

The Open Door

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

MARCH, 1942.



Rev. JOHN F. GOLDIE, who celebrates the
40th anniversary of his arrival in the Solomons
on May 23rd next.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"
ST. PAUL.

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

THE OPEN DOOR

Names and Postal Addresses of Missionaries, Missionary Sisters and Lay Missionaries.

SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION DISTRICT.

MISSIONARIES.

*Rev. J. F. GOLDIE	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. J. R. METCALFE	Choiseul, via Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
*Rev. A. H. VOYCE	Kieta, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. A. W. SILVESTER	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. D. C. ALLEY	Teop, via Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
*Rev. C. T. J. LUXTON	Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

MEDICAL MISSIONARY.

*Dr. A. G. RUTTER, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S., Edin., D.T.M. & H., Lon.	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
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MISSIONARY SISTERS.

*Sister ELIZABETH COMMON	Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
*Sister LINA JONES	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
*Sister GRACE McDONALD	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
*Sister ADA LEE	Kieta, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
*Sister EFFIE HARKNESS	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Sister MERLE FARLAND	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
*Sister JOY WHITEHOUSE	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.

NATIVE MISSIONARIES.

Rev. PAULA HAVEA	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. ERONI KOTOSOMA	Teop, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. USUIA SOTUTU	Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. BELSHAZZAR GINA	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. NATHAN KERA	Choiseul, via Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. JIONI AFU	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.

Add "Methodist Mission" to every Address.

*Temporarily in New Zealand or Australia owing to war conditions.
Address: C/o. Foreign Mission Office, Probert Chambers, Queen St., Auckland, C.I.

"THE OPEN DOOR"

Editor: Rev. A. H. SCRIVIN,
Probert Chambers,
Queen Street, Auckland.

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Probert Chambers,
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Editor: Rev. V. le C. BINET,
Methodist Parsonage, Otorohanga,

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MARCH, 1942.

The Missionary Organ of
the Methodist Church of
New Zealand.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

Partial Evacuation of our Mission Field.

There is a good deal of misunderstanding abroad regarding the circumstances under which a number of our missionaries and missionary sisters have left the Solomon Islands recently owing to the critical war situation. It has come to our ears that some people—probably only a few—have even suggested that our European workers have deserted the Native Church in the hour of its trial. A question asked in Conference carried this implication.

To the vast majority of Methodists and others conversant with their courageous and sacrificial spirit it is unnecessary to say that missionaries are not the type that run away, least of all from their native children and comrades in the Faith.

The actual position as far as our Solomon Islands District is concerned is as follows:

When the situation became somewhat critical owing to the rapid advance of the Japanese and their occupation of islands off the coast of New Guinea, the Rev. A. H. and Mrs. Voyce and Sisters Ada Lee and Joy Whitehouse were on furlough and the Australian authorities refused them permits to return. A special permit issued to Mr. Voyce, on our plea that the native people needed his help and leadership at such a critical time, was withdrawn by cable a few hours before he was due to sail.

About this time all the European women on Bougainville and Buka, including Mesdames Alley and Luxton and Sister Elizabeth Common, were compulsorily evacuated. In the British Solomons the Resident Commissioner strongly urged all white women to leave immediately. In response to this appeal our missionaries' wives and children left, but all the Sisters remained at their posts.

Just prior to this critical stage the Rev. John F. Goldie had left for a long overdue furlough and, by special request, to attend the Annual Meeting of the Mission Board and the Conference. He still hopes to be

able to return to the District after a brief holiday with Mrs. Goldie and their daughters whom he has not seen for five years.

The Mission Board was proud of the splendid spirit of the Sisters in deciding to carry on, but, as the position became still more grave, decided that they ought to leave and radioed the Resident Commissioner to exercise his influence in this direction if at all possible. It was at this stage that Dr. Rutter and the Rev. E. C. Leadley, knowing nothing of the Board's decision and without expectation of any other means of getting the Sisters and a number of other white women to safety, decided on the hazardous voyage in the "Fauro Chief," an account of which we publish in this issue.

In a later issue we hope to publish the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton's graphic statement of how he was commandeered by a Government Official to evacuate fourteen white men from Bougainville to Port Moresby—an eventful voyage of 900 miles in our nine and a half ton ketch "Bilua." He sought permission to return to his work and people but was refused and our boat was taken over by the Navy.

No definite word has reached us regarding the Rev. D. C. Alley, although it was rumoured he had reached Tulagi.

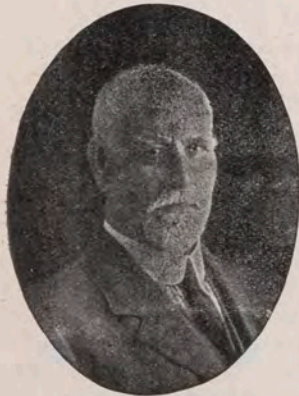
The Revs. J. R. Metcalfe and A. W. Silvester and Sister Merle Farland and the Revs. Eroni Kotosoma and Usaia Sotutu (Fijians) and Paul Havea and John Afu (Tongans) are still on the Field, and we were greatly heartened on 9th March by a cablegram from Mr. Metcalfe as follows: "Essential work maintained; all well."

In addition to the above, Gina and Kera and 278 catechists and native teachers carry on. That they and the Native Church will face this present crisis triumphantly, we are fully confident.

We commend all who are on the Field and those who, by circumstances above

(Continued on page 2.)

Mr. S. Gorman's Message to the Conference



Mr. S. Gorman.

Mr. President and Friends All,—
Once again I am requested to send a message to this great assembly. I hesitate to comply, but think it is better to try and fail rather than fail through not attempting. So please bear with me in my shortcomings.

How nobly our Methodist women have risen to the urgent needs of our Missionary Cause in the Solomons:—

"Oh, that all might catch the flame,
All partake the glorious bliss."

What a gift of God was John Wesley! He might have remained an unknown curate in some remote English village, but for that wonderful heart-warming experience and his vision of a World Parish. His rejection by his Church meant the birth of Methodism and a wonderfully renewed Britain. Ere long that World Parish included east and west; then savage Fiji, Australia and dangerous New Zealand and other savage, fever-stricken lands.

Only forty years ago, amid great danger and hardship, Methodism—our Church—secured a footing in the dark and sin cursed Solomon Islands and truly marvelous has been the glorious work accomplished there by our New Zealand Church.

For some time, Macedonia-like, the cry has gone up for another Sister to help the sorely tried missionary's wife in North Bougainville—Alas! this proposal had to be delayed owing to lack of funds. Thank God the appeal is now meeting with ready response and an appointment will be made as soon as a suitable Sister is available. We have been informed that one in fourteen die there for lack of proper care and treatment and Doctor Rutter has stated that saving souls is only half the work committed to us, and that the needs of the body must not be overlooked.

"Shall we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high;
Shall we to men benighted
The lamp of life deny"—

to the body as well as the soul. What lovely hymns we sing—on giving, and there are those who give even to the point of sacrifice. But for some of us the handwriting may be on the wall. "Mene Mene Tekel Upharsin"—"Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting." Christ has declared that the Gospel has to be preached to all nations before the end comes. So beloved let us do our very utmost to hasten on and usher in that glad day.

Let us **love, work, pray, give and believe.** Too often we are perhaps like those early Christians who prayed for Peter's deliverance, and yet thought that Rhoda was "mad" when she assured them that he was actually knocking at the door.

Let me urge again that we keep on praying and believing, that the whole of the Solomons may be transformed. Many of you heard the Doctor speak of the marvellous cures being effected, but much more can be accomplished if we will go the second mile with our gift.

I often think of John's vision of the myriads of every tribe and people and tongue sweeping through the gates. Surely there will be very many erstwhile degraded Solomon Islanders in that blood-washed throng. Lift up your heads, Oh ye gates and be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors and give entrance to these dark skinned children of God, who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

And may we be worthy to be among the number so redeemed.

Hallelujah! What a Saviour.

AMEN.

(Continued from page 1.)

related, are heart-sick through enforced separation from the work and people they love, to the constant prayers of our people. Our great Work in the Solomons more than ever needs our prayers and our practical support.

This is the Victory.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ROVIANA CIRCUIT REPORT, 1941.

By the REV. JOHN F. GOLDIE.



Mrs. J. F. Goldie, who has so nobly shared her husband's trials and triumphs in the Solomons.

our blessings, and set them against our difficulties, we are devoutly grateful to God for His grace and guidance during the year.

Spiritual Life.—There is no yard stick by which to measure spiritual life. We may apply many tests to estimate a man's goodness, but these all fail to take into the account the many hidden qualities of heart and mind that go to make up a man's spiritual experience in his relationship to God. Only God Himself can do that. When Abraham's Divine Friend said "walk before Me and be thou perfect" He knew that it would be impossible for him to walk before Sarah, or any of his fellowmen and be perfect. Only God can see the battle in the heart of His servant. He alone takes note of the many victories which have been won before the one failure which men see. Timoti Loe in a recent class meeting, told us of the time when, for his many misdeeds, he was being expelled from the Mission Station. He said, all my friends could see my frequent failures, but beside myself, God alone knew of the struggles that went on in my soul. I begged my Minister not to send me away but to thrash me instead. I told him of the war within my soul,—the old Loe, fierce and strong, fighting against the new nature. God's servant listened, and to me he was like the Saviour in his love and sympathy. He knew and understood, and he knelt with me in the quiet of his study and led me to Christ and to victory over sin. Since then my life has not been without defeats, and many things have disturbed my peace at times. I am something like the engine which I drive on the schooner—if the current connected with the battery is interrupted then the engine becomes just a dead and useless mass of iron, but when the connection is restored it becomes a thing of life and power. So He gives me the victory.

There are many Timoti Loes amongst us. In their communal life it is often difficult for them to find time and place

The year has been a very difficult one in many ways. We have had to call upon our reserves of faith and courage to enable us to keep going. The war in all parts of the world, the complete collapse of the market for all kinds of Island produce, and the unrest and upset caused by the general condition of things, have thrown our native people back to their primitive condition of years ago as far as food supplies etc. are concerned, and our fear has been that this might cause a spiritual declension on the part of some who are weak in the Faith. We have much to thank God for, and in the main our people have stood up to this test very well. One of the objectives in our Mission work has been to fit our people to meet without spiritual disaster the impact of a non-Christian civilisation. We have never disguised from them the fact that the so-called civilisation—although owing all that is really worthwhile to Christ—is not wholly Christian. The result of this teaching has been that many things which might reasonably be supposed to shock them and upset their faith, leave them standing firm. As we look back and count

for private prayer. Like the Master, they have sometimes found it necessary to "rise a great while before it is day." In the early dawn as I passed on to the wharf to reach the schooner I glanced into the copra house and saw one of our students high up on a stack of copra praying. He thought there was no one about, and so I passed quietly on. But on my return he was still there, and so I joined him in prayer. When he rose his face was shining—he had been with God—and he took my hand with perfect understanding although no word passed between us as we went our ways.

Our people are not saints. They have nearly all the defects of character that we have ourselves. If any man in this world knows the bitterness of disappointment it is the Christian Missionary. But it is also true that the joys are greater than the sorrows. There is no joy in the world like the joy of leading a soul to Christ. The joy of service, the joy of harvest, the joy of seeing the difference that Christ makes as He comes into the lives of the people. The joy of noting the gradual unfolding and development of Christian life and character, and the joy of helping a generation of once heathen people as they reach upward and outward towards mature Christian life and experience.

Throughout the District our church services and fellowship meetings are as well attended as ever, and happy and blessed times are experienced at all these gatherings. It is a healthy sign when men are seen to be hungering for God's Word, and this is evident when one watches the students and teachers in the services taking notes of the sermon, and at the close come begging for the notes of the preacher.

Medical.—Dr. Rutter was away for part of the year on furlough. He was greatly missed both by the European and Native people, and Sister Merle Farland was also away on leave. Sister Joy Whitehouse had a very strenuous time at the hospital. At Roviana Sister Grace McDonald has had a record number of patients, both male and female. The trained Native Medical Boys have also done fine service in the assistance they have rendered to their own people. Owing to war conditions

the necessary medicines have been difficult to obtain, and very costly. For this reason probably the allowance of drugs usually sent on to us by the Government Medical Department was cut down considerably.

Educational.—The school attendance during the year has increased—especially on the head station at Kokeqolo. Mr. Leadley and the Sisters have done splendid work, and that work is being appreciated more and more by the people. Young men from Kokeqolo School are in great demand to fill important positions in the Government Service and Commercial Firms. The Administration is asking us to supply two more candidates for the Central Medical School in Suva this year. We have also sent three fine lads as students to the Agricultural Training College in Rabaul. These lads will be given positions in the Government Service when they return, and we hope they will be of great service to their own people.

In most of the village schools excellent work is being done by our Native Teachers. This part of our work is improving greatly, and is laying a good foundation for more serious work amongst our future College Students who are drawn from these schools.

Women's Work.—We thank God for the fine work of our native women during the year. The visits of the Sisters to the homes of the people in the villages have been greatly appreciated. The question of the Girls' School has often been discussed by many of the leading Chiefs, who are anxious to see it established, and the girls given equal opportunities with the boys. The Reports of the Sisters and Nurses will deal in greater detail with the work amongst the women and girls.

I have again to express my appreciation and thanks for the loyal co-operation of the whole staff—European and Native—without which much of the work of the year could not have been done. One and all our workers have done faithfully and well the work the Church has given them to do, and for their service we give thanks to God, and also to the men and women who have so loyally served Christ and the Church in winning the dark Solomons for the Kingdom of God.

A Great Record.

REV. JOHN F. GOLDIE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE SOLOMONS.

To mark the truly great and unique occasion of 40 years' continuous Chairmanship of the Solomon Islands District, the recent Conference tendered to the Rev. John F. Goldie a complimentary luncheon. The President of Conference (Rev. W. Walker) presided over a happy gathering numbering about 230, and assured Mr. Goldie of the high place he holds in the esteem of the whole Church, and of the joy and privileges with which we now honoured him on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his arrival in the Solomons. The President made gracious reference to Mrs. Goldie, who had also played a noble part in the Work.

The Rev. F. Copeland (Chairman Foreign Mission Board), Mrs. C. E. Taylor (President M.W.M.U.), Mr. G. H. B. Lill (Vice-President of the Conference), Rev. A. H. Voyce (representing the Field), and the General Secretary spoke for a few minutes, each voicing from different angles wonder and appreciation of the high service rendered by this great missionary. Greetings were also read from the London Missionary Society and the Rev. W. A. Sinclair. record may lengthen to 50 years. Mr. Goldie's bow abides in strength, and his service and influence in the Solomons continue to grow.

When Mr. Goldie rose to reply, the gathering sprang to its feet and sought to express its regard and confidence in prolonged applause. Mr. Goldie said he counted this one of the proudest moments of his life as he valued greatly the love and esteem of his brethren. He carried his audience back to May 23rd, 1902, when he and the Rev. Ray Rooney and a devoted band of men and women from Tonga, Fiji and Samoa landed among the head-hunting savages of the Solomons, and then with deft and graphic touch traced the upbuilding of a Christian Church that to-day numbers 18,000 with 2 ministers and 278 catechists and teachers drawn entirely from a heathen people by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that had been preached to them. Mr. Goldie spoke also of the commencement and growth of educational and medical work which have played such a vital part in the development of this Race which counted it a great joy to be associated with the Methodist Church of New Zealand.

We left the luncheon tables and returned to the sessions of Conference greatly inspired by the fellowship of John F. Goldie, who ranks among the greatest of Pacific missionaries.

The Challenge of the War Situation.

CONFERENCE CALLS.

Recognising the grave problem confronting the Mission Board in estimating the cost of the immediate and the future needs of our Missionary Enterprise, the Conference unanimously passed the following Resolution to be attached to the Estimates for 1942 and to be made known to all our people.

RESOLVED.

"That in view of the inevitable deterioration, and possible destruction of Mission property and equipment in the Solomons as a result of the evacuation of our European missionaries, a Special Re-habilitation Fund be established and commended to the whole-hearted support of the Home Church.

In the event of any of the above estimated expenditure being saved owing to mission workers being temporarily employed in New Zealand, such amount shall be credited to the Re-habilitation Fund.

All circuits and contributors are earnestly urged to increase their support, if at all possible, to enable the Mission Board to prepare for the re-habilitation and extension of our Solomon Islands work at the earliest possible moment."

Transpacific Crossing in the "Fauro Chief."

This epic story written by Dr. A. G. Rutter tells how he and the Rev. E. C. Leadley, assisted by a trader and a planter and an old and sick man who was a ship's officer 30 years ago, evacuated Sisters Lina Jones, Grace McDonald, Vera Cannon and Effie Harkness and the wives of the trader and planter. At the time they started on their 1,100 miles voyage there seemed no other way of getting these ladies out of reach of the Japanese who had already been reported at Kieta and whose approach seemed imminent.

The decision to leave once taken, and our farewells completed—farewells that were at once heartbreaking and yet tremendously encouraging, because of the high-hearted fortitude of the native people—we set about fitting out the boat without delay. We left Kokeqolo on a Sunday morning after early Lotu, with five native boys as crew to take us through the Marovo Lagoon. The boys would gladly have come with us all the way, but this was a sacrifice we would not ask of them.

It was Tuesday morning, January 20th, when we finally weighed anchor at Batuna in the Marovo Lagoon. Eleven of us in all, six women and five men, on the 18-ton schooner "Fauro Chief." Our native crew accompanied us to the very end of the passage, and returned by a launch which we had sent out to await them there. From this point we sailed direct for the open sea; and by mid-afternoon the hill-tops of New Georgia were nought but a blue haze on the horizon—the last land we were to see for thirteen days.

The first three days took us bucking into the teeth of a stiff south-easter, with short choppy seas of the most disagreeable kind. Sea-sickness claimed several victims, though one or two were fortunately immune to the most violent tossings. By the third day, however, most of us had our sea-legs, and any remnant of mal de mer was very rudely put to flight by the emergency which then arose. Man over—or rather, woman overboard—brought us all to sudden life about five o'clock on the third afternoon. The sea was still rough and the breeze strong, and for amateurs like myself at the wheel and Mr. Leadley at the engine, to manoeuvre the ship into position to pick up the victim and her husband (who, knowing that his wife could not swim a stroke, had immediately jumped overboard to support her) was no easy task. Anxious

minutes that seemed like hours went by; the couple in the water, buffeted by the waves, were too exhausted to swim to reach the first lifebelt thrown to their assistance, and only when the last remaining man on board jumped over with a second lifebelt, were we able to effect a rescue—just in time.

Followed four days of perfect weather; calm seas, bright skies, and a breeze to fill the jibs. Sunday morning we joined in an informal service of worship, in which Methodists, a Seventh Day Adventist and a Roman Catholic found happy fellowship.



The "Fauro Chief."

Not till Tuesday, seven days out, did we realise that we were off our course. Breakers on both bows, and not half a mile away, greeted us as a rude surprise at daybreak; and all that day was spent seeking for the open sea. By nightfall we had rounded what appeared to be the end of the reef, and imagined we were safe; and disaster, when it came, took us completely by surprise. Pitch dark, with a rising wind, when suddenly, with an impact that seemed to shake the ship to pieces, we grounded on

a sunken reef; bows high and dry and stern almost under water. It seemed impossible that the ship should not have been holed—yet not a leak of any kind developed. After more than an hour of anxious manoeuvring we eased the ship off into deep water, and set about in the opposite direction, with engine dead slow and every possible watch kept. An hour later, in spite of every precaution, we were up again, this time with both bow and stern aground, and shallow water around us in every direction. The rising sea ground and jolted the boat against the rocks with every wave, and heavy rain, with thunder and lightning made the position even more uncomfortable. Search in the dinghy with the lead-line failed to reveal any water deeper than about a fathom, and at last, not daring to remain as we were, we started up the engine, and with infinite care, bumping here and grounding there, we manoeuvred the ship across the platform of reef and slipped again into deeper water. Three fathoms, three and a-half, four—and with sighs of relief we cast the anchor, and set about waiting for the morning.

Morning found us at anchor inside a wide semi-circle of reef, which sheltered us from the open sea outside. All around the horizon waves were breaking on wider circles of more distant reef, and only to the westward was there any sign of open water. Heavy rain and frequent squalls reduced the visibility almost to nothing, and it was quite evident that we could make no move at all until the weather cleared. Four days we rode at anchor here, and each night the wind blew stronger than the night before. It says much for the fellowship which had grown up between us—and we were a motly crew of differing creeds and differing interests—that not once in this time did any suggestion of friction or disharmony arise. They were happy days of happy comradeship.

On the fifth morning, the second Sunday of the trip, the gale gained even greater strength. The ship was straining at the anchor till it seemed the winch itself could hardly stand the strain. We stripped off the one remaining awning at the stern, but even as we did so we commenced to drift, and in an incredibly short time we

were in the thick of it in the open sea—dragging forty fathoms of anchor chain behind us. It was not till later, when we were able to take in the chain, that we discovered that the anchor shackle itself had parted. All morning we wrestled with the storm; and again in the afternoon, after a brief hour's respite, faced an almost equally fierce blow from the opposite direction. More than once that Sunday we had reason to wonder how much longer we could last. It was at once a trial, and a wonderful strengthening, of faith. Evening brought respite, but just before dark, creaming breakers ahead again revealed the presence of reefs from which we had been miraculously preserved throughout those hours of helplessness in the storm. We put the boat about again, and spent the night in cautious sailing to an fro, an hour alternately in each direction, until morning should bring us opportunity to seek a passage through. Once, just for a second, we touched again, but without doing any damage; and the moon arose to cheer and guide us through the last few hours before daylight.

Morning brought the end of all our troubles. Brilliant sunshine and gentle breezes gave us just the conditions we required, and passages through the reefs seemed to open up before us as we came to them. That afternoon we sighted land—a tiny island on the distant horizon; and although it was too far to reach that night it gave us confidence to anchor quite cheerfully on a shelf of reef. Another day brought us to our first landfall—Pine Island Lighthouse, sixty miles from the Australian mainland, and another saw our journey's end in harbour at Mackay in Northern Queensland. Here we exchanged hardship for comfort of the most luxurious kind. Methodist folk cared wonderfully for all our needs; and at a well attended meeting in the church we gave thanks to God for journeying mercies, and heard the story of how people there, without any knowledge of our need, had been supporting us in prayer throughout the journey, and especially on that Sunday when we had been in sorest straits. It was the crowning to an experience which has meant a deepening of faith for all of us—something which, now it is all over, we would not have missed for worlds.

Personal and General.

OURSELVES.

Owing to paper shortage and heavy increases in printing costs, we have had to reduce this issue by four pages. We trust our readers will not be as disappointed as we are, and will make a special effort to help us to still further increase the circulation of both "Open Door" and "Lotu." We are greatly encouraged that in these difficult days the circulation still grows and now stands "Open Door" 5,800 quarterly and "Lotu" 7,400.

OUR MISSIONARIES.

Reference is made on page 1 to the whereabouts of our workers still in the Solomons.

The Rev. J. F. Goldie, after visiting the main centres in New Zealand, will proceed to Australia about the end of March. He hopes to obtain a permit to return to the Solomons after a brief furlough.

The Rev. A. H. Voyce will be engaged in Deputation Work, the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton will supply the Ruawai Circuit, and Dr. A. G. Rutter has accepted an appointment at Gisborne until permission is granted for their return to the Field.

The Rev. E. C. Leadley, for family reasons, has returned to the Home Work and has been appointed to Picton.

Sisters Elizabeth Common, Lina Jones and Grace McDonald (the latter in Victoria) are resting prior to seeking temporary appointments. Sister Ada Lee has accepted a temporary position at the Rangiatea Maori Girls' School and Sister Effie Harkness hopes to do Child Welfare work until she returns, while Sister Joy Whitehouse, after some deputation work, will engage in temporary nursing work. Sister Vera Cannon has accepted a nursing appointment in Hamilton.

BIBLE SUNDAY.

Bible Sunday will be observed this year on May 3rd. More than ever our readers will be concerned for the continued spread of God's Word. There was never a time when the World needed it more.

On this day should be specially stressed the claims of the great British and Foreign Bible Society which circulates annually in 747 different languages more than 11,000,000 copies, or complete parts of the Bible.

A special feature of the Society's activities during the present war has been the issue of more than 2,000,000 Soldier Testaments, containing a special message from His Majesty the King. New Zealand's share of this issue has been over 44,000.

The Right Word for this Hour.

INSPIRING MESSAGE FROM LOWER HUTT CIRCUIT.

The heartfelt thanks of the Native Church, the missionaries still on the Field and those evacuated, and the Home Base go out to the Quarterly Meeting of the Lower Hutt Circuit for the following timely and most heartening message.

Dear Mr. Scrivin,—

At our recent Quarterly Meeting members expressed their deepest sympathy with all missionaries labouring in the Solomon Islands, in the severe trials which they are at present undergoing.

I was asked to let them know through yourself that our prayer is that in the difficult days through which they are passing they will be sustained by the grace bestowed upon them by the Lord whom they so faithfully serve. We pray

also that all native teachers and workers will be strengthened to carry on the work for which they have been trained and called, and that special grace will be given them to support their faith in the dangerous and perplexing times which will no doubt be theirs.

In conclusion we wish to assure you and all your helpers that we are deeply conscious of the difficulties which are facing you in the future, and that we will endeavour to support your efforts in every way possible during the coming year.

Yours in the Master's Service,
Hutt Methodist Circuit,
per E. HEGGIE,
Circuit Steward.

The Record of a Splendid Enterprise.

By the REV. A. H. VOYCE.



Harvesting Rice at Kihili.

Photo: Rev. A. H. Voyce.

In 1926 the first European Mission Station, on Southern Bougainville, was carved out of the forest at Tonu, in the District of Siwai. Here for 12 years the missionary had his headquarters, and from here the pioneering of the southern part of this large island was carried out. Time proved that this station, 37 miles from even a fair anchorage, was not the best spot from which to conduct the more settled activities of a large mission area.

In 1936 our Chairman was able to secure the Agricultural Lease of Kihili in Buin Bay on the extreme southern end of Bougainville. This, in the days of German colonisation, was taken up by a German planter and trader, but soon relinquished on account of its swampy nature. Later, the Military Administration, after the Australians took over the Mandate of these islands, set up their Government Station on this lease, but soon relinquished it because of its unhealthy surroundings. So it was, when we took over, the forest was virgin, the front portion swampy, the whole lease considered useless by natives and local European settlers alike.

However, after five years of intensive effort, we can report a flourishing Mission Centre, the whole of the 250 acres of the lease felled, burnt off, and planted in tropical crops, quite a number of which are

already coming in to bearing, and yielding a return. Several miles of drains have improved conditions wonderfully—and the introduction from the beginning of Gambusia, a mosquito larvae eating fish, of tiny dimensions, which live in drains or small streams—and which now are very widespread through the property—have greatly lessened the once almost unbearable mosquito pest.

Several miles of roads and paths have also improved the station. Besides, the planting of a permanent plantation of 230 acres of coconuts, and in the swampy area, of 10 acres of Sago Palms, we have endeavoured to plant up other crops likely to prove remunerative to the Mission in years to come, and beneficial to the station residents, both European and Native. To this end we have large numbers of the following trees: Cocoa, kapok, oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, pawpaws, limes, lemons, pomelos, mangoes, Madagascar plums, etc., and smaller crops of very many types of other tropical products, coffee, vanilla, nuts of many kinds, etc., and also have a large variety of ornamental shrubs, trees, fibres and grasses. There are many acres of beautiful green lawns of trefoil that never need a lawnmower.

Then we have planted up about 50 acres of rice, following on years of experimenting, and have encouraged the natives of surrounding villages and districts to do the same. We have a small power-hulling plant and a very ready market is found for our rice, at highest market rates.

We also have a good saw bench which supplies ample wood for 200 people on the Station. On my return it was proposed to take back to Kihili a small flour-grinding mill and a small winnowing machine, both to be run from the same power plant. The winnower is to be used for cleaning the hulled rice, which cleaning is at present laboriously carried out by hand in the wind, when the latter is kind.

The flour mill was for making a Farnia flour. We have been methodically planting up large areas of Cassava, or tapioca

plant, and the roots of this yield a good flour—and is an excellent native food, used very largely in the West Indies and other parts. At present we have about 50 acres of Cassava, which would have been ready to begin harvesting on my return. The 200 natives on the Station are fed entirely from food grown on the property, where we have under cultivation large areas of sweet potatoes, corn, yams, peanuts, and many other foods. This makes the maintenance of the Station a very economical proposition.

Sister Ada has control of the Educational Dept. of our work, and certainly took her task seriously and made a definitely good job of it. Besides students drawn from all over Southern Bougainville, she has had for the past two years selected students from Buka and Teop as well. These, along with selected ones from Kihili School, are given a good grounding in the English language and in the Roviana tongue, thus to fit them to go on to the college at Kokeqolo, where for 3 years they receive training calculated to fit them as Teachers and preachers.

Sister Ada has also had in her home about 30 girls and orphan children, who take up not only a great deal of her time, but also much of her patience.

The Station is a Centre of Light to the districts around, a hive of industry, a seat of native learning, and above all, a place for the building of character and the proclamation of the Gospel of Redeeming Love. Life on the Station begins with



Carrying in the Rice.

Photo: Rev. A. H. Voyce.

united morning worship and prayers at 5.45 a.m., and closes each evening with a united service of praise and prayer about 7.30 p.m. On Sundays there are four services; and a Sunday School conducted by Sister Ada Lee.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MISSION BOARD.

In the unavoidable absence of the President (Rev. W. A. Burley) the Rev. F. Copeland presided over the Annual Meeting of the Mission Board on January 27th-28th. As we met the Solomons were threatened with immediate invasion, and we carried the work and the workers to the Throne of Grace in a special period of intercession.

While gravely concerned we faced the coming year with confidence, knowing that He whose work we seek to do fails not. Abundant evidence of His faithfulness was manifest in the Reports from the Solomon Islands Synod telling of substantial increases in membership, adherents, schools, scholars, etc.

The Educational work had been not only well maintained, but also extended, both on the head stations and in the villages: 4,931 scholars are being taught by 293 teachers. Agricultural and technical training has also definitely advanced.

The Doctor was on furlough a good part of the year, but under the fine leadership of nurses and native medical assistants the work had continued and a great opportunity is before our Medical Unit.

Very hearty congratulations were conveyed to the Rev. J. F. Goldie upon the near approach (May 23rd) of his 40th anniversary in the Solomons, and to Mrs. J. R. Metcalfe upon her 25th anniversary.

In spite of grave economic conditions in the Solomons the Native Church gave nobly, and the contributions from the Home Church exceeded last year's total, thus enabling us to balance the budget for the year with £440 available for reduction of the deficit which now stands at £3,831—it was £17,000 nine years ago. For this result and the growth of the Medical Fund (£19,686), Leper Fund (£1,228) and Insurance Fund (£2,150) we are profoundly grateful.

Special attention is drawn to the resolution adopted by Conference to accompany the 1942 Estimates directing the establishment of an Evacuation and Re-habilitation Fund to enable the Mission Board to face the very grave situation that has arisen through Japanese invasion.

Clara Matilda and S. Gorman Medical Bequest.

With a deep sense of gratitude to the donor and thanksgiving to God, the Conference learned of a further munificent gift of £2,000 from Mr. S. Gorman of Nelson for the Medical Fund, and unanimously carried the following resolution:—

“This Conference tenders to Mr. S. Gorman its heartfelt thanks for further munificent gifts during the year of £3,353, and £2,000 now announced, for medical work in the Solomons, thus bringing the total of the Clara Matilda and Samuel Gorman Bequest to £17,786. The gratitude of both the Home and Native Church, in addition to that of the sick and suffering in the Solomons, goes out to Mr. Gorman as, with joyous and eager heart, he seeks to establish for all time a Ministry of Healing on our Mission Field.

“This splendid Bequest is a source of great encouragement to the Board, especially in view of Dr. Rutter's challenging statement that the way is now open to important extension work to the very limit of our resources.”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous contributions:—

“Maintain the Doctor” Fund.

Mrs. Cummings, Epsom	5	0	
Mrs. Collinge, Raetihi	11	3	
Mrs. Duke, Dunedin	1	0	0
Wesley Trust, Taranaki Street, Wellington	100	0	0
Lawrence	1	10	0
Warkworth	2	0	0
Rototuna Ladies' Guild	1	0	0
Pitt Street Trust	50	0	0
Miss Henderson, Maori Hill	5	0	
Mr. T. Rowe (Sale of Poppy Seeds)	31	10	0
In Loving Memory of Miss E. Trevurza	2	2	0
Mr. Mervyn Moore	1	0	0
Mr. Wallace Moore	1	0	0
Mr. Frampton	10	0	
Mr. and Mrs. C. G. West	10	0	
Mrs. H. D. Butterick	5	0	
Mr. A. S. Frampton	5	0	
“Kia Ora,” Hamilton	7	6	
Trinity Circuit, Dunedin	1	0	0
“For the Master's Sake”	5	0	
Pitt Street	15	0	
Mr. A. K. Mercer, Wanganui	10	0	
Mr. E. H. Logan, Geraldine	2	0	0
“We Two,” Onehunga	5	0	0
Miss Hopkins	1	1	0
Miss A. Harper	2	6	

Special Leper Fund.

Previously acknowledged	£1156	14	1
Feilding	3	0	0
Levin Ladies' Guild	5	0	0

N.E. Valley	5	0	0
Mrs. G. A. Lamb, Mornington	1	0	0
Miss R. Prout, Mornington	10	0	
Dundas St. Girls' Class	7	0	
Mrs. Duke, Dunedin	1	0	0
Mosgiel	1	0	0
Mr. Hulbert, Motueka	1	1	0
Mrs. Wesley, Motueka	1	1	0
Ashburton	5	0	0
Rev. W. W. Avery (Sale of Daffodil Bulbs)	52	10	0
Caversham	1	0	0
Mrs. Rountree, Dunedin Cen.	1	10	0
Mrs. Murrell, Dunedin Central	5	0	
“Busy Bees,” Napier	7	0	0
Cromwell Ladies' Guild	1	0	0
Mrs. T. P. Rogers, Otorohanga	1	0	0
Invercargill St. Peter's Ladies' Guild	2	0	0
“J.B.”	2	10	0
Mr. S. Gorman	14	14	0
Miss A. Harper	2	6	
“G.C.S.”	1	0	0
“For the Master's Sake”	5	0	
“A Friend”	1	0	0
Mrs. E. Brunsdon	10	0	
Mrs. A. K. Mercer, Wanganui	10	0	
M.W.M.U.	29	18	7
Mrs. L. Jensen	1	0	0
“We Two,” Onehunga	2	0	0
Morrinsville	1	0	0

Total to date £1301 8 2

Special Evacuation and Rehabilitation Fund.

“We Two,” Onehunga	2	0	0
“Anon,” Redcliffs	10	0	
Miss O. Cresswell	1	0	0

FOREIGN MISSION DEPUTATION PLAN — 1942.

	Rev. J. F. Goldie	Rev. A. H. Voyce	Rev. A. H. Scrivin
Taranaki-Wanganui	March 16th-17th	March 15th-April 3rd	
Wellington	March 12th	April 5th-30th	April 12th-23rd
Auckland	March 22nd-24th	May 3rd-28th	May 3rd-21st
South Auckland		May 31st-June 18th	June 7th-18th
Hawke's Bay-Manawatu	March 13th-15th	June 21st-July 17th	June 21st-26th
North Auckland		August 2nd-14th	August 9th-20th
Nelson	March 1st-2nd	Aug. 23rd-Sept. 10th	
North Canterbury	March 3rd-4th	Sept. 13th-Oct. 1st	Sept. 13th-Oct. 8th
South Canterbury	March 5th-6th	October 4th-16th	October 11th-16th
Otago-Southland	March 8th-9th	Oct. 18th-Nov. 12th	October 18th-29th

WOMEN'S PAGES

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

9 Ranfurly Avenue,
Feilding,
January, 1942.

Dear Open Door Friends,—

I recently read of a wonderful tribute that was paid to a worthy woman of whom it was said—"She lighted lamps in a twilight world!" What a splendid tribute for any woman to merit. "She lighted lamps in a twilight world," and as I read that, I thought how urgently God needs more such lamp-lighters to-day in this less-than-twilight world. We are faced every day with a challenge we dare not ignore. Folk all around us are questioning, doubting, denying the God in whom we profess to believe: the faith we proclaim is being tested on every hand. How are we re-acting to this opportunity to be one of God's lamp-lighters? Is our own light shining clear and bright? For only the light that is within, can shine out. The times demand that we be more constantly in prayer: that we walk very closely, every day, with our God and so continually shed around us a radiance that will kindle afresh the glow of faith in others.

I want to mention just two lamps which we may light. Firstly, the truth taught us in the Bible, of God's love for all men. "God so loved the world." Dare we exclude even one person from that loving circle? Yet we act and speak as though there were people beyond the pale of God's love. We need to remind ourselves that God's love reaches out to take in every soul. Then I feel we need to re-kindle a belief in the power of prayer. "Men ought always to pray." Do we "pray without ceasing"? Have we received answers to prayer that have deepened our own faith? Then let us pass on the good news to others who have not ventured long nor far in this great adventure with God. Let us be God's lamp-lighters.

Our Workers: The work in the Home Field goes on more or less undisturbed by

the racket of the war outside our borders, but let us remember our Sisters in New Zealand as they quietly pursue their work so faithfully and often under very trying conditions. But what of our Overseas Workers? Sad to say, the war-cloud has passed over the northern part of our Solomon Islands, and we rejoice to know that Mrs. Alley, Mrs. Luxton and Sister Elizabeth have reached our shores in safety. Our prayers go up for the men who are left to face the new perils and the new difficulties. Let us remember those who are still carrying on the good work and pray for them as never before. Surely God's care is round about them and He will not fail them. I would ask you to include very specially in your prayers, the people of the Solomons to whom war, between so-called Christian nations, must be such a perplexity. Let us remember those who have been deprived of their spiritual leaders and pray for the native teachers on whom so much will now depend. Pray for Mr. Goldie in these days when great decisions, affecting the whole of our work, must be made: for the Foreign Mission Board in the fresh problems that have already arisen and others that may arise. Do you believe in prayer? Then pray.

Easter: Easter, which stands for sacrifice, will have a deeper meaning than ever this year when so very many of our friends have been called to "pass under the rod." We pray for them all that they, too, may be able to say, "Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." I ask you to make your Easter offerings this year a sacrifice of praise to God for His great gift of love to us. Hear again of the wonderful response of our British Methodist women who last year increased their Easter offerings by £3,883. What a challenge to us!

Close: During my holiday I read a book in which the parting salutation was, not "Good-bye" (God be with you!), but "Go

with God," and I pass it on to you as a watchword for every day of this coming year. "Go thou with God"—out into every unknown day whatever it may bring. Be very sure that God is always with us: let us consciously go with Him. So shall we be prepared for any trial that may come: so shall we be as "an hiding place from the storm" to other needy souls. "Good-bye," "Go thou with God."

Always yours lovingly,
ISABEL TAYLOR.

AUCKLAND.

The Christmas meeting was held in the Centennial Hall, Pitt Street, the offering amounting to £82/15/-. Rev. A. H. Voyce described the natives' efforts at rice-growing on Choiseul. The development of this land which was once considered useless has been remarkable, and the rice is now being grown in sufficient quantities for it to be sold to other missionary stations. Mr. Voyce, who has directed the enterprise, showed samples of the rice before and after cleaning.

Mrs. Voyce was also present at the meeting, and members were delighted to welcome her again and to hear of the improvement in Grenville's health. Mr. and Mrs. Voyce and Sister Joy met many auxiliary officers, including Branch Presidents, at afternoon tea (arranged by Mrs. Jack) the previous week.

SOUTH AUCKLAND.

All auxiliaries report keen interest in the work and progress is gratifying. Several Paeroa members visit a nearby Maori pah monthly to teach sewing and knitting, and to have prayer and Bible readings with the Maori women, who are most appreciative of their action. Perhaps other auxiliaries would like to follow Paeroa's example.

Auxiliary finances are helped in many ways, e.g., sales tables, birthday leagues, jumble sales, etc. The President's and Sisters' letters and missionary addresses all stimulate the interest of members in the vital work of missions.

TARANAKI-WANGANUI DISTRICT.

All auxiliaries held annual meetings in August, and Conference reports were given in some auxiliaries in October.

New Plymouth had three special speakers during the quarter: Sister Rita Snowdon, Mr. Williams of the Mildmay Mission, London, and Sister Ada Lee, and each speaker was greatly enjoyed.

New Plymouth Evening Branch.—Afternoon auxiliary invited to December meeting, when the outstanding feature was a Nativity Play beautifully presented by members of the Evening Branch.

Opunake report one new member. Members assist Sister Dorothy Pointon in her work, by preparing and renovating new and second-hand

clothes. Sister Dorothy also spoke at one meeting. Collecting and cleaning of stamps goes on.

Wanganui Central.—At the September meeting Mrs. G. Fretwell of the Church of Christ gave an interesting talk on "Christ the Light of the World." **November.**—At this meeting a Silver Tree was arranged and bags placed on it containing amounts that members had saved during the last four months. The proceeds were good.

Wanganui North.—A Social Evening was held to which the men were invited. A box forwarded for the Solomons. Rev. Odell spoke at the August meeting.

Wanganui Evening Circle.—In October the fourth Birthday of the Circle was celebrated, to which the Afternoon Auxiliary was invited. A stall containing articles made by the members realised £5.

Gonville had two special speakers: Miss Campbell, Deaconess of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. C. T. Symons, who spoke on "Child Psychology."

An auxiliary has been formed at Waitara.

OTAGO DISTRICT.

Otago Young Women's Missionary Movement. Meetings are held monthly. The highest attendance during the year was 11, and the balance sheet for that period showed that £53 was raised by subscription, Sale of Work and Jumble Sale. After paying the annual commitment of £60 towards Sisters' salaries, a credit balance of £29/12/11 was carried forward into the new financial year.

Our love for and appreciation of Sister Elizabeth Common, whom we regard as our special Sister, do a great deal to maintain our efforts for the missionary cause. During the year we had two special meetings, at one of which Sister Merle was present, and at the other Sister Elizabeth. At other meetings Sisters' letters have been read, a travel talk given by Miss Howe, and an address by Mrs. Taylor of the China Inland Mission.

The Sale of Work was most successful and resulted in £23.

Dunedin.—Dunedin's Gift Day brought contributions of £41, Mrs. Martin Taylor of the China Inland Mission being the speaker for the occasion.

At the Christmas meeting a special feature of the trading table was the books on sale for holiday reading. The speaker was the Rev. M. A. McDowell, the South Island Youth Director, who spoke on "Missionary Education in the Sunday School."

Roslyn Branch.—This branch has held 11 meetings during the year with an average attendance of 13. There has been keen interest and happy gatherings. Speakers have been Mesdames Duke and Prout, Sisters' letters have been read, and at one meeting Missionary Competitions arranged by Miss Purdie.

Milton, Balclutha and Roxburgh Auxiliaries were visited by Mrs. Taylor, Dominion President, after Conference, and were inspired by her enthusiasm.



Some of our Native Ministry who render effective leadership in the Solomons in these critical days. Left to right—Nathan Kera, Aaron Kotosoma, Uziah Sotutu, Paul Havea, Belshazzar Gina.

The CHALLENGE of the SOLOMONS in WAR TIME.

We respectfully ask your earnest and prayerful consideration of the APPEAL contained in the CONFERENCE RESOLUTION on Page 5 of this issue.

THE SOLOMONS NEED YOUR HELP MORE THAN EVER.

FORM OF BEQUEST.

TO THE METHODIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND. I GIVE UNTO THE TREASURER OR TREASURERS FOR THE TIME BEING OF THE METHODIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND THE SUM OF _____ POUNDS STERLING, TO BE PAID OUT OF MY PERSONAL ESTATE, IN AID OF THE SAID SOCIETY, AND FOR WHICH THE RECEIPT OF SUCH TREASURER OR TREASURERS SHALL BE SUFFICIENT DISCHARGE.

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

JUNE, 1942.

MISSIONARIES.

Who are these
That run along the highways of the world,
And seek its meanest suburbs with their feet?
They are the troubadours of God,
Blowing an airy melody along earth's aisles
As solid as the masonry of dreams,
They are the wise eccentrics
Who reason with divine hilarity.
They are the canny merchants
Who buy the hearts of nations for their Prince,
They are the vivid tailors
Who push the threads of ages through their
hands.
Who take no blood, to spill it, save their own.
They are the blessed coolies
Who lift the loads of folly on their backs
And dump them into truth's dissolving streams.
They are the blithe outrunners
Who trek the world's long reaches for old trails
Whereon to lay the pavement of new years.
They are the grave cross-carriers
Who bear stern wooden gibbets on their backs,
And nail their loves and treasures to the beams.
They are our princely brothers,
Born of the womb which bore us,
Who speak for us amid the courts of life.

—Quoted by the late Rev. Percy Paris in his
dedication charge to Dr. A. G. and Mrs. Rutter.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"
ST. PAUL.