

The Challenge of the Solomons in War Time!

Our European and Native Staff and the Native Church need your Prayers and Practical Support more than ever.

"THE OPEN DOOR"

Editor: Rev. A. H. SCRIVIN,
Probert Chambers,
Queen Street, Auckland.
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The New Zealand Children's Missionary Paper,

"THE LOTU"

Editor: Rev. V. le C. BINET,
73 Main Rd., Kohimarama, Auckland, E.1.
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The Open Door

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

MARCH, 1943.

REV. J. R. METCALFE.
Evacuated from the Solomons,
January, 1943.

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

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REHABILITATION of the SOLOMONS

MEANS RESTORATION OF:

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Support and encouragement of Native Ministry that all may know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

FOREIGN MISSION DEPARTMENT.
DEPUTATION PLAN FOR NORTH ISLAND, 1943.

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Taranaki-Wanganui
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Wellington

REV. A. H. VOYCE.
May 2-27
May 30-June 17
June 20-July 15
March 21-April 29

REV. A. H. SCRIVIN.
May 2-20
June 13-24
May 23-June 10
June 27-July 9

THE OPEN DOOR

Price - One Shilling per Annum
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The Missionary Organ of
the Methodist Church of
New Zealand.

VOL. XXI., No. 4.

MARCH, 1943.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

Winning the Peace

THE SOLOMONS ARE DEVASTATED AND DISORGANISED BY WAR.

The Japanese invasion of the New Zealand Methodist Mission Field areas began when they occupied Bougainville and Buka, which are portion of the Mandated Territory of New Guinea, and which they announced as occupied by March 10th 1942. After the initial Japanese landing near the port of Kieta on January 23rd, the District Officer commandeered the Methodist Mission ketch "Bilua", and the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton who was in charge, in order to evacuate 14 government officials and planters to Port Moresby 1000 miles away. About the same period 10 Europeans were evacuated from the Gizo District on our District Vessel, the "Fauo Chief", and they travelled about 1200 miles to Mackay, in Northern Queensland. By March 10th, the Japanese announced the occupation of Kieta and by April 7th, of Faisi, the port in the Shortland Islands, just south of Bougainville, and by May 4th they had occupied Tulagi, the capital of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, and began at once to fortify it as a naval and seaplane base, following which they occupied Guadalcanal, and began the construction of an airfield there. However, on August 10th, 1942, the American forces, assisted by Australian Units, launched the attack which culminated in the clearing of the Japanese from the Tulagi and Guadalcanal areas.

Then the enemy built a big airfield and large base at our South Bougainville mission station of Kihili in Buin Bay, and when the Allies began to heavily hammer this base, our Mission headquarters at Kokengolo, on New Georgia, called Munda, and have built an extensive forward base and airfield there.

Thus we know for certain that our Mission property and possessions at Kokengolo, Gizo and Kihili must be written off as entirely destroyed. But what of the Church of the Living God? Is it also to be written off as a loss? Praise God, we have no such catastrophe to face.

Letters and reports to hand in recent weeks give much cheering news. We learn of the maintenance, despite the nearness of enemy concentrations, of regular and normal school activities in many parts; of the constant carrying on of all the usual services of the Church; of new churches being opened; of the reception into membership constantly going on; of medical work being pro-

duced with vigour and success; of patrols being conducted; of even distant Choiseul being circumnavigated by minister and nurse; of fresh avenues of service being opened amongst hitherto apathetic and sceptical Chinese; of cheerful security in the proximity of danger; of the loyalty and helpfulness of native leaders; of the sense of the real presence of Him who is able to save to the uttermost.

REHABILITATION RESPONSIBILITIES.

International leaders of the first calibre are turning their thoughts to the winning of the peace. This war will have been fought in vain, unless we see to it that out of the devastation and havoc and suffering there rises a brighter and better world.

Here in the Solomons decisive battles of nations are being fought, and the fact that they are being fought in such a remote area has probably saved our fair cities and land from destruction.

Our missionaries, and our Mission Board are giving much prayer and thought to reconstruction of destroyed properties to the known value of £33,000.

General belief is that when Rabaul has become an Allied Base, the early return of our missionaries, will be permitted.

What then are our concrete rehabilitation proposals?

1. First, just as soon as the opportunity occurs, all our present staff of male missionaries must return to the Solomons, and also our doctor and the nurses.

2. Certain buildings must be constructed immediately, but this is dependent upon many vital matters that can not be finalised until the time comes, but Mission houses, churches and schools will be essential.

3. It is also definitely part of the policy of the Board to establish a school for Solomon Islands girls, as part of our rehabilitation scheme.

4. The ultimate establishment of a technical training institution is also definitely part of the scheme.

It is of course recognised that the scheme will of necessity be spread over a period of years, and to this end Conference, recognising the necessity, heartily endorsed the Boards request to approach the whole church for £25,000.

Vincent Le Cornu Binet

In the passing of Vincent LeCornu Binet there has gone from our earthly fellowship a man of peculiarly beautiful character—a Nathaniel in whom there was no guile. Throughout his life he manifested the spirit of the Lord he loved and served.

Mr. Binet entered the ministry in Western Australia, and after a brief term in that state was appointed to the Solomon Islands District in 1916, only 14 years after the pioneers had landed there. For 15 years, loyally helped at every turn by his devoted wife, he rendered outstanding service to the primitive savage people of that district, most of his service being on the island of Choiseul.

It requires a high degree of courage for a man of gentle spirit and aesthetic tastes, as was our beloved brother, to face the difficulties and dangers of pioneer missionary work among a people whose central interests were war and head-hunting. Conditions of living and travelling were often arduous in the extreme. But Mr. Binet faced both problems and dangers with a brave and eager spirit, and was largely instrumental in bringing to a lasting peace tribes that had been at war for centuries.

He mastered the language of the people amongst whom he laboured, and had the joy of translating portions of the Scriptures. This is the greatest of all great privileges that comes to the missionary.

He possessed musical gifts of no mean order, and he cradled in song the infant Church on Choiseul as Charles Wesley did in England, and translated many of our great hymns which, in a remarkable way, have stirred primitive savage hearts. Much of the beauty and glory of Gospel song in the Native Church is due to Mr. Binet's influence.

Ill health compelled Mr. Binet's retirement from the Solomons 11 years ago, since when he has laboured with much acceptance in the Avondale, Waiuku and Otorohanga circuits and has been greatly beloved of all his people. Throughout this time he has been a valuable member of the Foreign Mission Board. He possessed literary

gifts of a high order, and for the past six years has edited "The Lotu"—our children's missionary magazine—with much ability and success, and through the medium of its columns has had a bigger Methodist constituency than most.

But above all his gifts and service we shall think of his Christ-like spirit and thank God for every remembrance of him.

The Board records its deep sense of loss and expresses to Mrs. Binet and her son, Grenville, its heart-felt sympathy. A. H. SCRIVIN.



The late Rev. V. Le C. Binet.

The Art of the Missionary.

This the latest S.C.M. missionary book is from the rather striking and original pen of the Right Rev. R. O. Hall, sometime Missionary Secretary of the Student Christian Movement; now Bishop of Hong Kong and South China; and is to be had for 2/6 from the Methodist Book Room, Box 23W, Auckland. It is excellent value.

Bishop Hall is a joyous missionary and says: "The missionary's job, at its best, is the happiest in the world; at its worst it is like a blister on a thirty-mile walk." He claims the experience of the artist to be the best parallel to the experience

of the missionary and declares: "If I was in charge of a training college for missionaries, I would sell the psychology books and buy violins. I would sack the Professor of Ethics and bring in a Teacher of Art."

He declares: "The relevance of the Christian movement in China is easiest understood as intensification of what God began when He made the Chinese people, and what He has gone on doing down the ages." "Are you fussy, eager, in a hurry? Forget it." "Unless our missionary life is begun, continued and ended in God it had better never be begun."

Christianity in Action

STIRRING STORIES OF NATIVE DEVOTION.

1. Letter from Chaplain B. H. PHILLIPS with the A.I.F. in New Guinea.

I feel that I would like to write a brief note—first of all to the missionaries who worked in this and other similar areas before the war with the Japanese, and also to all our people who love and support the work of Overseas Missions.

We are not meeting the native people of this island in their national mode of life, nor in their villages, but we are meeting them in other ways and places. And all are agreed that, of the many native peoples we have met in other countries where we have been, none compare with these people of New Guinea and Papua for cheerfulness, courtesy, cleanliness, and real Christian spirit.

One evening about a week ago, I was preparing my place for the night under a tree, when I heard singing in the distance and rapidly coming closer—and such singing as I had not heard anywhere else—cheerful, care-free, lilting voices. I stood up in time to see about 20 natives go by in a military truck. They were singing, "Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus."

It took my breath away and lifted me out of my very ordinary surroundings, and inspired me afresh with the knowledge that Christ's love and teachings are sufficient to give new life and hope and joy to all peoples and races.

The men in my part of the Camp were greatly impressed, and I had a great opportunity to get in some quiet words for our Lord and our Church.

These same natives are being of very considerable help to our cause and work here, and are constantly compelling the admiration and gratitude of us all.

I, personally, feel very proud to remember that these are the people amongst whom our missionaries have been working and living. And I pray with you all that the day will soon be when that work shall continue uninterrupted as before.

2. "FUZZY WUZZY ANGELS."

Some verses of simple doggerel, but born of deep experience, have been published in almost every newspaper in Australia, and are widely sung to the tune, "What a friend." They are dedicated to the natives of New Guinea, whose heroism and self sacrifice in tending wounded soldiers, have won the highest praise, and were composed by a badly wounded "Digger" who has returned to Australia from the battle area. They are entitled, "The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels."

Many a mother in Australia, when the busy day is done,

Sends a prayer to the Almighty for the safety of her son;

Asking that an angel guard him, and bring him safely back—

Now we see these prayers are answered on the Owen Stanley track.

But they haven't any haloes, only holes slashed in their ears,

And their faces worked with tattoo, and scratch pins in their hair,

Bringing back the badly wounded, just as steady as a hearse,

Using leaves to keep the rain off, and as gentle as a nurse.

Slow and careful in their paces on that awful mountain track,

And the look upon their faces makes you think that Christ was black.

Not a move to hurt the wounded, and they treat him like a saint.

It's a picture worth recording—that an artist's yet to paint.

Many a lad will see his mother, and husbands see their wives,

Just because the Fuzzy Wuzzies carried them and saved their lives

From mortar and machine gun fire, or a chance surprise attack,

To safety and to doctors at the bottom of the track.

May the mothers of Australia, when they offer up a prayer,

Mention the impromptu angels, with the fuzzy wuzzy hair.

3. "GRATEFUL TESTIMONY."

In January a number of Europeans were evacuated from Bougainville by a submarine, and brought news that Mr. Alley was a prisoner, and one of them, a prominent local planter Mr. F. P. Archer, wrote this letter.

Dear Mr. Scrivin,

Before returning to Australia I would like to place upon record the excellent service rendered to Mr. Eric Guthrie (of Dept. of Agriculture of T.N.G.) and myself, by some of the Methodist Native Teachers in Bougainville. These were under Rev. D. C. Alley, who is now a prisoner of war in Japanese hands.

Whilst we were sheltering from the Japs. we stayed at for 2½ months and during that

time placed his own house at our disposal and did his best to keep us supplied with all we needed in the way of native foods. He also made arrangements for us in regard to delivering messages to other Europeans and in the transport of our goods and belongings. In this matter his influence with the local natives, who were very primitive and could not understand "pidgin English," was most helpful. also made several trips to the beach area—some 9 hours' walk—to get news of what was happening there and which information it was vital for us to have at that period. No distance was too long nor any time inconvenient to him during that time. He would smile and say "Me can go."

Though, of course, we paid and the others for the work they did for us, this was not the first consideration with them, as they frequently remarked that they had been taught to help by Mr. Alley, and they considered that they were merely doing their duty under the circumstances.

When on leaving 's village I told him that some day, somehow and in some way I would convey word of his good work to Mr. Goldie and to the Mission people in New Zealand, and that they would be proud of him, he smiled in his slow way and remarked, "Yes' suppose master can talk all the same 'long Master Goldie, now 'long Mission 'long New Zealand, now me happy too much. Me fella like Master Goldie, savvy me fella hold him yet work belong me fella. Me fella no can lose him Lotu belong me fella. All time me fella must hold him this work."

. and (the latter a Rabaul native from Blanche Bay) were always very helpful when we passed through their villages. Mr. Guthrie subsequently lived in 's house during July, and speaks in praise of all the assistance received from him during that time.

Later still another of Mr. Alley's teachers named was most helpful to Mr. Guthrie and Mr. Edmonds when they resided at village. also gave them his house and all his co-operation.

I may say that the loyalty of these teachers was never doubted by any of the Europeans, and their behaviour proved it up to the hilt. They could always be relied upon to assist. They have never wavered in their belief as to the ultimate return of "the English" and of "the ministers belong me fella" and they have expressed their determination to carry on with their Lotu and their beliefs until that happy day eventuates.

With kind regards and best wishes,
I Am

Sincerely Yours,
Fred. P. Archer.

4. AN EPIC STORY OF LOYALTY.

The George Medal has been awarded to a native Solomon Islander. He is retired Sergeant Major Vusa, and was on dangerous intelligence work when captured by the Japanese, tied to a tree, and bayoneted in the arm, shoulder and face, but refused to divulge information, and was finally bayoneted in the stomach and left to die. But he revived, crawled back to the American lines and gave valuable information, after which he was rushed to hospital, recovered, and is now back on service.

Vusa, who is a Christian, lives on the island of Guadalcanal two miles to the east of Henderson Airfield and is a member of the South Sea Evangelical Mission. He was instrumental in introducing Christian Mission Work to his village after his retirement from the Native constabulary.

5. DANIEL PULE OF ROVIANA.

The Solomon Islander, Daniel Pule, recently awarded the British Empire Medal for exceptional devotion to duty in a theatre of war, is the son of a New Georgian headhunter. He is a native clerk who in his district has to act as interpreter; collect all native head taxes, receive and despatch all mail, including registered packages; assess and collect duty on packages, and maintain schedules on the radio-telephone with Tulagi.

Daniel Pule was born about 35 years ago, on a small island in the Roviana Lagoon, about three miles to the east of Munda, called Roviana Island. Only three miles in circumference, this island has a steep hill in the centre, on the peak of which is a ruined native stronghold, with fences of stone, trenches and many dolmens built of coral rock



The Church, Roviana Island.

containing scores of skulls, ornaments of carved shell and many pieces of native wealth.

These defences used to provide the Roviana people with immunity from attack. To-day all is overgrown, but 40 years ago, when the missionaries first began their work at Munda, it was kept constantly clear for defence. Many years ago this island was shelled by a naval vessel as a reprisal for headhunting raids carried out by its people.

The Roviana natives were the most notorious headhunters of the Pacific. In 1899, Norman Wheatley, who had been resident at Munda for 20 years, reported that on the near by large island called Rendova, 62 white men and women had been murdered within recent years. As late as 1908 a punitive expedition was despatched to the Marovo Lagoon, on New Georgia, as reprisal for the killing of a white man. Frequently official Solomon Islands Government reports recorded the violent deaths of Europeans.

It was in such an atmosphere that Pule was born. From early years he attended the Methodist

Mission School at Munda Bay, and when he became a Christian, chose to be baptised Daniel. After passing through the senior school at Munda, the school where every clerk in the Solomons Islands Government service has been trained, Daniel Pule graduated for appointment into the Government service.

After some preliminary training and experience at Tulagi, the capital, he was appointed to the district office at Aola, on Guadalcanar, about 40 miles to the east of Henderson airfield. Three years ago he was appointed to the important office at Gizo, in the New Georgia group, but after furlough was reappointed to Aola, and was presumably there when the Japanese occupied it last May. Like many other Christian natives in the service of the Administration, Pule does not neglect to serve the Church, and in his spare time he was actively engaged in helping with the Methodist mission work at Aola.

One of Daniel's brothers, Beni Lamupio, was for many years a teacher in the Teop area of Bougainville.

Acknowledgements.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS:—

Special Medical Fund.			
Pitt St. Trust	50 0 0	"We Two," Onehunga	1 0 0
"We Two," Onehunga	5 0 0	Pitt St. Sunday School	3 0 0
Kia Ora	10 0 0	Cashmere	10 0 0
Ravensbourne	10 0 0	Napier Busy Bees	5 0 0
Mrs. Collinge, Raetihi	12 0 0	V.A.	2 0 0
Paeroa	5 0 0	Rev. W. W. Avery	21 0 0
Wesley Trust, Taranaki St.	100 0 0	Mrs. Hill Taylor	10 0 0
Rototuna Ladies' Guild	1 9 6	Camp Girl, ChCh.	2 0 0
Miss G. Hopkins	10 0 0	Anon, Waddington	10 0 0
Pitt St.	14 0 0	Epsom Friend, per Rev. J. F. Goldie	10 0 0
T. Rowe, Napier	15 0 0	General Fund.	
Lower Hutt Y.M.B.C.	2 0 0	S.E.A., Blenheim	5 0 0
Leper Fund.		"As Unto the Lord"	5 0 0
Previously Acknowledged	£1638 11 5	Anon	1 0 0
"We Two," Onehunga	2 0 0	"Last Minute Appeal"	2 0 0
Cromwell Ladies' Guild	1 0 0	Debt Reduction.	
Trinity, Dunedin	1 10 0	X.Y.Z.	12 0 0
Mornington	1 10 0	We also tender our sincere thanks to Master John Boniface, Palmerston North, for the gift of a Meccano Set for the work of Sister Lina Jones at Roviana.	
Ravensbourne	2 0 0		
Paraparaumu	1 0 0		
Paeroa	11 19 9		
Mr. and Mrs. Westphall, Waimate	10 0 0		
Caversham	10 0 0		
Mrs. G. Good	10 0 0		
	£1661 1 2		
Rehabilitation.			
Pitt St. Trust	50 0 0		
Miss Rushton (Hamilton East)	1 0 0		



The Stricken Solomons!

Conference Calls the Church!

£25,000 Rehabilitation Scheme!

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION:- In view of the very heavy loss which the Mission has already suffered, and the urgency of rehabilitation work that is all too apparent, Conference sanctions and commends a special appeal to the Church for not less than £25,000; and that priority be granted for this appeal in 1943.

Conference requests each District to set up a special committee, or committees, to collaborate with the Foreign Mission Board in organising the appeal, while, at the same time, safeguarding the General Fund.

This is an appeal to every Methodist in New Zealand, to stand behind our workers as they return to the Field and ensure to them adequate facilities for their great work. An average of £1 per member in addition to ordinary contributions, will achieve our objective.



Part of our District Training Institution ROVIANA (Munda).

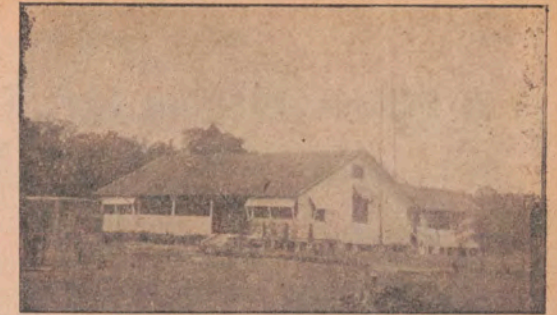
The whole Institution, including valuable stores and technical plant, has been totally destroyed.

The adjacent plantation has also been destroyed to form an enemy aerodrome.

THE ACTUAL SITUATION.

Replacement Cost of Buildings, Plant, and Property already destroyed.

ROVIANA, including Gizo			
Buildings and Plant	..	18,900	0 0
Plantation	..	4,500	0 0
BOUGAINVILLE - BUKA			
Buildings and Plant	..	3,000	0 0
Plantation	..	2,500	0 0
DISTRICT STOCK etc.	..	4,217	0 0
		£33,117	0 0

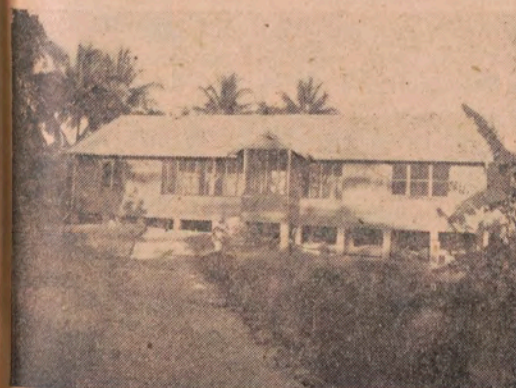


NEW MISSION HOUSE, KIHILI; totally destroyed. Surrounding grounds and plantation now a Japanese aerodrome.

To the above ascertained loss must be added the cost of replacing missionaries' personal effects and property and the deterioration of Mission property, boats, etc. left without adequate oversight owing to proximity of the enemy. It has also to be remembered that the whole of our remaining property with replacement value of an additional £35,000 is in imminent danger of destruction.

It is reasonable to assume that the Allied Governments will accept responsibility for some of the War damage. A war risk insurance scheme for New Guinea is already in operation, but its scope is not clearly defined. No scheme has been announced for the British Solomons. In any case such insurance, if and when available, is likely to apply only to actual loss, whereas we are concerned, of necessity, with replacement values. To delay our Rehabilitation Scheme until such uncertain help is available would be a grave hindrance to the re-establishment of our Work.

NEW MISSION HOUSE, SKOTOLAN, BUKA, damaged by Japanese.



SURELY THEN the Native Church, the Missionaries, and the Mission Board can count on your generous help!

SEND YOUR REHABILITATION CONTRIBUTION NOW!

to the Foreign Mission Treasurer,
REV. W. A. SINCLAIR,
 Probert Chambers,
 Queen Street,
 Auckland, C.I.

A Message from Mr. S. Gorman to the Conference Missionary Demonstration

SENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT OF CONFERENCE.

Dear Mr. President and Friends All,



before this set-back by the powers of evil, brought these precious souls to the Saviour by whose blood they were redeemed.

Since this great meeting was held a year ago there have been some dark days in the Solomons—really testing days for the native Christians who so recently were heathen cannibals dwelling in the very midnight of darkness. But these our people have proved steadfast and triumphant, and vindicated the work of our Church which,

The Rev. John F. Goldie has recently informed me that already we have had destroyed over twenty thousand pounds' worth of vitally necessary property on the Mission Field. This is our opportunity to go the second mile and rehabilitate. We cannot, we must not, desert our allotted work. Let us hope, pray and give that Christ's Kingdom may come, and hells o'er power, and to His sceptre all subdue. God Almighty is at the helm and we know that wrong cannot triumph for ever. May peace soon come.

Let us look and behold a brighter day when still larger numbers of the dark-skinned Solomon Islanders shall be won from darkness into light, live the Christ-like life, and hear Him, who is their Saviour as well as the white man's, say:—"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

The Late Mr. Samuel Gorman—An Appreciation.

Methodism in New Zealand, as elsewhere, has been greatly blessed in its lawmen—men of high endeavour and possessed with both gifts and graces who have shared largely in establishing the Kingdom of God in this land. Samuel Gorman held a worthy place in their ranks, and has been rightly called 'the grand old man of Nelson Methodism.' The term has a wider application, for his interests and benefactions extended far beyond the borders of his beloved circuit of Nelson. He displayed deep and liberal interest in many branches of Christian enterprise and was a truly great Methodist. He loved his Church, he loved his minister, and few have experienced greater joy in fellowship with the people of God.

Nelson, both Church and city; the Home and Maori Department; and many another worthy cause and institution will be saddened by the death of this good man; but especially in the Solomon Islands will his passing be mourned. Mr. Gorman had a great love for our work in the Solomons, and watched its remarkable development with joyous interest. Perhaps his greatest memorial will be the Medical Bequest that bears his name and that of his late wife, who shared her husband's love for missionary work. At the time of his death this bequest totalled £18,486 and through

all the years to come the sick who are healed, the halt and lame who walk, the blind who see, and the lepers who are cleansed will rise up and call them blessed who by their loving and munificent gifts have made this ministry of healing available to them.

One of the pleasing features about the gifts that have gone to build up the Clara Matilda and Samuel Gorman Medical Bequest is that they have been entirely unsolicited. They have been born of the generous impulse of Mr. Gorman's own heart and his eager desire that the people of the Solomons should know more fully the Saviour and Healer he himself loved so well and into whose presence he has now passed.

For some years past an inspiring message from Mr. Gorman has been read at the Conference Missionary Demonstration. His last message is reported at the top of this page and deeply stirred the great audience in Durham St. Church only ten days before his death.

We thank God for every remembrance of this grand old man who, at the age of 92, has entered the full fellowship of his Lord, and of those many dark-skinned Solomon Islanders he has helped to lead out of the darkness into the light.

A.H.S.

Personal and General

THE VICE-PRESIDENT.

We extend our very hearty congratulations to Mr. Hedley Oldham, upon his election unopposed to the Vice-Presidency of the Conference. Mr. Oldham is a local preacher, and keenly interested in every branch of the Church's work. He has a great love for overseas Mission work, and has been for years the enthusiastic Foreign Mission secretary of the Blenheim Circuit.

THE REV. J. F. GOLDIE.

Mr. Goldie, who flew from Australia in February to attend Conference and the Mission Board, will remain in New Zealand for some time to assist with the special appeal for £25,000 for the rehabilitation of our devastated mission stations in the Solomons. While saddened by the destruction of our splendid religious, educational and medical institutions, built up with such devotion and labour through the years, this veteran missionary leader rejoices in the things that abide and which no bombs can destroy—the faith and love in the hearts of the natives; their knowledge of God's word; the Native Ministry; and much else all of which can be summed up in a Virile Church.

THE REV. J. R. METCALFE.

The Rev. J. R. Metcalfe arrived unexpectedly in Wellington, dressed in a U.S. Army Chaplain's uniform, all the clothes he possessed, and, so 'tis rumoured, speaking a typical Texas tongue! At anyrate, the General Secretary was momentarily deceived when he was introduced to the "American Chaplain," and the Chairman of the Wellington District after talking with him for 5 minutes, enquired about the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, whom he had heard, was in Wellington!! It is not reported whether he was greeted with the typical American reply—"Say boy, I'm mighty glad to know yer!"

MUNDA.

Munda, daily target of Allied bombings, is Kokengolo, or Roviana, headquarters of our mission in the Solomon Islands. The Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, was having lunch on the verandah of the Chairman's house there, with a friend, when they saw the Japanese war vessels coming over the Munda Bar, a few miles away. They considered it time to "go bush."

Munda is a hallowed spot to many people. The only son of our Chairman, the Rev. J. F. Goldie, lies buried there. There too is the grave of Mrs. Chivers who died in service of the native people.

Graves of loyal Polynesian workers of our church are also located there.

Sister Elizabeth Common is now assisting at Kufahuna Maori girls' home at Onehunga.

Mrs. Silvester has just received about 20 letters written in November and December 1941, which have been returned from the Solomon Islands! Belated Christmas mail of 1941.

Rev. C. T. J. Luxton recently received a letter addressed to him in New Guinea but which never reached that country. It's journeyings cover a period of 3 years—as the dates below will signify.

Katikati, N.Z., 29th December, 1941.

Tulagi, B.S.I., 7th January, 1943.

Auckland, N.Z., 12th February, 1943.

Large maps of the Solomon Islands are procurable from the Mission Office Auckland, for 3/6 postage paid.

The Rev. D. C. Alley of Teop, Bougainville, was taken aboard an enemy war vessel on March 31st 1942, then given an hour and a half to get some things together and give directions to his boys, after which he was taken away. He displayed great chivalry and courage.

FOR TONGA.

The Rev. C. F. Gribble, M.A., Dip. Ed., F.R.C.M., Principal of our Tubou College in Tonga, and John Havea, one of the tutors of the College have been spending a short time in Auckland and have spoken and sung with much acceptance in a number of circuits. Mr. Gribble has been appointed to the important position of Director of Education in Tonga. John Havea—a brother of the Rev. Paul Havea in the Solomons—is returning from two years deputation work in Australia.

FOR FIJI.

Miss Colledge, late of Papua, has sailed for Fiji to take up an appointment at the Teacher Training Institution, Davuilevu, rendered vacant by the return of Miss U. C. Scrivin to New Zealand.

Also sailing were Setareki Tuilavoni who has been doing excellent deputation work in Australia and the Rev. Vereniki Veitarogivanua with his wife and family, on furlough from North Australia. They have enjoyed the gracious hospitality of the Misses Carver, of Onehunga, and have spoken at a number of services in that circuit.

News from the Field

EVACUATION OF SISTER MERLE FARLAND AND THE REV. J. R. METCALFE.

The first letters for nine months reached us from the Solomon Islands District in January. The letter from the Rev. A. W. Silvester and extracts from Sister Merle Farland's letter have already been published in the "Methodist Times" and made most enheartening reading. Since the writing of these letters in December, Sister Merle has been evacuated from the Solomons and our latest information is that she is safe at Noumea.



Sister MERLE FARLAND.

The Rev. J. R. Metcalfe has also been evacuated from the Solomons and was warmly welcomed at the Conference in Christchurch where he was one of the speakers at the great Missionary Demonstration.

We thank God for the safety and well-being of Sister Merle and Mr. Metcalfe and for the splendid service they have rendered through such difficult days. The Rev. A. W. Silvester is now our only white worker on the Field. His letter indicates that he is fit and well and that his circuit is one of the few places in our District not in possession of the enemy. He will need our prayers more than ever as he and his native colleagues carry on the great work.

Rev. A. W. E. Silvester writes from Kokengolo (Munda) "Last night I heard your address from Pitt St. Methodist Church. Quite a number of natives were present and they were pleased to hear the names of Boaz Veo, and Kere and his two sons mentioned.

The radio I was using has been loaned by the

Government and the batteries charged at..... by Timothy Loe and John Magu. I would like to say how much we appreciate the way the Resident Commissioner, Mr. Marchant, and all Government Officials, are assisting with rations, and in every way possible.

While I am here Sister Merle and Mr. Metcalfe are over at Choiseul. They have been away over a fortnight and I expect them back just before the Mission Anniversary on the 23rd inst. There will not be large congregations as we do not advocate very much travelling with aeroplanes constantly overhead, and war ships just round the corner.

Since February the Chinamen have gathered with us in Lotu, and on one trip, I was asked by the Chinese to conduct a service. Truly special avenues of service have opened under these war time circumstances. All of us are in good health, and Sister Merle has been able to so organise that the Medical work in all centres is very effective. Good supplies of medicines have been secured from the Government and some from Dr. Thompson of the Melanesian Mission, so that, with the patrols inaugurated, the health of the people has been very good."

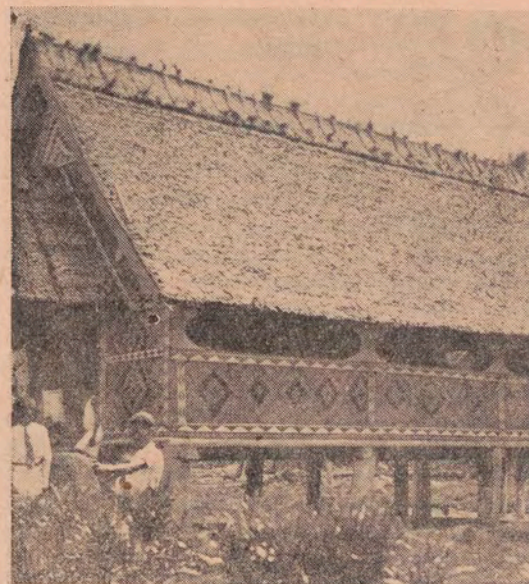
And later from Bilua he wrote.- "We are behind the enemy lines but so far have never had to think seriously of "going bush", although our preparations are made so that we can evacuate at very short notice.

On the 9th June, Sister Merle and I went to Supato and opened a new Church. It had been ready for two months. We had a splendid gathering. At Quarterly Meeting time the Circuit is making an effort to renew the roof of the out-patients department of the hospital.

Our rice supplies finish this week, and we will have to exist on the produce of our gardens. We have just harvested our rice but I am saving all the seed to plant up an area which will soon be ready.

We now have a substitute for chalk brought over from Choiseul by Mr. Metcalfe."

Mrs. Silvester has received a number of letters from her husband, dated April and May in which he writes a good deal about a job he was doing for the Government in the Gizo district repatriating scattered Malaita labourers to their homes in the eastern part of the group; had a visit from the district officer newly appointed to Gizo; they had been offered a further opportunity to evacuate the district, but had not changed their minds; had visited Kulambangra picking up grape fruit



THE CHURCH AT HUNDA.

(Note the beautiful decorative work).

at Lever's plantation, and had then visited our catechists station at Hunda; on the day of prayer special services were held and quite a number of

natives took active part; a refuge had been constructed away in the bush, and Mr. Silvester stated that the mission boys had made such a good job of their place, that it looked as though they were prepared to live there for all time; patrol work around the villages on all islands had been continued; they heard over the radio of the Japanese atrocities in New Guinea and then that the Allies had bombed Kieta. Faisi and Gizo (only 15 miles away); he had dropped and broken his only reading glasses and asked for others to be sent by air! Radio received from Mr. Goldie saying he desired to return as soon as possible; they had been house building and Mr. Silvester still was having his jokes with the natives, for he surreptitiously let off a couple of crackers amongst the workers; a boy came to report the presence of enemy ships off a certain island, he having just received a letter to that effect, and what was he to do about it? Mr. Silvester told him to "thank the messenger, and go to bed"; they had a very good missionary anniversary in May, and the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe preached an eloquent sermon, keeping them until 10 to 1; evidences of temporary Japanese occupation of Choiseul Bay had been found; sister's canoe which had been on order for three years had at last been delivered ! ! ! !.

Board of Missions

The annual meeting was held in Pitt St. Church parlour on the 27th January, 1943. The Board recorded its deep sense of loss in the passing of the Rev. V. LeC. Binet and expressed to Mrs. Binet and Grenville their heartfelt sympathy.

A letter from Mr. F. P. Archer, late of Bougainville was read and the contents noted with deep gratitude.

Greetings were sent to the Native Church; to the Missionaries both on the field and in the homeland; and the sorrow of the Board was to be conveyed to Mrs. Alley in the internment of her husband, and the pride the Board shared with her, in that Mr. Alley had displayed such chivalry and courage.

A Rehabilitation Committee was set up. Decided to ask permission of Conference to launch immediately an appeal for rehabilitation. The Rev. A. A. Bensley was appointed to occupy the Editor's chair of the "Lotu".

The further gift of Mr. Samuel Gorman of £2,200 plus the gift duty; which now brings the bequest to £18,486 was gratefully acknowledged.

Mrs. C. E. Taylor very ably and tellingly presented a report of the work of the M.W.M.U. What a debt our Church owes to the vision and

faithful service of its bands of women mission enthusiasts! They are the very leaven of the Church.

The income from the Home Church inclusive of the Medical Fund, but apart from other special Funds, amounted to £12,786/16/8, which is £90/8/6 less than the income of the previous year, but is £36/16/8 more than the estimated income for 1942. There was an increase of £66/2/2 on the General Fund account, but a decrease of £156/10/8 on Medical Fund income.

THANKSGIVING.

That the Board places on record its thanksgiving to Almighty God for the preservation of our European and Native workers in the Solomons during the past critical year. Apart from Rev. D. C. Alley, who has been interned by the Japanese, our Mission Staff and people, as far as we know have suffered no casualties. In view of the total destruction of Kokengolo and Kihili and constant bombing of these and other areas, this is a miracle of God's grace. We offer to Him our humble thanks and pray that His mercy and grace may be continued and the full work in the Solomons speedily restored.

WOMEN'S PAGES

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

Feilding,
January, 1943.

Dear Open Door Friends,

Greetings to you one and all from the members of the M.W.M.U. Executive. May the year we have just entered bring us "new thoughts of God: new hopes of heaven." The war clouds still overshadow all our lives but the Sun of Righteousness is still shining. May He arise "with healing in His wings" and illumine every step of our 1943 way. The past year has been a very troubled one for many; the present one will bring many a sad anniversary. We pray that through every day, God's sustaining Presence may keep us all and enable us to face with a serene faith, whatever the year may bring. "I only know I cannot drift beyond His love and care."

We have been saddened by the news of Mr. Binet's passing. His was a beneficent influence and the memory of his life will be a continual inspiration to all who knew him. Our loving sympathy goes out to Mrs. Binet and her son.

Joy and sorrow are ever interwoven in this life and we are glad to rejoice with Sister Merle's dear ones and friends in the glad news of her safety. She has been in perils oft but the protecting Hand of God has brought her through and word has come that she has been evacuated by the American authorities and is safe and well at Noumea, New Caledonia. We do indeed give thanks for answered prayers on her behalf and ask God's continued guidance and care for her.

Before this reaches you, the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board will have been held and the problems concerning our Solomon Island Work will have been faithfully faced and considered. Just how great they will prove to be, we cannot say at present but of one thing we are quite certain—that a great Rehabilitation Scheme will have to be formed and carried out as opportunity offers. We have heard of the destruction of our Mission buildings and property and a great rebuilding work lies ahead. For this we shall require a vast—an incalculable—amount of money but we are sure that lack of funds will not hamper our leaders as they set out to rebuild the brokendown buildings and re-equip them for the great work of our Mission. And so I call you to share in this happy task. I know you will not fail to respond but will remember our new "Sisters' Rehabilitation Fund" in the allocating of your money.

Surely these are days of challenge for the Church of God and we rejoice that "Advance" is still her watchword. Some of us who know of Sister Ivy's work for the Maori girls of Auckland city, may not know of the cramped building in which she has sought to carry on her splendid service. This building is to be replaced by one more adequate to the needs of her work and we M.W.M.U. women have set out to raise, as our Special Objective for this year, the sum of £300 to equip these premises. This appeal is finding a ready response and we gladly anticipate the day when Sister Ivy and her Assistant Miss Webber will be able to extend their work in well and suitably equipped premises.

You will be interested to hear that Sister Elizabeth Common has been appointed Assistant Matron at Kurahuna Maori Girls' School and commences her duties there on 1st February. We wish for her a very happy term of service with and for our Maori girls.

Easter will soon be with us and Easter offerings will have their place in our remembrance of Christ's self-offering for us. We will not forget that it was love which prompted this sacrifice—love for you and for me: love for every human soul. So let love move us to give sacrificially in our Easter offerings. As we have freely received so let us freely give. I pray that Easter-time with its message of Resurrection, may bring to each one of us a great renewing of spiritual power. May we be re-vitalised by the indwelling of the Spirit of the Risen Christ and so live that others will be drawn to Him too.

My love to you all,

Your friend,

ISABEL TAYLOR.

Mrs. V. Le C. Binet and Grenville (overseas) desire to express sincere thanks to the many kind friends for messages of comfort in their great loss of a loving husband and father. Also for the many beautiful floral emblems, telegrams and cards received. Will all friends please accept this acknowledgement.

AUCKLAND.

The Christmas meeting was held in the Bi-Centenary Hall, Pitt Street, on Monday, Dec. 7th. There were just over 200 ladies present, Mrs. Jack presiding. The soloist was Mrs. Tozer. It was a splendid meeting with a wonderful feeling of fellowship. Rev. A. H. Scrivin, who was the

speaker, gave a very enlightening address on the present position of the mission workers and an outline of suggested procedure when hostilities cease. Mr. Scrivin was very definite in his assurance of the loyalty of our workers and of the members of the native church. The Christmas offering amounted to £79/18/10.

MANAWATU.

This district was granted permission by Conference to try district working. Our first meeting was held in December at Palmerston North. All Auxiliaries were fully represented and very encouraging reports were received from nearly all the branches. One or two weak places were discovered indicative of the value of district working in helping where help is needed and stimulating interest where the struggle is keener on account of present conditions. Four of the five auxiliaries comprising this district were represented at Conference, delegates reported on same at November meetings. The interest in the "Special Objective" for this year is very keen, plans were being made for special functions to raise funds for this purpose. A personal visit and talk from Sister Jean Miller to Woodville, and Sister Lina Jones to Pahiatua were very much appreciated. Special mention must be made of the excellent attendance of Pohangina members at their meetings, only one member being absent on three occasions. The stamp fund is mounting steadily; the appointment of a district stamp secretary alleviates the work of the Dominion Secretary. We thank God for the keen interest and enthusiasm shown in this first meeting and look forward with great expectations to our next one in March.

SOUTH CANTERBURY.

Oamaru. Oamaru's new President is Mrs. Butler (Sister Jean Dalziel). Mrs. Avery recently gave an address to members on her work in Papua.

Woodlands Street. Rev. Burnet was the speaker at one meeting and Mrs. Osborne reported on Conference at another. A visit was also received from Banks Street Auxiliary. Two full sacks of clothing, books and toys were sent to Sister Dorothy Pointon and the box fund for the Solomons realised £5/5/-.

Banks Street. The Calendar Club continues to be successful. Rev. Burnet's address was much enjoyed, also a pleasant afternoon spent with the Woodlands Street members.

Willowby. Clothing has been forwarded to Sister Ivy Jones. The income for the year was £36, including an Easter offering of £6/7/6. Rev. Scrivin was a recent visitor and his talk was full of interest.

OTAGO.

Dunedin. Over 80 members attended the first Meeting for 1943 of the Dunedin Auxiliary, members' continued keen interest in our great Missionary enterprise was evidenced in the fact that many gifts of money were handed in for our Special Objective this year.

Mrs. Risely gave an informative talk on the work accomplished with a great number of children on Brighton Beach during the holiday period. The Three Uncles (Revs. McDowell, Risely and Tasker) spent a Happy Hour with the children every day the average attendance being about 60 children who were always keen to sing, hear a Bible Story and to join in the various forms of healthy amusement provided.

This we feel is real Missionary work.

OTAGO METHODIST YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY MOVEMENT.

The Movement is now in its 25th year. Begun to meet the needs of Young Women beyond Bible Class age, who were unable to attend the afternoon auxiliary meetings.

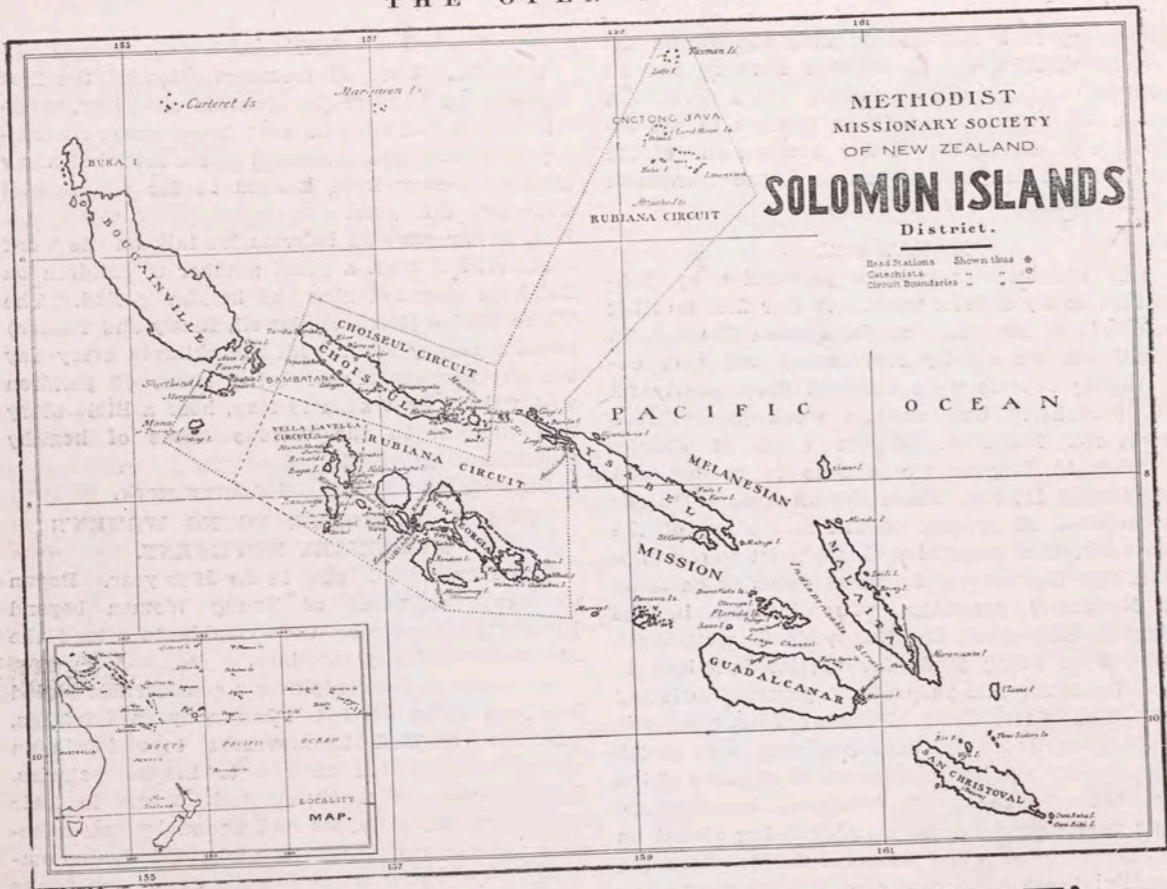
Its active membership over a considerable period has been under 20, but it has many good friends, who have enabled the movement to maintain an annual contribution of £60 to Sisters' salaries. Its members are consistent and devoted in their support of all activities and bound by real affection for our representative, Sister Elizabeth Common. We would warmly welcome to our ranks any young women desirous of working for the missionary cause.

SOUTHLAND.

Invercargill. Meetings recommenced on Feb. 4th after the holiday recess. Mrs. Stanley Brown presiding gave a very helpful talk on "Practicing the Presence of God" in our everyday stressful life. A very successful garden party was held in Dec. when our funds benefited by £21.

The Southland District Council meets three times yearly, when delegates from our sister Auxiliaries—Otautau, Bluff, Riverton, Tuatapere, Maitara and Gore bring in moneys collected and reports of their auxiliaries' work. The missionary interest is stimulated through our meeting together in this way and discussing our problems.





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JUNE, 1943.

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