. K. N. Buttle, the Deputy Mayor of Auckland, and Mrs. Buttle were present, as well as representatives of various Church Departments, and sister organisations. It was a happy occasion.

Other visitors during Conference were Mrs. C. J. Keightley, recently home from New Guinea Highlands, Sister Nancy Ball, just home on furlough from Choiseul, Sister Effie Harkness, Rev. R. W. Allardice, Chairman of the Samoan Methodist District. We discovered that in Conference we had sixteen or more women who had been, or are now, missionaries from different Mission Fields, as well as several mothers of missionaries or Sisters, a happy discovery indeed. Each day, too, auxiliary women from outlying districts came to "sit in" for a time. We were glad to have them all.

BUDGETING.

It was inevitable that this became a large part of our business. After much discussion, the specially-appointed Budgeting Committee brought down these proposals:—

1. Those auxiliaries, whose circuits or churches are about to go into budgeting schemes, should seek permission to decide for themselves whether or not they will join in the scheme. Those who do join, in reckoning the amounts raised by the auxiliaries in the last three years, should not include stamp money, trading table sales, representatives' travelling fund or membership fees.

2. Do not let matters be so tied up that no change can be made.

3. Make provision for a reasonable increase from year to year.

4. Obtain permission to have: (a) trading table; (b) a plate for donations from visitors, unpledged members, etc.; (c) to collect membership fee for this year.

AUXILIARIES AND GUILDS.

It was soon evident that combined meetings of auxiliaries and guilds were not favoured in most districts, though there were circumstances in some places which made it expedient to do so. No rule was laid (Continued on page 11).

Greatest Need is

The last quarter of the year is the season of our special Conference missionary occasions: the M.W.M.U. Conference (reported elsewhere in this issue), the annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, and the missionary session of the annual Church Conference. Speaking at each of them, the General Secretary stated that, despite financial and other problems, the principal need overseas to-day is for more workers.

There have been notable offers of service in recent years, and we can be thankful that our nursing and teaching staff overseas is almost fully supplied. But there are still important vacancies featured on these pages. In each case, enquiries and applications should be addressed to The General Secretary, Methodist Foreign Mission Department, Box 5023, Auckland, C.I.

Are You a Mechanic?

For the past five years, the Solomon Islands Mission has been well served by Mr. R. A. Mannall, as district engineer. His going leaves the field without expert oversight of numerous diesel engines serving our vessels and lighting plants.

An offer is urgently needed from a trained motor mechanic.



Motor transport in the Solomons.

MALAYA ALSO:

Two Christian nurses, aged 30-45, on three-year contracts, one for Malaya and one for Sarawak, with possibility of renewal.

The General Secretary has fuller particulars for any enquirer:

QUALIFICATIONS OF A MISSIONARY:

- Christian experience, growth and sense of call. (The need can be the call).
- Good health.
- Professional qualifications and training.
- Adaptability, versatility, capacity for hard work.

... A Secretary?

The post of Secretary to the Chairman of the Solomon Islands District was first filled only three years ago: mainly to free the Chairman from routine office work to concentrate on his pastoral and administrative ministry.

An offer will be welcomed from either a man or a woman.

MISSIONARY TRAINING:

New Guinea Highlands: All workers take the George Brown College course at Sydney, and, if possible, the Summer Course in Linguistics.

Solomon Islands: Each case judged on its merits, but it is policy now for nurses and teachers to take the George Brown College course.

Several workers have taken, or hope to take, the Linguistics Course.

Missionary Probation: The first term of three years' service is regarded as part of the preparation for longer service overseas.

still for Workers

Addressing the annual meeting of the Foreign Mission Board, the ex-President of the Conference, the Rev. Dr. R. Dudley, read to members: the passage from Mark 10:29-30: "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or mothers, or father, or children, or lands, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, and houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come, eternal life."

"The missionaries who trained me," said Dr. Dudley, "believed those words literally."

TERMS OF SERVICE:

Serious concern is caused by the growing number of missionaries who serve only one or two terms of service. The Board realises that many factors enter in and alter the intentions of prospective workers.

Each normal term of service overseas is three years, followed by furlough. The Board urges those who are considering their missionary call to contemplate, at the least, an offer that will provide for three terms of service (i.e., ten years). Thought is being given to meeting the peculiar needs of longer-term missionaries.

... A Carpenter?

There is still a large building programme in the Solomon Islands, and one further New Zealand carpenter is required. Service on three-year contract, or under the Order of St. Stephen for one year.

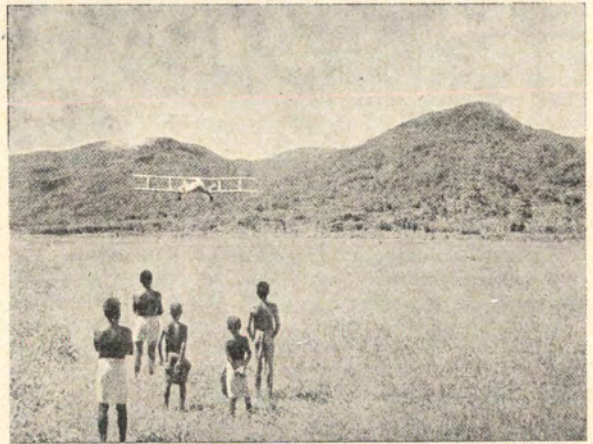
Once we heard a missionary advocate appeal: "Go without counting the cost." Rather would we say: "Count the cost, and meet it, counting it all joy . . . and it will be so."

Apart from expatriation and difficult climate, there is usually a financial sacrifice involved in missionary service. Our experience has been that loss in salary deters fewer people than possible penury in old age. Under certain circumstances, teachers and nurses going as missionaries may now preserve government superannuation rights.

Samoa Calls

and Tonga and Fiji . . . for men and women teachers for mission schools, including secondary work.

Also for Christian men and women to offer for government posts there.



A new era in the Highlands.

... A Woman Teacher?

In 1953, we promised a team of four workers to the New Guinea Highlands Mission. Minister, nurse and carpenter have been provided. We still require the woman teacher to complete the team. To be effective next year, this appointment needs to be made forthwith, to enable the candidate to take the George Brown College course in Australia during 1958.

Impressions of Hiroshima and Japan

Since 1954, Mr. John M. Miller of Invercargill has served our Mission in the Solomon Islands as a joiner and furniture maker in our rebuilding programme there. Mr. Miller recently used his furlough to visit Japan, where he travelled widely, seeing land and people and Christian activity.

CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTION IN HIROSHIMA, JAPAN.

At 8.15 on the morning of August 6th, 1945, a single American B29 bomber appeared over the city of Hiroshima and dropped the first atomic bomb ever to be dropped on a heavily populated area. Out of a population of about 400,000, 200,000 died within a few days. Thousands more were left to suffer and die with little or no medical aid. Nearly the whole staff, both nurses and doctors, of the Red Cross hospital were either killed or too badly injured to bring aid to anyone else. Twenty one Protestant and two Roman Catholic churches were destroyed. The stone work of the Methodist church remained standing but it was in the "totally destroyed" area where very few survived. On Sunday, August 5th, a squadron of B29 bombers flew over Japan but they passed over Hiroshima city to Hikari city in Yamaguchi prefecture failing to attack the former city whose people went into the neighbouring mountains and fields for safety. When dawn came they were relieved to return home and carry on with their normal tasks. From the suburbs, office workers, soldiers and school children poured back into the city. The guard warning as well as the air-raid warning was called off at 7.31 a.m. on this fatal day. Those on night duty were about to leave the city and the girls of the Methodist Junior school were just coming out of Chapel service when the explosion took place. Everyone was unprepared for there was no warning of any kind and who could believe such devastation could come from a single plane?

AFTERMATH.

It is now twelve years since that tragic day and all buildings have been rebuilt except the Industrial Exhibition Hall near the centre of the explosion. It was the first ferro-concrete building in Hiroshima before the bombing and it has been left as a reminder to all of the destructiveness of this new weapon and the need to work for a lasting peace. Methodist Junior and Senior colleges have been rebuilt on different sites and a small concrete memorial has been built in memory of the hundreds of girls who died. Eighteen Protestant churches have been rebuilt and four Roman Catholic ones including a huge Peace Memorial Cathedral in which prayer is offered for war victims generally and A bomb victims in particular 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

The Superintendent Minister of the Methodist Church (now part of the United Church) Rev. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, felt after the destruction of his church that his mission was threefold:

1. Find ways to rehabilitate his Church amidst appalling suffering and devastation.
2. Forward practical Christianity by bringing help to the thousands of orphans and others roaming the streets. (Mr. Tanimoto was largely res-



MR. J. M. MILLER.

ponsible for getting 25 "Hiroshima maidens" to America for plastic surgery).

3. Work for world peace more energetically.

RELIEF.

The Red Cross hospital is operating again with special wards for A bomb victims, but these patients are the more fortunate ones. Many are getting little or no medical aid mainly because they have no money and little hope of getting any. Many are doomed to die, some in great pain. And they know it. A certain amount of aid is now coming from the Government but the need seems to be judged by external injuries only those with internal injuries and radiation sickness are still more or less neglected. Most outside aid in the early days came from American Quakers, the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, and other Churches and Christian groups. Licensed agencies for relief work in Asia, helped generally through local Japanese government. About 2 million yen (£stg2000) was given by the Chinese, but there is still a big need.

On August 19th we had an Atom bomb victims' meeting, where about 20 people told of their experiences and, of course, appealed for help in their efforts to stop nuclear tests. One girl, not much more than twenty, with a badly-scarred face, described in detail the suffering her father went through for seven years until death came to release him. They lived in poverty with very little medical aid. "When I heard of the Christmas Islands Tests," she said, "I saw a vision of my father."

MISSIONARY PROSPECTS.

At a minister's meeting in the Hiroshima Methodist Church, I asked the three ministers present what they thought was the reason for the fairly slow growth of the Church in Japan.

One reason, they said, was anti-Americanism, due firstly to racial discrimination. Many common people cannot separate American foreign policy from Christianity, therefore they do not wish to join. The people think that a "Christian" country should not have nuclear weapons. The fact that they do have them is a big block to evangelism. People who have had no interest in Christianity awakened in them conclude that Christianity is powerless against nuclear weapons and many other evils. During the last war, Japanese ministers were suspected of being spies and many had a difficult time. The Japanese Red Cross operated during the war, and some ministers became army chaplains. The Y.M.C.A. operated with the army in the 1st World War, but not in the second.

Some say that anti-Russian feeling is stronger than anti-American, as the Russians, who had a peace treaty with Japan, declared war when Japan was already broken and defeated. Japanese prisoners were badly treated by the Russians and many even now are held prisoner. The Russians are occupying all the islands north of Hokkaido. The Americans have large areas of land badly-needed by the Japanese, and are acquiring more for the expansion of military bases. There is a terribly deep-seated fear of radioactivity, and even little children are afraid of getting wet in the rain.

JAPAN AND NUCLEAR WARFARE.

The atom bombs dropped on two Japanese cities were the stunning climax to a policy of obliteration bombing carried out against many of the larger cities. The city of Kobe was two-thirds destroyed by carpet bombing, and in one night thousands of bombers came over Tokyo killing 200,000 in their homes and shops. Rev. Frank Inglehart, American missionary to Japan, referring to the A bombing, wrote: "To us of the West, however, who sunk the crime of modern war to a new low by the use of this weapon, the ethical consequences are such that they create an entirely new quality of guilt."



Methodist Colleges, Hostel and Gymnasium, built on a new site to replace those destroyed in the area of total destruction at Hiroshima.

There is no conscription in Japan but the armed forces are growing again. American pressure on Japan to build up her "defence" forces is great, and many young people are in the armed forces only because they cannot get a job anywhere else. The Japanese for the most part have become convinced, through bitter experience, that militarism has failed to defend them or further their interests. They are convinced that Japan would be much safer and better off without any defence whatever. Towards this goal both in Japan and overseas, they are putting every effort, as was seen by the work and enthusiasm at the 3rd World Conference against A and H bombs and for disarmament held in Tokyo from the 6th to 16th of August. Students gave up their vacations to act as interpreters and guides to foreign delegates. The Japanese Church strongly supported the conference, while Dr. Kagawa, because of his overseas fame, urged whole-hearted support from foreign Christians. Messages were received from Dr. Albert Schweitzer and Pastor Niemoller and others who were unable to attend. Foreign Christians were small in number compared with other groups such as communists. Several Soviet delegates were there, including the Metropolitan of Moscow, Archbishop Mikhail Vikentyevich Zernov. Among the group from China was Mrs. Shin Ju-Chang from Peking, member of the Y.W.C.A. and Church of Christ in China.

The Japanese people need our prayers and support in any ways that may open to us in their struggle against militarism and for world peace and justice.

(Continued from page 7).

down. Mrs. Carter spoke briefly on the World Federation of Methodist Women, of which we learnt through Mrs. M. A. McDowell having been to Junaluska last year. The Dominion Executive will confer on this matter with the Guild Fellowship Executive, and if necessary with the District Councils before any move is decided.

MISSIONARY EVENING.

This took a different form from the usual, and was presided over by Sister Rita Snowden in her own inimitable way. Those present had the opportunity to see and hear the girls from Kurahuna, as they sang very sweetly, two hymns, one in English and one in Moari. Then we saw four realistic tableaux depicting Church life of 50 years ago—a women's Missionary meeting, a wedding, a Baptism, and a Family service. A small group of singers sang hymns to suit each scene. Our thanks to Miss Wynne James for these delightful scenes.

OPEN FORUM.

Questions of a varied nature were produced from the Question Box, mostly bearing on the Home Field or the actual working of Auxiliaries and the Union.

THE CLOSE—PRAYER AND PRAISE.

As Conference fittingly began with the dedication of ourselves at the Communion service, so just appropriately it ended with a period of Prayer and Praise, led by Mrs. Sage in which we gave thanks for our many blessings, and confessing our shortcomings, asked God's help and guidance in the days to come. Miss Purdie spoke of Christian climbers. No summit is reached without climbing, and we have to do the conquering ourselves with fortitude and confidence gained by communion with God, and with joy, strength and courage which comes from our prayer-life with God.

Overseas Missions Synods

The Synods of the two overseas missions districts were held in the same week as our Synods in New Zealand. Their work is reported hereunder by the Rev. G. G. Carter and Sister Edith James respectively.

SOLOMON ISLANDS DISTRICT SYNOD

It is seven years since Synod met last at Skotolan, Buka, and once again the Buka Synod has marked the end of an era. The 1950 Buka Synod was the last under the Chairmanship of Mr. Goldie, and 1957 was the last at which Mr. Metcalfe will preside. When Mr. Goldie left us we were still struggling for the most part to re-establish our work in the various areas, working in makeshift buildings and handicapped by serious staff and transport difficulties. In seven years, under Mr. Metcalfe's guidance, thousands of pounds worth of valuable buildings have been erected and our huge building programme is within sight of completion. Our staff, both native and European, has increased considerably, and the indigenous staff are better trained and more able to take a full share of the work. Ideas of self-support have now crystallised into concrete plans which are already beginning to take shape. Synod 1957 looked back with gratitude to God over the way we have been led.

Looking forward, humanly speaking, we could not see just how things were going to shape during the coming year. Within twelve months from last May we will have lost from our European staff two senior ministers, a senior sister, our District engineer and two other workers. We faced some very challenging demands in regard to our educational work in both Territories, vital decisions in regards to our evangelical witness, and all the problems of a task that is expanding faster than our material or human resources. Yet, while we could not see ahead with any degree of assurance, we were not unduly dismayed. God has led us thus far, and we were again and again assured that He is still leading us forward. One of the clearest signs of this was found in the clear evidence of a growing sense of responsibility within the native Church. Faced with the challenge of self-support, two Circuits were able to report that their people had taken the initiative in beginning more frequent giving, in a manner more related to the actual income of the people. A tentative basis of self-support was accepted by the Synod. Each Territory was able to present encouraging reports on educational work. In Bougainville, our new teacher training centre at Kekesu has received high praise from the chief of division of Native Education in Papua and New Guinea; in the British Solomons, the new Director of Education had visited and approved a number of our educational establishments.

As a District we are growing more and more conscious of our neighbours, especially our fellow Methodists in the Papua, New Guinea and Highlands Districts of the Australian Church. Our joint venture in the Highlands has stimulated us to find other ways of working together for the glory of God and for the extension of His Church. We enthusiastically approved the idea of a joint Theological College, and expressed the hope that one day it might take in other Protestant Missions in Melanesia. We authorised one of our ministers to visit Rabaul during the year and explore ways and means of co-operation with the New Guinea



REV. G. H. YOUNG, pioneer missionary at Mendi and the Chairman of the first Synod of the New Guinea Highlands District.

District in education and in whatever other ways we can work and witness together.

This outward reaching view, taken together with the real sense of the native Church growing up into its responsibilities, gave to the whole Synod a sense of exhilaration which transcended present difficulties. Problems and troubles included, it was difficult to avoid the feeling that it was good to be alive and in Christ's service in the Solomon Islands District in these days. Glancing back to those who went before, taking time to farewell, with deep affection, those who were leaving and praising God for what they had done, and looking forward to the new day that has already dawned, we could not but feel like W. J. Mathams:—

Great the heritage they left us,
Great the conquest to be won,
Armed hosts to meet and scatter,
Larger duties to be done.
Raise the song they nobly taught us,
Round the wide world let it ring:
God is with us, God is with us,
God our Lord shall reign as King.

NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS

MENDI: The first Synod of the Papua New Guinea Highlands District was a memorable occasion. As we opened in silent prayer each of the ten members was very conscious of the other Presence and His promise, "Lo, I am with you always . . ."

Mendi was the site. The hills were clear and blue that morning. We had become very hill conscious as the Tari representatives had been delayed four days by inclement weather. We deeply regretted that this delay means a postponement of the proposed pre-Synod Retreat. But perhaps it was not altogether wasted in the greater preparation that could be made.

Feelingly we joined in Hymn 709, ". . . out of all the Lord hath brought us by His Love," and with the challenge of Paul's exhortation on the ministry as found in II Corinthians, chaps. 3 and 4, we set out into the business sessions.

Review and Prospect: The stationing sheet was read and we recommended the appointment of the Rev. C. J. Keightley to Mendi and Sister H. Young to Tari. With a picture of the placing of the present staff we saw the need of additional appointments. A secretary is urgently required. We have excellent reasons for requesting the following—a Missionary, a Lay Missionary, a Teaching Sister and a Nursing Sister.

From the ministerial session we were informed of the recommendation to the N.S.W. Conference of Mr. E. W. Stevenson as a candidate for the ministry. We give praise and thanks to God that He had called this young man to full-time service and are pleased to have him presented from our Synod.

It is good that we can have representatives to the Annual Meeting of both the Australian and New Zealand Boards. To the Australian Board we appointed Miss E. F. Wilson, and to the New Zealand Board, Rev. C. J. Keightley.

Reports: The permanent building programme is well under way, with the completion of the first mission house in Mendi. Mr. G. T. Dey is to be congratulated on the excellent planning and workmanship of this home. The foundations of the agriculturist's house are prepared. Upon the recommendation of the Property Committee, the revised plan of the Sisters' house was adopted.

Reports were encouraging. The educational reports revealed the impact of the teachers' stations with the resultant closer contact with the people. The medical reports were pleasing in increase in patients treated, but still there remains a great deal to be accomplished in the teaching of elementary hygiene and a challenge in the maternity work. The Leper Centre is established in Tari and has made most satisfactory progress. Agricultural work continues to be of service to the Mendi people. In general station work much building progress was evident. All this was good, but our hearts were especially gladdened by the quickening of interest among the Highlands people, we believe, in the Gospel of Love.

We now came to the review of the work and welfare of our catechists and teachers. We placed on record our appreciation of the work of John Pirah now transferred back to the Solomon Islands District. There is a great need for additional native staff. A resolution was passed that the Districts be informed of the urgency for teachers, a worker for agriculture and one with medical training for the Hansenié Centre.

Education: Our schools. The Educational Committee reported a busy year. First they were requested to give consideration to the establishment of Circuit training institutions. We received a report of the preparation of lesson material for use in the village schools, and this is to continue. Much time and concern goes into the plan for a course of Bible lessons, also for use and guidance in the village schools. Mr. C. J. Hutton was appointed the new Mission Education Officer, and the retiring Education Liaison Officer, Mr. D. A. Johnston, was thanked for his work.

The Synod expressed concern at some proposals made to legalise drinking of alcoholic liquor among native peoples.

The problems of language mastery were now before us. A committee was appointed and requested to draw up a course of study for all new staff. At the next Synod we hope to have presented finalised alphabets in both the Mendi and Tari languages. We felt that now careful preparation should be made for future Bible translation work.

Devotions: The highlight of our second day of meeting was the Communion service, followed by the Conversation on the work of God. We were pleased to have other staff members join with us. The service conducted by the Chairman assisted by the Rev. R. L. Barnes was a hallowed hour as we met once again with our Risen Lord.

The Conversation was introduced by the Rev. D. Mone, who placed before us our purpose: (1) to win souls for His Kingdom, (2) to teach the people to pray, and (3) to witness to the Love of God. All were deeply moved as members testified to the Grace of God in the year past, expressed a faith in a God all-powerful and dedicated themselves anew to His service here. We recorded our thanks to God for His Presence and Guidance during the year. We resolved that "in the coming year we make the winning of the Highlands people to an experience of Jesus Christ the subject of continuous prayer and endeavour." All left this session inspired and challenged.

As we set out on the third day the Reports Committee gave us their findings. Then followed a valuable discussion on the format of our reports. This should facilitate easier handling in the future.

Estimates required our utmost concentration. Each item was reviewed with care, mindful that it is the home portion of our team that must bear the burden of our finances. Amounts for agricultural work are rightly increased. The initial outlay in this work is important for future development.

Under the question of other business many items were presented. The postponed retreat was considered and it was moved that we hold a District retreat in January at the same time as committees meet. Mendi staff graciously extended an invitation for this. The proposed meeting of the Chairmen of the Papua-New Guinea and Solomon Islands District was discussed and the hope expressed that it would be held at Mendi.

Our last act in the time of work and fellowship was a service together. After viewing the film strip "The Crucifixion," Mr. C. J. Hutton guided our thoughts, most fittingly, to our progress, our disappointments and our aspirations. Then led by Mr. D. A. Johnston, we joined in the fellowship of prayer. Synod may be completed, but the call of our Lord and Master remains, and we go better equipped, and, we trust more alive to His calling.

About People

REV. C. J. KEIGHTLEY:

Early in September, the Rev. C. J. and Mrs. Keightley arrived on furlough from the New Guinea Highlands. Since then, apart from some weeks in the north, Mr. Keightley has been busily engaged as deputation in the Nelson and Otago-Southland Synod Districts. He also represented the Highlands District at the annual Mission Board meeting, and was the Overseas speaker at the Conference Missionary Meeting at Palmerston North last month. Apart from a brief spell in an Auckland hospital, Mrs. Keightley has divided her free time between Kerikeri and Blenheim. The Board agreed to Mr. Keightley's taking the Summer Linguistics Course at Melbourne from January till March. After that, Mr. and Mrs. Keightley, with Jennifer and Barbara, will return to the field. Their appointment this term will be to Mendi Circuit.

REV. TREVOR SHEPHERD:

Mr. Shepherd returned to New Zealand early in September, following a period on deputation in Victoria and Tasmania. Mrs. Shepherd and their children have now been for one year in New Zealand. The health of their son Graham requires that Mr. Shepherd relinquish the work overseas, and Conference has appointed him to Oxford Circuit. The Board views the withdrawal of Mr. Shepherd with keen regret. In 1947, the Shepherds began a five-year term on the new Keesu station in Teop Circuit. Transferred in 1952 to replace the Silvesters at Vella Lavella, they have done an equally fine piece of work there. Conference placed on record the appreciation by the Church as a whole of the service these two practical and devoted workers.

OTHER ARRIVALS:

Sister Nancy Ball of Choiseul Circuit arrived at Auckland in time for the annual Conference of the M.W.M.U., at which she was one of the speakers. Sister Nancy Ball has since gone on to Christchurch, where her furlough will be spent. Mr. J. M. Miller, our mission joiner, used his furlough for a sea trip to Japan, and landed from a Japanese freighter at Whangarei late in October.



REV. P. F. and MRS. TAYLOR.

On November 19th, Sister Norma Neutze, soon to marry the Rev. W. K. Abbott, arrived at Auckland. Mr. W. R. Sharples, having completed his term of building service, arrived at Christchurch.

Expected prior to Christmas are the Rev. A. H. and Mrs. Hall, of the District Training Institution at Banga, returning on furlough after Mr. Hall's third term of service overseas. Sister Pamela Beaumont plans to take the Linguistics Course at Melbourne and to come on later to New Zealand for the balance of her furlough.



SISTER AUDREY ROBERTS.

After suffering a minor mishap in the Panama Canal, the "Rangitane" arrived last month at Wellington with Sisters Jessie Grant and Merle Carter. Both have done further study in tropical nursing at a London Hospital. Sister Jessie's resignation from our work has already been noted. Sister Merle, however, returns this month to her work at Tonu in Buin Circuit.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Conference has appointed the Rev. Philip F. Taylor to the Roviana Circuit. Mr. Taylor, who has recently served for a year at Bombay, was formerly a mission carpenter in the Solomons, where he came forward in 1953 as a candidate for the ministry. Mrs. Taylor gave two terms of service as Sister Davinia Clark. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, with their infant David, leave by air for the Solomons on January 10th.

Miss Audrey Roberts, of Wellington, has been appointed as a nursing sister to the Solomon Islands. She is to take the George Brown College training at Sydney next year and proceed thereafter to the field.

Mr. Rodney Fleury, of Dunedin South Circuit, has been appointed on a three-year contract as mission carpenter in the Solomons.

CONGRATULATIONS:

Friends of the Rev. G. G. and Mrs. Carter of Teop Circuit will be delighted to know of the safe arrival on October 12th of Donald Gilmour, born at the Don Alley Hospital Maternity Annexe at Keesu. Mr. and Mrs. Carter have three older children, Ian, Judith and Ann.

WHO'S WHO on our Mission Fields



SISTER NORMA GRAVES:

Papanui Youth Conference five years ago may have been the occasion of her definite sense of missionary call, but Sister Norma feels her whole early life to have been a preparation for the work in which she is now engaged. She came to our work from St. Kilda Circuit, whose people naturally feel a keen interest in their missionary representative overseas.

Trained at Dunedin Teachers' College, Norma Graves served for four years in the New Zealand teaching service before her offer was made. She participated fully in the youth work of our Church, an advantage to any worker whose service is among the growing number of young people on our mission field. There, as here, it does not always follow that the children of Christian parents grow up to be earnest Christians themselves. A new emphasis is being placed there on our Sunday School and youth work to-day.

But Sister Norma had other links with our home Church. All our workers overseas come to know and deeply appreciate the service of the Methodist Women's Missionary Union. But, in Sister Norma's case, she had been a member, before her appointment, of the Dunedin Evening Auxiliary; so that, in a special sense, she represents the M.W.M.U. overseas.

Singing has long been an attractive aspect of our work in the Pacific Islands. The people there acknowledge their debt to many workers, men and women, whose musical gifts have been applied in training, translating and composing. The girls of Roviana first, and now of Skotolan, have reason to be grateful for Sister Norma's gift of song.

SISTER JOY THOMPSON:

There are few claims on human compassion that are more touching than the needs of leper patients. Leprosy is a continuing problem on both our mission fields. For some years, we have conducted a leprosy centre with about forty patients on the islet of Ozama, quite close to Bilua, the head station of our Vella

Lavella Circuit. For all of her first term of service on the field, Sister Joy Thompson has been responsible for Ozama and for the medical and maternity work on Bilua station. She has been hampered at Bilua by dilapidated buildings, now being put into repair; the facilities at Ozama are now much better; in these and in so many ways the New Zealand Lepers' Trust Board has been of tremendous help. The church for the patients has been financed by gifts of New Zealand Methodists for the benefit of our leprosy patients.

"God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of Christ," was the theme of Sister Joy's dedication testimony at Pitt Street Church, when in 1955 she was commissioned to her work overseas. Then she was responding to a need made known, which she had not been aware of for a long time, but which she had not long previously come to recognise as her particular task.

General and maternity training had been followed in her case by a midwifery course at St. Helen's Hospital in Auckland. To equip herself better for her work among lepers, Sister Joy spent a month at Teteru,



SISTER JOY THOMPSON.

the Leprosy Centre on Guadalcanal, observing and sharing in the work of the Roman Catholic sisters at that point.

Small wonder that she had long known of the Islands people and their need, for her upbringing had been in the Port Albert Circuit, where missionary enthusiasm and support has been of the highest order. The only child of farming parents, Sister Joy is the product of country Methodism at its best. Her relatives and friends and the people of the home circuit are one with her in her task, and she knows how much she relies on their prayers and help.

WOMEN'S PAGE

M. W. M. U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

52 Croydon Ave.,
Birkdale,
Auckland, N.5.
November, 1957.

Dear Friends,

Our Annual Conference is over, and the representatives will have returned to their homes and will be giving reports to the Auxiliaries. It was a time of Fellowship, and, we hope, of inspiration to the first-timers. We were privileged to have the President of our Church Conference, Dr. Raymond Dudley, to lead the Communion Service on the Sunday, and in his address Dr. Dudley asked the pertinent question: "What does it mean to you and to me, in terms of what we are prepared to do for Christ and His Kingdom?" Can we say, "Then into His hand went my hand and into my heart came He?" If only we knew, how differently we would have acted, we would have taken a little more thought for the needs of others. We cannot understand the great love that is always burning in the heart of Jesus, who, even on the Cross, is calling men back to Himself. There were 281 members and friends participating in the service, and we were pleased to have the Vice-President, Sister Rita Snowden, to take part.

On the Monday afternoon after the Public Reception, Dr. Dudley again addressed the Conference on the question: "Who would be a Missionary?" He pointed out that God has no hands, no feet, no lips but ours to bring men to Him. Our time, our thoughts, our talents must be used for Him. Sister Effie Harkness spoke to us on the Wednesday and pointed out some of the changes which had taken place in the Solomons since she first went out there. One of the most noticeable was the more prominent part now taken by women in the Lotu and the work of the Mission generally. Sister Effie said she was looking forward to being on the home front and taking part in our Women's work here. Then we had Sister Nancy Ball, who had just arrived on furlough, and had come to speak to us on her work. It was a pleasure to see her, and we all appreciated the fact that she came to Conference before she had been home to her people. Sister told us of her school work, and stressed the fact that no matter how much she taught the children, it was wasted unless she was also able to bring them to the Saviour. Sister brought greetings from Roviana, Bilua and Sasamunga. She also pointed out the fact that the boys and girls out there have only one book, the Bible, and they read it at every opportunity—many of them are searching for a deeper knowledge of God. Sister told us also that two of the boys are coming to New Zealand later to further their education.

We were glad to welcome Rev. R. W. Allardice from Samoa, who brought a greeting from Mr. and Mrs. Beckingsale. Mr. Beckingsale is a New Zealander who is teaching on the Staff of the Methodist Church in Samoa. Mr. Allardice told us of a group of women who call themselves "A Company of Sisters." It had first started as a society to develop the spiritual life of the wives of the village teachers and ministers.

When the other women saw the effects of this gathering, they asked if they could all join. They are responsible for the appointments in each village Church; they provided the stained glass window for the Sanctuary in the Wesley Church in Apia; they have given a new meeting house to the Church which cost them £3000. There is a marked difference between the ordinary village girl and a Church trained girl, in their deportment and in their dress.

We also had a very inspiring talk from Sister Joyce Foster, one of our younger Deaconesses. Sister told us about her work, about the many concrete evidences there are of success in the work. She challenged us to accept the Maori as our brother, in the truest sense of the word, or we would not be successful in our task.

As we approach the Christmas season may we all have a new vision of women's work and resolve that in the coming year we will apply ourselves to the task of helping to spread the Gospel to all the world. With warmest Christmas Greetings to you all,

Yours in Missionary Bonds,

GLADYS CARTER,
President.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORTS.

Northland.—We have had a very good year of work and God has been very gracious to us. Our Annual Meeting showed great activity and zeal on the part of all Auxiliaries. Our finance is more than £30 ahead of last year. One of our auxiliaries, carrying on with only three members, deserves special mention. Our Officers moved on to Zone 2, and we wish them God's richest blessing in their work. Sister Rita Snowden spoke to us all in the afternoon, many visitors coming to hear her. We were all enthralled. So another Annual Meeting ended and we thanked all the officers who retired for their help in the past. As God continues to bless us, may we all realise afresh the importance of each member of the M.W.M.U.

Waitemata.—The Annual Meeting was held at Takapuna, about 30 members being present. All appreciated the Devotional opening by the President on the theme, "Behold, I make all things new." A wonderful transformation takes place in the life dedicated to Christ, and a new creature emerges. Reports were received from the 13 Auxiliaries, all of which showed sustained interest in the work and devotion to the missionary cause. A period of intercession followed. In the afternoon, Mrs. Harris spoke of the life of Helen Keller and how, when a door is shut, God opens a window. The World Federation of Methodist Women has adopted the Motto, "To know Christ, and to make Christ known." That is our task. The ninth Annual Report showed a membership of 241, including 29 gleaners. The total amount given was £542, an increase of £33. The meeting closed with the Doxology.

Auckland.—At the Annual Meeting held in Pitt Street Church Parlour, the morning devotions taken by Mrs. Hemmings centred round the thought of the pos-

THE OPEN DOOR

sibility of New Beginnings for every day. Interesting reports were given by Onehunga Auxiliary budgeting scheme; Pitt Street on the effects of combining Guild and Auxiliary and by Mt Albert who meet as a Fellowship. The afternoon session opened with devotions taken by Mrs. Firth who based her remarks on Courage and Serenity. Appreciation of the faithful services rendered by retiring officers was expressed by the President. Mrs. L. A. Davison, Secretary of the Sudan Interior Mission spoke of Answers to Prayer experienced while she was in missionary work.

South Auckland.—The Officers of the Council were re-elected for a further term. Reports presented showed a membership of over 400 who have contributed during the year £800, an increase of £57 over last year. Representatives were appointed to the M.W.M.U. Conference. It was reported that Sisters Merle Carter and Jessie Grant from the Solomon Islands who have been studying in England for the past six months were successful in passing their Tropical Diseases Examinations. A welcome was extended to Mrs. Venis, a former nurse in the Solomon Islands.

Bay of Plenty.—The Quarterly and Annual Meeting was held at Whakatane. Devotions were led by the President. The Roll-call was answered by 29 members, apologies being received from 3 Auxiliaries. The relation of the Missionary Auxiliary to Youth Work was discussed, and the suggestion made by the President that members contact Youth Leaders and learn the interest taken and offer encouragement and any help they could if it would be acceptable. Rev. A. W. Dickie presided at the Annual Meeting. Reports showed a keen interest being taken in Missionary work on the home fields and overseas. We now have a membership of 196, an increase of 60, and £234/14/9 was raised, this being an increase of £24/18/11 on last year.

Hawke's Bay.—The Annual Meeting was held at the Wesley Centre, Gisborne. Proceedings opened with a Communion service in the church. Representatives were present from Napier and Waipukurau. At the business session the Annual Report, Financial Statement, auxiliary and departmental reports were received. In the afternoon a well-attended meeting took place in the church when Mrs. E. C. Leadley led the Devotions. The highlight of the day was an inspiring and informative address on the working of the M.W.M.U. given by our Dominion President, Mrs. S. T. Carter, of Auckland. The Benediction brought a busy and happy day to a close.

Wairarapa.—At the Annual Meeting held at Masterton, there was an excellent attendance of members. Rev. J. B. Dawson presided and led the devotional period, basing his thoughts on Unity, especially the need for unity among ourselves. Prayer followed. The Annual Report showed another year of worthwhile service, with a very active and lively interest being taken in our mission work. A District Rally was arranged for November, when reports of the Conference would be given. The meeting closed with a period of silent prayer and the Benediction.

Nelson-Marlborough.—The Annual Meeting was held at St. John's, Nelson, when six of the seven Auxiliaries in the District and three of the four Gleaners' Groups were represented by 37 members present. The President led the Devotions based on the daily bread or manna from God and relating it to our living to-day. The Annual Report revealed that the work in the district is in good heart, membership being 275, of whom 119 are gleaners, while the amount raised for the year was £555/0/11, an increase on last

year. Gleaners' contributions of £130/5/11 are very encouraging. The Depot manager reported that 31 parcels had been sent to Home Sisters. After some discussion, the Council decided against combined Guild and Auxiliary meetings, while representatives to the Conference were to be guided by the Dominion Executive regarding budget plans. The afternoon session was in the form of a tour of the Solomon Islands Mission Stations, under the expert guidance of Sister Edna White, as she told of the whereabouts and work of the missionaries and Sisters, comparing conditions to-day with those of 30 years ago. Sister Edna was thanked and a very happy and educational day was brought to a close.

West Coast.—At the Annual Meeting, Mrs. Dash led the Devotional period on the Guidance of God in Life's Happenings. The Annual Report showed an increase both financially and numerically, membership being 87, of whom 33 are Gleaners. The total income was £157/1/5 from four auxiliaries. Members of the District Council visited the Guild meeting at Runanga, speaking on the aims and objects of the M.W.M.U., and this resulted in a new Gleaners' Group of seven being formed, thus creating a new interest in their church work. Thirteen parcels have been sent to Home Sisters. Auxiliary reports showed keen interest in all branches of the work, and Stamp money is coming in well. Those of us who heard Sister Winifred Bennett know what a fine person we have working among the Maori people, whom she loves, and we realise how much our Deaconesses need our prayers as they strive to bring about greater spiritual experiences to the people. Truly our year has been a very happy and successful one, and after a five-year term of office, we hand over to the Reefton ladies. May they know the full joy of service.

North Canterbury.—The Annual Meeting was held in the Durham Street Schoolroom. Mrs. Fiebig presided over an attendance of 90. The Devotions were led by Mrs. Utting, who spoke on the fruits of the Spirit. The treasurer's report showed an increase with an income of over £1700. Rev. Alan Brash, Secretary of the National Council of Churches, gave a challenging and thought-provoking address on our immediate neighbours of South-East Asia, who live less than a 24-hour-air journey from Christchurch.

To mark the GOLDEN JUBILEE of Missionary Auxiliary work in Christchurch, special celebrations were held on September 30th, beginning with a Thanksgiving service in the Durham Street Church, conducted by the Chairman of the District, Rev. W. T. Blight, and Rev. H. G. Brown, a former missionary in the Solomons. Mrs. Fiebig read greetings and Mrs. C. Colechin paid tribute to past leaders. About 170 members partook of Holy Communion. After lunch a social function was held in the schoolroom. The mayoress, Mrs. R. M. Macfarlane, congratulated the women on their missionary work. Mrs. A. K. Warren, wife of the Bishop of Christchurch, brought greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Mothers' Union and sister churches in Christchurch. Mrs. T. Hallam, a former District Council President and Dominion President, gave a history of the 50 years' work, telling that the first meeting of the Auxiliary was held at Durham Street on October 16th, 1907. At the end of the first year 106 members had joined. Now there are 700 members belonging to 27 auxiliaries in North Canterbury. Special mention was made of the many missionaries who had gone out to the Field from Canterbury.

Missionaries' Addresses:

SOLOMON ISLANDS DISTRICT:

All AIRMAIL for the following missionaries should be addressed:

*Methodist Mission,
Barakoma Airfield,
Vella Lavella,
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.*

SURFACE MAIL:

*Methodist Mission,
P.O. Gizo,
BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS.*

ROVIANA CIRCUIT:

Rev. & Mrs. J. R. Metcalfe
Rev. & Mrs. A. H. Hall
Dr. G. E. Hoult
Sister Myra Fraser (Teacher)
Sister Norma Neutze (Nurse)*
Sister Lesley Bowen (Nurse)
Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Mannall (Engineer)
Mr. W. R. Sharples (Carpenter)
Mr. N. G. Ball (Carpenter)
Mr. J. M. Miller (Joiner)*

VELLA LAVELLA CIRCUIT:

Rev. & Mrs. A. C. Watson
Sister Joy Thompson (Nurse)
Sister Audrey Grice (Teacher)

CHOISEUL CIRCUIT:

Rev. & Mrs. D. I. A. McDonald
Sister Lucy Money (Deaconess)
Sister Nancy Ball (Teacher)*
Sister Audrey Highnam (Nurse)
Sister Phyllis Rudolph (Teacher)

BUIN CIRCUIT:

ADDRESS for Buin Circuit:

*Methodist Mission,
Kihili, Buin,
South Bougainville,
TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.*

Rev. & Mrs. A. H. Voyce
Sister Ada Lee (Teacher), Kihili
Sister Beulah Reeves (Teacher), Kihili
Sister Merle Carter (Nurse)
Sister Pamela Beaumont (Teacher), Tonu*
Sister Mary Addison (Nurse), Tonu
Mr. C. V. Wills (Carpenter), Kihili

TEOP CIRCUIT:

ADDRESS for Teop Circuit:

*Methodist Mission,
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Sohano, Bougainville,
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Rev. & Mrs. G. G. Carter
Sister Thelma Duthie (Teacher)
Sister Rewa Williamson (Nurse)

BUKA CIRCUIT:

ADDRESS for Buka Circuit:

*Methodist Mission,
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Bougainville,
TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.*

Rev. & Mrs. G. A. R. Cornwell
Sister June Hilder (Nurse)
Sister Norma Graves (Teacher)

PAPUA-NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS DISTRICT:

MENDI CIRCUIT Address:

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Australian workers:

Rev. & Mrs. G. H. Young
Mr. & Mrs. D. A. Johnston (Agriculturalist)
Miss E. F. Wilson (Teacher)

Deaconess from Germany:

Sister Lydia Mohring

New Zealand Worker:

Mr. G. T. Dey (Carpenter)

* On furlough.

TARI CIRCUIT Address:

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Australian Workers:

Rev. & Mrs. R. L. Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Hutton (Teacher)
Sister H. Young (Nurse)

Deaconess from Germany:

Sister Elisabeth Kessler

New Zealand workers:

Rev. & Mrs. C. J. Keightley*
Sister Edith James (Nurse)

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