

The

OPEN DOOR

*Missionary Organ
of the Methodist Church
of New Zealand*



"Come let us adore Him . . ."

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

December, 1966



*Star high
Baby low
'Twixt the two
Wise men go.*

(George McDonald)

"A Great Opportunity has opened for effective work."
1 Cor. 16:9 (N.E.B.).

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OUR COVER

We reproduce this picture of an African Christmas
by courtesy of the Anglican Board of Missions.

Fellow Workers

The growing maturity of the church overseas is reflected in this issue which is made up of selections from the reports received from the workers overseas. Not only do the European staff speak of this, but the Islands brethren add their voice. Tongans, Fijians and Solomon Islanders — they are articulate leaders of an Islands church, which is growing in awareness of its high calling in Jesus Christ. The depth of their concern is reflected especially in the report of the Rev. Matthew Beaso, a Solomon Islands minister serving in the Highlands. Mr. Beaso is the first graduate of Rarongo Theological College to serve in this District, and his contribution has been outstanding. Surely none of us can read his stirring presentation of the needs of the Highlands people and remain unmoved. We must work and pray that the workers needed may be able to be sent into the harvest field.

Though the growth in membership in the Highlands is spectacular, we must not overlook the fact that the Solomons is itself a growing church. Local leadership is now taking more and more of the responsibility, both for the local church and for connexional and missionary responsibilities. But in both the Highlands and the Solomons, as well as the other Districts of Melanesia, our "partnership in the Gospel" is still needed. God grant that we may be faithful.

APOLOGY

In the September number of the *Open Door*, there was a serious omission from the list of missionary sisters. Under 1924 the list should read:

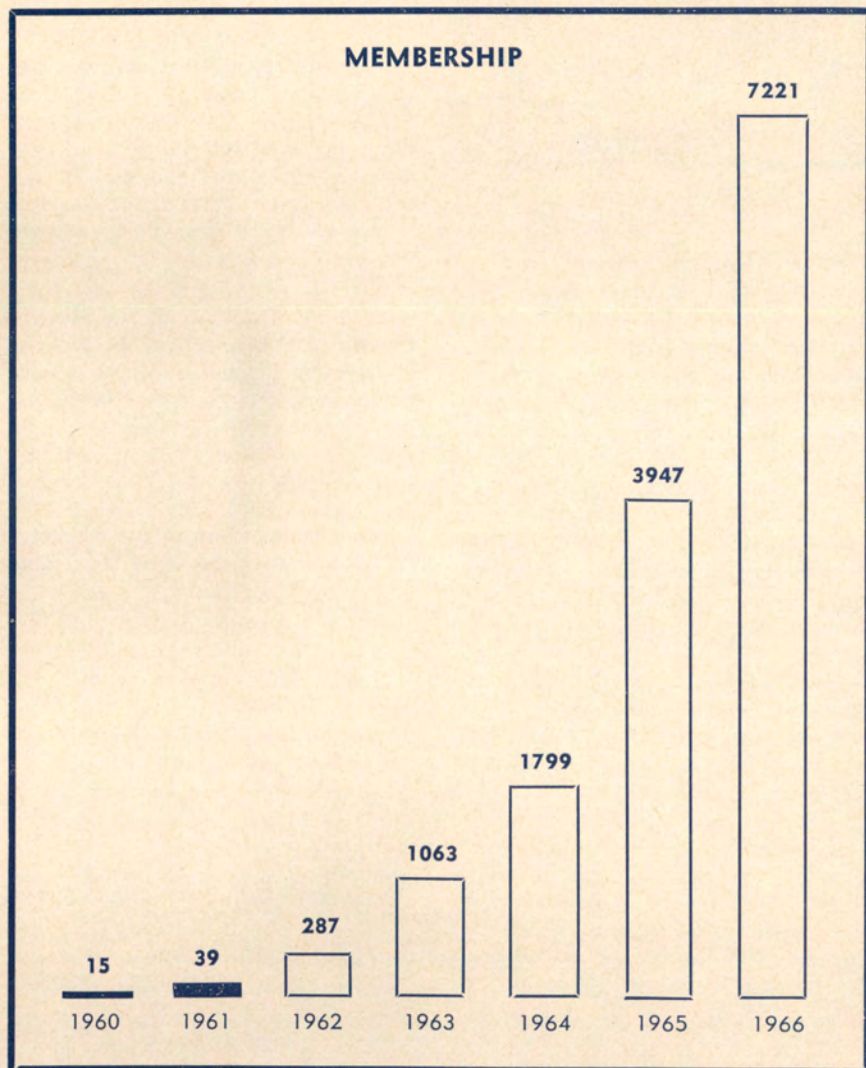
1924	Lina Jones, Addington.
1925	Jean Dalziel, Addington. Lily White, Waimate.

We do apologise for this slip in the type setting. Among those who have served in the Solomons, none have a more honoured name than Sister Lina Jones, both in the church there and in the church at home. In a very real sense Sister Lina was the mother of the educational work of the Methodist Church, as well as being "mother" to some hundreds of girls, and boys, who came under her care.

We are also glad to place on record the service of Sister Constance Olds, the first New Zealand woman to be appointed to the staff of the Solomon Islands District. Sister Constance had married the Rev. A. A. Bensley before the date of take-over by the New Zealand Church. For this reason she was not included in the list. Her service as Sister and Minister's wife totalled 15 years. — Editor.

HARVEST in the HIGHLANDS

Another year of phenomenal growth



And behind the figures, **PEOPLE**



Rev. and Mrs. M. Beaso.

From **Magarima Circuit** we hear from the **Rev. Matthew Beaso**, who is the first trained Solomon Island minister in the Highlands "God is at work in the hearts of one thousand Christians as they continue to grow in grace. We do not wonder why. It is because of the inner conviction of the Holy Spirit of God in their lives teaching them that Jesus is their Saviour. More and more men and women outside our circuit boundaries are asking for men to go to help them to become Christians; but we are unable to go beyond the boundary of the circuit. But through our first converted Christians, the gospel will not be stopped. Let us pray that the Word of God preached through the mouths of the Evangelists and Christians may reach those who are wandering outside the Christian fellowship. These do not know where to go for worship, or who is to be worshipped. The Christians are like teachers for those who are wanting to join our Methodist Church.

Surely medical help is most important for the people. The Christian women especially need help, for we

have stopped them from going to their secret places to deliver their babies. When they do not go to the hospital we know they are still practising their old primitive beliefs. So we do need a nurse!

Half of the Methodist people of the Circuit are in great need for one to teach their children. The children are growing up and they are worried about the need for future leaders for their people. For this reason it has been suggested that the time to sow is just passing without being noticed. We need a teacher.

From the Lai Circuit the **Rev. S. Fiusati**, of Tonga, echoes the progress in the other Circuits and tells us what the women are doing. "There are three women's clubs. They are learning how to weave mats and sew simple dresses. Every club meeting opens with prayer and a Bible story is given at the close of the meeting." He also stresses the need for a full-time medical worker . . .

"Linda, wife of Pastor Saulo Wenoku, is doing splendid medical work at Tukup among the people and also among Pastors' families. Also Mrs. Fiusati is doing medical treatment at Kip almost every morning. All these are handicapped by their limitations. Thus, both the people and the staff are crying out for the immediate appointment of a full-time medical worker."

Rev. Aminasi Qalo, of Fiji, the Circuit Superintendent of **Mendi**, writes:

To see some improvements in the Church gives us hope that the church



Scotter Bo and Mary who pioneered medical work in the Lai valley.

is growing into maturity. Many have responded to the Gospel and committed their lives to Jesus Christ through baptism. Many church buildings have been erected and Evangelists' houses built in some preaching places, which is a sign of keen interest in the church's activities. Evangelistic work has been going on and prayer meetings have been held in all places in the evenings during the week. Bible Classes and baptismal classes have been held each week with the help of the Pastors and Evangelists. Sunday Schools with good attendance have been going on in most places. The work of God is growing and there are so many things which point towards a challenging period in the future. Praise be to God for His inspiration and guidance within the lives of his people to keep up the work of his Church.

Even with few crops to sell for their income, we can still see how the people are trying to assist the work of God with their offerings. This gives us hope that the people have begun to realise their part in the church role . . . they are doing their best.

Miss Margaret Higman, of Australia, the Circuit assistant, has been carrying on a great work in Christian

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education, women's clubs, youth work, Bible school and translation and she tells us of the Women's World Day of Prayer service . . . This was held in the vernacular with over 120 women attending and sharing in the leadership. A second service was held in English and was attended by nearly all the Protestant women from the Government station.

Rev. A. G. Smith (Australia), principal of St. Paul's College, says . . . "it is most heartening to note that the three outgoing men have completed more work, and that at a greater depth than those on the previous course. The worst feature is still that men leaving the College have not yet reached a satisfactory standard of English.



The Church grows at Mendi.

Two men are doing further study in the Methodist Bible College in Brisbane and one is attending the Christian Education course at Malmaluan.

Rev. John Hutton (Australia) of Tari Circuit, tells of the joy as well as concern in the Tari Church.

. . . Joy that souls have been saved. The church growth has been greater this year than at any previous time and possibly than at any time in the future.

Concern however has been shown over the lack of properly trained pastors to feed the now established church; the inability to give even a minimum of proper training to our

"Christian Life Missions", all in the near future, we trust that many of these problems will be dealt with.

Further, the giving of the church has been so lifted that after paying local workers' stipends there is still a good balance which is hoped will assist in the bringing of a coastal Pastor or Pastors.

Mr. W. D. Griffiths (New Zealand), who is manager of the Tari Hansenide Centre, writes . . . During the year there was discussion with the Mission to Lepers as to the possibility of establishing a resident surgical team at the Hansenide Centre. The Mission to Lepers had decided to establish another reconstructural surgery team



Rev. John Hutton uses a tape recorder to instruct converts.

mosty illiterate Evangelists; the failure morally of some of our Evangelists in recent months and the lack of spiritual depth in many of our members. These problems could be inter-related but through special prayer, the appointment of a second minister, the proposed division of the Circuit, and the planning of a number of

for leprosy surgery in the Territory and suggested Tari as a likely base. This recommendation was taken to the Mission to Lepers Board in London who gave confirmation and permission to make preparations for the commencement of this work. There is now the responsibility placed on the mission to erect sufficient hous-

ing for the extra staff. We propose to hand over the present Sister's house for use as the Doctor's residence. Single flats for the nursing Sisters financed proportionately by the mission and the Lepers Board.

Sister V. L. Bock who is the Sister in charge of the Centre tells of the various activities undertaken by the patients and adds "We give thanks to God for the work He is doing among the patients. There are those who have during the year been baptised at a special service at the hospital. Communion services, morning devotions and weekly services are regularly held and a patient, Wagai, has been appointed as pastor to the hospital.



Sister Val Bock with two patients.

NIPA CIRCUIT

Rev. D. L. Kitchingham (New Zealand) writes . . . I arrived in this Circuit in November, 1965, but I still feel that I am just settling in and there is much yet to learn. One thing however has been quite clear: an immense and fruitful work has started in this Circuit, and one of the best

tributes to those who have pioneered is the way that the momentum has sustained itself so well in spite of inadequate supervision. This may indicate a certain compensation for the difficulties experienced in communication. Of necessity I have been unable to watch over things as much as I would be inclined thus, in some cases perhaps, unwittingly allowing greater opportunity for development of initiative and responsibility.

I should make special mention of the Solomon Islands Pastor, **John Teu** whom we farewelled at the beginning of June. He and his family had been in the Circuit from its inception. Throughout his ministry in the District John worked hard in body, mind and soul. Above all, he loved the people and came very close to them. The Circuit is much stronger for his leadership and example.

Reporting on literacy **Miss Marjorie Conn** says . . . Literacy classes for pastors and local teenage children have continued. Of the more advanced class of pastors which I have been taking, four Nipa pastors should be able to read any material we can supply them with within two or three months. Then I would like them to concentrate on learning to write the language. These four are keen to become literate for the sake of Bible material and any further training we can give them.

Mr. J. Kadwell comments on the educational work and says . . . I have found teaching conditions and requirements here very satisfactory and pleasant. I have had few disciplinary problems and the pupils seem reasonably happy with their lot. Each pupil is entirely responsible to supply his (or her) own food through their gardens.



*Huli folk ready
for baptism.*

AND THE CHAIRMAN SUMS UP

Church Growth. We have witnessed another significant increase in the numbers received into Church membership during the year. The number of 3,294 over the whole District represents an increase of close on 84% on last year's figure, and brings the total membership now to 7,221. It was in the Tari Circuit that the most notable response was experienced, but present indications there are that the peak has passed, and that the number of catechumens is falling off. On the other hand the Nipa Circuit has the greatest number of catechumens, and they can expect similar problems there to those experienced in Tari over the last three years. The staff will be required to stretch themselves still further to cope with the task. The Magarima Circuit has also experienced significant gains, and the proportion of Church members to that of population is greater there than anywhere else in the District. In contrast to that situation the Lai Circuit is experiencing the least response of all Circuits. This is undoubtedly due to the long spread out nature of the cir-

cuit, poor communications, lack of concentration, and a serious weakness in leadership throughout the valley for a number of years following the departure of the Rev. David Mone in 1961.

The Pastoral Task. In every circuit great difficulties are being experienced by all our staff as they try to measure up to the demands of a rapidly growing membership, and of a still very large number of catechumens. This task has reached such proportions that it now seems physically impossible for them to stretch themselves any further. It needs to be recognised that our people are still young in the faith and that there are still few trained spiritual leaders among them. This means that they continue to require a great deal of spiritual help and guidance from us. With the exception of a few discerning and very loyal people their spiritual perception generally is not great. The pull of old customs and beliefs remains strong, the confusion caused by the activity of a number of separate missions in the area is a continuing hindrance and embarrass-



*Rev. C. J. Keightley
talks with his people.*

ment to the work, and moral lapses are not uncommon even among the evangelists. Our people need all the patient and understanding love and care that we can lavish upon them.

The Training of Leaders. It seems that the most urgent aspect of our work at the present time is that of training leaders. We are desperately short of adequately trained Highland church leaders. The illiterate evangelists while they have and still are fulfilling a very useful function are very limited in what they can do and in what they can pass on. The day is rapidly approaching when they will have outlived their usefulness as such in many places, and when they must give way to better trained men. Indeed it is already happening. More and more attention, therefore, needs to be given to the matter of a more adequate training for our leaders. This of course is the reason for St. Paul's College. There have been eight young men in training during the last year, and of these three are about to graduate as pastors. This will bring the number of graduates in the work up to seven. We estimate, however, that our present need is for at least another 37 such trained

leaders, and we are planning to meet this need by bringing in a larger group of men this year for training than ever before. We are also beginning to look around for men with the right sense of call whom we can train for the ministry.

Handing over of Responsibility.

More and more thought and attention is being given to this matter and we are concerned to find the best way of implementing this policy. Our thought is that this should already be happening, and indeed efforts are being made in this direction. Already two of our Highlands Pastors have been granted authority to conduct the sacraments, and we are trying to give them and others more and more responsibility in the training of their own people, and in the leading of their own meetings. This whole problem received a good deal of earnest and sincere attention at Synod, and took up much of the time during the Conversation on the Work of God and on other related questions. An encouraging sign is the preparedness of the Church to accept more and more responsibility for the support of their own workers, and it is significant.

(Continued on page 13)

Some of our Friends

The end of the year has brought another batch of retirements, and some new appointments.

The Rev. & Mrs. Alec Watson reached New Zealand on the eve of the annual meeting of the Board. Mr. Watson has been appointed to the Paeroa Circuit.



Rev. and Mrs. A. Watson

Due to reach Auckland early in December are the **Rev. & Mrs. Phil Taylor**. Their two eldest children, David and Janice, preceded their parents by some months. The Taylors will be stationed at Onehunga in



*Rev. and Mrs.
Phil. Taylor*

1967. At the same time they will be replaced in Buin Circuit by the Rev. & Mrs. A. Kerry Taylor (no kin) who were appointed by Conference. The Kerry Taylors with their three children will go to All Saints College in January for five months before proceeding to Bougainville.

One of the most highly qualified people in the art of teaching English as a foreign language in the Pacific is our own **Sister Norma Graves** who comes on leave after some years at the United Synod Teachers' College. Sister Norma will be doing deputation in the new year.

Another skilled teacher is **Sister Lynn Sadler** who reached New Zealand on Guy Fawkes Day. Sister Lynn is one of the staff of Goldie College, the centre of our educational work in the Solomons. Sister Lynn will probably be doing a few weeks of deputation in March before returning to the Solomons after Easter.

At its annual meeting the Board appointed **Miss Beryl Gray**, a nurse



Sister Norma Graves

from Carterton, and **Miss Judith Milne**, a teacher at present teaching in North Otago, to the Solomon District.

Solomon Islanders on the move include **Miss Ellen Kera** who goes home to the Solomons for Christmas after sitting School Certificate; **Mr. Matthew Hapa** who returns to the Solomons after a year's teaching in the Christchurch area. We are very grateful to the Shirley Church and to the many teachers and headmasters who made this year of experience possible for Matthew.

Coming to New Zealand for training are **Mr. Lawry Wickham** of Munda to do accountancy in Auckland, **Mr. Peter Lanono** to do carpentry in Hamilton and **Mr. Simeon Jina** to do mechanical training in Christchurch.

Sister Mary Addison returned to Tonu at the beginning of December. Sister has done some very acceptable deputation in North Canterbury and Nelson districts.

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Miss Cathy Scott, who resigned from the Highlands District to be married, is at present on leave in New Zealand. Miss Scott expects that after her marriage she will be returning with her husband to the Highlands where he is a Government employee.

THE CHAIRMAN SUMS UP cont.

cant that the offerings for this purpose have almost doubled over the last 12 months. It was actually reported from the Tari Circuit that there was a balance in that circuit left over after all stipends of Highland workers had been met.

In concluding this report we acknowledge that this was another exciting and challenging year in the history of the Highlands Church, and we give thanks to God for His uplifting and strengthening grace which has seen us safely through many difficult and puzzling situations.



Sister Lynn Sadler

BIBLE IN THE SOLOMONS

This incident touched me deeply and I felt I must write.

It could be called a modern story of Mary Jones and her Bible. I never thought to be in the position of the minister in that story, only this one has no happy ending.

On Thursday a young boy of about 10 to 12 years and his father paddled here in rough seas in a small canoe for two to four hours. Why? To get an English Bible. He came to the door with his eager, smiling face, his money wrapped safely in a plastic bag and asked 'Please may I have an English Bible.' My heart sank. I knew Paul had sold the last one, but went to look to make sure. But nothing there. How I hated telling him I had none and seeing his sad face and his father's too. They left straight away to paddle home again. How sad I felt.

Something similar has happened here about a dozen times. We simply

cannot gauge the demand for Bibles, New Testaments and Hymn Books. Most times mission boats come, they bring these books from Munda, but they are always sold long before next lot arrives. Bibles R.S.V. are 12/- and 17/6; Kingsley Williams English New Testaments, 8/-; Roviana New Testaments, 12/-; Roviana Hymn Books, 5/-. On this island of Ranonga alone the people have bought £200 to £300 of books in 10 months. We are greatly indebted to the Bible Society for sending Bibles and New Testaments at prices the people can afford.

The Bible or New Testament is the only book many people own. Many boys and girls are buying Bibles or New Testaments in English.

I guess it should be a cause for rejoicing that so many want their own Bibles and New Testaments. They read them too.

— Mrs. Mavis Garside.



Rev. Allen Hall and Mr. Lazarus Pania at work on Roviana Scriptures



Rev. and Mrs. A. K. Taylor newly appointed to Buin Circuit

WOMEN'S DAY

Sister Esther Watson who is nursing sister at Kekesu in the Teop Circuit writes about the Methodist Women's Fellowship Day.

On 29th-30th July we had our Women's Day. They did not have one last year, so this one was to be a two-day affair. We were to have started on the Friday but due to heavy rain most of the women did not get in till late on Friday afternoon.







We had about 400 women, including 15 women from the Rotokas M.W.F. (who would have had to walk about 45 miles) and also 20 women from the Wakunai Women's Club (32 miles by canoe) and 15 women from the Tinputz Club too. There was a Lotu taken by the women and an offering was taken for the Women of India.

There were the usual competitions, choir, sewing, etc., also cooking their own food as well as scones, biscuits and jam. These were all cooked in their villages. There was a good display in all sections. We also had a Mannequin parade, when most of the children on the station, some school girls and women dressed up in new styles — dresses, shortie nighties and jamas, etc. They all did their parts very well without any shame. This was to teach them how to wear their clothes.




Basketball is all the craze here at the moment, and we had competitions in this as well. We had as many men at Women's Day as women. They were all eyes. Sister Mary Leo from the Catholic Mission is very interested in women's work too so she came along with the other nursing sister and also the wife of the government partol officer.

Overseas Missions Board

WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

	BUDGET	£39,000
	LEPERS' TRUST BOARD	7,000
	M.W.F.	4,100
	MEDICAL FUND INTEREST	1,500
	OTHER INTEREST	1,000
	DONATIONS, etc.	800
	TOTAL	<u>£53,400</u>

WHERE OUR MONEY GOES

	SOLOMONS	£36,860
	HIGHLANDS	11,620
	HOME BASE	5,100
	TOTAL	<u>£53,400</u>

- - *Financial Statement*

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

In addition to this the Board gets some money from legacies and this money has for many years been reserved for capital development. No capital development is provided for out of ordinary income. The amount of legacies varies greatly from year to year but perhaps it would be fair to say that it has averaged about £3,500 a year over recent years.

OVERSEAS MISSIONS EXTENSION APPEAL FUND

This was set up for extension work in connection with the United Synod and in the Districts. So far, of the target of £30,000, about £12,000 has been received. This has been spent as follows:—

Hutjena extension (Solomons)	£4,000
Methodist Teacher College (Gaulim)	£6,000

It is expected that the next grant will be for a Highlands project.

£30,000 APPEAL

TARGET: £30,000

£12,000

← SO FAR

HAS YOUR CIRCUIT MADE A CONTRIBUTION?

From the Solomons, the Chairman, Mr. LEADLEY REPORTS

When he conducted Lotu at Synod one evening, the Rev. John Taufa spoke on Ecclesiastes 10:19, "Money answers all the questions."

One might be forgiven for taking literally this statement from the ancient writer. At both the Sasamunga and Tonu sections of our Annual Synod, the emphasis fell heavily on **Money**. We were faced with an estimated deficiency for 1966 of \$11,725.

In the face of these facts of our life, we found ourselves saying again and again, "We cannot do this . . . we have no money". Or else we said, "We must do this or that to gain more money."

Yes, if we had been materialists we would have said, "Money answers all the questions."

But of course it is not so. We did, I hope, keep the balance and see the worth of the things spiritual, beyond all money and price. It was a balm to the soul to listen to the reports from the circuits, under Question 13, "What is the report on the spiritual state of our Circuits?"

Honiara Circuit spoke of confirmation classes, and an inter-church portrayal of our Lord's Passion, on the town's main street. And of the joys and sorrows of ministering to an inter-island community.

Marovo Circuit rejoiced in its ministry, its Melanesian Youth programme, and its thriving school.

Roviana Circuit had good things to report. The dedication of the first Melanesian deaconess, the Easter Camps and the dedication of young lives; the medical training and the

healing ministry; the changes in patterns of worship; the outreach to the Eto break-away groups; the great work of Goldie College, with its pastor and catechist training courses as well as the growing High School.

Simbo Circuit spoke of its Methodist Women's Fellowship, its new school, its pastoral and preaching visits, and the needs of its Boys' Brigade company.

Ranonga rejoiced in a new sacramental emphasis and a new pattern of Bible study. A joy in stewardship giving, and an ecumenical emphasis between Seventh Day Adventists and Methodists.

Vella Lavella Circuit could speak well of G.L.B. and B.B. work, of its Christian Endeavour and its Sunday School and Bible Class work; of its splendid school and its M.W.F. At the same time honestly admitting that the spiritual life fluctuated (and where does it not?). This circuit also saw a Melanesian deaconess dedicated.

The Central Circuit (Gilbertese) people acknowledged a debt to the church for spiritual and material help given since the people migrated to these islands. They asked for help with evede leaf to build a church and a teacher's house, and this was readily promised.

Choiseul Circuit spoke of distances . . . Sasamunga section — 100 miles 18 villages — 2,000 people. Of membership classes, the restoration of "back-sliders", Easter camps; Christian Endeavour; stewardship; a new

church built. It lamented the nominal membership of many folk and paid a tribute to Sister Lucy Money, who is filling a position for which we have no European minister (and when he is found, how can we pay him? Money answers **this** question.) It welcomed Dr. P. Paia as Melanesian Assistant Medical Officer. **Paqoe** section is building a new church with well organised voluntary labour and sending out lay visitation teams.

Buka Circuit has a new project at Hutjena, in the middle of the new Government area. The minister's house and church are being built and our friends of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship will build the pilot's house on the section. It spoke of work in the large High School, and outreach to the Hahalis people.

Teop Circuit confessed to passing through troubled waters, both financial and spiritual, but is taking heart under a new minister.

Kieta Circuit has new buildings and a steady ministry to the mountain villages. In Kieta town there is a fast-growing inter-racial community, with 200 Europeans and an urgent need for a church and a part-time European ministry. The growth is largely the result of a booming copper industry.

Buin Circuit reported a new church being built to mark its Golden Jubilee year 1966, and also the dedication of the first Bougainville deaconess. A stewardship emphasis was planned, and there was a sad forward look to December and the departure of its well-loved minister. **The Kihili Girls' School** grows apace, with increased numbers of girls and an enlarged curriculum. The Easter Camp produced dedications and there is the follow-up of Confirmation classes.



Rev. E. C. Leadley

This is not all.

We can add to this! At Synod we received five candidates for the ministry and received three men on probation from Rarongo College. We ordained one man to the ministry and dedicated a deaconess. We agreed to a scholarship overseas for one of our most able Melanesian ministers.

We recorded translation work completed or being done. We noted the strength of the medical work and sent the Doctor with our blessing to a Tropical Medicine course in England.

"Money answers all the questions"? Of course not. We know how much we need it. But maybe others need it more. And so we voted that £10,000 of the £30,000 Appeal should go toward urgent **pastoral** work in the Highlands of New Guinea, for the winning of people to Christ.

The Church in the Solomons can speak like this because it is certain that the real answer to all questions is, not Money, but the **Power of the Holy Spirit.**

— E. C. Leadley.

THE GROWING CHURCH

in the Solomons

Visit to the Roviana Lagoon

In this letter, I want to tell you about my work and my visiting of the people in their villages.

In the month of April I went to various villages in company with the (Melanesian) nurse to give treatments. I went with her to Hapae where I saw the women and gathered them together and we spoke happily and mainly about prayer.

After that we went to other places where some of the people have a different faith and are called Christian Fellowship Church. It is the Lotu begun by Silas Eto. When we arrived, the staff nurse said, "Who will call the people together for treatment?" and I said, "I will call them; if they refuse to come, all right, but if they come, we can treat them. God is with us and He will help us".

At each of these villages, I went ashore and was able to be friends with them, going into their houses, calling the women and leading their children. Some of the children were afraid and ran away but I was able to nurse them while they had their injections. The women, girls and men were very pleased from Saikele to Nusa Banga.

I was very glad; I knew that God was with us. Only three of these villages are Methodist — Nusa Roviana, Teqorara and Hapae. The others are C.F.C. I was very much at home at Teqorara and Nusa Roviana.

It is true that at times it was hard. But God was with us and so we

finished the tour with joy and without sorrow or trouble. Sometimes the nurse had trouble, and I helped her with the record cards.

In this way we visited eight villages. Five were C.F.C. and three were Methodist. I also visit regularly at Kindu, where there are C.F.C. people.

I want to ask you, the servants of God, to pray for me. I am young in this work and only a girl. Don't forget me. My only desire is to assist with the work of God.

That is all, and I conclude. God bless us all. Let us truly serve the Lord.

— Sister Iula Qilanoba

From Rev. Iliesa Buadromo, Simbo Circuit

In our Methodist Women's Fellowship we have over 100 members and every fortnight they have their meetings. They have Lotu which they lead themselves and then other activities to help them in their lives as women and wives in their villages.

The young people of the Methodist Youth Movement have their meeting every Friday night using the Four Square pattern — spiritual, education, health, and games. Beside this we have Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Christian Endeavour and Sunday School. All these are going very well.

Buin Circuit

The circuit rejoices in the appointment of a third minister who has enthusiastically taken over the pastoral

care of 800 people in the Ruhaku area and a congregation of 60 at Buin Town. The Buin Methodists have asked permission to build a leaf church and the government officers have granted permission for it to be built on the school block. There is a monthly offering for a permanent building and a monthly Thanksgiving Offering to the Circuit.

The Rev. Francis Bongbong has had shouldered the responsibility for the more difficult and primitive Nagovisi area. In the main mountain valley several people have been stricken with meningitis including the leading catechists. These deaths have had an adverse effect on the outlook of some of the people. They have rejected the mission aid post orderly though he could not be blamed. The Medical Officer quarantined the valley and there have been no further reports of the sickness. Boku-Pikei villages at the near end of the Mr. Bongbong's section suffer from isolation because they are neither Siwai or Nagovisi. When I travel to the Nagovisi I try to spend a night with them and each month the Landrover takes either Sister Mary or the nurse trainees for an infant welfare clinic. The Nagovisi needs special pastoral caring for the next few years.

The men have responded fairly well to giving free time to work on the Airfield and Tonu Church. They started these jobs when food was scarce last year and were given government rice and since then the store has continued to supply the meal. Father Lebel, S.M., made a special Palm Sunday request that his people come and finish the Airfield. This is indicative of the new feeling of fellowship that has grown up between the two churches over the last few years. President Tom also arranged for his councillors to support work on the strip.

The Open Door



The Builder

We have our share of financial burdens. These are accentuated as we have been the only circuit left to find the cost of running our own transport. Giving has increased though there is still room for improvement. In 1953 the Thanksgiving amounted to some £200; 1957, £700; and 1965, £1,400.

— Philip F. Taylor.

On the whole journey we had no difficulties except one little one and that is my shyness, which I am trying to overcome. This work is very hard for me, but my heart's desire is to do it. I ask you to help me with your prayers; never forget me. I am often weak, but then I remember Matt. 7:7, "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." When I remember this I am strong again.

— Roselyn Pose, Probationary Deaconess in Roviana Circuit.

Gizo Town

It is just over a year now since I came to the town of Gizo. The works of God there had been growing up when Rev. John Bitibule was there. The growing number of congregation is leading us to build a bigger church as the present hall is getting too small. Gizo is a place where our District should think about its proposed Church building. I think this church in the town where mixed races are, should be started soon this year, in order that we as a whole District showing the witness to their Lord. The people at Gizo have collected about £700, and this year they are to find some way in collecting more money towards Gizo's proposed church. Beside raising more money, there are many hands ready to help. We understand also that the mission board granted us £150 last year, and also few more hundred pounds are in the Munda office towards this Gizo church.

— Rev. Leslie Boseto.

Bible Training Class

This aspect of the work consumes most of my time, but even so I wish I could do it more adequately. It was the plan to have a Catechists Refresher Course for two months prior to Easter. This was held and seemed very worthwhile, the main disadvantage being that only one man was able to come from Bougainville for the full course, and one came half way through. This meant a total of ten and the men certainly enjoyed the experience of worshipping, studying and visiting villages together. The course covered Bible Study and Theology, but concentrated on Pastoral Work, the Sacraments and Stewardship.

The most encouraging things within the circuit are the co-operation between the Gilbertese village of Titiana and neighbouring villages, the growth of the Gizo congregation and the work of Solomon Island ministers and deaconesses.

— Rev. Jim Cropp.

Circuit Convention

Our first Circuit Convention was held at Paqoe over the New Year period. Transport difficulties made us two days late in arriving, but once there, good use was made of the time, and we felt that the Convention was a source of help and inspiration to those attending. The programme included Bible Study, sessions to learn new hymns, talks on the proposed United Church of Melanesia and on decimal currency, a watchnight service, and a Covenant service, as well as the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, and all the related business.

Throughout the year the pastoral oversight of the Circuit has been the responsibility of the two ministers, Rev. Job Rotoava at Sasamuqa, and the Rev. Seru Beraki at Paqoe. The recent appointment of Rev. Luke Pitu to Vuraqo in the Tavula district (north-east Choiseul), will make for much more effective pastoral care of our people. The pastoral work of the catechists in each section is also worthy of mention. Two new catechists were appointed last Synod, and they with another catechist attended the recent two months' catechist course at Goldie College. The catechists serve our Church in this circuit faithfully and well, and have much responsibility for the guidance and pastoral care of the four thousand-odd people in the circuit. We thank God for their Christian character and witness, as well as for the work of the pastors and teachers

throughout the circuit. We also thank God for His grace which enables us to continue to build up the Church here and to work together for the extension of His Kingdom.

— Sister Lucy Money.

We set up a finance committee to handle and approve all money matters related to Quarterly Meeting, one representative from each village and a chairman appointed from that number. Mr. George Hili was appointed chairman. This committee has met several times and its recommendations have all been accepted by Quarterly Meeting. An increase in teachers' salaries was one of its first recommendations. The minister still holds the money and does the books as the chairman who is the only member from this village is often away. I am seeking a suitable person to do this work. The minister is a member of this committee.

Stewardship — the visit of the team to Ranongga in February was well supported and created much interest. They did an excellent job and all concerned are to be congratulated. The finance committee proved particularly useful in following up their work. The committee agreed to commencing a monthly offering in every village, and indications are that many people are going to make a sincere effort with their offerings. On the recommendation of the finance committee Quarterly Meeting agreed that the first call on extra monies should be to raising teachers' salaries to the level suggested by the Stewardship teams. All untrained teachers £50 per year, plus an additional £30 if they teach school in the afternoon and therefore are unable to work gardens and copra.

— Rev. Paul Garside.

The Open Door

Translation

Since my return in January Stephen Iroro and I have translated the letters to Timothy, Titus and the Hebrews. At present we are translating Ephesians. Sera Opai has been helping with the typing of manuscripts. As well as these New Testament books we have done a Bible Society leaflet on the story of Mary Jones and this is being printed for us in Siwai by the Society.



Mr. and Mrs. Pinoko — Theological Student

I hope soon to be able to complete a phonemic statement for the Siwai language and to make further progress with the analysis of the grammar. I have not been able to complete the Kieta Gospel stories because I haven't got a helper from that area this year. Some progress has been made with hymns and the Lord's Prayer for the Nagavisi people. This was begun by Catechist John Bana, who died this year, and has been continued by his brother working with me.

— Sister Pamela Beaumont.

My work with the girls is mainly supervision out of school time. Caring



Sister Muriel McCormack

for the sick ones, and seeing that all the girls are healthy and happy. Help-in them with any problems and talking to them as the need arises. Generally speaking, just loving them and understanding them.

I teach Mothercraft and Health subjects in the school classes.

Village people come to the school for medicine and dressings, and also the workboys from the plantation.

This year I will start Infant Welfare work, as there are about seven villages near here who haven't a nurse to visit them. I felt I could go and visit each village and give the children their vaccinations. I have a bike to enable me to get around the villages.

— Sister Muriel McCormack, Kihili.

The **Rev. John Taufa** talks of the need for the Church to be present in the growing situation in Kieta where because of the discovery of copper in the area there is the problem of a growing population.

"We have many Methodists at Kieta town or around the town. Some come

from different Districts and Circuits so that we hope a minister can soon be appointed to this town to care for them."

Pastoral

Revs. George Maelagi and Moses Mosusu have done more than their share in this field. They have been ably assisted by the area catchists and most village pastors. We have made further useful contact among the welfare society people and although there doesn't appear to be much movement away from the idolatrous movement our own limited activities are accepted with a greater degree of friendliness. It appears that the society is dividing into various loyalties and the major thrust would seem to be in this quarter. I cannot agree that the movement is dying and it is to be hoped that the business of setting up the new base at Hutjena is sufficiently advanced for us to move out to a more effective contact.

— Rev. Brian Sides.

My general impression of the mission and its activities is that, whereas it has sought, and to a considerable extent achieved, the lifting of the spiritual life and the improvement of the health and educational standards of the people of the Solomon Islands, it has done little if anything to improve the economic level. This is of profound importance, particularly with the increasing number of "healthy educated" youngsters seeking work when none is available. Failure to provide employment for these people imposes a forced idleness which will invariably lead to trouble of one sort or another. This was the task which I had envisaged would be before me, and I feel that I must actively interest myself in this.

— David Crooks (Accountant)

The Open Door

Work amongst Women

These are some of the things we want to tell you. In this year 1966 we have been very happy, Sister Roselyn Pose and myself working together with Marama Pattinson. Tamasa is working with us.

This is our programme. In the mornings we work at the Sisters' house. After that we spend time in study. In the afternoons of Mondays we take the school girls to their gardens. Tuesday is study in the morning and hospital visiting in the afternoon. Wednesday we visit in the villages of Dundee and Kindu. Thursday we usually go to Mrs. Pattinson's and after that attend the Methodist Women's Fellowship.

In our visiting we help the women, the old men and pray with them. We are starting a prayer meeting with them in the villages. The school girls, Standard 5, will shortly be going to Banga (Goldie College) and we will be visiting them.

One question — could a European deaconess visit us and look at our work at some time in the future, or not? The Lord help us all.

— Sister Ula Qilanoba and Sister Roselyn Pose.

Methodist Women's Fellowship in Vella Lavella

The women's fellowship is going well in every village. They had a collection for the Bible Society and Scholarship Fund and also they will collect some money to help to pay a lady from New Zealand to come to help them in their works, they are keeping the service once a week for themselves and after service they will have games or sewing and sometimes

they go to do gardening. Vasiti and Sister Lisa often visit the villages to help the women.

— Rev. Daniel Palavi, Vella Lavella.

Home Economics Course

Take a glance at Miss Elu's carefully prepared workbook and you will see such lessons as these — How to Care for a Hand Sewing Machine — How to Make Pawpaw Jam — Bathing a Baby — Making a Broom from a Coconut Frond — etc. Doesn't it sound interesting? Wouldn't you like to come back to school? The eighteen girls who have joined Miss Edina Elu's new Home Economics Class are certainly glad to come back to school. They are the fortunate chosen from among the many girls who have to leave our schools at the end of each year because they don't qualify for the higher classes. Such girls are so sad to be told that they must finish school and so dissatisfied to just go back



Sister Pat Jacobson
who trained Edina Elu

home and "sit nothing" (as the expressive Pidgin term puts it). True, the pilot project at Sasamuqa is only a drop in the ocean of need for technical training in the Solomons and as yet no similar counterpart is provided for "native fall-out" boys, but it is a beginning. First the wheat, then the blade, then the ear and so God's work grows silently and surely. Each year I look back over the year that has passed and see how His work has grown a little more and become a little stronger. — Sister Beryl Grice.

Central meetings of M.W.F. leaders were held at Tonu in November, 1965, and December, 1965, and in February and May, 1966. The February meeting was combined with the World Day of Prayer service. The offering \$6.30

was sent to the Bible Society. Some groups have opened Savings Bank accounts. We are making mats and baskets to raise money for groups and for the M.W.F. helper. We remember the importance of the Lotu in our fellowship. We think of the motto of the World Federation of Methodist Women, "To know Christ, and to make Him known."

— Sister Sarah Tonse, Tonu.

Our general spiritual programme continues as previously. As part of our Christmas Cheer programme the girls took their Christmas play into Kangu Hospital and sang carols. We also carolled some of the local villages. Since then we have commenced taking an occasional service at Kangu Hospital. — Sister Pat Jacobson.

The Ministry of Healing

This base of our medical work at Munda has been increasingly busy with record numbers of general admissions and maternity cases. Because of the lack of care in the home, many of our patients would be looked after as out-patients in a more advanced community. Here, to gain the most rapid improvement, admission and constant supervision are necessary. However, because of lack of space, it has often been necessary to discharge some people to out-patient care before the optimal time, and, in some cases, this has caused concern. The long anticipated opening of the new Maternity Ward will release extra space for general care, and this should considerably ease the situation.

The Tea Drinkers' Memorial Maternity Ward will provide considerably improved facilities for this

important part of medical care — and should give space for increasing numbers over the coming years. The construction of a Rural Health Clinic at Baniata, Redova, by the Council, incorporating a maternity ward, may well mean that less normal confinements will be conducted at Helena Goldie Hospital, but I hope that co-operation will be such that complication cases or those "at risk" will be referred here.

Nurse Training

Nurse training has occupied nearly all the time of Sister Gladys Larkin, with extra assistance from Sister Beverley Withers, especially in Obstetrics and Infant Welfare tutoring. It was quite exciting and gratifying to learn of the success of three out of five of our final year trainees in the Government exams at the end



Sister Gladys Larkin

of last year. These are the first nurses to qualify by examination, who have been fully trained at H.G.H. Two of the three candidates passed as Midwives and the other gained the higher qualification, "Nurse/Midwife". The two who failed each missed only one subject. There are nearly 20 trainees at the moment.

Staff

The work of Melanesian Staff Nurses at H.G.H. and in village visiting has been of a promising standard, limited, I feel, by the short length of time since graduation, and with increasing experience there should be less dependence on New Zealand sisters for direct supervision. Three Solomon Island staff nurses are in charge of smaller mission hospitals and although there seems to be difficulty at times in discipline of junior staff, yet overall their work has been of a good standard.

Lack of a replacement European nurse at Buka, especially with the imminent furlough of the other two

sisters from Bougainville, makes quite a staffing problem there, and means that one of the two B.S.I.P. sisters has to be released to relieve the situation. Where is the sister in New Zealand who can come to play **her** part in the service of God in serving the Solomon Island people?

A.M.O. Patrick Paia started work with the mission in March, 1966, and will be posted to Sasamuqa in May. The work at Sasamuqa has been greatly aided by the completion of the P. J. Twomey Memorial Hospital — opened in October last, and the appointment of an A.M.O. to that base will mean a long-needed much better facilities for the people at of Choiseul.

Lepers' Trust Board

Particular expression of thanks must be given here to the continued support of the L.T.B. who provide the largest portion of the finance necessary to run this extensive work. Capital grants are enabling us to build excellent permanent buildings which should serve the work well for many years, and continuing assistance with the costs of M.V OZAMA TWOMEY and general medical expenses are enabling us to meet the growing needs of an expanding population.

— Dr. R. W. Pattinson.

This year has seen a change in staff. Sister Janice left in November and was replaced by Sister Florrie Aleve, a very capable young Solomon Island nurse. In pioneering this new (for us) venture, Sister Florrie has tackled a difficult task with skill, friendliness and good humour. Infant welfare work continues as an effective means of evangelism, and it is to be hoped that the village folk who benefit mostly will become more frequent visitors to the fortnightly clinics.

— Rev. Brian Sides

EDUCATION

Goldie College

Last year I took Standard 5 of 34 children, 20 boys and 14 girls. They came from all over the Western District. It inspired me very much to have children from different islands with different backgrounds, living and learning together in this College. For the Western District Art Competition last year several of my pupils were highly commended for their good work and one of them won a prize.

This year I am teaching Standard 6. This means that I have the same children as I had last year with the exception of two extra ones. I take a group of girls for sewing also, and for Basketball. Once a week I help them in their gardens. Also I assist Sister Lyn for looking after the girls. The two clubs that I take in this college are Craft and Music.

In our Craft Club, we have just finished several hand work and sent to to Gizo. Later they will send them to Honiara for B.S.I.P. Art and Craft Competition.

—Miss Agnes L. Jacob.

The Girls

Last year we had 36 school girls and four deaconess trainees in the girls' dormitory. This year, in the same dormitory, we have, at present, 54 girls and one girl — Peggy Eke — doing her pre-deaconess training year, but next term another 15 girls will arrive. We cannot possibly fit any more girls into the dormitory, so next year we will certainly need more sleeping quarters for the girls. Peggy has proved herself to be an excellent leader and a very reliable person who is a very great help in looking after the girls.

— Sister Lyn Sadler.

Sege

Recently the school was visited by the Education Officer, Mr. M. Birt, and he spoke very highly of the progress of the school work of the children and the teachers. He said that the best English-speaking Standard 4 in the Western Solomons is the Sege School Standard 4. For this we offer our thanks to the teachers who have done such labours to lift up the tone of Sege School to a better witness of the Lord's work in the area.

— Rev. Aisake Vula.

Bilua

We were happy to have Miss Rae-wyn Kevisi to help us too. Miss Kevisi was one of the first female students to be sent to New Zealand on a Government Scholarship. After completing High School at New Plymouth she attended Auckland Training College. Miss Kevisi has completed a very satisfactory year teaching Standard 6 bringing in new ideas and enthusiasm. This is the first time we've had qualified teachers in the Senior Classes and this has done much to lift the standard of the school.

In 1965 the Standard 7 pupils from the three B.S.I.P. circuits were at Vonunu and after much study 25 out of the 29 passed the Government examination. Some have gone on to High School but many have begun training as carpenters, engineers, policemen, clerks, medical assistants, agriculturists and other types of work.

1966 Standard 7 are now at Sasamuqa so we finish at Standard 6 but have two Standard 5 classes — 74 in all. This year sees our highest roll — 188 pupils, 110 of them being boarders. — Sister Myra Fraser.

Kihili

1966 is the first year that we have accepted girls who are to do a full Junior Technical Course of two years. They are girls who have failed Standard 6 and are not able to continue their schooling but are not yet ready to leave school. This year we had an intake of 31 and as well we have three Academic Forms.

— Sister Pat Jacobson.

classes. In some villages parents have preferred to take children away from our schools and send them to government schools. This actually helps our staffing position but it's a bit unsettling not knowing from one term to the next what approximate roll numbers are likely to be.

— Sister Pat Hulks.

Kieta

The children have a very good attitude to their school work and



Students in a craft class at Kihili District Girls' School

Village Schools

A new venture in some villages this year has been the setting up of school committees. Some of these have worked hard on school buildings and bought clocks and radios for their schools. Others have been less than helpful. We are still forced to employ people with no qualifications or training to teach some village

behaviour also is very good. Most of them are the first generation in their family to receive education. There are still quite a number of older children in the lower classes; but while there is room for them, or until some other provision is made for their education, it seems good to allow them to remain.

— Sister Rosemary Bettany.

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