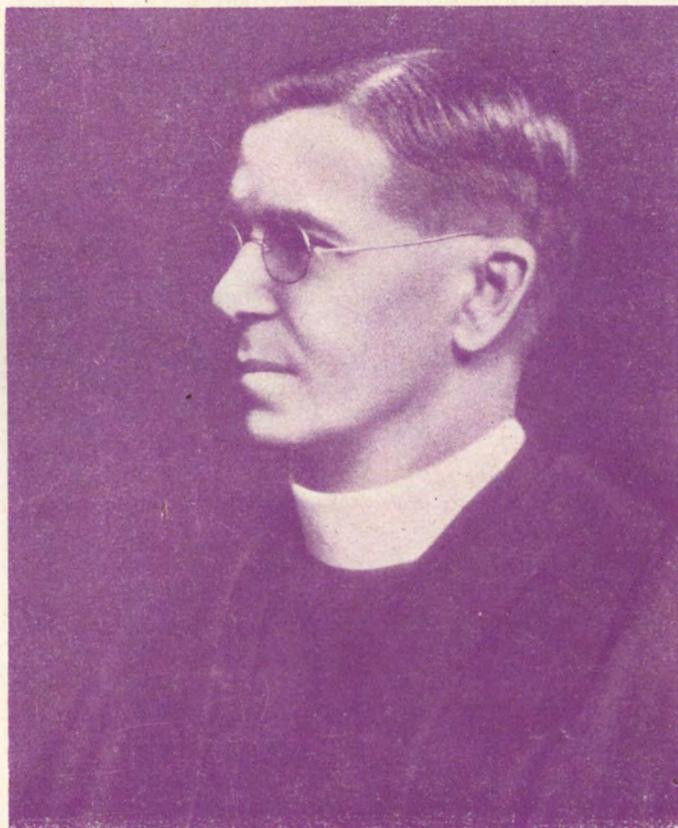


Mrs. D. B. Gordon

THE OPEN DOOR

*Missionary Organ
of the Methodist Church
of New Zealand*

JUNE 1962



The late Rev. John Francis Goldie, pioneer missionary.

Solomon Islands Diamond Jubilee

A Thankful Heart

Jesus said: "Father, I thank Thee that . . ."

Ten thousand thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a thankful heart,
That takes those gifts with joy.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands

Father, I thank Thee that the Name of Thy dear Son has gone forth to the ends of the earth and unto the isles of the sea. That in physical unity at New Delhi, in spiritual unity on World Day of Prayer, and in 'heart bound to heart' in the Solomon Islands Diamond Jubilee a thousand tongues have raised with joy our great Redeemer's praise.

Serve the Lord with gladness

Father, I thank Thee that preacher and catechist; translator and printer, builder and nurse; teacher and carpenter; writer and intercessor; politician and parent, each joyfully serving Thee, together help the establishing of Thy Kingdom on earth.

Come before His presence with singing

Father, I thank Thee that all worshipping congregations, inheriting from musician and hymn-writer, are enabled with ecstasy—and exaltation to rejoice in unity of singing in Thy Presence in Thy House.

Know we that the Lord he is God

Father I thank Thee that Thou art Sovereign Lord—there is no God else beside Thee; a just God and Saviour; and that looking unto Thee not unto Nationalism, nor Communism, nor Materialism, all the ends of the earth shall be saved, for Thou art God, and there is none else.

It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture

Father, I thank Thee that without Him was not anything made that was made—land, sea, air; rice, bread, coconut; body, mind, spirit. And that Thy Son, the Good Shepherd, knows His sheep calling us each by name; that laying down His Life He has taken it up again in Resurrection triumph as He continues to bring in His other sheep from coloured and white races into His one fold.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name

Father, I thank Thee that the Gates of Reading, Prayer, Suffering and Death open into Knowledge, Peace, Fellowship, and Eternal Life; and bless Thee that these wide open Gates lead into the very Courts of Heaven.

For the Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations

Father, I thank Thee that Thy Nature and Thy Name is Love, that Thy Cross and its outpouring of Forgiveness is timeless, and that Jesus is the Life, the Truth, and the Way. Therefore all Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

DEDICATION:

Thou may our tongues for ever bless,
Thou may we love alone,
And ever in our lives express
The image of Thine own.

THE OPEN DOOR

Price 2/6 per annum

Posted 3/- per annum

The Missionary Organ of the
Methodist Church of
New Zealand

Vol. XLII. No. 1.

June, 1962

Published Quarterly

Our Church's "Colombo" Plan

DIAMOND JUBILEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

(Commended by the President)

Methodists everywhere will rejoice that we have reached the Diamond Jubilee of our work in the Solomon Islands. Sixty years seem a long time, but it is a very short time in the life of a people. Since 1902, what a work of grace has God wrought! A whole people has been lifted out of darkness into light. A Church has been born. Illiteracy has been banished. Social services, including health, have worked marvels. An indigenous missionary group has set out for new fields, in New Guinea. Souls are being saved: a ministry of the Word and Sacraments is gathering force.

Casting around for a way in which the New Zealand Church might commemorate the Jubilee, we have decided to open a Solomon Islands Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Fund. I have the greatest pleasure in giving approval of this, and I commend it to the support of all our people.

Everywhere throughout the world, men and women are coming forward from the new nations, seeking higher education, to enable them to serve their people. Already, as in the Congo, we have seen the tragedy of a nation left to look after itself with no-one trained in the higher arts.

Many people who do have a higher education have received it in Russia. Sound scholarship is based on the Christian principle that redemption covers all men and all of Nature, and that God is active in the whole of His world. "His truth is discerned by the scientist, His creativity reflected by the farmer and factory worker, His justice sought by the lawyer and judge, His awfulness, beauty and wonder revealed by the artist, His grace and judgments recorded by the historian, His love meditated by all who humbly serve their fellow men."

Let us open doors of learning to our Solomon Islands brothers and sisters, so that they may find their way into these avenues of service where God is already at work and where He is waiting for them.

What better way to celebrate the Jubilee!

E. C. LEADLEY,
President.

The Vice-President writes of . . .

A WORK STILL UNFINISHED

Within the past few decades our world has in effect suddenly grown small. By the medium of wireless, nations communicate with one another, and with fast jet air travel, no part of the world is remote. Thus with modern means of communications it is no longer possible to conceal the uneven distribution of wealth and food, coupled with the growing awareness of this inequality by the less privileged nations. We have many other great forces and powerful ideologies seeking the allegiance of people, particularly those who are uncommitted. Communism is continually thrusting its devouring claws further afield and capturing the imagination and allegiance of many.

The religious cults of the East are beckoning mankind to follow their ways, and materialism offers its treasures with ever-increasing enticements and subtleness. After nineteen hundred years of Christianity, the Gospel has reached only about one third of the world. According to certain statistical figures something like five hundred million people will die in our present generation, without as much as having heard of Christ. With the rising standard of living and education which is progressively banishing much of the superstition and fear that held many backward races in its grip, we find that these people, particularly the coloured races, are groping and wondering whom they will follow. Thus the great commission, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations", which Jesus gave to His disciples prior to his ascension was obviously not just for them, but is a commission to all Christian people.



Mr. E. A. Humphries, Vice-President of the Conference.

Bishop Newbegin says: "The mission of the Church is not something added to its life: its life is in its mission. — You cannot get a right picture of the Church unless it is a motion picture. The mission is the Church being itself and drawing all men to Christ. In its broadest sense the mission of the Church is its total task in the world. Therefore every member within the fellowship of the Church has a responsibility in connection with its mission. The Overseas Mission which we Methodists in New Zealand are directly concerned with, is mainly in the Solomon Islands, where the Diamond Jubilee celebrations have recently been held, and in the Highlands of New Guinea. Thus we continually need to remind our-

(Cont. foot page 5)

SIXTY YEARS

Clarence Luxton reviews the Church in the Solomons in its Diamond Jubilee year.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations held last month mark the end of the third twenty year period of mission development. The Jubilee might well be the milestone marking the transition from the state of being a Mission District to that of becoming the Methodist Church of the Solomon Islands.

The story of missionary endeavour in the Pacific during the nineteenth century is one of the heroic chapters in the expansion of the Christian Church. Practically every island group was occupied by one or other of the missionary churches and the Christian gospel was proclaimed in the strongholds of cannibal heathenism.

By some strange circumstance the islands of the western district of the British Solomon Islands remained unevangelized and the twentieth century dawned before missionaries entered that area.

It was the pioneer missionary, Rev. Dr. George Brown, who made known the need of the Solomons to both Australia and New Zealand. He had



Alpheus Alikera with Eileen and their younger children. This pioneer worker in the New Guinea Highlands was home at Roviana for the Jubilee.

sailed through the group on several occasions from 1879 onwards. When he became General Secretary for Overseas Missions he won the support of the Conference and was commissioned to establish a mission there.

1902 - 1922

The Revs. John Francis Goldie and Ray Rooney were designated for the new Solomon Islands mission field.

A WORK STILL UNFINISHED

selves of our privilege and obligation to support these projects with our moral and prayerful help for those actively engaged in the fields and with financial resources which we can possibly make available.

The age of missions at home and overseas is not yet over. The task is not completed. Vast population increases and the rise of aggressive, non-Christian world forces challenge

the Christian Church to go over to the attack. Christ is always looking for recruits, who are willing to dedicate their lives to this cause, and to serve Him with love and with sacrifice.

If the Christian Church is to match the challenge of the present revolutionary era of the world's life, that a supreme missionary effort is needed.

ERIC A. HUMPHRIES.

Together with assistants from Samoa and Fiji they journeyed with Dr. Brown, arriving in the Roviana Lagoon on May 23rd, 1902. The first service of worship was conducted ashore and the mission had commenced.

The two young missionaries were tried to the uttermost as they endeavoured to present the Gospel to the arrogant savage headhunters. The pioneer days were full of exploits of courage, of patient endurance under provocation, and acceptance of hardship and suffering that the Gospel might be preached.

After several unresponsive years the Gospel won its way, the pall of heathen darkness began to disperse. Young men went from the mission schools to become pastor teachers to their own people or to their erstwhile tribal enemies. Missionary sisters were appointed to the field and a very necessary work among the women was advanced.

1922 - 1942

In 1922, twenty years after the beginnings of the work, the responsibility for the mission work in the Solomons was transferred from the Australian church to the New Zealand Methodist Church. It was the Centennial year of New Zealand Methodism and the responsibility for a mission district was gladly accepted.

Additional staff from Australia and New Zealand in 1922 enabled an extension of the work to the northern, previously German, islands. Educational work was advanced. A medical unit was planned and the Helena Goldie Hospital was projected with Dr. E. G. Sayers, now Dean of Otago Medical School, as the first Medical Missionary Superintendent.

For a decade the work went from strength to strength. Then upon the flourishing work fell the shadow of the world economic recession. Drastic economic restrictions had to be imposed. The mission's industrial activities were closed down, educational and medical work, and eventually the evangelistic work had to be curtailed. Lay missionaries, doctor and nursing staff, teachers and some ministers had to leave the field. The pastor-teachers contrived to carry on, voluntarily offering reductions in their meagre salaries rather than a reduction in the numbers of teachers.

In due course the period of restricted activity passed and the staff were increased to full complement. The work progressed with marked success. The missions alone offered education and the schools were full of eager students. A native ministry was established and training in leadership was given.

Across the mission field there came again a shadow of world affairs. In 1942 the tragedy of war burst upon the Solomon Islands. The Japanese invading forces swept through the group which soon became a battlefield as allied forces came and engaged in combat with the invaders. Most of the mission staff was evacuated. Messrs Metcalfe and Silvester and Sister Merle Farland continued to serve behind the Japanese lines. The Rev. Don Alley lost his life. The native staff endeavoured to minister to the people driven from their villages.

1942 - 1962

It was three years before missionaries were permitted to return. The whole of the mission establishment of churches, schools, hospitals, houses,

and all equipment had been destroyed. The Rev. J. F. Goldie faced the rebuilding of his mission with no more equipment than he had had forty-three years earlier. But the spiritual life of the church had not been destroyed. From their places of refuge the people returned to rebuild their ravaged villages, and almost without exception the first permanent building erected was the village church.

Though rehabilitation of the mission was immediately begun, the time-lag in availability of building materials extended the rehabilitation period over many years. In the interim, temporary buildings enabled the re-establishment of church, school, hospital and technical work.

There were many lasting effects of the war. Not the least was the sophistication of the hitherto isolated islander. Contact with troops of many races brought new and sometimes conflicting ideas. New skills had been acquired that caused dissatisfaction with earlier tasks and rewards as plantation labourers. Village life was disrupted and old loyalties challenged. Out of the turmoil came organizations of nationalistic bias, and strange religious cults arose.

In the post war period the civil government required the services of educated clerks for the expanding civil service, and workers with at least an elementary education. Mission trained people alone could meet the requirements of education. In the north an educational policy required teachers for newly formed government schools. Again it was from the missions that the teachers were recruited. Many found themselves in employment far removed from their own people. While many

maintained a fine Christian witness, others succumbed to the temptations of drink and gambling made possible by new government regulations.

On the mission stations advance continued. A college for girls filled a long felt need. The standard of education was raised. Goldie College became the centre of pastor training. Numbers of students went overseas, either on scholarships or supported by their own people, to study, and to train as nurses, bacteriologists, dental mechanics, artisans, or to further their education that they might become teachers or candidates for the ministry.

The Islands church which had long found its mission outreach in providing pastor teachers for its own mission district, now found an overseas opportunity in sending workers to the Highland District of Papua-New Guinea, while within itself there was felt the stirrings of an indigenous church.

The realization of the idea of an indigenous church is largely in the hands of the Solomon Islanders themselves. But the encouragement of New Zealand should surely be given. For some years New Zealand will need to provide finance and staff of missionaries. But the Islands Church will gradually provide its own ministry and administration, and ultimately will be self-supporting.

Already there is projected a United Theological College for the mission districts of New Guinea, Papua, the Highlands and the Solomon Islands. A logical development is surely the uniting of these mission districts under their own Conference, the future Methodist Church of the Western Pacific.

FORMER MISSIONARIES STILL SERVE



Belshazzar Govasa and the Rev. Arthur Bensley translating at Tauranga.

In this issue where we remember the labours of the past, we are grateful for word from two of our former workers, who laboured long years overseas, Revs. A. A. Bensley and A. H. Voyce.

TRANSLATION AT TAURANGA

Recently the Rev. Arthur Bensley, in his retirement at Tauranga, took up again the work of translation in the Bilua tongue. As his informant, Mr. Belshazzar Govasa came from Vella Lavella. Most of the cost was met by the people of Vella Lavella Circuit, and the balance was contributed by New Zealand supporters. Mr. Bensley writes below of the experience.

We soon got down to work. There were former translations to be revised, new translations to scan, and new work to begin. I soon found that Belshazzar was a very thorough worker and was not to be hurried, and these, of course, are the qualities of the correct translator. We generally worked in this way. I would translate as well as I was able, and then we would go through it together, to remove some of the more obvious

errors. Then he would take it and pore over it, and he would not be hurried over that. When this was accomplished it was passed on for typing. When the typing was complete he would pore over it again. Belshazzar has only one usable eye but I am sure he seen more with that one eye than most of us do with two. It is his deep concentration that is his special attribute. We sit together and go over a verse. I generally read it through, and it might seem quite fair to me, though sometimes I am a shaky about one or two matters, but he won't pass on. He just looks and looks and sometimes, being an impatient person, as he soon discovered, I sometimes want to shake him, but I haven't done that, and he has taught me something of the rewards of patience. He must have everything as it ought to be. He so greatly wants the Scriptures in their

own language for his own people, and as much as he is able to get in the time.

The typing was a great trial for me for I have never learned to type in the right way and I peck away with two fingers, and make a lot of mistakes. We had an ancient copy of St. Mark that needed a lot of grooming. It was translated perhaps fifty years ago by Rev. R. C. Nicholson and Daniel Bula, and maybe about the only one in existence. So we got on that and there were a lot of emendations crammed in between the lines so that I did not think anyone could follow them but myself. I had got through to the 13th Chapter when one of our friends came in. They used to come in to help Mrs. Bensley with the house work, as I was not able to lend a hand with that while so busy with, perhaps, weightier matters. When she saw the hold-up, she took over and organised help. She did quite a bit herself and had another of our typist people, also a very busy woman, working on the great scheme. Then our friend, Mr. J. B. Beeche had been helping all along, so that this part of the work was taken right out of our hands. All the Church people have felt that way and want a share in this work and it has all been just wonderful.

Now that we did not have to concern ourselves with the typing we decided to include Philippians in the programme, and that is almost complete now, and what a joy it has been, as I will relate. Great words were needed and great words were found. Each day when we faced our work we bowed our heads and besought the guidance of the Holy Spirit that He would take over, and inspire and suggest.

Quite early in the first Chapter v. 8 we were in great need. In verse

8 we wanted to exclude the "bowels" if we could for that would not convey the message that was there for us all. But there was an intense yearning in the hearts of the great apostle on behalf of his Philippian friend. So I explained the word to Belshazzar. He has a wife and four children at home in Bilua. I reminded him of this for he was constantly speaking of them, indeed yearning for them.

We looked up the dictionary and I told him of 'intense desire' etc., and he sat down again and remained quiet for a while. Then it came, tuqu tuquo (tungu tunguo). So I asked him to explain it to me and the explanation involved what had been taking place over a matter of years. Our strong desire to give them the Gospel of St. John in their own tongue. Though there have been many discouragements yet we kept on for we have a great love for the people. So we got our word for yearning.

Then there came the great words in chapter two in that he did not count it robbery to be on an equality with God. Where was the word out of this primitive language to fit that? Where was the word that would faintly fit this so amazing emptying of himself of all but love? I talked and explained and he said, there isn't a word. But after quiet waiting it came, Kaitako, and the noun, Kaito. Once again I asked him to explain to me the meaning of this word, and he told me a wonderful story. His wife Mary was expecting a baby and she was in hospital in great distress. The doctor was there and he too was in distress for he was coming to the opinion that either mother or baby must die. He spoke to Belshazzar and told him and had to ask him to choose, if there was no other way. After a period

of quietness he said, "I cannot let my wife die and I love my little child. If . . . it must be the child." And there was the word! Happily neither child nor mother died, though the little boy has one leg somewhat bent, but is being brought to its normal position by manipulation. The wonderful thing is that he bears in his name the story of his birth, Ian Kaito, the very word that we have used in the translation.

ARTHUR A. BENSLEY,

Vella Lavella.
1920-1934

A LIFE'S WORK CONTINUES

Now there are three other native teachers departed from Buin Circuit for work in other parts. First **Solomon Doguhorig** has gone to help with the work at Mendi. Doguhorig's first wife died, and now he has married again, and started out on a new era of service—another well tried and trusted teacher.

Then, two other teachers from Buin Circuit, namely **Jeremiah Timpa** and **Sanio**, both Banga trained under the Rev. A. H. Hall, have been appointed for service in a new Field, so far as Solomon Island teachers are concerned, namely the Bainings area, of **New Britain**. This interests me quite a lot, for back in 1928, whilst waiting for the steamer to take Mrs. Voyce and our infant son, Grenville, back to Bougainville from Raluana, on New Britain. I did a trip from the South Coast of New Britain, through the nearer Bainings area to the North Coast. In the early 1930's I was approached to see whether I would consider a transfer from Bougainville District, to work amongst the Bainings people, for the ability to do forest work, and the long distances I travelled so frequently in Bougainville, were considered suitable qualifi-



Solomon Donuhorig and his wife at Mendi.

cations for me to work amongst the primitive Baining native tribes, who in some parts are nomadic, travelling from place to place as food resources lead them. I do not know what area of the Bainings, whether the nearer, or the more distant Nakanai area, is the one to which these Buin teachers are going, but because they are going there—to the New Britain Bainings area, I am very interested indeed.

There is a certain gratification that, though Bougainville days seem far away now, yet I feel represented in the Overseas work being done by Buin Circuit workers in New Guinea Highlands, and in the Bainings area of New Britain.

There are a total of seven of them. And of course there are seven wives, and Mrs. Voyce who has had quite a lot to do with the training of the women of Buin Circuit, also feels gratification that so many who passed through our girls' schools are now serving the Master with their husbands "Overseas". The "TANU-TANU" (God) of the South Bougainville people is being glorified in the work of his servants.

A. HARRY VOYCE,
Bougainville 1926-58.

SOME THINGS NEW



The
Rev.
S. G. Andrews,
General
Secretary.

In April, the General Secretary of our Overseas Missions Department, the Rev. S. G. Andrews, returned to Auckland from a two months' visit to the overseas districts. For three weeks, Mr. Andrews travelled with Mr. Allen Dingwall of Christchurch. Their assignment concerned particularly mission business affairs in the Solomons, on which they consulted on the spot with District leaders. Our properties (land and buildings) engaged their special concern. Their report is at present being studied by the Board.

After Mr. Dingwall's return to New Zealand, the General Secretary completed his visitation of the eight circuit headquarters—and some outposts as well. Later, between April 4th and 16th, he visited the Papua

New Guinea Highlands District. We hope later to publish his impressions of the Highlands revisited after seven years. Just now, we present "some things new"—impressions of features, good and bad, in the life of the Solomon Islands Church and people.

TRAVEL AND NEWS

Revisiting the Solomons at intervals of three or four years it is easy to pick out significant changes since the last visit. Mail and travel are quicker, for instance. Recently, one worker received on Tuesday the letter posted on Sunday at Auckland by his mother. Then, in 1958, they were beginning to talk of a new air connection to the Solomons through Fiji. That service is now a reality, once a fortnight—a very real convenience and economy

for our Fijian and Tonga workers. So far, two New Zealand workers have travelled that way.

Now there is talk of an internal charter 'plane service within the Solomons. If this eventuates, it could make a big difference to the movement of our workers and students, and possibly to our shipping policy.

Of course, there is **local** value also from the international airline. I recall one hour, including breakfast, in a Fokker Friendship, between Honiara and Munda, returning after a sea journey of 28 hours the other way in our fastest ship, the Ozama Twomey.

It is the same with messages. All our ships and more of our land stations now have teleradio; others again can listen in to the mission 'sked,' even if they cannot transmit.

BUILDINGS

Our permanent building programme is tapering off. For the first time in 14 years we have no New Zealand carpenter on the field. True, there are buildings in course of erection, or still projected, but the stress has switched from new buildings to maintenance, repair and painting. There is urgent need for a steady and regular programme of maintenance.

Then there is the nagging question: "How 'permanent' are our permanent buildings?" Mission houses in Tonga and Fiji have endured for 60-80 years—but better timber was available then and termite infestation less severe. Our oldest buildings in the Solomons have now endured more than a decade. The tanned pinus radiata specially shipped from New Zealand has done best to date. But other buildings which have stood only seven or eight years are revealing signs of decay and termite damage.

There is room for improvement and standardisation in building practice. The presence of qualified Methodist laymen outside the mission now offers the opportunity of reconstituting the district building committee.

INITIATIVE

On May 23rd, at Munda, the President presented to the District the new constitution of the district, as approved by Conference, 1961. As General Secretary I have sponsored this move, and am convinced of the wisdom of the step. I looked for evidence of greater Melanesian initiative in the councils of the church and generally in the work of God.



John Anggolo and Voerini, Vella Lavella workers at Mendi.

Certainly I found it a joy to visit the three circuits (Marovo, Vella Lavella and Kieta), where the superintendent ministers are Pacific Islanders (Fijian and Tongans). But, after 60 years, ought not we to have reached the stage of a Solomon Islander in charge of a circuit? Alas, that day is not yet—and the problem is common to all the older New Guinea and Papua Districts also. To some extent, governments are excelling the missions in entrusting posts of responsibility to Melanesians. Have they possibly



Student Matthew Beaso, wife and family.

also "siphoned off" the reserve potential trained by us?

In respect of leadership, perhaps the most encouraging recent step is the new inter-district theological college at Rarongo, near Rabaul. Three Solomon Island students, Matthew Beaso, Leslie Boseto and Misake Tarurava are already there. The Solomon Islands Church has to maintain them. Both that Church and our Board stand committed to sizeable capital grants to this project. £1,300 is due to be found in N.Z. this year. No more important work than this one confronts us overseas. Mr. Ken Skinner, of Mt. Albert Church, is at work on the building programme under the Order of St. Stephen.

REGIONAL CO-OPERATION

Theological education is only one of the fields of inter-district co-operation in the New Guinea - Solomon Islands area. An inter-district consultation took place in January.

For some years, the Administration of Papua - New Guinea has been urging the Christian missions to pursue a policy of intensive teacher training. The Solomon Islands District has battled on to some effect at Kekesu training centre. Now the proposal is for a combined venture in the Rabaul area, with the prospect of

a substantial long-term Administration loan for buildings. If this eventuates, at least one of our teaching sisters will require to be transferred to help staff the joint college.

There is even the prospect of a United (co-ordinating) Synod for the four districts, presaging a possible later Methodist Conference of Melanesia. But in pursuing this aim, we must not lose sight of possible church union ventures in the area, where Methodist Synods have already initiated conversations to that end.

SOCIAL QUESTIONS

Throughout the area, moral restraints appear to be loosening. This tendency will not be curbed by the current liquor policy of the governments. Some relaxation of liquor laws is likely in the territory of Papua - New Guinea. But, in the British Solomon Islands Protectorate, a law has already come into force from the 1st February, permitting the drinking of beer by any person over 21. Spirits are still subject to permits. This law was enacted by the government in the face of the united opposition of all Christian missions in the Protectorate, and in the absence of any evidence of a wide popular demand for a change. Apart from the few hotels and clubs, certain stores have licences to sell liquor, provided it is not consumed on the premises. Thus discarded beer cans are to be seen occasionally in quite remote places. The General Secretary heard reports of drunkenness even among those of tender years.

One crumb of comfort is the gazetting of local licensing committees with churchmen among the members. The Rev. Daniel Palavi (Tongan missionary at Vella Lavella) is a member of the licensing committee for the Western Solomons District.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF CHURCH AND PEOPLE

A mere paragraph cannot do justice to this. I saw and heard little of the separatist movement in the Roviana Circuit, but the dispute has left a deep cleavage in the lives of church and people. The lines of division cut deep, and the day of reconciliation has yet to dawn. Without doubt, however, the very division has spurred the Islands Church to a greater pastoral concern for her people and a more regular coverage of the villages by ministers and catechists.

There are distinct signs of hope: The Methodist Women's Fellowship movement; the growing number of Bible Class camps this year; the special studies for the Jubilee year; the more regular observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; more concern over what membership is and implies; the continued translation and literature programme — Choiseul Circuit has just published a revised hymnbook. The British and Foreign Bible Society is publishing Psalms in Roviana to mark the Diamond Jubilee. B.B. and G.L.B. work are being fostered. The spiritual impact of the District Girls' School is already incalculable. One could wish that the quality of their singing might also speedily spread through the District.

STAFF

The District has greatly rejoiced in the coming of the Rev. James F. Cropp and Mrs. Cropp to Roviana Circuit. A new Fijian minister, the Rev. Sakeo Raturoba, was visited in his appointment at Senga, Choiseul. The District has also welcomed Mr. Laurie Jenkin (Order of St. Stephen) at Banga, Sister Patricia Jacobson at the Girls' School and Sister Patricia Hulks at Buka. Sister Vivienne Parton goes to Vella Lavella this month.

PERMANENT WORKERS NEEDED

Our readers will not be strangers to appeals by the Overseas Missions Department for workers overseas. There always seem to be some shortages. Quite recently, the Solomon Islands District faced a staffing crisis. That has been relieved **temporarily** because of the presence of four short-term workers. Their efforts are the cause of much thanksgiving.

BUT full value of the services can be assured only by the offer of further **permanent** workers. Particularly **NURSES**, needed **N O W** :

Christian women of good health, with general, maternity and midwifery certificates. Enquiries are also welcomed from nurses who have yet to complete their full training.

AND further permanent teachers (women and a man) are needed.

(State Superannuation privileges for teachers and nurses can be safeguarded).

WRITE to the General Secretary, Methodist Overseas Missions Department, P.O. Box 5023, Auckland.

FIFTY YEARS IN THE MAROVO



The late Rev. Tom Dent

The youngest of our separate circuits — Marovo — has been celebrating 50 years of Christian witness.

Not long after the Methodist Mission began at Roviana a young Marovo chief named Ngatu was involved with others in the murder of a European. He and the other offenders were jailed and in reprisals the Government devastated many of the villages. The people driven away away shifted up the lagoon. When Ngatu returned to his own people he found that they were living at Keru. Ngatu became very interested in the Mission work and when he and his people were ready to move back down the lagoon, they asked Mr. Goldie for a missionary. So it came about that Paul Iliofaiva was sent to Patutiva where Ngatu and his people were making a new village. Paul was followed by other Tongan missionaries. In 1922 the Rev. Tom Dent, first minister to be appointed after

New Zealand took over the Solomons Field, was sent to Patutiva. For 12 years he and his wife (the former Sister Gertrude May Mansfield) laboured among these people. Later, the Rev. Paul Havea of Tonga, was given charge.

The Marovo people speak a language akin to Roviana. They are the only linguistic group in our District to have the whole Bible in their own tongue. In the 20's Mr. Dent aided by some of the teachers' produced Mark's gospel. The S.D.A. Mission which entered the field in 1914 took up the work of translation and the whole Bible was completed in 1956.

Paul Havea was followed by Rev. 'Ahofitu Maka, and, when he had to leave for health reasons, by Catechist Seth Lingairi, of Fiji. At the same time the Mission was able to acquire Sege plantation opposite Patutiva. The present minister is the Rev. Aisake N. Vula, one of the best of our younger men. The acquisition of Sege, and the renewed interest in the Church came at a critical time. A few months later the life of the church was threatened by disruptive elements, but the people were able to meet the challenge in their new found strength.

The celebrations began on the 16th May with the arrival of the circuit representatives for the Annual May Conference. On Thursday 17th at 4.30 p.m. the Ozama Twomey arrived from Honiara with the President and Mrs. Leadley and the Rev. J. R. and Mrs. Metcalfe. On Friday afternoon the visitors went to Sege. After inspecting the station, they were entertained to tea and a concert by the Young People's Fellow-

(Continued on page 18)

A THREEFOLD CELEBRATION

ROVIANA MAY 1962

"What a glorious culmination to weeks of preparation and planning," writes the Chairman of the District, the Rev. George Carter, describing the recent celebrations at Roviana, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the Solomon Islands Methodist District.

At the celebration

- The President of the Conference (the Rev. E. C. Leadley) opened and dedicated the new Jubilee Church.
- Representatives of the eight Islands circuits received a special copy of the Constitution approved by last Conference for the Church in their District.
- The Methodist people pledged themselves to further the spread of the Gospel brought to their forbears sixty years ago.

BEFORE THE DAY:

Preparations for the Jubilee had taken three forms. **Physically**, the people prepared their best dances and pageants; the station football team practised hard. **Creatively**, the people laboured together; work on the Jubilee Church gathered momentum as long hours were given to erect their Church in permanent materials. **Spiritually**, the whole District is still working its way through a special programme of studies, stretching from Lent till after Synod.

Guests came from Australia, New Guinea and from New Zealand. From our country went the President of Conference and Mrs. A. E. Richards, President of the M.W.M.U. Accompanying them privately were Mrs. Leadley and Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Ayers from Rangiora. The former Chairman, the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe

and Mrs. Metcalfe, travelled from Melbourne to join the gathering. From the neighbouring New Guinea District came the Rev. Jack Sharp, Acting Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, the Rev. Mikael To Bilak. Alpheus Alikera, who offered at the Golden Jubilee ten years ago and was accepted as a pioneer Solomon Islands missionary to the New Guinea Highlands, was able to include this celebration in his second furlough. Greetings came from far and near. The British High Commissioner for the Western Pacific was there in person to express official congratulations and to plead for church assistance in the financial and educational progress of the people.



The Rev. John Metcalfe (a former Chairman) and Mrs. Metcalfe. They attended the jubilee.

ON THE DAY

Tuesday morning, May 22nd, saw the opening of the Jubilee Church. This fine building, commenced under the leadership of Mr. Jack Freeman, stands now as a worthy monument of the place the Church holds in the life of these people. Built on twelve mighty pillars, hewn from the bush, with its high tower reaching upwards, it is the first building one sees.



Interior of New Jubilee Church

The congregation listened reverently as Mr. Leadley dedicated first the building, then the pillars, lectern and font, the communion table and pulpit, each the gift of the local people or of friends from Honiara and New Zealand. Then Mr. Leadley addressed them all, in both Roviana and English, about "The Church — a house of worship and a community of worshippers."

Wednesday, May 23rd was the actual day of Jubilee.

More vessels entered the harbour, bringing hosts more visitors. An

hour before the service was due to commence, people began to file into the new Church. The guard-of-honour, comprising the Girls' Life Brigade in their blue and red and the Boys' Brigade in their khaki and white, with smart new hats — formed up to await His Excellency. Then it happened . . . the skies opened and the rain descended. For thirty minutes they were treated to a typical tropical downpour, before it eased sufficiently for the High Commissioner to disembark and move to the Church.

There the Chairman led in praising God for the achievements of sixty years. The congregation heard the words of Psalm 95; the Munda Choir rendered the "Te Deum Laudamus"; from Honiara, came a choir to sing, "For God So Loved the World." In thanksgiving, we offered our gifts to God.

The new constitution of the Solomon Islands District was presented by the President to eight men, each representing their circuits in order of seniority.

"They shall call on my name and I will hear them; I will say it is my people; and they shall say The Lord is my God" (Zech. 13:9). This was the President's text. He showed them how God had gone before them; how the Spirit first moved through men like John Goldie and Sam Angarau; how the people had now become accustomed to the Gospel; so much so that there may even be evil inside God's people. He told them how God's people can be tempted, how they forget Him; and yet, how these people are His Church. Everything is growing up, but that growth must be dependent on Jesus the Foundation. He exhorted them to



Rev. John Bitibule who acknowledged the Constitution.

seek holiness and show love, that the seeds sown may continue to grow and flourish.

* * *

The President's journey had commenced at Honiara, where he met the local Methodists and conducted a confirmation service at Wesley Church.

On the way onward from Roviana, the party spent an hour at Goldie College, to inspect the buildings and to meet staff and students. There was a brief pause also at the growing government centre of Gizo.

Friday, 25th May, began with a visit from the President and Mrs. Leadley to Ozama Leprosarium. Here the reduced numbers were evidence of the new hope that modern medicines have brought to the leprosy patient.

1064 people were counted seated at the feast arranged by the people of Vella Lavella Circuit. Of these over 500 were apparently under 15 years of age and probably less than 10 per cent were 30. "It was a dramatic presentation," writes the Chairman, "of the major evangelistic opportunity of our time . . . the young people of the world."

On Friday night two vessels set off from Bilua for Sasamunga in Choiseul Circuit. There was spent, the week-end of May 27th, when the President ordained to the Christian ministry, the Rev. Jobi Rotoava, a senior chatecist approved by last Conference to be so received.

As we go to press the New Zealand party is in Bougainville when another ordination is to take place, that of the Rev. Samson Pataaku, the first Methodist ordained among the people of that populous island.

After visits to Kieta, Teop and Buka Circuits, Mr. and Mrs. Leadley and Mrs. Richards proceed this month to the New Guinea Highlands, with plans to reach Tari, Nipa and Mendi in that order. The President is due back at Auckland on June 23rd and Mrs. Richards at Christchurch a little later in the month.

Fifty Years in the Marovo

(Continued from Page 15)

ship. The outstanding impression of this evening was the vital nature of the thriving young people's work.

On Sunday morning, the 20th May, the old Patuŋiva Church was packed to the door. The service was opened by the Circuit Superintendent, and then the Rev. John Metcalfe prayed in a most moving way, giving thanks for the blessings of the past 50 years. The President preached in Roviana, reminding the people that this was Aldersgate Sunday and that the warmed heart was the basis of all missionary work and the foundation of the Church. After the sermon, the whole congregation followed the President to the site of the new church, the foundations of which have been completed. There he unveiled a memorial plaque to the late Rev. Tom Dent after whom the church is to be named.

ABOUT PEOPLE

ORDER OF ST. STEPHEN

Mr. Alan Penny of Petone arrived at Nipa in the New Guinea Highlands in March to undertake building work. Mr. Ken Skinner of Mount Albert Church is at Rarongo near Rabaul, helping erect the new theological college to serve the four Methodist Districts in that area. Three Solomon Islands students are already at the college. Miss Bernice Birch, who recently qualified for the badge of the Order by her twelve months of pharmacy service at Munda, has temporarily rejoined the staff of the Mission. Her presence at Munda is warmly welcomed at a time of acute staff shortage.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER

For a year or two there has been no Australian doctor available permanently at the Methodist Hospital at Ba, Fiji. A Fijian medical officer, a graduate of the Suva Medical School, is in charge there. Most of the work is among Indian women.

Recently, in the Solomon Islands, Assistant Medical Officer John Wesley Kere commenced twelve months of special service as assistant to Dr. G. E. Hoult at Munda. Twenty years ago Mr. Kere was a distinguished young Methodist Solomon Islander who won a Gold Medal for Surgery at the Central Medical School in Suva. Since then he has filled a number of Government medical posts in the Solomons before supplying as Medical Officer to the Timber Company at Vanikoro. As he has recently returned to reside among his own people near Munda, all concerned are glad that he is able to serve his Church and people for the next year.

PLANTATION MANAGER

Not all our people are aware that considerable areas of land belong to our Church in the Solomons. Mostly they were acquired by Mr. Goldie very early in the history of the mission. Some are worked commercially and contribute modest sums to Church finance. Last year £A2433 was netted from these enterprises. There are several drawbacks however. Plantation management cuts tragically into the working time of certain missionaries. The standard of management often leaves much to be desired. Our plantations have not given the witness and example they might have done. Part of the task recently given to Mr. Allen Dingwall and the General Secretary was to assess these and other commercial enterprises overseas.

Among their recommendations, now being considered by the Board, was the appointment of fulltime managers. Mr. Rodney Fleury, accepted last year for service overseas, will, it is



MR. RODNEY FLEURY

hoped, undertake one of these assignments.

Mr. Fleury married Sister Audrey Roberts at Wellington on March 31st. They left on May 30th and will spend six months first at Ulu in the New Guinea District learning plantation management at a well run church plantations there.

HIGHER EDUCATION IN PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA

During his recent visit overseas, the General Secretary spent a day at Port Moresby, visiting the various Solomon Islanders doing teacher training, nursing and medical training there. He was in the Territory when the Australian Minister for Territories made an announcement regarding higher education for the people of the area. An administrative college is being opened soon, and the Australian Government has accepted the principle of establishing at Port Moresby a university college linked with an Australian university. That will take place not earlier than 1966. Meantime a multi-racial, full standard teachers' college should be set up and plans made for higher technical training. Secondary education throughout the Territory should be expanded to bring more people to university entrance standard. So far very few have reached that standard. Three New Guineans are at present at Australian universities.

Differences of language and educational method require separate primary schools for indigenous and expatriate children, the established Administration policy is that in secondary and tertiary education, there should be no separation of races.

UNEXPECTED BLOWS

The latest meeting of the Overseas Missions Board was faced with two unexpected withdrawals from the work.

On medical grounds, the Rev. Gordon Brough is asking next Conference for an appointment in New Zealand. Because of home claims, the resignation of Sister Joy Thompson had also to be accepted. Her withdrawal will



SISTER JOY THOMPSON

be a source of keen regret to the people of Vella Lavella, and especially to the Leper patients at Ozama. Mr. and Mrs. Brough had completed one term in Teop Circuit, showing marked capacity for the work. The Board regrets their sudden loss, and must turn now to next Conference for a further worker overseas.

A WORK CONTINUES

When the Conference of Pacific Churches and Missions broke up at Malua, Western Samoa, in May 1961, a continuation committee was set up from the various communions and general areas from which the mem-



**PASTOR VAVAE
TOMA with MRS. F.
MATAAFA.**

**Mrs. Mataafa is the
wife of the Prime
Minister of Western
Samoa.**

—By courtesy of
Pacific Islands Mthly.

bers had been drawn. A travelling secretary, Pastor Vavae Toma of the Samoan Church (L.M.S.) was appointed also. Recently the continuation committee met at Noumea, New Caledonia. A study conference for the Churches and Missions of the New Guinea and Solomon Islands area is to take place a few months hence.

SYMPATHY

A recent meeting of the Board confirmed a message of condolence with our friends, Mr. P. J. Twomey, of the Lepers' Trust Board, in the death of Mrs. Twomey. Mrs. Twomey has shared fully in the enthusiasm and devotion of her husband in the relief of suffering among the Pacific Islands people.

A message was sent to Sister June Hilder also, whose mother has recently passed away.

The Board took special note of the death of centenarian, Mr. John Astley of Mt. Albert, a former member of the Board and generous supporter of our work for many years.

FURTHER GRANTS FROM THE LEPERS' TRUST BOARD

Altogether £14,000 has come this year in grants from the Lepers' Trust Board, whose appeal last year met, as usual, with the general support of the New Zealand public. We have

invested £5000 of this as a reserve towards future maintenance and running costs of OZAMA TWOMEY; the Solomon Islands Synod is to frame recommendations for the use of £6000, £3000 for Bougainville and £3000 for new hospital centres in the British Solomons. £3000 is available for our normal medical and leprosy relief work. These annual and special grants have notably assisted and extended our medical service over the past twenty years. Without them we could not continue on anything like the present scale.

Close on the news of these grants came advice that a fifth major award has been made to Mr. P. J. Twomey, M.B.E., for his many years of work in aid of lepers and other sufferers. Recommended by the former Minister of Health for India, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Mr. Twomey has been admitted to the rank of Commander of Merit in the Military and Hospitalier Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem.

BIRTHS

Two births have occurred in missionary families this quarter: David Mark, on 4th April, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gatman and Stephen David, on 14th May, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Palavi. Both births took place at Munda.

OUR M.W.M.U. PAGES

Greetings all,

I am writing this on the eve of my departure for the Solomon Islands Methodist Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. Excitement and pleasure are building up in anticipation of a wonderful experience and I wish to express my thanks to the women of our church for the privilege and honour of being their representative, also for the many messages of love and best wishes for the journey.

Travelling with President Leadley, Mrs. Leadley and Mr. and Mrs. Ayers of Rangiora, we leave on May 11th arriving at Munda on May 15th.

The Islands 'May Conference' will be in session the next three days with representatives from all the circuits attending.

On Saturday Conference concludes and the visitors are entertained. Sunday's JUBILEE THANKSGIVING service will be an occasion you will have in your thoughts and prayers I am sure. Praying that all attending may have their hearts "strangely warmed", as we give thanks to Almighty God for His goodness and for all who have served in His name over the sixty years.

After the first week of Celebrations the Chairman, Rev. George Carter, has arranged that the visitors go to different places of special interest using the boats, Ozama Twomey Cicely, Ventura and Mandalay, let's hope the seas will be kind. Then I am to have the pleasure of joining Mr. and Mrs. Leadley when they visit the New Guinea Highlands.

Hopping round there in the little Cessna planes will certainly be a new experience and how lovely to visit the

Keightleys at Nipa, and meet the Huli people who are responding so wonderfully to the Gospel.

Having seen, just recently, movie pictures taken by a Government teacher who worked in Tari for some time I am prepared, a little, for these people suddenly to appear before me. Their head dress and ornamentation are a bit startling to say the least.

What patience and love it must take to win the confidence of people born in such primitive circumstances.

All the same I am looking forward to sampling the freedom and quietness and simplicity of living that is theirs that we miss over here in our mad rush to keep up with the clock.

During my absence I am indebted to Mrs. Fiebig and Mrs. Colechin, Vice-Presidents, and Mrs. Gerry, Secretary, along with other Executive members who will carry on with routine business including preparations for the Combined Conference to be held in Dunedin.

A letter from Sister Edna White has just come to hand. She is finding 92 degrees day after day rather trying and reminds me to take cool clothes. Staying up at Tonu with Sister Mary Addison she says the house for Rev. Phil. Taylor is almost finished and looks very well.

To have the Minister and family as near neighbours will be welcomed by the Sisters and people alike, and will save that forty mile trip up that rough track with four or five rivers to cross and only one land rover as the life line. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Dingwall made the trip but I cannot say I am sorry it is not on my itinerary much as I would like to visit the Sisters there.

In spite of heat and rough traveling Sister Edna has made several trips with Sister Mary on her routine visits to the villages within a 20-mile radius. She saw first hand the grand work being done for the women and children.

Fresh food up in that area has to be traded for and often they have to live on five varieties of tinned meat for three weeks at a time, so we can appreciate how welcome roosters and fresh fish are on the menu.

Have you arranged something special towards Jubilee Year in your church yet? Aurevoir and God bless you.

Yours sincerely,

AMY E. RICHARDS,
Dominion President.



Mrs. Amy E. Richards

FURTHER NOTES ON CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

THE SECRETARY

The Secretary is the executive officer of the Group, acts in accordance with its wishes, even if these are not in accordance with her own.

She is the person who is responsible for seeing that the machinery of her group works:

1. She prepares the agenda for the approval of the President.
2. Acknowledges all letters and replies to them according to her instructions from the group.
3. Files all letters and copies of important ones written.
4. Writes the minutes.
5. Works in closest collaboration with the President.
6. Welcomes new members to the circle.
7. Greets the Guest Speaker and brings her to the President.

8. Arranges for a member to move a vote of thanks where necessary.

The good Secretary is mostly silent at meetings but in this way hears and at times sees more than the President.

The Secretary in a Church Group has a great opportunity for spiritual work. We all know the power of the written word and the Secretary has this power to use in the letters she writes to sick members, to the bereaved, to those far away from church activities as well as to the workers on the field.

THE TREASURER

The Treasurer's duties explain themselves. The financial control of any group is a very necessary position.

Systematic book keeping is necessary.

MISSIONARIES' ADDRESSES

WORKERS FROM NEW ZEALAND, TONGA AND FIJI

SOLOMON ISLANDS DISTRICT

ROVIANA CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Mission, P.O. Munda, BRITISH-SOLOMON ISLANDS

Rev. and Mrs. G. G. Carter
Rev. and Mrs. J. F. Cropp
Rev. and Mrs. Iliesa Buadromo
Dr. G. E. Hault
Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Gatman

Sister Myra Fraser
Sister Gladys Larkin
Miss Bernice Birch
Mr. W. L. Jenkin
Mr. and Mrs. B. D. Smith.

Also Rev. and Mrs. A. C. Watson, Box 36, Honiara, British Solomon Islands.

MAROVO CIRCUIT: Address as for Roviana Circuit.
Rev. and Mrs. Aisake Vula.

VELLA LAVELLA CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail: Methodist Mission, P.O. GIZO, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

Rev. and Mrs. Daniel Palavi

Sister Audrey Highnam
Sister Vivienne Parton

CHOISEUL CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Mission, P.O. GIZO, BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

Rev. and Mrs. D. I. A. McDonald
Sister Lucy Money

Sister Beryl Grice

BUIN CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Mission, Kihili, Buin, South Bougainville, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

Rev. and Mrs. P. F. Taylor
Sister Ada Lee, Kihili*
Sister Patricia Jacobson, Kihili.

Sister Pamela Beaumont, Tonu.
Sister Mary Addison, Tonu.
Mr. and Mrs. Ovini Baleidaveta,
Kihili.
Sister Thelma Duthie, Tonu.

KIETA CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Mission, Roreinana, P.O. KIETA, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

Rev. and Mrs. John Taufa.

TEOP CIRCUIT Surface and airmail — Methodist Mission, Kekesu, Teop, Wakunae Free Bag, RABAU, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

Sister Kathleen Shaw

Sister Norma Graves
Sister Lesley Bowen

BUKA CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Mission, Skotolan, Buka, Bougainville, P.O. SOHANO, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

Rev. and Mrs. G. A. R. Cornwell
Sister June Hilder

Sister Audrey Grice (leave of absence).
Sister Patricia Hulks

TRANSLATION WORK—Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Hall, Methodist Parsonage, BOMBAY, N.Z.

IN TRAINING: Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Fleury, Box 90, Rabaul, Territory of NEW GUINEA.

PAPUA—NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS DISTRICT

(For reasons of space, New Zealand workers only are listed below)

NIPA CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Church, Nipa Free Bag MT. HAGEN, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA

Rev. and Mrs. C. J. Kcightley

TARI CIRCUIT: Surface and Airmail—Methodist Church, Tari Free Bag, MT. HAGEN, TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

Sister Edith James*
Mr. G. T. Dey

Miss Joyce K. Rosser

*On furlough in New Zealand.

Methodist Church of New Zealand OVERSEAS MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

HEAD OFFICE: 3rd Floor, Methodist Central Mission Building, 378 Queen Street, AUCKLAND, C.I.

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

General Secretary: Rev. S. G. Andrews

Treasurer: Mr. G. S. Gapper

Manager of Publications: Sister Lina Jones.

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

Editors "The Lotu" (Children's Missionary Paper): Rev. E. C. Leadley and Sister Lina Jones.