

The

OPEN DOOR

*Missionary Organ
of the Methodist Church
of New Zealand*



Decorated for Christmas: "Mandalay" a few days before her wreck. Her reconstruction had involved the removal of one mast.

"A Great Door and effectual is opened." 1 Cor. 16:9

ANNUAL REPORT NUMBER — MARCH, 1964

No EAST or WEST

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord
Close binding all mankind.

Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be;
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
In Him meet South and North:
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

—John Oxenham.

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East, West

"I must see Rome also" was Paul's insistent impulse. Whilst a frontier remains uncrossed, can the Christian missionary conscience be stilled? Whether consciously or not, Paul was led by the Spirit into strategic and influential centres—and the Church was born in Ephesus, and Corinth. True, others took the Gospel to Rome first, the most strategic centre of them all.

What message have these words for us "I must see Rome also"? Was not Rome the centre of worldly and imperial power? In these days of great world rivalries, when the centres of power and dominion are increasingly Washington, Moscow, Peking, what are our Christian and missionary attitudes to these to be? Is it just a pious hope, when we pray that the kingdoms of this world may become the Kingdom of God and of His Christ? Or do we mean it?

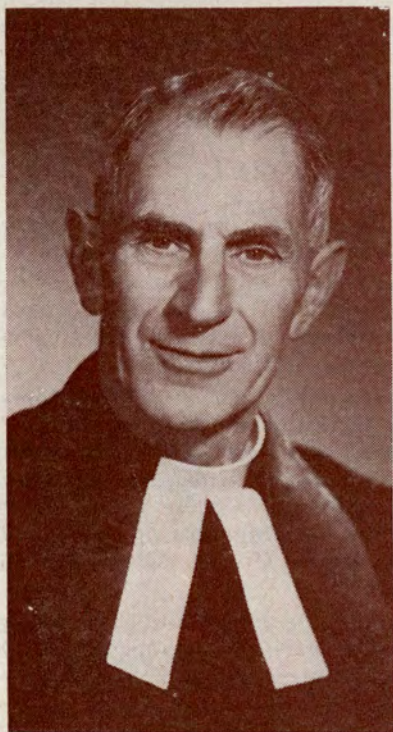
Is not God speaking to us through the events and movements of our time? His word of salvation does not fail—neither His word of judgment—nor His word of hope. Indeed we dare believe that His hand is discernible even amidst the bewildering events of the human history of our day.

When John Oxenham wrote his hymn, "East—West" were but metaphors of distance. (The Scriptures use them that way. "As far as the east is from the west . . ." "They shall come from the east and from the west") "Christ and His Mission transcend distance" is his message. But today modern communications transcend distance too—and bring us in close proximity, by air and radio, to Tari and Taipeh, to Panggoe and Peking.

East and west are set in sharp antithesis. For many emergent peoples, Christianity is branded as a "western" religion. Have we overdressed the Gospel in our western ways? Dare we any longer speak of the Christian west? Whatever else we may say, let us acknowledge these:

- *There are Christians today in almost every land, called by their Lord to a common obedience.*
- *We Christians of New Zealand acknowledge a "western" heritage in an eastern environment. Let us seek God's help as we seek to bring the true treasures of the Kingdom to those amidst whom our own mission is set.*

THE CENTRAL CLUE



**The Rev. Athol R. Penn,
President of the Conference.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.

There are factors in the world situation today which mean that the whole approach to Christian missions must be on a wider plane. Such are the effect of modern transport, the rise to independence of many of the smaller nations, the passing of political domination by the white races, the fact of the Church being present, though in parts as a small minority, in almost all parts of the world.

This wider approach does not take away, of course, anything from the importance of the work. Indeed, Lesslie Newbigin, speaking of our Christian witness, says that "the central clue to world history is the Christian world mission."

The work in our own Mission Field is inevitably affected in this regard. We are very conscious that we belong with the Church in Asia, in an area becoming every day more important in world significance. Our coming link with the new Melanesian Conference is typical of growing co-operation in the area.

In this day of growing ecumenical approach it is interesting to remember that the movement towards Christian re-union has had much of its inspiration in the mission fields. When we look together towards the Cross, towards the one Saviour of all men, especially as we do it with a sense of urgency regarding those not yet committed to the Christ, we are drawn closer to one another and become impatient of the things that divide us.

Another interesting aspect of the work as a whole in our day is that we are beginning to talk less about sending and receiving churches. We in more established sections of the Church are learning what rich things the younger churches have to teach us; and younger and older to-

gather are seeing that we have a common task to perform.

But against the background of these changes we must never forget that our primary sphere is in our own field. Unless we are doing our full part there we are not fulfilling our responsibility to the whole mission of the Church. Under our budget system of finance it is also important that we do everything to preserve a personal, intimate interest. Though we must keep the perspective of the mission of the whole Church to the whole world, the Solomons and the Highlands must come first in our prayers, giving and service.

Lesslie Newbigin tells of the reply given by the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to a letter sent by a group of graduates of Madras Christian College. They were thanking the Church for what the College had done. The Assembly spoke of the mutual sharing of gifts between East and West which such an experience made possible. The Assembly then went on: "In that spirit we desire affectionately and

above all things to commend to you, as our missionaries have often done, the Lord Jesus Christ. We have no better claim to Him than you have. We possess nothing so precious—we value nothing so much—we have no source of good so full, fruitful, and enduring—we have nothing to compare with the Lord Jesus Christ. To Him we must bear witness. And we should gladly consent that you should cease to listen to us if you would be led to give your ear and your heart to Him."

Bishop Newbigin adds: "There is the missionary dimension of any movement, any labour, any programme that bears the name of Christ! Over every phase of it there will be written urgently and insistently, 'Don't look at us; look at Him'."

How better could we sum up the sense of privilege and urgency that ought to be ours as we give ourselves to our part in in this glorious work of proclaiming Christ to the world?

—Athol R. Penn, President of the Conference.

PRAYER MANUAL

Have you bought and do you use the Methodist Prayer Manual? Is there a copy handy for the preacher in the pulpit of your Church? Here are the reminders of those who stand in need of our prayer. Please add two names to Day 4: Mrs. Rodney Fleury, who shares her husband's work. She was formerly Sister Audrey Roberts. Also the new Administrative Assistant, Miss Shona Couch. To Day 31 add Mr. Ken Skinner, Carpenter, New Guinea District.

LOSS OF THE MANDALAY

Early on January 2nd, the auxiliary ketch **MANDALAY** ran aground on the south-east coast of Bougainville, a few miles south of Kieta heads. Later in the day the vessel broke up. Thus ended the service of a picturesque member of the mission fleet. No lives were lost, or injury suffered by any person. The vessel was covered by the Board's internal boat insurance fund, but replacement costs will be high.

"We sailed past the site of the stranding," writes the Rev. George Carter, "and it is clear how fortunate we were. Though the beach itself is dangerous, about twenty yards to the north is a rocky headland, and about the same distance to the south, a rocky island. Had the ship struck either of these she would certainly have been holed, and then slid back into deep water, and gone to the bottom, possibly with loss of life."

The Church is grateful to Mr. Robin McKay, the owner of the Aropa plantation, and a good friend of the Kieta circuit. Mr. McKay and his colleague, Mr. John Maar, were quickly on the scene, and arranged the salvage of the engine. Honourable mention is given to Mr. Gordon Siama, Boys' Brigade Organiser, who was on his way to conduct a camp

at Kieta. The camp was not held. Mr. Siama got word through to Mr. McKay, who lost no time in bringing men and ropes and a D7 bulldozer from the nearby timber mill.

"On arrival we found her lying on the sand," writes Mr. McKay, "broadside on and holed for three quarters of her length from a foot to three feet wide. It was fairly low tide but making gradually. While waiting for the dozer to arrive we loosened the engine from its bed and took off all removeable fittings. Each wave was surging into the hull, and although we tried to blanket off the surge with the sails, it was not successful. When the dozer arrived we had a bridle around the vessel and attempted to winch her off but unsuccessfully. Then we tried to roll her with wires over and under her. This was no good either. As the

tide was rising and we did not have much time left. I got the Captain's permission and we winched the deckhouse off and ripped the deck out with the dozer and salvaged the engine.

"We got everything of any value off her with the exception of the propeller. Everything that might be stolen and the engine were sent into Kieta to Joe Tack Long.



Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gatman, whose work includes oversight of our ships. Mr. Gatman made a special journey to the scene of the wreck.



How shall they preach unless they be sent? A Methodist fleet at anchor with the MANDALAY (before her reconstruction) on the right).

"I went back yesterday evening to have a look, and she was completely broken up and gone. I very much regret that I was not able to haul her up but do not think she would have been repairable. All the ribs, even where she was not holed, were broken."

The MANDALAY was a 41 foot ketch built at Redcliffs, Christchurch some thirty years ago. Later about 1940, she was well known in the Marlborough Sounds. After the war, she was owned by the late Mr. W. A. Wilkinson of Auckland, who sailed her successfully in many races including the Tauranga Gold Cup in 1947 and the Auckland Regatta race for ketches and yawls in 1948.

In that year, she was bought by the Mission Department to assist with the Rehabilitation programme in the Solomon Islands. The vessel was sailed to the Islands by Mr. Terence Hammond and a group of young Auckland yachtsmen.

For some ten years thereafter the MANDALAY did good service as a carrier of all sorts of mission goods. She then went out of commission and there was talk of selling her. Re-decked and refitted, she was

equipped with a new Lister air-cooled engine and put back into service in 1961. The Editor recalls travelling in her the length of the Solomon Islands district in 1962.

The role of small ships is a vital one in the Islands. Governments, planters, Melanesian owners and the Christian missions have a long record of seafaring. In the main, ours has been a happy record. In pre-war days the once proud TANDANYA sank at her moorings, whilst out of commission. World War II resulted in the destruction or disappearance of the entire Methodist fleet in the Solomons. Except for the loss of a barge in 1948, the MANDALAY is the first total loss suffered by the Methodists in sixty-two years of Solomon Islands seafaring.

Her loss will, of course, impose an extra strain on the depleted mission fleet. Steps are being taken towards the replacement of the MANDALAY. Our other ships are the OZAMA TWOMEY (gift of the Lepers' Trust Board), CICELY II, VENTURA, and two launches, the VECTA and the MUNDA

Let us offer thanks that we were spared loss of life in this New Year disaster.

THE WORD OF THE LORD COMES . . . to the Solomon Islands Methodist District

THE DISTRICT CHAIRMAN WRITES

In this sixty-first year of our Solomon Islands Church, the word of the Lord has been coming to us, sounding a strong bracing note of challenge. He is calling us to a deeper commitment and a more adventurous discipleship. He challenges us to depend on Him alone, and then in His might to do great works.

Overseas staff problems have been considerable. Illness took from us both the Revs. Sakeo Raturoba from Fiji and Peter S. Barker from New Zealand, both promising young men at the very beginning of their service—a deep disappointment to them and to us. Dr. G. E. Hoult withdrew on health grounds at the end of 1962. After Synod, 1963, two of our senior ministers, the Revs. D. I. A. McDonald and G. A. R. Cornwell, returned to New Zealand. We are very grateful to God for the loyal and effective service they have rendered during their years of service and we shall miss them. Notification has been received of other impending resignations, which must be taken into account in the future planning of the church. We have been greatly encouraged by the help of a number of people working on a short term unpaid basis—Order of St. Stephen candidates, young people under Voluntary Service Overseas from Britain. While this is a means of blessing to us, and their technical skills are considerable, they cannot give very much to the on-going life of the local church and indeed they depend upon it rather heavily.

. . . DESPITE DISSENSION

In the north, at Buka, a group called the "Hahalis Welfare Society" has broken with the Roman Catho-

lic Church in favour of a pagan cult which has attracted to itself some hundreds of Methodists also. This movement has a strong political bias. Under the stimulus of the violent disapproval of the community at large, it has flaunted its excesses with pride. While in due course it will doubtless settle down and purge its "lunatic fringe" it has permanently affected the life of the church, breaking up congregations and families and causing much sadness. There have been other disappointments and causes of sorrow but none so drastic as this.

. . . IN THE MIDST OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Congregations are feeling their responsibility and beginning to live up to their calling in a new way. At Honiara during the absence of the minister, the life of the church was strengthened because the laity had to take over and carry on. A handful of lay leaders—European, Fijian and Solomon Island—stimulated the whole Christian community. On the north coast of Buka, the faithful who are left in the Methodist Church, are learning again the need for each one of them to be ever alert. Like Nehemiah's builders they have to go about their daily tasks with the "sword of the spirit" ever to hand.

In Teop Circuit a young Solomon Islands probationer, deprived by illness of two New Zealand superintendents within two years, has proved his calling by his works, and we were glad to ordain him at Synod, a man on whom God had already put His seal. In Gizo, where the lamp has flickered very low in recent years, the patriarchal figure of one of our older ministers has trimmed the wick and brought new light and life in the congregation.

. . . THROUGH NEW MINISTERS

To a church with an indigenous ministry of five ordained men and one probationer, plus five men in College, the fruit of sixty years, it was indeed "showers of blessing" to be able to accept at Synod, eight promising men in whom the marks of God's grace could be seen. Two older men go on to probation, three to Rarongo Theological College and another three are first to do a year of special preparation. It was doubly heartening to be assured that all circuits have further men who are offering as candidates. The need of the church is the calling of God, and His voice is not going unheeded.

In our society, money is already becoming, for far too many, the "measure of all things". So it is good to be able to report not only that men are willing to give up higher pay prospects and enter the ministry, but that some are also prepared to work without pay for Christ's sake. During Synod the Rev. John Taufa of Tonga was received into the Order of St. Stephen, the first Pacific Islander to enter the Order. A Solomon Islander is now serving his year to qualify, and three more young men, all from the Roviana Circuit, were accepted for service. The dedication of these young people rejoices the heart.



Honiara Christian Endeavour

. . . THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

But the challenge is also coming to us in other ways. In a time of rising prices, and high living standards, we are being called to a fresh dedication of our material resources. Monthly and in some cases weekly collections are replacing the older custom of an annual offering. Through these means, improvement in giving is already beginning to take place. Council taxes are rising, and school fees, imposed largely by the British Solomon Islands Government, are to become the rule in 1964. These, and the desire for better clothing, the need for school lunches (now that we are to have afternoon school) and the general desire for a more varied diet, all make demands on our people's pockets. Yet we believe that they are not unmindful of the prior claims of their Lord.

. . . THROUGH NEW MISSIONARY OPENINGS

In the Highlands of New Guinea, the time of the harvest has come and there is a great ingathering of souls taking place. The Solomons Church must respond to this chal-

lenge and while it already has the largest single contingent of missionaries at work there, it must do better even yet. For surely this is the chance to give to others what God has so freely given to us. But our missionary task is not only in distant places. There is need for a new approach to the rather neglected communities of Aola and its hinterland. Here, where we work alongside other churches, we shall do our best for the people who claim us as their spiritual kinsfolk. **To the five hundred or so Gilbertese who are already with us another thousand are shortly to be added. About three-fifths of them are Protestant.** Both the older residents and the newer ones are going to be scattered in several communities and the challenge to provide pastoral care for them and to help them to grow into the life of our church is one to which we must respond. We are very glad to welcome one of their ordained men and were heartened to learn from him that his two sons who are following from the Gilberts in January are both desirous of being trained with the ministry in view. Language is our biggest barrier and yet one which we must not allow to prevent us doing the plain task to which we are called.

. . . THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

The work of our Methodist Women's Fellowship has been strengthened again during this year by visiting instructors under Government or South Pacific Commission auspices. The missionary spirit that characterises most of these groups shows itself in the enthusiasm with which they are reaching out to other women. In some areas quite significant sums are raised for the British



**Sister Beverley Withers,
recently dedicated as overseas
nursing sister.**

and Foreign Bible Society. The demand for a district wide organisation is perhaps premature, but it is significant of the desire of the women to be strengthened for their tasks.

. . . THROUGH YOUTH

Boys' Brigade has again dominated our youth work. After fifteen months of good service, Mr. Dickey left us during the year. We also welcomed back Mr. Gordon Siama of Choiseul. He has already made a good start as training organiser in a most acceptable fashion. With the number of companies constantly growing it is clear that a further full time organiser will be essential before very long. This will enable one man to operate in each territory. Girls' Life Brigade has made no important advance during the year, but the plans for a training organiser to train local leaders raises hopes of more growth in the future.

Christian Endeavour has proved helpful in some areas and others are seeking to begin this work. Basic material has been extended by the publication of one book of Sunday School lessons and a second book of Bible Class lessons during the year in conjunction with New Guinea District. Sisters Thelma Duthie and Lucy Money have been responsible respectively for these two books. Miss Brenda Frankham of the New Guinea District has a further Sunday School book in the press now. Now that Pacific-wide attention is being given to our need of material we shall have to turn to the task of improved training of Sunday School teachers and Bible Class leaders.

During January, 1963, two groups of young people from New Zealand worked within our District—one group at Sege in the Marovo and one at Tonu in Siwai. These young folk and the Solomon Islanders who worked alongside them, giving themselves without stint, not only did some very welcome building, but also made a deep spiritual impact on the District. The first fruits of that are already

being seen and will not pass away for many years.

As the local church struggles to meet the need of the hour its greatest need of outside help is in the field of administration and training. There is need for more relief for the ministers from the burden of administrative work; and there is a very great need for teachers who at this critical time can give the training that is needed. Our educational work is caught on a plateau from which it seems unable to lift itself without trained help from outside. Yet without better trained people are in a few years going to be deprived of teachers, of suitable candidates for the ministry and trained people for every branch of our church life.

The Solomon Islands Methodist Church goes forward at the command of its Lord. He is calling its people to greater dedication and to greater dependence upon Him that they might do more for other people. To Him be the honour and glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

GEORGE G. CARTER,
Chairman.

Methodist Teachers' College

A combined Methodist Teachers' College has definite advantages. There is the obvious one of pooling our resources. There is a further advantage to the students themselves in mixing in this way with students from poorer districts. Different customs and methods are noticeable at first, but they have made an effort to understand one another and inter-district friendships have been formed. Their outlook has been

widened as they have learnt from one another. Some of the students have even discussed the possibility of teaching in other districts.

Our present numbers are:—

	Men	Women	Total
New Guinea	13	1	14
Papua	4	2	6
Solomon Islands	10	1	11
	—	—	—
Total	27	4	31

—R. T. Crabb, Namatanai.

From the Reports of Our Workers

SOLOMON ISLANDS DISTRICT

GOLDIE COLLEGE

The last twelve months have been most happy ones at Goldie College. For this we give grateful thanks to our Heavenly Father who surrounds us with countless blessings. The "family spirit" in all college activities has been a feature of our life together on Banga. It has been quite remarkable to see how students of different areas have accepted each other and formed close friendships across barriers of language and custom. Discipline problems have been almost non-existent. The students have been both helpful and obedient, without the necessity of strict rules or punishments. This, I believe, provides a good preparation for future positions of leadership and responsibility. Much of the governing and discipline of the College has been in the hands of a student council, an elected body of eight. During the year they have made some excellent suggestions, and maintained their position of leadership well.

—James F. Cropp, Goldie College, Munda.

TEACHERS CONFER

In May all the teaching sisters and representatives of the indigenous teachers were able to meet at Kihili for an Educational Conference. This was very worth-while both in the furthering of the work of education and in the fellowship that we could share with one another. We owe much of its worthwhileness to Sister Thelma Duthie who had visited many schools in both areas and was thus able to give a comprehensive report. —Myra Fraser, Roviana.



Sister Myra Fraser.

HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Early in the year the hospital staff painted the interior of the hospital and this has been a great improvement as far as appearance and hygiene are concerned. At present a beautifying campaign is being carried out in the grounds as well. Our Assistant Medical Officer is keen to make the hospital as attractive and efficient as possible, too. Improvement in the standard of nurse trainees has also made it possible to give more advanced antenatal and maternity care. Some of the cases during the year have added interest to the work of the nurses. A man whose leg was almost eaten through by a shark and had to be amputated gave us publicity. This man made a quick and satisfactory recovery. A boy who had been with us suffering from osteomyelitis for two years and several times at the point of death has recently been discharged. This boy even assisted with the painting of lower parts of the hospital walls. Other cases, less

dramatic but which would have died without treatment, have all given encouragement.

—Gladys F. Larkin, Helena Goldie Hospital, Munda.



Goldie College Bamboo Band.

THANKS TO MY COLLEAGUES

At the end of the year again I say "thank you" for all you co-workers at Vella Lavella Circuit because we learn more to do good for the Kingdom of God and also we learn to love more and grow in His grace and we hope our works will be bearing some more fruits in the hearts of the people in future. The Methodist Women's Fellowship is doing good in sewing class and some native works and they are meeting every week to have their sewing class and Lotu and play and discuss some matters of their work to be strong. They did very well at the "World Day of Prayer" in giving £26 for Translation Fund. Thank you all for the works we have done. God will bless us and strengthen us in His work.

—Daniel Palavi, Bilua.

SIGNS OF VITALITY

Our quarterly meeting was happy to recommend two candidates for the ministry and have the possibility of

three more coming forward in the next few years. I feel that the people are becoming aware of the need for a trained ministry. The limited success we have had with our youth work and the camps held from Easter to Easter is bearing fruit. It has given us joy to see that number of promising young people, who were students a few years ago, taking a lively interest and share in the work of the Church. The number of Christian Endeavour societies has been increasing and many of the older people, who wondered what type of Lotu this was, are now coming along and beginning to share in its fellowship. Some new groups started during the quarter and others are to begin in the following quarter. Almost five hundred young people and their leaders gathered together in five Easter Camps and we received good reports of the Sunday School and Bible Class in many other villages. The Boys' Brigade work is holding its own, and it was stimulated and helped by a short visit in April by Gordon Siama.

—D. I. Alister McDonald,
Sasamungga.

LEARNING OF GOD

"For the beauty of the earth . . ." The words of this hymn are often on my lips as I walk to school in the early morning, for Sasamungga-by-the-sea is a beautiful place. More than two hundred children, little and big, come along this road to school in the morning and I pray that they too may learn to read God everywhere and hear Him speaking to them through all things. It was very heartening to be able to send off four lovely Choiseul boys to our new combined Teacher Training College at Namatanai, New Ireland, at the beginning of

this year. Other students who left school at the end of last year went to continue their studies at High School, or to work for the Mission at Munda, or to serve their apprenticeship in Government positions. Pray for these young people that they may keep the "single eye" and become full of light as they seek to serve and please God and Him only.

—**Beryl M. Grice, Sasamungga.**

VACATION SUPPLY

The visit for three months by the Rarongo theological student, Benjona Lenturent, was very much appreciated by the people. He brought in a new vision of what an Islands minister should be like and he gave them some ideas of the church outside, especially the New Guinea District. He spent most of his time travelling, visiting most villages. Over the Easter season special efforts were made. Preachers were sent around two by two to take morning and evening services in the villages and people gathered in areas of several villages to follow



New Landrover in Buin Circuit, with driver Tuma.

the Easter study translated by Sister Pamela and Stephen Iroro. During the year there have been several services when groups of adults have

come forward for baptism. Most have been attending Lotu all their lives and these services are an indication of the improved pastoral work being carried out. This is possible because the minister and his family are now living at Tonu. Tonu perhaps more than any other head station is placed in the midst of the people and within two or three hours it is possible to reach two thirds of the people if a need should arise in any village. When I am at Tonu there are very few days when less than two or three people come to talk over something with me.

—**P. F. Taylor, Tonu.**

PLANTATION DEVELOPMENT

It was announced during the last Synod at Buka that the plantation may not continue further to put in more trees, and it must take care of what it has planted, and that was done so during the year. Instead of putting in some more new trees as to be known as plantation development, the plantation faced some very important work as they are known to be plantation development also, such as draining, preparation of nursery, replanting of coconut and cocoa, planting of shade, removing of bush trees and thinning of palms.

—**Ovini Baleidaveta, Kihili.**

LITERATURE

Stephen Iroro and I are working steadily on the translation of the New Testament into the language of the Siwai people. We have just completed the Gospel of Matthew. I hope we will be able to revise the other three gospels before the end of the year. We have previously done Acts, Romans, Philippians, and the letters of John and James, but there is still much to do. Pressure

of school and girls' work allows for only Monday and Wednesday afternoons for translation.

—**Pamela V. Beaumont, Tonu.**

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

In October we welcomed our Roman Catholic friends to Women's Day Competitions, Girls' Life Brigade display and Sale of Work. Over £60 was collected towards missionary work in the New Guinea Highlands. Christmas came alive with awe and reverence when Kekesu folk gave their Nativity tableaux. Easter was celebrated with Family Camp. Bible study was an inspiration for young and old. During May holidays teaching sisters enjoyed fellowship, meeting at Kihili to discuss our common educational problems.

—**Kathleen L. Shaw, Kekesu.**

CHURCH OFFERINGS

This year we started with the idea that we would introduce more than ever the weekly and monthly giving. We started with the idea that each village would set a target per member or adherent within the village. Various sections of the circuit were put on various rates according to the means whereby the catechists and leaders and the people thought fit. Many villages have maintained this good spirit of giving. It was unfortunate that in some villages it was interpreted as a levy, but in the villages where giving has been regular and on the basis that it was to assist entirely with their own church work, the response has been exceedingly good. There have been some places which have disappointed us. Throughout the year we have found that not only have we met our target, but in some parts the target has been slightly exceeded. Over all, the giving, which we

thought may have dropped considerably during the activities of the Hahalis Welfare Society and much heavier taxation by the Local Government Councils, has increased. We believe that this idea of regular giving has become part of circuit life now in the Buka Circuit. Our giving has been on a budget basis so that a certain percentage of our giving was to go to the various portions of our work. So it is we find that our Highlands Offering, our Scholarship Funds and various other special offerings that we have had these also have received an increase along with the usual circuit giving.

—**Gordon A. R. Cornwell, Skotolan.**

MATCHED WITH THE HOUR

O Breath of Life come sweeping through us,
Revive Thy Church with life and power,

O Breath of Life, come, cleanse, renew us

And fit Thy Church to meet this hour.

Truly we would sing this verse anew, here at Buka as the Hahalis Welfare movement, a cargo cult which is rising stronger on the north and east coasts, takes into its grip many members. The children are being taken away from the schools, the church Lotus and meetings are held together by a few faithful ones. Many young people are being left with hard decisions. Will they follow their parents into the welfare movement, or follow the Church and Christ's way and in doing so lose all their land, which is all their wealth? The teachers and catechists of these areas are having a difficult time, and we would pray that they might "fit His Church to meet this hour".

—**Janice Palmer, Skotolan.**

TEACHERS

Progress surges on, both in the Territory of New Guinea and the British Solomon Islands. Both governments frankly depend on and therefore subsidize the educational work of the Christian missions. Our Church in the Solomon Islands believes that part of our Gospel ministry is to lift the standards of our schools for the growing company of young people. More than half the population in our area is under 18 years of age. Two young teachers have gone from New Zealand to share in this work; Sister Lyn Sadler, B. A., now at Goldie College, Munda, and Mr. Keith Woodley (Order of St. Stephen) working at Tonu, Bougainville, within the Territory of New Guinea. Some help comes from British and Australian schemes for voluntary service overseas.

Next year, several young Methodist islanders at present on government scholarships at Training College in this country will be returning to serve their own people.

But this year, next year and for some years to come, there are openings for Methodist teachers, trained for primary service, and with 3 years' experience following certification.

Sacrifice is involved but state superannuation rights can be protected.

Enquire of—

The General Secretary,
Methodist Overseas Missions Department,
P.O. Box 5023,
Auckland, C.I.

CARPENTERS

One of the great needs for workers overseas is for Carpenters. Two years ago we could foresee few further building projects overseas. But the help of the Mission to Lepers in the New Guinea Highlands has meant an expanded programme there. Mr. Noel Jackson of Auckland Central Circuit goes this month under the Order of St. Stephen to help Mr. Gordon Dey. Mr. Ken Skinner of Avondale Circuit returned recently to the building work of the New Guinea District.

In the Solomon Islands, building of new designated schools has suddenly expanded the programme. Gifts from the Lepers' Trust Board mean a new hospital for Sasamungga (Choiseul) and a nurses' training school at Munda. Who will build these?

There is need for 2 further qualified carpenters, preferably on three year terms.

OTHER NEEDS

An ELECTRICIAN is needed (possibly under the Order of St. Stephen) to renew and extend electrical wiring in our Solomon Islands District properties.

MATRON: An offer would be welcomed from a person suitable for appointment as Matron of the District Girls' School, Kihili, Bougainville. Some nursing experience an advantage.

Enquire of—

The General Secretary,
Methodist Overseas Missions Department,
P.O. Box 5023,
Auckland, C.I.

Members Multiply in the Highlands

Again we find much to be thankful for. Frequently the way ahead has not seemed very clear. More and more we are having to rely on His grace and the help of His Holy Spirit. With joy we report, however, that we are finding our God faithful and sufficient for every need. As we look back we can also see now a definite pattern emerging in respect to our work, and we are satisfied that we are moving forward on right lines.

THE CHURCH GROWS

At Synod three years ago we requested the Boards to give consideration to the usage in this District of the term "Methodist Church" in preference to "Methodist Overseas Missions". No doubt some felt at the time that the request was premature. We had only a few months before recorded the first decisions at Tari and Mendi. It was almost another year before any of these converts were baptised into the Full Communion of the Church. It was indeed an act of faith, but time has shown that the step was justified. We gladly report that the Church has taken strong root and that it is growing at a tremendous pace. As the statistics show, the membership of the Church has more than quadrupled in the last year. At 1962 Synod the number of Highlands Church members was reported at 287. Today that figure has reached 1,063, and there are 1,370 other people in training. Even the new areas of Magarima and Nipa are reporting spiritual awakenings. Often we wonder how we will keep abreast of this growth.

Our main emphasis has been on establishing the Church, although it needs to be pointed out also that in making it so, we have not neglected the need for Mission. We

firmly believe that the two emphases are necessary, but that the second must arise out of the life of the former as the Spirit moves, if its results are to become permanently established.

Because of our desire to see the Church firmly established we have given considerable attention to matters of Faith and Order over the last year, especially that of Church membership, and have sought assistance and advice from Australia and New Zealand. We realise that every decision we make regarding these issues is important, and an attempt is being made to relate their study to our people's culture and social structure. We are hoping that during the coming year we will be able to draw on our Highlands Church leaders for help in our discussions.

TRAINING FOR SERVICE

Every effort is also being made to challenge and encourage local responsibility for and leadership in the Mission of the Church. An important part of this work has been the commencement of Bible Training Schools for illiterates in both the Mendi and Tari Circuits. These are functioning well, far beyond our first expectations, and are supplying the Church with large numbers of workers. We have 23 fully



**Miss Marjory Conn,
Australian teacher to be supported
at Nipa from New Zealand funds.**

accredited Highland Local Preachers and another 111 on trial. Forty-four of these are being employed as Pastors and Evangelists, and are fulfilling a very valuable ministry. We hope that they will continue to do so for many years, at least until there are a sufficient number of literate graduates coming forward from the Pastor Training College. This latter is already off to a good start, the four students having completed the first six months of their course satisfactorily.

With the help of the graduates and students from the Bible Training Schools, we have been able to conduct missions in many places during the year. These in turn have proved their value, resulting in large numbers of people coming forward and indicating their desire to join the Church. So our Highlands Church is rapidly moving out under the direction of the Holy Spirit with the local people actually taking much of the initiative.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Another pleasing aspect is the desire of the Church to make every effort to support her own workers. Quarterly, and in some areas even weekly offerings of sweet potato and money have been introduced and are now fairly widespread. Already the people's gifts are being used to offset a considerable proportion of our estimate for Evangelism.

Highlands Church members are playing an increasing and valued role at Local Preachers', Leaders' and Quarterly Meetings. At Mendi and Tari they already well outnumber the Missionary and Coastal Workers. At this Synod there are four Highlands representatives present.

More urgent thought, however, is required in the matter of Education and Economic Assistance. Progress towards an Educated Ministry will be determined very largely by our emphasis on education over the next few years. If we cannot draw upon further assistance from the Boards and other Districts in this field, it will take many more years to achieve our goal. Also the economic advancement of our people continues to perplex us. At present it is almost entirely dependent on purchases of fresh food and vegetables from them by comparatively small communities of Government and Mission personnel, and on pay received from work on roads and airstrip construction and maintenance. The economic future of these many thousands does not look at all bright. If ever we are to achieve anything like complete self-support, a very great deal more attention will have to be given to this whole problem.

"Rise up, O men of God!

The Church for you doth wait."

—Clifford J. Keightley, Nipa.

Reports from New Guinea Highlands Workers

MORE ARE NEEDED

The frequency of baptism services is increasing and further increase seems likely indefinitely as hundreds of people all over the circuit meet each week with pastors or Bible School men to learn all they can of the Christian faith. Not a week goes by without new people adding their names to the rolls of those enquiring about the faith. There have been an average of 100 such enquirers per month this year. Keeping pace with this growth, is the growth both in size and numbers of worshipping communities. Many of our stations and preaching places are reporting full or overflow services as the normal event. Since the early days of indifference and even opposition, the numbers of people asking us to go to them has almost reached flood proportions. With something like 60 churches and preaching places in the circuit, it is virtually impossible for the Superintendent to visit each congregation more than once a year on a Sunday, and as the 20th century advances on these people it is becoming difficult in some areas to have satisfactory gatherings on any other day.

—John D. Rees, Mendi.

NEW MEASURES AT MENDI

Seven Government Primary "T" schools are now operating in the Mendi Valley. At each one our pastor, with the barest of equipment, is trying to meet the need for providing religious instruction. The contacts in the schools have resulted in great increases in the Sunday School attendances at the

neighbouring churches. The pastors are greatly looking forward to the added assistance that Miss Higman will be able to give them. Weekly services in English have been commenced at the Government station. The conducting of these services is shared with the Rev. Doug. McCraw, an Anglican priest, flying for M.A.F. The response from Government European personnel has been encouraging far beyond our expectations, with congregations of 30 to 40 people.

—John D. Rees, Mendi.

NEW CROPS IN THE HIGHLANDS

When compared with previous reports, the plot of approximately 1 acre of coffee at Mendi seems to be improving with age. Having had no previous experience with this crop, I have had to learn as I went along, but that which has been picked, although not large in quantities, appears to be of good quality. Enquiries have been made about the sale of the crop and it is hoped that the first disposal will be made early in the new financial year. The few tea trees appear to be maturing well and as soon as I learn the process involved in curing the leaf, will probably supply some of the staff requirements of tea. Although all the indications are against success with citrus in the area, the lemons are thriving and bearing large quantities of good quality fruit which are being disposed of locally. Pineapples seem to be ideally suited to the district. Large quantities of fruit are produced almost all the year round. Unfortunately, at present, the fruit is of



First Church and Office at Mendi.

small size as a result of the prolific suckering by the plants. There is also much local demand for this fruit. The quantity of bananas that is at present being harvested is rather disappointing. I feel that this is largely due to poor management, but some experimental work will have to be carried out before it is known what good management in this area involves. Much more attention will have to be given to sugar cane in the future. It is very highly regarded by the Highlanders as a food and should be an important source of energy for the people as they become involved in more strenuous work. It appears to be growing quite satisfactorily here at Mendi, but yields could perhaps be considerably increased by selecting the most suitable varieties and adopting better management practices. Surplus fruit is being sold at the Government Station each week resulting in a steady income which could increase considerably in the future.

—R. F. Coleman, Mendi.

NIPA BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

Our Church services continue to be affected by the holding of local ceremonies and dances on Sundays.

Gradually, however, we are persuading more and more people that it is better to hold them on another day in the week. As a result, more groups in recent months have decided to do this. As more and more people make a decision to follow

Christ, further improvement should become manifest. At present we estimate that on an average Sunday, about one thousand people are attending our services.

—Clifford J. Keightley, Nipa.

FURTHER BAPTISMS AT TARI

In the Tari area the number of churches and preaching places has increased and many new members have been baptised after receiving training. In many outstations people have been coming forward in groups and in ones and twos to enquire after the way of salvation and when baptisms have been held there have been up to sixty candidates from the one area. However, the numbers are not to be taken to mean that these have been mass movements without individual commitment. It is most obvious that sincerity and dedication and the Spirit of God have taken possession of many of these folk who have been baptised and we praise God for this.

The increase in church attendance is helped considerably by the development at Magarima in the Wage Valley area. Last year and more especially this year (since the Rev. C. J. Hutton has taken up residence at Magarima) the work has grown

and now we have a circle of churches and preaching places covering a very valuable addition to the area previously covered by the district. The Quarterly Meeting expressed concern for the work there and we sincerely trust that an appointment of a minister can be made to continue the work during the coming year.

The work of God is further evidenced in the changes in the customs and habits of the people and in their increasing willingness to take advantage of the medical help available to them through the maternal and infant welfare clinics. The number of women who are coming for pre and post natal care has also grown. School attendance has been more regular and we are sorry that many children who presented themselves for school at the beginning of the year had to be turned away because of insufficient staff to handle them.

There is much to be done. We therefore commit ourselves to God and trust Him for His guidance in the coming year with the trust that He shall accomplish His will through His church in this place.

—R. John Atkinson, Tari.

DISTRICT PASTOR TRAINING COMMENCES

Gomengi, our Senior Student, has been outstanding. He is a born leader. He came top in the examination with an average of 82 per cent. His preaching promises to be good when he gives up his "lackadaisical" manner in the pulpit. It is to be hoped that Gomengi, with all his gifts, will have opportunity to study at Rarongo Theological College. Yagari has found the work very tiring (he frequently falls asleep in lectures), but with his dogged determination he will make

progress. He is a powerful effective preacher. Bogaya's average mark was 49 per cent, but that is not indicative of his ability. Because he is slow and easily frightened, he is not the type to do well in examinations. He works conscientiously—often until very late at night. He has considerable gifts both in reverent conduct of worship and preaching. The biggest problems encountered are the ones caused by weakness in English and the other, associated with it, the difficulty of finding books simple enough in English yet written for adult minds. However, I am confident that these men will leave here well equipped for an effective Christian ministry.

—A. Graham Smith, Mendi.

LEPER WORK AT TARI

The new administration block, a gift from the Mission to Lepers (N.Z.), is making good progress. The old building is in sad disrepair. Two new ward blocks of new design incorporating wooden floors in the sleeping quarters are being built. All ward buildings are needing replacement. Two new pit toilets have been completed. We are very much needing an ablation block to include a septic tank and hot showers.

(Continued foot of Page 23.)



Sister Edith James and Tari lepers.

The Open Door

ABOUT PEOPLE

TRAGEDY AT SEGI

Our hearts were saddened to learn that a few days before Christmas the infant daughter of the Rev. Seru Beraki, Fijian missionary there, had been scalded to death. Hot fat was spilled on her. Medical help sent from Munda arrived too late to save the little girl's life.

This marked the second bereavement in 1963 suffered by the families of our Fijian workers. When the Rev. Aisake Vula went on a study course to Brisbane, his wife and family went to Kihili, where Mrs. Vula acted as nurse to the District Girls' School. Whilst staying there her own little girl sustained a fall, and later died in a convulsion.

Mr. and Mrs. Vula returned to their own appointment at Segi to be confronted with the sorrow of their friends. They spent Christmas together.

Later Mr. and Mrs. Beraki, who had been supplying at Segi, went on to their permanent appointment at Panggoe, Choiseul.

SUCCESS AT BRISBANE

With special help from the Australian and New Zealand Boards of Methodist Overseas Missions, the Rev. Aisake Vula (ten years a Fijian missionary in the Solomons) spent 1963 at the Methodist Training College at Brisbane, where he qualified in Religious Education.

ORDER OF ST. STEPHEN

Prior to Christmas, Mr. Ken Skinner returned from his building service at Rarongo Theological College, Rabaul. Misses Nancy Tiddy (Mt. Maunganui) and Judith Marshall (Christchurch) returned from

their year of teaching service at Munda. In January, Mr. Keith Woodley of Wellington Central Circuit proceeded to a year's teaching service at Tonu in Buin Circuit. This month, Mr. Noel Jackson of Auckland Central Circuit, is to go to Mendi in the New Guinea Highlands to build with Mr. Gordon Dey. Sister Kathleen Shaw is giving 1964 under the Order of St. Stephen and carrying on her normal teaching work at Kekesu.

LEPER WORK AT TARI

(Continued from Page 22.)

The latter are necessary in the giving of inunction treatments. With a large influx of patients from the Duna and Magarima areas, good garden ground has been at a premium. It has been difficult to rest ground adequately. Larger kunai and swamp areas will need to be used this coming year.

The Sunday service is well attended and with an improved worshipful atmosphere. A simple order of worship, with patient participation in prayers, chants and catechism, has been well accepted. Patients who are local preachers on trial take their share of leadership of these services. Bible study groups meet often, if not regularly. We usually cover some series, break for a few weeks, and resume with new interest. More patients have been baptised and others are attending pre-baptism classes. One pre-baptism class has been held at the centre. I feel the spiritual tone is good and the witness strong.

—Edith M. James, Tari.

TONGAN FURLOUGHS

After seventeen years of joyous and effective service in Bougainville, the Rev. John Taufu and his wife, Amalani, had a further brief furlough in Tonga, returning to Kieta Circuit in November. The Rev. Daniel Palavi of Vella Lavella Circuit left for furlough in Tonga prior to Christmas.

MISSIONARY DOCTOR

We congratulate Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Pattinson on the birth of their son—on Christmas Eve. The Pattinsons are due at Munda on March 30th.

FURLOUGHS OVER

Sister Kathleen Shaw returned via Australia to Kekesu in January. Sister Gladys Larkin went back to Helena Goldie Hospital in February.

When Sister Norma Graves of the Methodist Teachers' College, Halis, Namatanai, came home in November she intended to shorten her furlough. Eye trouble intervened, however, and the date of her return overseas is now subject to medical advice.

HIGHLANDS SYNOD

It was a thrilling moment when, at the beginning of Synod, our Chairman, the Rev. C. J. Keightley, welcomed the first four Highlands representatives. There was an early indication of the importance placed throughout Synod on our rapidly expanding Church developing according to what we believe to be sound indigenous principles. This was further seen in the election of two Highland members on Synod committees, and a third as a representative to the United Synod, and in an

expression by Highlands Church members that they must support their own workers. Complementary to these was the realisation of, and the discussion and resolutions concerning, our District's place in the newly formed United Synod of Melanesia.

NEW ENGINEER

Mr. Terence Kehely of Rotorua Circuit, has been appointed as Solomon Islands District Engineer, in succession to Mr. John Gatman, who, regrettably, withdraws on family grounds this year. Mr. and Mrs. Kehely and their infant daughter will leave for Munda some weeks before the Gatmans are due to withdraw.



Terence and Alison Kehely.

FRATERNAL WORKERS

After three years of service at Salatiga, Indonesia, Mr. and Mrs. Ian Harris were welcomed home in December. Mr. Harris is the son of the Rev. G. R. and Mrs. Harris of Grey Lynn, Auckland.

Meantime, the Rev. Lane M. Tauroa, B.A., and Mrs. Tauroa (formerly Sister Mavis Dickie) departed for Indonesia as Methodist Fraternal Workers at Bandung.

From the Editor's Mail

NEW YEAR RETREAT AT TARI

There were seven sisters present, two from Mendi, three from Nipa, and two from Tari. The Retreat was financed by the travelling sisters taking responsibility for their own fares and the Tari sisters providing accommodation. Our programme was as informal as possible but at the same time periods for study, devotions and business were allotted.

Studies were led by the Rev. John Atkinson and taken from the booklet, "Scints in Action", by the Rev. D. J. Howland. These studies on Holiness were most interesting and stimulating. To cover the set questions, each period could have been very lengthy. Discussion was free and on many points elementary while others left us with much spiritual food. Devotions led by members of the retreat were without exception moments of quiet worship bringing us close to God. A Watch-night Service shared with the station staff was appreciated for its hour of worship, thanksgiving and re-dedication.

A business session was held. It was agreed to have an annual gathering and to call it a Sisters' Retreat. Minutes of this meeting have been recorded. Social activities were shared with the station staff. A coffee chat on the first evening enabled everyone to meet. A games evening on New Year's Eve was another happy occasion of getting acquainted. Recreation from strenuous tennis on New Year's Day, mountaineering, a picnic at the river and a drive to the outstation, Gugu, to replenishing the inner man at regular meals sustained us for days of enjoyment.

The Open Door

Perhaps the most far reaching experience was just being together. Chatting with one another, meal table banter and worshipping together all helped us to grow to know and love each other.

—Edith James.

CHRISTMAS AT HELENA GOLDIE HOSPITAL

Christmas Day for us here was a very happy one. The day was busy and full but it was good to share it with all the people from so many villages. We had our Lotu at Hospital at half past seven in the morning. I was responsible for this service, so I planned a tableau to include all the nurses and dressers. The service was held outside on the grass. The Christmas tree was a great success. The main service was held at half past nine and taken by Mr. Cropp. It was lovely to see the church packed on this special day.

—Muriel M. McCormack.



Sister Muriel McCormack
in Christmas pageant at Helena
Goldie Hospital.

Facts on Finance

The full balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure for the Overseas Missions Department is published in the 1963 Minutes of Conference. Salient items are:—

Income	£
From the Connexional Budget totalled	29,125
Grant from the M.W.M.U.	4,100

Expenditure	£
Solomon Islands District	£A
(a) Support of Overseas Staff	25,480
(b) Subsidy to District Budget	4,258
	<hr/>
	29,738 = £NZ23,982
Papua New Guinea Highlands District	5,485
Home Base Expenditure	3,485

Total Capital Expenditure Overseas

(met from legacies and non-budget income) 11,521

LEGACIES, 1/9/62—31/8/63:

	£	s.	d.
R. J. Robinson	328	12	10
Walters Farm Trust	50	0	0
J. V. Fogo	337	10	0
Wm. Astley	1,724	5	1
W. J. Carman	200	0	0
M. H. Morley	727	12	2
J. Topham	1,057	11	8
J. A. Pettigrew	197	19	2
F. P. Harrison	89	17	11
M. E. Shakespeare	100	0	0
Mary Henderson	100	0	0
Annie Wright	50	0	0
E. A. Dillon	72	18	0
H. R. Masters	200	0	0
Harry Millin	255	13	3
Ellen Sophia Jones	38	13	0
J. H. Oldham	785	10	3
B. E. Bell Thorne	25	4	8
Mrs. Denton	300	0	0

£6,641 8 0

METHODIST WOMEN'S MISSION-ARY UNION

Income for Home and Overseas Missions:

	£	s.	d.
Northland	557	10	4
Auckland	2,264	12	2
Waitemata	850	13	5
Franklin	547	19	10
South Auckland	922	18	11
Thames Valley	594	0	0
Bay of Plenty	548	14	4
Taranaki	836	13	7
Wanganui	1,990	5	7
Manawatu	1,597	14	4
Hawke's Bay	847	11	10
Wairarapa	362	3	5
Wellington	1,467	17	2
Nelson/Marlborough	853	5	2
West Coast	138	12	11
North Canterbury	2,113	19	11
South Canterbury	965	3	6
Otago	1,065	14	3
Southland	923	7	0
Other Monies	63	18	10

£19,512 16 6

1962 — £17,829 16 10

Methodist Women's Fellowship



**Mrs. I. G. Baber, Dominion President,
Methodist Women's Fellowship.**

"The old order changeth, yielding
place to new,
And God fulfils Himself in many
ways
Lest one good custom should corrupt
the world."

We are all familiar with the first
line of this quotation, but few of
us bother to go further and it is
the last two lines that we find a
relevant message, as we enter into
the work of the M.W.F. How can
a good custom corrupt the world?

One way may be that having got
a good thing, we want to cling to
it.

We may not be able to let it go,
even for something better.

We refuse to see any other way;
our conscious minds say—This is
good; this is God's work; we must
keep it like this at all costs.

We become, not only deaf to the
Holy Spirit's leading, but we make
an idol of the precious work. It
happened when the Hebrew Church
made an idol of their law and so
failed to see the Messiah they were
waiting for. Whenever this happens,
a good custom begins to corrupt. It
corrupts our thoughts, because we
see only that we must fight to keep
the status quo, and fighting, we
forget the spirit of our Master. We
harbour hard thoughts about a
fellow worker.

If you have hard thoughts, if you
have fears, if you are angry and
hurt—

Will you kneel before God and
bring your fears to Him?

Will you ask yourself, "Why am
I hurt? Why am I angry?"

Will you bring before Him the
one who has hurt you, the one with
whom you are angry?

Will you ask God to forgive your
unwillingness even to try to see if
you have any share in the anger,
the fear?

Will you at the very beginning of
our M.W.F. lay your hearts open
to God and be not satisfied until
all disturbing thoughts and feelings
are put away and forgiven, so that
we can work together to live this
way of life that is the Christian way
of life?

The Objects of the M.W.F. shall
be:—

(a) To promote by worship, study
and service, the spiritual and social
life of its members so that they
may make a Christian witness in
home, church and community.

(b) To support the work of the church at home and abroad.

These objects will have particular reference to:—

(1) Evangelism—proclaiming the good news to our children and our neighbours.

(2) Home and Overseas Missions.—You know how we must support our home sisters with finance, clean used clothing, our interest in their work and our prayers, both for the sisters and our Maori women. You know the ways we show our love for the women who are serving overseas, the joy with which we give our money that the work may go on, the patience with which we clean our stamps, the letters we write, the sewing we do, the interest we show.

(3) Christian Education. — We must learn and keep on learning, to understand the Bible, to understand human relationships, to understand God's purpose and our responsibility.

(4) Social Service and Public Questions.—The field of service so big, our responsibility to public questions so great.

(5) Pastoral Care—the people around us.

(6) Stewardship—our whole response to God's bounty.

(7) Ecumenical Affairs.—Sharing other Christian views.

All these things are the concern and responsibility of the M.W.F. How can we do them if we have not love? How can we love if we harbour resentment? ". . . first be reconciled to your brother and then offer your gift".

"May the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father (who has loved us and given us unending encouragement and unfailing hope by his grace) inspire you with courage and

confidence in every good thing you say or do."

My first official duty as President of the M.W.F. was on February 3rd, when I attended the Induction Service for Sister Shirley Ungemuth, at St. Mark's, Feilding. She is to assist the Rev. L. Bycroft in circuit work there. It was a privilege and a joy to give the charge to Sister Shirley and the congregation. This is her probationary year and we will pray for her by name on Day 17.

Will you please take out your Prayer manual and on Day 30, insert two names which have been omitted from the Dominion Executive of the M.W.F. They are: Mesdames W. K. Abbott and K. Fay.

The New Fellowship. (My message to the Combined Conference October 1963, Palmerston North.)

I think of the words "Behold I make all things new," and as we believe God has led us to bring into being the New Fellowship, and as we trust Him for strength and guidance, so we thank Him for all that has gone before, to make this possible.

I think of a little band of women, who stayed about the cross of our Lord, concerned only for His suffering—

I remember that it was to a woman that our risen Lord first spoke, "Go and tell the others and Peter", and Mary, on that resurrection morning began the "fellowship of women" who have seen the risen Lord and know Him as their Saviour.

I think of another little band of women, who 60 years ago in Dunedin, had the vision that began the Methodist Women's Missionary

Union, to help and support those who had "gone to tell".

I think of those who had the insight to form the Guild Fellowship, that women might belong together in their work for Christ, in church and community.

I think of the special qualities that God has given to women—love and patience; insight and understanding; endurance and courage.

I think of the women, to whom God gave the vision of our one women's movement, as we called it at Marton. I remember a few days before at Marton, Mrs. Isobel Taylor, whom many of you remember with love and gratitude, holding my hands and saying, "My dear, I hope they **do** something. We've been talking about it for years. I am praying that something might happen". And it did!

I think of the work of the steer-

ing committee and of the combined executives since that time.

The women of the Fellowship are heirs of all this that has been done. We **are** all these things made new in Christ.

We have nothing to fear except our own unfaithfulness.

We have a great opportunity to bring new life and thought, new challenge, new responsibilities, new vigour, new interests, new duties to our women.

We are co-workers with God.

He said to Mary, "Go and tell the others and Peter, that I have overcome all things, even death."

He is saying it to you and me, "Go and tell the others . . ." The task is yours—and mine—and God's. He will not fail **us**. We dare not—we must not and by His grace, we will not fail Him.

—Florence Baber.

NEW CHURCH FOR TEOP

On Tuesday, 7th January, on the small island of Teop, off the coast of Bougainville, four hundred people gathered for the opening of their new permanent concrete block church. This church stands among coconut palms at the end of the village road. A short dedication service was held outside. The Rev. G. G. Carter officially opened the church by the removal of the palm leaf from the entrance of the church. Mr. Carter then entered the new building, followed by the senior catechist, Simon Rigamu, and the service of worship followed. "What ever a man sows that shall he also reap." After the service choirs from the different areas of the Teop Circuit sang hymns to commemorate the occasion. It was the Teop choir which made us realise that this was

their church, and Lotu, as they sang two hymns which had been written, composed, and were conducted by one of the members, Enoch Botoa. Mr. Botoa has had no previous musical training. Then there was the dedication of a new Bible for the church, presented by Joel Kaetovuhu, a Teop missionary now serving in the New Guinea Highlands. A clock was given by one of the local members, Eroni Kotosoma. Greetings were received from the Rev. Moses Mosusu, a Teop member now serving in the ministry, the President of the Local Government Council, S. Purupuru, the Methodist Church of New Zealand, and all retired ministers and sisters of Teop Circuit. At the conclusion of the service there was a feast, dancing and singing by the members, young and old.

—Esther A. Watson.

MISSIONARIES' ADDRESSES

SOLOMON ISLANDS METHODIST DISTRICT

(New Zealand, Australian, Tongan and Fijian workers)

Ministers and their wives:

- Rev. G. G. Carter, M.A. (Chairman), Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. J. F. Cropp, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. A. C. Watson, Methodist Church, Box 36, Honiara, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. D. Palavi, Methodist Church, Bilua, P.O. Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. A. N. Vula, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. I. Buadromo, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. P. F. Taylor, Methodist Church, Tonu, P.O. Buin, Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. J. Taufa, Methodist Church, Roreinang, P.O. Kieta Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. B. W. Sides, Methodist Church, Skotolan, P.O. Sohano, Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. A. H. Hall, M.A., Methodist Church, Bombay, South Auckland (Translation work).
Rev. Seru Beraki, Methodist Church, Paqoe, P.O. Gizo, British Solomon Islands.

The addresses of Solomon Islands ministers are to be found in the latest minutes of the Conference.

Missionary Doctor and his wife:

- Dr. R. W. Pattinson, Methodist Church P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.

Deaconesses:

- Sister Lucy Money, Methodist Church, Sasamuqa, P.O. Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Pamela Beaumont, Methodist Church, Tonu, P.O. Buin, Territory of New Guinea.

Teaching Sisters:

- Sister Ada Lee, Methodist Church, Kihili, P.O. Buin, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Myra Fraser, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Norma Graves, Methodist Church, Namatanai, P.O. Kavieng, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Beryl Grice, Methodist Church, Sasamuqa, P.O. Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Patricia Jacobson, Methodist Church, Kihili, P.O. Buin, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Kathleen Shaw, Methodist Church, Kekesu, Inus Free Bag, P.O. Rabaul, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Patricia Hulks, Methodist Church, Skotolan, P.O. Sohano, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Vivienne Parton, Methodist Church, Bilua, P.O. Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Lynette Sadler, B.A., Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.

Nursing Sisters:

- Sister Mary Addison, Methodist Church, Tonu, P.O. Buin, Territory of New Guinea.
*Sister Lesley Bowen, Methodist Church, Kekesu, Inus Free Bag, P.O. Rabaul, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Gladys Larkin, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Janice Palmer, Methodist Church, Skotolan, P.O. Sohano, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Muriel McCormack, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Margaret Lavelle, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Sister Esther Watson, Methodist Church, Kekesu, Inus Free Bag, P.O. Rabaul, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Beverley Withers, All Saints' College, 5 Rogers Avenue, Haberfield, N.S.W.

Administrative Assistant:

- Miss Shona Couch, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.

Missionary Laymen and their wives:

- Mr. J. S. Gatman (Engineer), Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.
Mr. B. D. Smith (Accountant), Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Is.
Mr. R. C. Fleury (Plantation Manager), Methodist Church, Bilua, P.O. Gizo, British Solomon Islands.

Mr. Ovini Baleidaveta (Agriculturalist), Kihili, P.O. Buin, Territory of New Guinea.
Mr. Wiliame Mataitoga (Teacher), Methodist Church, Munda, British Solomon Islands.

Carpenter:

Mr. D. W. Eason, Methodist Church, P.O. Munda, British Solomon Islands.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

(Australian and New Zealand workers)

Ministers and their wives:

Rev. C. J. Keightley (Chairman), Nipa Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. R. J. Atkinson, L.Th., Tari Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. J. D. Rees, B.Sc., Mendi Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. A. G. Smith, L.Th., Mendi Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.

Nursing Sisters:

Sister Edith James, Tari Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister Helen Young, Nipa Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Sister M. J. Heal, Tari Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.

Missionary Laymen and Women:

Miss M. I. Higman, District Sister, Mendi Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Miss G. R. Smith, Teacher, Mendi Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Miss Catherine C. D. Scott (Secretary), Nipa Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Mr. G. T. Dey (District Builder), Tari Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Mr. R. F. Coleman (Agriculturalist), Mendi Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.
Mr. G. B. Buckle (Teacher), Tari Free Bag, Mt. Hagen, Territory of New Guinea.

FREE WESLEYAN CHURCH OF TONGA

Miss Beryl Weston (Teacher), Queen Salote College, Nukualofa, Tonga.

METHODIST CHURCH IN FIJI

Miss M. M. Graham, Box 9, Nausori, Fiji.
Miss R. D. Griffiths, B.A., Box 57, Lautoka, Fiji.
Miss V. E. Gash, B.Sc., Box 248, Nausori, Fiji.
Mrs. J. Glanville, Box 9, Nausori, Fiji.
Miss A. I. Hames, Ballantine Memorial School, Suva, Fiji.

NEW GUINEA DISTRICT

Mr. K. G. Skinner (Carpenter), Box 90, Rabaul, Territory of New Guinea.

FRATERNAL WORKERS

Salatiga Christian University, Salatiga, mid-Java, Indonesia:

Rev. E. R. Lewis, M.Sc., B.A., and Mrs. Lewis, Salatiga Christian University, Salatiga, mid-Java, Indonesia.
Rev. L. M. Tauroa, B.A., and Mrs. Tauroa, Djl Ir H. Djuanda, 101 Bandung, Indonesia.

Alliance High School, Kikuyu, Kenya:

Mr. T. Quayle.

*On furlough in New Zealand.

METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND

OVERSEAS MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

AUCKLAND, C.I.

HEAD OFFICE: First Floor, Methodist Central Mission Building, Queen Street,

Postal Address: Box 5023, AUCKLAND, C.I.

General Secretary: Rev. S. G. Andrews, M.A.

Treasurer: Mr. G. S. Gapper, A.R.A.N.Z.

Manager of Publications: Mrs. A. Handisides

Editor "The Open Door": Rev. S. G. Andrews

Editor "The Lotu" (Children's Missionary Paper): Rev. E. C. Leadley

METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Secretary:

MRS. T. M. HENSON
Sanson, R.D. 9
Palmerston North

President:

MRS. I. G. BABER
398 Church Street
Palmerston North

Treasurer

MISS L. HENDRA
Pah Road, Epsom
c/o Methodist Church
Auckland

NEW SHIP FOR OLD

Statement Issued with the Approval of the President of the Conference.

Since the MANDALAY was lost, several have enquired whether she was insured and what plans are being made to replace her. Certainly she must be replaced. Even without this loss, there was a shortage of shipping in the Solomon Islands. A new vessel will cost far more than the depreciated value of the MANDALAY bought second-hand sixteen years ago for £3500. A comparable ship might cost £10,000.

How is this cost to be faced? Yes, we have an insurance fund. Years ago a fund was established and year by year the insurance premium for our ships was paid into it. This Boat Insurance Fund has been carefully invested by the Department against just the sort of emergency that has now arisen. The Fund stands at £30,000, but of course we can draw out for the MANDALAY only that ship's share based on the relative values. More will be available than a commercial marine insurance policy would have provided, but it will still be less than likely replacement cost. Therefore other reserve funds will also be depleted.

Already several donations have been received towards replacing the lost ship. In the meantime, these gifts are being credited to the Vessel Replacement Fund. Any such donation will of course reduce the drain on our reserves.

Believing however that at present the first financial task of our circuits and people in supporting missions is to ensure the success of the Connexional Budget, which provides most of the ordinary costs of our work, the Overseas Missions Board is diffident about opening a special appeal. We feel however that this explanation is due to the Church. Among our people there will be those able and willing to help us over and above what they normally give through the Budget to the missionary programme of the Church. Any such gift may be sent to the Treasurer, Methodist Overseas Missions Fund, Box 5023, AUCKLAND, C.1.

C. T. J. LUXTON, Chairman of the Board.

S. G. ANDREWS, General Secretary.

G. S. GAPPER, Treasurer.