

## The Challenge of the Solomons in War Time!

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### "THE OPEN DOOR"

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

SEPTEMBER, 1944.

Mrs. H. NICOLSON, Dominion President,  
who will preside at the M.W.M.U. Con-  
ference, Timaru, October 10-14.

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REHABILITATION IN THE SOLOMONS.

THE TIME DRAWS NEAR FOR THE RETURN OF OUR MISSIONARIES TO THE SOLOMONS.

WE MUST BE READY TO HOUSE AND EQUIP THEM.

AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICAL MOMENT CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, HOSPITALS, ETC. MUST BE REBUILT.

TO COMPLETE OUR TASK £60,000 WILL BE NEEDED. WE ASK NEW ZEALAND METHODISM FOR £25,000 WILL YOU HELP?

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The Missionary Organ of  
the Methodist Church of  
New Zealand.

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The Place of the Missionary in the Rehabilitation Plan

The experienced missionary is competent to play a major part in the rehabilitation of native life in the Pacific. He is the man of all others—not infrequently the only man—in whom the natives have complete confidence. He has been their minister and friend through many years; his one great interest has been their spiritual, mental and physical well-being: he knows their language and, through his pastor-teachers and many personal contacts, is in immediate touch with every phase of their life. Because of all this the native opens his heart to the missionary as to none other, the more so because he knows that this man has come to live with him for no other purpose than his highest good. With the missionary there is no question of profit as with the trader and planter, no detached and at times narrow academic interest as with the scientist who spends a few months in a particular area, and no hard and fast administration of legal enactments as with the Government.

In the present urge for better equipped missionaries there is, in some quarters, a suggestion that in the past they have been untrained. In view of the complexity and greatness of his task the most highly qualified missionary is quick to realise how much he has still to learn—much that the schools can never give him but which must be garnered by long years of experience. Preparatory training rightly planned is essential and many of the missionaries of the past have been well equipped. Our Sisters in the main have been fully qualified teachers or nurses; our Doctors, particularly in the Solomons, have been men of outstanding gifts and qualifications; the wives of many of the missionaries have been highly qualified, and the missionaries themselves in most cases have gone to the Field only after years of college and probationary training, and in some cases, as fully qualified tradesmen or with valuable business experience. It is true that this training has not always included subjects such as Anthropology, Comparative Religions, Phonetics, etc, but the most effective grasp of these subjects is that gained on the Field and the splendid service rendered by many missionaries in the past has demonstrated that they have not been slow to learn in the school of experience. Williams, Nott, Chalmers, Abel, Dauncey, Brown, Bromilow, Goldie, Gilmour, Page, Leleán and a host of others, to mention only the

South Pacific, have graduated high in this greatest of all universities and we shall hail with joy those of a new generation who can measure up to them. It is well to remember also, when considering the training of men and women for the Mission Field, that we are apt to put too narrow an interpretation upon "Education" and overlook the fact that a skilled nurse, teacher, engineer, electrician, carpenter, agriculturist etc. is as well educated as a Master of Arts or Science or a Doctor of Philosophy and frequently capable of more effective service to a comparatively primitive people. Needless to say, gifts and training—important as they are—are secondary. Without love they are nothing. The missionary's supreme purpose is to lead people into the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ and to do this he must be a man of God constrained by His Spirit.

So much for the man himself—or woman. But, however good his christian character and however complete his training, he loses much in effectiveness if he seeks to plough a lonely furrow. To be ready for the rehabilitation challenge he must be a team worker. Individual people and individual missionary societies must, more than ever, be prepared for collaboration and co-operation. We say "more than ever" because in most of the South Pacific Mission Fields this spirit has been manifest. Apart from the Roman Catholics and Seventh Day Adventists there has been little or no overlapping and various Societies have worked their respective areas in harmony and unity of purpose. A convincing illustration of this unity of purpose is the Missionary Conference planned for September, 1944 in Sydney, but now postponed until June 1945 to enable Dr. Decker—Secretary of the International Missionary Council in America—to be present on his return from India and Asia. The subjects already down for discussion at this Conference are as follows:-

1. Indentured Labour in the Pacific.
2. Missionaries and Governments in the Pacific Area.
3. Education in the Pacific Area.
4. Medical Service in the Pacific Area.
5. Missions and U.N.R.R.A.
6. The part of the Christian Church in a settlement with Japan.



7. Development of the literature of Pacific Missions by Edinburgh House.
8. The need for a Lingua Franca for the Pacific and the future of the Pacific Christian Literature Society.
9. The Evangelisation of Aborigines by coloured missionaries.
10. The place of the brown peoples of the Pacific in the family of nations.
11. Preparation for the larger Regional Conference for the South Pacific Field.

This list, while by no means exhaustive, illustrates the wide range of the missionary's vision

and emphasises the importance of his place on Rehabilitation Councils. In a recent public utterance in Australia, Dr. L. V. Evatt, Federal Attorney-General, paid tribute to the effective leadership of Christian missions in the past and stated that the continuation of that leadership will greatly aid the Government in its future work in the Pacific. We have also had the assurance of our own Prime Minister—Mr. Fraser—that the N.Z. Government appreciates the high service of missionaries in the Pacific and is anxious for them to resume their full work at the earliest possible moment.

## Early Days of our Solomon Islands Mission

LETTER FROM DR. BROWN DESCRIBES THE LANDING.

Rubiana, May 26th, 1902.

Dear Mr. Danks,

We are very busy as you may imagine, but I must try and write you a few lines to let you know the latest news. I wrote you last from Vila giving you the account of our voyage up to that place. We left there on Thursday evening May 15th, and arrived off Ugi in the Solomons on Sunday, May 18th, just after our evening native service. The teachers were all excited at this, their first near view of the Group, in which they are to labour. We did not land, but only went near enough to communicate with the solitary Trader there, and land the mails for this part of the Group. I was very sorry to see the wreck of the fine schooner "Sikyana" piled upon the beach. The last time I saw her was at the wharf in Marau Sound, a beautiful vessel, of which her owner, Captain Svenson, was very proud. It was a sad sight to see her, a complete wreck, in front of the trading station in Selwyn Bay. Next morning, Monday, 19th, we reached Aola, and found Captain Pope there awaiting the arrival of the steamer. As usual we had a hearty welcome from one of the most genial and friendly men amongst all my good friends in this group. His house and island were placed at our disposal during our short stay there. We got all the natives on shore, and they thoroughly enjoyed the luxury of washing their clothes, and having a good bath in good rain water from one of Mr. Pope's tanks. Next day we reached Gavutu at 4 p.m. and were very kindly welcomed by my old friend, Mr. Neilson, who is now the oldest resident in the Group. Mr. Neilson was associated with Captain Fergusson in the old days, and we never meet but sooner or later our talk is about the man we both esteemed so highly. Mr. E. Erikson was in port also, and I was glad to renew my acquaintance with one who was so

kind to me on my last visit. Next day we all went to Tulagi to visit Mr. Woodford, the British Commissioner, by whom we were very kindly received. He informed us, much to my satisfaction, that he intended to go west with us in the "Titus", as he had to visit the western part of the group on business connected with the Government. On Thursday, May 22nd, we left Gavutu at daybreak, and after landing cargo at Lunga on Guadalcanar we left for Rubiana the same day at 2 p.m.

On Friday, May 23rd, we anchored at Rubiana at 4.30 p.m., and so for the present our voyage was ended, and we all felt very grateful to God for His watchful care over us. My good friend, Mr. F. Wickham, was soon on board, and gave us all a most hearty welcome to Rubiana. Mr. Wheatley was away from home, but his agent, Mr. Grey, told me several times that he was instructed to render us all assistance possible, and to place his houses, boats, etc. at our disposal. I think it is only right that I should state here for the information of the Board and our many friends that we owe a great debt of gratitude to Mr. F. Wickham and Mr. N. Wheatley for the invaluable assistance they have rendered us. I cannot enable you to realise how great our obligations are, but I can give you some idea of it. In the first place, I was able to take the teachers and their wives ashore at once, and lodge them in a large house fitted up with bunks belonging to Mr. Wheatley, where they were quite safe and comfortable, instead of having to erect rough houses for them, as we had to do both in New Britain and New Guinea. They had also the use of a good cook house with all conveniences for cooking their food, and anything which they required was given to them at once. This kindly help relieved me of great anxiety, and we all felt very thankful that the teachers were made so comfortable. Mr.

Wickham has laid us all under a debt of obligation which we can scarcely hope to be able to repay. His house has been placed at our absolute disposal, and we are all his guests ever since our arrival here. We are landing all the timber on his island, his store houses are being filled with our goods, his men are all engaged in helping us to land and store them, whilst his boats are at our disposal at all times. It is quite impossible for me to speak too highly of the great kindness we have all received from my old friend. I can only say that we are all very thankful for it, and I am especially grateful, because it has relieved me of great anxiety and responsibility. As soon as we landed I got Mr. Wickham to send away a canoe to Ingava, the principal chief, asking him to come up and see me.

On Saturday, May 24th, we landed the boats and all our personal luggage etc. The ship's boats were engaged all day in receiving copra from the traders, and landing their supplies. Ingava came up during the day, and we had a short conversation together. Then Mr. Woodford met him, and very kindly explained to him the objects of our Mission. Mr. Wickham also spoke to him as he has often done before our arrival. The results are just as I expected they would be, that we shall receive

no opposition from the chiefs or from the people. They do not receive us with any enthusiasm or cordiality, simply because they do not know for what purpose we have come, and also because they have been frightened by stories told them by some white men in order to prejudice their minds against us. I must be careful here, however, to state that these stories have not been told them by any of the traders now living in the Group. We shall have to exercise great care and prudence in all our dealings with them, especially in these early days, in order to remove these impressions. It is, however, very satisfactory to find that we shall receive no opposition from the chiefs, and to know that several of the people have expressed their satisfaction at our arrival.

On Sunday, May 25th, I conducted the first service ashore in this Mission. I pulled over to Mr. Wheatley's station early in the morning, and we all assembled in front of his house in the open air, and I addressed the teachers in Fijian and Samoan, whilst a number of the natives were seated around us full of wonder at the strange sight, but evidently pleased with the singing which they heard for the first time. I felt the responsibility of the position very much indeed, and I felt very thankful for the impression on the

minds of the teachers. I know well the mistakes which they are liable to make in their intercourse with the people, and the trouble which may be caused by any assumption of superior power or by the appearance of any overbearing conduct on their part. I told very earnestly that the greatest power in the world was that of love, that we can only hope to win the people by proving in every way that we love them, and that we have come here because God loves them, and because Christ died for them, and has sent us to save them from their sins through faith in His name. I hope they will not forget the words which by God's help I was able to speak to them. After this service, I called at Mr. Wickham's and Messrs. Goldie,



The Pioneers who landed in the Western Solomons on 23rd May, 1902. Reading from left:—Rev. J. F. Goldie (Chairman of the District), Dr. Geo. Brown (General Secretary), Rev. S. R. Rooney, Mr. Martin (carpenter)



Rooney, and Martin accompanied me on board the "Titus" where we held English service, and I preached to the passengers, officers, and some of the crew.

Monday, 26th, was a very busy day. The lugger was safely lifted from the deck of the "Titus", and we were all very pleased to see her in the water. Captain Bibbing very kindly stepped the masts for us, and has promised that if possible he will set up the rigging, and bend the sails for us during his stay in port. This will only add another to the list of kindly acts which we have received from him, and it will, I am sure, be gratifying both to the Board and to Messrs Burns, Philp, and Coy., the owners, to know that we have been treated with great kindness and courtesy by Captain Bibbing and all his officers and crew during the whole period of our voyage. I have never had to make a request which was not at once granted, and this fact will prove not only that we did not make unreasonable requests, but that the Captain and all the officers were ready and anxious to do all they could to make our stay on board as pleasant as possible.

Tuesday, 27th. The crew were very busy landing our stores, but the work was hindered a good deal by the strong trade wind, which blew all the day. Nothing has yet been done with the timber. We shall have to land everything here, and take it away as we can after the steamer has gone. Very fortunately Mr. Wickham's large copra store was empty, and so we have been able to put everything under cover at once. We have also had the advantage of having all his boys to help us, so that our work has been made much easier than it would otherwise have been. Every day increases the weight of our obligation to Mr. Wickham. So far as we can see we shall not be able to commence putting up our own buildings until the "Titus" leaves.

Wednesday, May 28th. To-day we have landed most of the timber, and everyone has been hard at work. We shall have to keep discharging the boats until long after dark. The Captain would like to keep going all night as well as all day, but we cannot ask the boys to do this. As a matter of fact they have done remarkably well, and they are worthy of all praise. We expect the vessel will leave us tomorrow, and so I must close this letter tonight. I think you may safely tell the Board that so far we have done quite as well as I expected. I often felt very anxious whilst we were on the steamer, especially as we got near the Solomons, but most of my fears have proved to be groundless. As yet there is, of course, no enthusiasm on the part of the people, but this we did not expect. Our plans are to erect the small

house and store on Nusasoga Island, which we bought in Sydney, and in the meantime to look out for a suitable site on the mainland. Nusasoga will, I think, be a very good place for a hospital, when we are able to build one, and I am very glad we were able to secure it. Altogether, I think we have great reason for satisfaction at our position and prospects, and I hope I shall have good news to tell you when I see you again. Mr. Goldie, Mr. Rooney, and Mr. Martin are all well, and they have worked most energetically, and I think they are all pleased with the place and people. They have entered upon their work with great earnestness, and are full of hope, and sanguine of success. I think we have every reason to be satisfied with all the appointments made by Conference and the Board. I need not ask you to remember us in your prayers, for I know that you do not forget us. It is a great comfort to me that so many dear friends are thinking of us, and praying for us. You must excuse me if I have forgotten anything which I ought to have told you. My mind is full of thought about stores, timber, boats, lugger, and a thousand other things. I shall get alright soon, when the "Titus" has gone. Did I tell you before that we were all well? If not, I do so now. Please assure the Board and our many friends that we will do our best by God's help to make this Mission as successful as the older ones have been. We are proud of them, and some day I hope we shall all be proud of this the New Georgia Mission. It is very little and very weak at present, but it will grow as the others have done.

Yours very sincerely,  
George Brown.

Rev. B. Danks,  
Organising Secretary,  
Sydney.

#### DR. A. G. RUTTER.

The following high compliment is contained in W/O Frank Wickham's letter quoted elsewhere:—"Dr. Rutter is a wonderful doctor, he has a very good name down here. I am proud of him because he is one of our Methodist Missionaries. All the natives like him because of his kind treatment and even the white staff admire him."

#### SIMEON MAKINI.

Simeon was a student of our District School at Kokengolo (Munda) and with Jacob Lete, a fellow student proceeded to Fiji, some years ago to take a special radio course in the Suva Technical School. The latter contracted tuberculosis and died a few months ago but Simeon Makini has returned to the Solomons and is now serving as a Native Wireless Operator at the Government Headquarters.

## Australia and International Affairs.

Extracts from a Speech by the Minister for External Affairs, the Right Hon. Dr. H. V. Evatt, K.C., M.P., at Wesley Church, Melbourne on Sunday, 30th July, 1944.

International status and power are important to this nation. We could no longer disclaim them if we would. We should no longer disclaim them if we could. But status and power are meaningless unless we have objectives of our own and are prepared to take the responsibility of trying to carry out those objectives.

Let me illustrate some of these objectives. We have assumed a trusteeship or mandate (since 1919) over New Guinea. A "C" class mandate means a trust for the welfare of the native peoples who are unable to stand by themselves in the strenuous conditions of the modern world.

This notion of trust or mandate we have attempted to apply quite irrespective of international legal obligations. Nowhere was this objective more evident than in Papua where, under a great proconsul like Murray, the territory assigned to us by Britain, was governed under conditions which took primary account of the welfare of the people.

So that this notion of trusteeship is capable of extension to many Pacific and South-East Asian territories. In many places and in many spheres we will share this trusteeship not only with Britain and New Zealand but with others of the United Nations. It was in a full realisation of this approach that both the Australian and New Zealand Governments were of opinion that, "in applying the principles of the Atlantic Charter to the Pacific, the doctrine of trusteeship (already applicable to the case of the mandated territories of which the two Governments are mandatory powers)

is applicable in broad principle to all colonial territories in the Pacific and elsewhere, and that the main purpose of the trust is the welfare of the native people and their social, economic and political development."

This responsibility for the welfare of native peoples, who are still at a different stage of development to our own, is a great one. It is not only a matter of government responsibility, great as it is—Australia has an important history of missionary endeavour in the Pacific showing that the church is fully aware of its duty to carry the benefits of Christian teachings to the people of the Pacific. In many respects the church has led the way in the field of native education, native training and hospital and health services. With a continuance of their leadership our work in the Pacific will be greatly aided. So in the field of anthropology and scientific research—there is so much to be done that we must hurry on with the task.

I am happy to be able to tell you that the Rev. Dr. John Decker, the Secretary of the International Missionary Council in America, is to visit Australia shortly. His presence here will enable discussions on many urgent problems connected with missionary work in the Pacific area to take place. Active co-operation of this kind was envisaged in the Australian-New Zealand Agreement which is to-day a working reality and which will, I believe, prove to have been a notable achievement in the direction of the goal—which is peace, welfare and good government of the whole of the South Pacific region . . .

## National Missionary Council of N.Z.

ANNUAL MEETING — 1944.

This important meeting was held in Wellington on 12th July, the Rev. J. M. McKenzie presiding. The Methodist Missionary Society was represented by the Revs. W. A. Burley and A. H. Scrivin.

The Rev. Leonard Hurst of Sydney—General Secretary for Australia and New Zealand of the London Missionary Society, was guest and special speaker and presented two ideals.

1. That even when the Missionary gladly realizes he is no longer indispensable, the older Church and the younger shall remain united in a family fellowship.

2. That the scattered isles of the Pacific may be gathered and held together by a truly united Native Church.

Mr. Hurst also outlined some of the aims and

ideals of the National Missionary Council of Australia of which he has been Chairman for a number of years.

Miss A. M. D. Dineen, Hon. Secretary, ably presented the Annual Report, after which encouraging reports were given by representatives of the following constituent societies: Anglican; Baptist; B. and F. Bible Society; Church of Christ; L.M.S.; Methodist; Mission to Lepers; Nurses Christian Union; Presbyterian; Wellington Mission to Chinese.

It was resolved that the Executive take up the matter, already initiated, of endeavouring to secure for Missionary teachers and nurses the right to retain their association and privileges in their respective superannuation funds during their absence from N.Z. on missionary service.



## A Great Thrill—Renewing Contacts with the Native Church

Further news from Dr. A. G. RUTTER.

I have had two trips up to our Headstation area this month. The first on July 2-3; rather a hurried one, up one day and down the next; but I was able to attend afternoon Lotu with the Station people on the Sunday, and to have another talk with Nathan Kera. Then on the 16th I was up again, and this time was able to spend an extra day there. There were more sick than usual, including a number of our folk from Simbo, and I was kept pretty busy. However I found time to attend most of their afternoon Lotu, though I did not actually take the service. Then on the Monday afternoon I took the Government launch and visited the two main villages in the lagoon—Volani and its attendant islets, where most of the Bethlehem and some of the Roviana people have made their temporary village; and Baroulu. I examined most of the women and a number of children in each place; gave injections, distributed medicines, and then had short Lotu with the people,—exactly as I used to do in the old days. It was a thrill for me, as well as for them, as you can imagine. General health in these villages seemed to be pretty good; there was surprisingly little yaws; but the small children and adolescents are suffering very badly from chronic malaria: fortunately supplies of Atebrin are coming to hand at last, and I shall be able to arrange for a more adequate distribution of drugs to these places. It is very badly needed indeed. The most striking feature about the whole of the lagoon area—and one that both D.O.'s who have been there have immediately noted in contrast to the villages down here—is the great number of small children who swarm around the villages. It's a most healthy and hopeful sign. The teachers are doing excellent work in both these places; primary schools are functioning well within the limits of their materials. While the vitality of their church life, such as I could sense it in so short a visit, seemed to me to be even deeper and more real than before. That may have been just the effect of my unheralded and completely unexpected visit—it was a great thrill to them, and at both places in the little services we held, you could feel the atmosphere of deep joy and thankfulness. Not merely for the fact that they were receiving a little medical attention again—I think that was but a small part of it; rather it is that my coming back is an earnest to them of the continued interest of the N.Z. Church and an assurance at a time when they are so disappointed

over the delay in Mr. Goldie's return, that it is still worth carrying on, and that rehabilitation will not be an impossibly long time in reaching a further stage. I was very pleased indeed with this visit.

I was up at Y——, where the Choiseul boys are, a fortnight ago, and expect to be going up again on Friday next. I took up the Lotu books you sent, and gave them to the boys at evening Lotu. They were very thrilled. They have improved out of all measure—physically I mean—in the last two months; putting on weight, low sickrate, and their normal cheerful selves again; such a contrast to their miserable condition when first I went up there.

Glad you are going to the Sydney Conference; I will try and make a few notes on the medical prospect here in the next week or two. I have had a hectically busy month; moved into my new central Labour Corps hospital a fortnight back, and have everything running fairly smoothly there now, though there is still of course a great deal to be done to get the place into order; the site was carved out of virgin bush. I have now moved my own quarters down to the site of the new Government station, and am just getting my little hospital going here. I have brought George Hili, one of my old Bilua dressers, down to run it for a few months; he was very keen to have a refresher and then to go back to medical work in our own district.

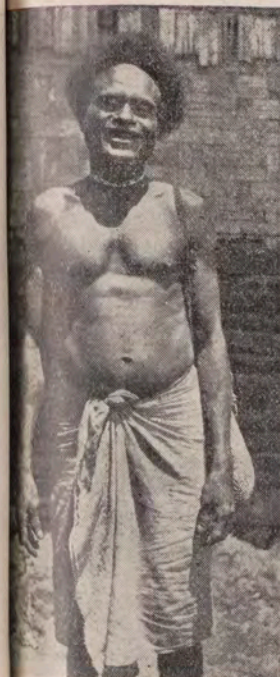
Sincerely yours,  
Allen G. Rutter.



Isaac—Primary School Teacher with his wife and family.

## The Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels of the Solomons

By CAPTAIN GEORGE R. THOMPSON, C.F. of the Salvation Army.



To have the opportunity of observing the Solomon Island Christians has been the privilege of many thousands of New Zealand and American servicemen on Active Service in the Pacific War zone and the true understanding of the value of Christian Missions has in consequence been greatly deepened.

The natives of Vella Lavella, typical of the thousands of natives who have come under the influence of Missions are a happy people. Intelligent, respectful, friendly, and scrupulously honest, these clean upstanding people with their glowing faces and sparkling eyes made a profound impression upon the soldiers and were a remarkable testimony to the redeeming power of Jesus Christ.

When war came to their islands and the Japanese invader took possession, the natives fled from their beautiful coastal villages. They were deprived of the fruit and vegetables of their gardens and of fish from the sea, but they made for themselves temporary dwelling places deep in the jungle or near the top of mountains where they would be free from molestation and where they could watch for deliverance. Their faith in God during those strange and trying days was very real to them and native teachers ministered to their spiritual needs and, where there was no teacher, the natives still maintained their daily practice of morning and evening devotions. Small Chapels and meeting houses were built for worship with loving and skilful hands.

The loyalty and devotion of these Solomon Islanders in spite of the wanton destruction of their Schools, Hospitals, Churches and homes by the invader and the loss of their Missionaries have proved the solidity of the foundations laid by the pioneer Missionaries and the faithful and patient teaching of those who built upon their work in leading these people to the right understanding of the truths and realities of the Christian faith.

My association with the native Christians was greatly appreciated by myself and will ever be

for me a fragrant and blessed memory. The singing of the choirs as well as the stirring congregational singing of those inspiring Methodist hymns will not be forgotten. It was my privilege and honour to conduct a Sunday afternoon Service in a jungle clearing at Maravari, in the absence of the Missionary on duty at an adjacent island and although the day had been very wet, some hundreds of native men, women and children had gathered from all parts of the island for the service. Many Allied soldiers also had come to join in worship. The New Zealand Divisional Band was also in attendance and rendered a programme of suitable music. What an inspiration these people were to me as the service proceeded! Their enthusiastic singing of the grand old hymns, their reverence in prayer, the attention to the Scripture Lesson (and one noted how many had their own Bibles and were following the reading) and their interest in the message itself. The service over, they set off again through the jungle trails for their villages and in spite of the many weary miles some of these bare-footed people had to traverse, with a smile and a song they cheerfully departed.

The religion of these black Solomon Islanders is a veritable challenge to us all. They LIVE their religion and we give a full salute to these worthy brothers and sisters—the Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels of the Solomons.

### A FIFTH FREEDOM.

The Chungking Christian Council have had a group studying the conditions of a Just and Durable Peace, and produced a statement which is probably the first of its kind from a purely Chinese group. The most original point in this statement is the addition to the Four Freedoms of a fifth, Freedom from Doubt. On this it is said: "It behoves us to adopt a constructive and sympathetic attitude in looking at the affairs of another country. Existing differences as the ownership of capital and the distribution of income must not be permitted to stand in the way of mutual trust." The statement speaks of the dangers of isolationism, and of the economic causes of war in exploitation and expansion, and speaks of the need for international organisation. It adds: "We assert that the growing responsibility of the churches calls for a greater unity of churches of all denominations. No plea of traditional obstacles can be admitted as adequate excuse from the injunction of our Lord and Master to unite in Him. Before the nations can be united in action the churches must themselves unite."



## New Zealanders in Fiji

BY THE REV. W. G. WILMSHURST, B.A., OF SUVA.

"He gave to some teachers . . . for the building up of the Body of Christ."—Ephs. 4.

Some 20 years ago the overseas missionary activities of the Methodist Church in New Zealand and Australia were controlled by one board and missionaries from both countries worked together in the various fields. Then there was a change of policy. From that time the New Zealand Church concentrated its missionary efforts in the Solomon Islands but it has never narrowed its missionary interests to the Solomons. One striking example of this is the contribution which has been made in Fiji and, in particular, to the educational work of the Methodist Mission in Fiji.

It is more than a hundred years since the first missionaries landed in Fiji and the work has advanced far beyond the pioneering stage. Schools have been established for a long time. Text books are often those used in New Zealand schools. The Government has taken over the control of education and gives grants in aid, sets the syllabus and demands a certain standard of work. This is the setting within which the Mission is co-operating with the Government in educational work.

Many of our teachers are from New Zealand. It is of their work that I write. It is impossible to tell of all the projects in which New Zealanders have shared for some of them have been in the field for 20 years and more. The early period of the work was hard and often disappointing, but

out of these years have come schools, and more important, men and women, of whom the Mission can be proud.

First of all, our work among the Indian girls. One immediately thinks of Miss A. M. Griffin and Miss C. J. Weston. Miss Weston is at present at Dilkusha as headmistress of our Indian Girls School. She also teaches in the Teacher Training Institution. Miss Griffin's work is centred in Suva in the Dudley House School. It is a school of some 250 Indian girls. Until war years the Indian girls Teacher Training was a part of this school but under war conditions it has been necessary to transfer the Teacher Training to Lautoka and Miss R. Griffiths is at present teaching the students. Miss Griffin has had the faith not only to maintain the necessity of educating Indian girls but to advance their education to its present high standard and to train them as Teachers.

On the Fijian side Miss Hames is stationed at our Matavelo Girls' School at Ba. There are some 200 pupils, most of them boarders. The staff is made up of one other European sister and four Fijian teachers. No article of the New Zealand contribution to the educational work in Fiji would be complete without mention of Miss Tolley and her work in the Ballantine Memorial School. Although Miss Tolley has left Fiji, she will long be

remembered by her girls. Ballantine Memorial School is primarily for advanced education and until recently the Fijian girl teachers were trained there. Both of these girls schools are making a big contribution to Fiji supplying not only trainees for the nursing and teaching professions, but also girls whose witness to better living in the villages will mean much in the future of the Fijian race and the life of the Church in their midst.

An interesting and successful experiment in the co-education of the races, Indians and Fijians, is being carried out in our Suva Boys' School. At present some 450 (pre-war 550) boys attend the



SOME OF THE NEW ZEALANDERS IN FIJI.

Back Row (left to right)—W. E. Donnelly, Rev. S. G. Andrews, M.A., Miss O. M. Duder, Mrs. S. G. Andrews, Miss S. J. Irvine, Miss S. M. Keeble, D. C. McIntosh, M.A., A. J. Birtles, M.A., M.Sc., Dip.Ed.  
Front Row—Mrs. W. E. Donnelly, Mrs. A. J. Birtles, Miss F. H. Tolley, Miss I. A. Hames, Miss A. M. Griffin, B.A., Miss C. J. Weston, Mrs. D. C. McIntosh, M.A.

school, some 200 Indian and 250 Fijian. When we realise that the Indian and Fijian races have to live together the value of their schooling together becomes evident. This school has developed rapidly under Mr. W. E. Donnelly, but this year Mr. S. Edgar is headmaster.

War meant the temporary closing of our Suva Boys' School, but was the occasion of opening up a new project at Davuilevu. Here, under Mr. Donnelly has been established a large Fijian Boys' Boarding school, carrying boys through to Qualifying Certificate standard and also, a new venture in our Mission, a secondary school for Fijian and Indian students. With rising standards a secondary school will take on increasing importance. The whole of the project has not been worked out yet and we hope to see further development in the next few years.

Teacher training work is in the hands of the Mission. War conditions have made it necessary for the Government to shift their school from Lautoka and combined Mission and Government teacher training is carried out in our Davuilevu

compound. There are some 40 Indians and 35 Fijians (18 girls) in training. Mr. D. McIntosh (Headteacher) and Miss Colledge are on the full time teaching staff of the Teacher Training Institution. Mr. A. J. Birtles recently retired from this work.

To make the article complete one should mention Rev. S. G. Andrews, who came to us to do educational work and has now been accepted as a minister by the New South Wales Conference. Miss Duder is the District Accountant and keen on Sunday School work.

Then there are men with the New Zealand troops in Fiji, who have taken Sunday School classes and conducted services. Fellowship with them has been one of the happier sides of this war and their help has been much appreciated.

I should like to add a personal appreciation. Sharing problems together, praying together, working together has knit us into one team and it is from this intimate fellowship that I would like to say "Thank you" for all they have done to make Christ known and loved in Fiji.

## The Work on Bougainville and Buka.

Extracts of letter from Rev. USAIA SOTUTU, B.E.M., C.F.

I am waiting now to return to Bougainville. Our work with the Government was finished, so I ask them to let me stay on and do my mission work, but they won't let me stay, as no civilian can stay in a place like that, except real natives of the island for they have no other place to go to, so I came away. As soon as I arrived here, I went to ask our chief Ratu J. L. Sukuna to help me to be able to go back to my work for the native in Buka. He was very kind and promise to help me, but in the end I was told that I will go back and do the same kind of job Mr. Cowled is doing (Chaplain to the Fiji Forces) over in Bougainville and that I can do my work as well with the natives. I am very glad about the offer, and thank Ratu Sukuna for helping me to go to the place I like very much. I am waiting to go back any day now. I thank you very much for the invitation to go over to N.Z. I think Margaret can go over when I am gone. The children will stay here in school. I have asked Margaret, and she is willing to go over, if you can book a passage for her from there and cable Mr. Green about it, she think that she can spend three months. I feel it my duty to go back and be there when Buka is taken, and I want to be there before you Ministers come over. Sipisong and the other Siwai and Buin boys are all at Buruata, those who were at Roviana, with the Teop boys. They are doing very fine work. All the Rabaul and Buka teachers are still at their

post in the bush with their Lotu people. The Siwai boys are also in the bush. There are no people in Tonu, Arenai etc.; they have gone to safer places. I have never been able to see them for that area is full of "Nomai Tokumirahu!!" (bad men, i.e. Japanese). I have manage to bring the Konua and Saposia, Keriak and Rotokas and a few Teop people together at Buruata to be safe, but I never had any chance with the Siwai people, but we must pray for them all the time that they may be safe where ever they are.

I am now Padre or Chaplain. I have not dressed up yet, but I am being told that I'll dress very soon before I go.

My kind regards,  
Yours sincerely, U. N. Sotutu.

### NEWS OF RABAU PRISONERS OF WAR.

The July number of "Pacific Islands Monthly" reports word having been received by relatives of one man who was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Rabaul in January, 1942. He was well and it is believed that he and other prisoners are in Saigon, Indo China.

This is the first news received of the man in question and is heartening for relatives of other prisoners taken in the vicinity of Rabaul about the same time. We are hopeful that the Rev. D. C. Alley and the New Britain missionaries are among those safe and well.



## More of our Mission Workers Honoured by the King

SISTER MERLE FARLAND, M.B.E.

All New Zealand Methodism will rejoice with our Solomon Islands district in the well-merited honour that has been conferred upon Sister Merle Farland, by His Majesty the King, in creating her a Member of the British Empire.

In earlier issues of the "Methodist Times" and the "Open Door," we have referred to Sister Merle's courage, devotion and outstanding service



during the early days of the Japanese invasion of the Solomons and we are both proud and pleased that her achievements have been brought to the notice of His Majesty. It is particularly pleasing that one of our European staff should thus share the King's honours with several of our native staff.

We extend to Sister Merle our hearty congratulations and pray that she and our other workers may soon be permitted to resume the mission work that is so near their hearts.

**WARRANT OFFICER FRANK WICKHAM, M.M.**  
**DANIEL PULE, B.E.M.**  
**PETER SASABULE, B.E.M.**

The following is an interesting paragraph from a recent letter received by Sister Lina Jones from Frank Wickham who for years was a catechist in our Native Ministry and is now a Warrant Officer in the British Solomon Islands Defence force. He is a grandson of the Mr. F. Wickham mentioned by Dr. George Brown on page two of this issue:—"I have one good news for you Sister. I am not proud of myself in revealing this, but I

give our Mission the credit. On the 11th of June the Resident Commissioner called me and said, "Wickham His Majesty the King has awarded you the Military Medal (M.M.) for bravery on the field." The Commissioner has already given me the ribbon, I am waiting to stand for the presentation. I am the second Methodist boy who has been awarded. Daniel Pule was the first—British Empire Medal (B.E.M.) and Peter Sasabule. John Tione's brother, boatswain of the Government ship a/v "Tulagi" was also awarded the B.E.M."

We rejoice in the courage and loyalty of these good Methodists and congratulate them very heartily upon their well-merited distinction.

### METHODISM AND THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

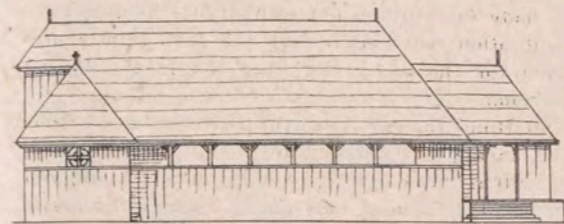
The British and Foreign Bible Society is the oldest missionary society in Australia. The Rev. Samuel Leigh, the founder of Methodism in Australia and New Zealand, who landed in Sydney in 1815, was greatly distressed to learn of the shortage of Bibles among the people. Accompanied by a military officer, Leigh made a canvas of Sydney to find there was but one Bible to ten families. This fact being placed before Mrs. Macquarie, wife of the Governor, she was so deeply moved that a public meeting was held in the Court Room on March 7th, 1817, and an Auxiliary of the Bible Society was founded. The Society now owns Bible Houses in all the States and has nearly 2,000 branches throughout the Commonwealth. Its circulation in 1941 reached 226,886 copies.—"World Dominion."

In thus playing the leading part in the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Australia Samuel Leigh builded better than he knew. Since then this great Society has printed and published the whole Bible and many separate portions of the Scriptures, as translated by missionaries of the Methodist churches of Australia and New Zealand, in numerous languages and dialects of the Pacific, including seven different dialects in the Western Solomons, Bougainville and Buka.

**THE M.W.M.U. CONFERENCE WILL MEET IN TIMARU, OCT. 10-13.**  
**ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND MUCH UPON YOUR PRAYERS.**

## Memorial Church, Mono (Treasury Island)

The following communication from the Rev. E. O. Shield, Chaplain to the Forces, dated May 30th, 1944, has just been received, together with sketch plans which indicate a chaste and beautifully finished church which will serve not only as a



memorial to our soldiers who gave their lives on Mono, but also as a strong link in the chain binding yet more closely New Zealand and the Solomons. The Mission Board and the whole Church will greatly appreciate this generous gesture of the New Zealand and American Forces so beautifully expressed:—

Rev. A. H. Scrivin,

"Dear Sir,—

On behalf of units of the New Zealand and American Forces in the Northern Solomons, I am writing to inform you that a Memorial Church has been erected by us at Falamai in the Treasury group.

The church was built as a memorial to those who gave their lives in the Treasury Islands campaign with the intention of handing it to the natives of the Methodist Mission there as a tribute to their loyalty and co-operation.

The time has now come for us to do this, and I have written to the British Commissioner at Guadalcanal informing him of the matter and ask-

ing him to take the building under his protection until such time as the Methodist Mission can assume full responsibility. In the meantime the church is still being used for services by Army Chaplains.

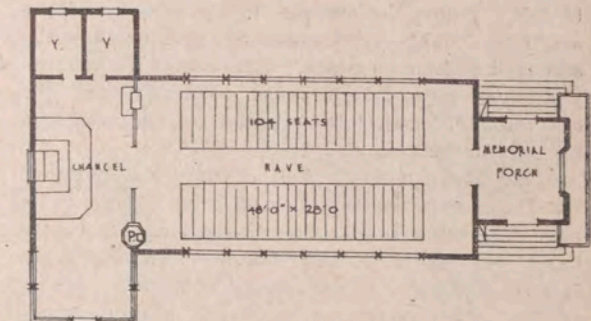
For your information I enclose a sketch plan of the building, and inventory of the furnishings of the church, and also a copy of my letter to the British Commissioner.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD O. SHIELD, C.F.

### Inventory of Furniture.

- 1 Movable Altar.
- 1 Lectern Bible in box.
- 1 Bible Cushion.
- 1 Mahogany Altar Cross.
- 1 Lectern of Teak and Mahogany.
- 1 Minister's Stall (Prie-Dieu and seat).
- 1 U.S. Flag.
- 1 New Zealand Ensign.
- 1 Pilot Jack.
- 29 Pews.
- 1 Vestry Chair.



### REHABILITATION — continued from inside front cover.

and Mrs. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Super	Eyers, Mrs. A. B. Boll, Anon. 2/6 each;	"A Friend"	10 0 0
10/- each; Mr. and Mrs. Pitcher, Mr.	Mr. Lunt, 1/-.	Anon—Carterton	10 0 0
and Mrs. Johnston, 5/- each; Mrs.	Rev. A. W. Silvester, Rev. H. J. Mal-	Woodend—Sefton	18 18 8
Laing, Mr. and Mrs. O. Cock, 2/6 each;	colm, £4; Rev. T. J. Wallis, £1; Mr.	Mr. Blomfield	5 0 0
Keith, 2/-.	Bottling, Mr. Rowe, Mrs. Gibbs, Mrs.	Hamilton—Mr. and Mrs. I. Gardner,	
St. Albans	Hurlston, Mr. and Mrs. N. James,	£2; Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Treloa, £1;	
Edgeware Rd.	Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, 10/- each; Mr.	Mr. and Mrs. J. Pheasant, 5/-.	
10 0 0	and Mrs. Tyson, 5/-; Mr. F. Turn-	TOTAL	3 5 0
<b>Addington—Union Church—Mrs. J.</b>	penny, 4/-; less receipt book, 10d.	Frankton—Mr. C. White, £1; St.	
Down, £5; Mr. F. Olds and family,	TOTAL	James Jnr. Y.W.B.C., 5/-.	1 5 0
£3; Mr. E. H. Smith, £2/10/-; Mr.	£27 15 8	Claudlands Ladies Guild	5 0 0
G. Ford, £2; Mr. A. Hay, 30/-; Miss	Organ Recital, Pitt St.	16th Coy. Girls' Life Brigade	
S. Down, £1/1/0; Miss A. Hern, Mr.	Mr. A. S. Reid	and Cadets	16 12 6
and Mrs. A. Burley, Miss D. Bonning-	5 2 9	Coromandel—Thankful, £10; Mr.	
ton, Miss Smith, £1 each; Miss M.	Christian Endeavour, Baptist	Boyce, £2; Inasmuch, E. L. Jones,	
Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Bonnington,	Tab.—Rev. A. H. Scrivin	£1 each.	TOTAL 14 0 0
Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Wellington, Mrs.	Caversham—Mr. and Mrs. A.	"My Extra Bits"—Carterton	1 0 0
Ancall, Mr. and Mrs. Crowe, Mrs.	Hamilton, Sympathizer,		
Fletcher, Mrs. Chapman, 10/- each;	10 0 0		
Mrs. Earnshaw, Mrs. C. McAuley, 5/-	Onehunga		
each; Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Burley,	160 0 0		
Mrs. Rickard, 4/- each; Mr. and Mrs.	M.L. per Rev. C. T. J. Luxton		
	Mr. Piper—Devonport		
	5 0 0		
	Devonport Returned Soldiers'		
	Association		
	2 2 0		
		TOTAL TO DATE	£22,656 10 10



**WOMEN'S  
PAGES.**

**M.W.M.U.**

Methodist Women's  
Missionary Union of  
New Zealand.

54 Apuka Street,  
Brooklyn,  
Wellington, S.W.1.  
August, 1944.

Dear "Open Door" Friends,—

Somehow it doesn't seem like three months since last I wrote to you, but life is very full for most of us these days is it not, and time passes quickly. So quickly in fact, that we must watch lest the work that is crying out to be done, be left undone because of our busy-ness with lesser things.

Now as we look forward to the Spring not far away, and we dare too, to hope that the day of peace is also drawing near, let us remember that "God's laws work slowly, but they work. This is a glorious fact. When evil is triumphant in some vile and violent act—the moral balance is upset—His laws seem to be mocked, but in the unseen world, the very universe is rocked right down to its foundations: but Time's hand adjusts it all, so wait with patient wisdom though the heavens seem to fall. Below the surface, forces are at work to set things right—forces that are greater than the strength of human might. Evil brings destruction and effect must follow cause. We can trust the operation of eternal laws." So, let us trust Him for all that's to come.

What of our work? Well as you probably know, we are busy stock-taking, and your Executive is most interested in the reports that are coming to hand — reports of new District Councils being formed, accepting the challenge of greater responsibility, and even at the beginning of their activities, telling of new Auxiliaries being formed here and there. We do feel the Spirit of God is moving among us, and I would express my appreciation of the way our women are co-operating with us, in endeavouring to bring about a method of working that will increase our usefulness as a movement. Beginnings are not easy, but working together we will find that our problems will be solved.

**SISTERS.**

First of all we say welcome home to Sister Merle Farland who is in N.Z. on furlough, and though I have sent congratulations to her, I do want to say here, how much we appreciate the fact that the authorities have recognised the work of Sister Merle by granting the award of Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. (M.B.E.) for outstanding work in the Solomon Islands during and after the Japanese invasion.

We pray that Sister Merle may be renewed in mind and body to continue her ministry of healing.

Our other overseas Sisters are just quietly preparing for the day when they can return to the Solomons.

Our Home Sisters are faithfully carrying on their work, facing and overcoming many difficult spots. You will remember them won't you? I know you will be glad to hear that Sister Eleanor Dobby is gradually gaining strength after undergoing five serious operations during the year. During her convalescence, Sister kept in touch with scores of families by post. What a great spirit is enclosed in that frail body.

**CONFERENCE.**

Though at the moment we have not had word re travel permits for Conference, we have reason to hope these will be granted, and that the way will be opened for us to meet at Timaru from Oct. 10th to 13th. Will you pray that we may be guided aright in all our preparations, and that Conference days may be rich in blessing.

My next letter to you will be written after we have entered on our second year of office. May I say how much we, as an Executive, have felt strengthened and upheld in our work because of the way you have remembered us before the Throne of Grace. We are counting on you to continue with us all the way.

Loving greetings to you one and all,

Your friend,

MABEL R. NICHOLSON.

**TARANAKI CONVENTION.**

The Taranaki District convention was held in Eltham on Thursday March 30th when delegates assembled from New Plymouth, Waitara, Stratford, Opunake, Hawera and Eltham. Convention opened with Communion Service, administered by Rev. G. L. Hanna. The delegates were welcomed by Mrs. Hanna, Pres. of Eltham Auxiliary. Roll showed attendance to be 50 for the opening session. The following were elected officers for the opening session. The following were elected officers for the presidents District Council. President: Miss Bates (Hawera), Vice-presidents: Mrs. Hanna (Eltham) and Mrs. Peterson (Stratford), Secretary: Mrs. Beare (Hawera), Treasurer to be elected from Hawera. Distributing Secretary: Mrs. Aked (New Plymouth), Gleaners' Secretary: Mrs. Peade (Stratford), Stamp Secretary: Mrs. Richards (Opunake). Dis. Correspondents' Secretary: Miss Ellett (New Plymouth). Discussion followed on how the district might help the small auxiliaries. After a delightful lunch, served in the S.S. hall, Miss Bates

opened the afternoon session with a devotional talk on Man's Co-operation with God in Resurrection Miracles. A solo "Open the Gates of the Temple" was sung by Mrs. Stanaway of Hawera. In the educational session Miss Ellett dealt with Conference finance resolutions. A paper by Sister Evelyn Marriott on the problems behind the education of Maori youth was read by Mrs. Turner. This gave an insight into issues not fully realized by the delegates before. Rev. Hardie missionary from Suva gave a short address on the words "Let us have your co-operation in Prayer." Sister Dorothy Pointon stirred the convention with her account of the problems connected with the Maori work in the district. Mrs. Richards spoke on the Stamp Collection. A period of intercession for the nation concluded a successful convention.

**HAWKES BAY.**

Hawkes Bay District Council happily records the first District Convention which was held in April under the auspices of Trinity auxiliary, Napier. Wintry conditions failed to deter the 60 ladies who gathered at 10.30 a.m. for closer Christian fellowship in a communion service led by Revs. Copeland and Hopper. Later the District President welcomed the Dominion President, also visitors from Hastings, Woodville, and Tauranga auxiliaries and Waipawa and Waipukurau Guilds. Time was spent studying the more important resolutions of the 1943 conference. Questions were raised on various matters, the answers to which helped to a better understanding of the present work of the Union. Luncheon was served in the Infant Room, the individual supplying a knife, fork and butter ration. Promptly at 2 p.m. convention resumed with a Prayer and Praise period. Hymn 151 feelingly rendered as a solo and accompanied by Trinity choir preceded Mrs. Nicolson's address. The large gathering followed closely the recounting of the beginnings of missionary work in the Solomons, the weary waiting for results, also of the problems faced by our Home Mission sisters in connection with their work among the Maori girls and women. In the recorded steadfastness of the native Solomons workers and people in recent trying experiences, the response of Maori girls and women to Christian effort, those present realized again the constant and faithful service rendered by so many in small and scattered areas of overseas and home fields. Sympathetic help and understanding of the smaller auxiliaries, appreciation and help for those holding office were points stressed in Mrs. Nicolson's address. Singing by the choir, the collection, and afternoon tea terminated a very full and profitable day.

**DISTRICT CONVENTION—Manawatu District.**

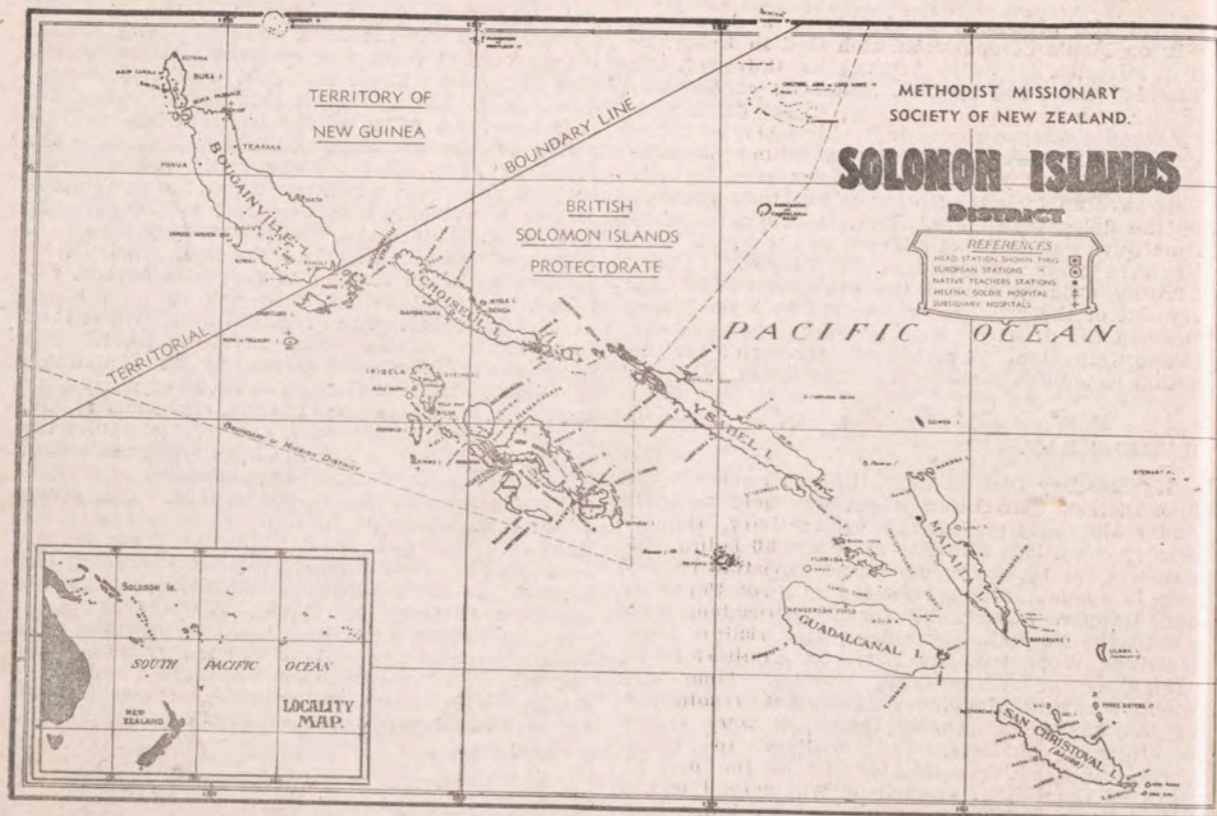
The Manawatu District Convention was held in Palmerston North on Wednesday, May 3rd. representatives being present from Pahiatua, Feilding, Foxton, Bunnythorpe, Ashhurst, Pohangina and Palmerston North. Attendance in the morning was 60, afternoon 130. The District President, Mrs. A. Boniface, was in the chair. Proceedings commenced with morning tea in the schoolroom, followed by Communion service in the Cuba Street church. The address was given by

Rev. C. Eaton, who said that the dynamic of missionary work was the Cross of Jesus Christ. Where it had central place the greatest missionary zeal was evidenced. Silver and gold were often bowed down to, as having almost omnipotent power, but they miserably failed in the crises of life, proving futile in the mending of broken hearts. The blood of Jesus Christ alone could redeem from sin and loosen life's fetters. After the communion service a welcome was extended to delegates by Mrs. T. R. Hodder and was followed by reports of missionary auxiliaries. The afternoon session commenced with the singing of favourite hymns, followed by devotional exercises led by Mrs. Harkness, of Pahiatua. The President welcomed visitors from sister societies, who gave greetings. The afternoon address was given by the Dominion President, Mrs. Nicholson, who spoke of missionary work in the Solomon Islands, mentioning the menial position of the women there, who before the missionaries' coming had not been much more than beasts of burden, but had been elevated by Christian influence into daughters of God. She spoke of the faithfulness of the natives during the recent fighting. She also dealt with the great service rendered by the missionary sisters among the Maoris. In these times of difficulty when morals had been lowered by drink and impurity, their work had been very uphill. A brief period of intercession for the nations was led by Mrs. C. E. Taylor. The President then pronounced the Benediction and a cup of tea in the schoolroom brought to an end a day of fellowship, instruction and inspiration.

**EPSOM BRANCH (Auckland)**

On Thursday, June 1st, the Epsom branch of the W.M.A. celebrated its 21st Anniversary. A united women's communion service was held in the church at 11 a.m. at which the Rev. W. Walker officiated, assisted by Revs. A. H. Scrivin, Laurenson and Wilmshurst. Mrs. L. Knight added to the beauty of the service by her singing of "Nearer my God to Thee." A happy lunch hour was held in the schoolroom, at which members of other missionary societies were present. The other Methodist Auxiliary branches in Auckland East circuit and also Onehunga branch had been invited, also past and present presidents of the Auckland auxiliary. After the usual business had been transacted and some musical items had been rendered, the President, Miss Rishworth, asked the officers of the Auckland auxiliary and the Epsom branch, both past and present to come on to the platform. A model staircase had been prepared by Miss Rishworth, each step representing a year, from 1923 to 1944. Each branch officer in turn spoke of the outstanding events during her term of office and placed her name card in the step of the year she took office. The first President, Mrs. Worsley told of the formation of the Epsom branch and the first Secretary, Miss Collins, read the minutes of that meeting. As step 1944 was reached our President gave some figures showing the growth in various departments of our work. During the years the membership had risen from 39 to 104 and income from £59 to £202. The total amount raised during the years is £2500. After a few words from Rev. W. Walker upon "Dedication" the meeting was brought to a close. Afternoon tea was served.





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DECEMBER, 1944.

**BACK TO THE SOLOMONS.**  
 Rev. J. F. Goldie — to whom a permit to return has been granted. See page 11.

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