

# THE OPEN DOOR



## THE UNITED CHURCH

*in Papua, New Guinea and the  
Solomon Islands*

MARCH, 1970

"A wide door for effective work has opened."

1 Cor. 16.9 (R.S.V.).

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# The Regions at Work

*One of the stirring things about a united church is that it blurs distinctions, not only within its own bounds, but in all those who share its witness. So we in New Zealand are finding increasingly that our relationship with the United Church in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands is making it unnecessary (and at times, difficult) for us to think of ourselves as Methodist or Presbyterian. This issue of our magazine is devoted to a region-by-region report. We have taken extracts from the Bishops' annual reports and we have told you of the New Zealanders in each region, as far as we know them. Now, in 1970 for the first time, there is no region which does not have some New Zealanders. In every region there is at least one who counts New Zealand Methodism as his home church, and in all regions (except the Highlands) some who count New Zealand Presbyterianism as theirs. So, both in the United Church and in New Zealand, we are entering into more of the fulness of Christ as vision and responsibility grow together.*

## THE MODERATOR REPORTS

A young Church, a new Church, just beginning to discover itself, looking to the future, expecting great things to happen, seeks to serve its Master and the people in the ever changing kaleidoscope that is Papua and New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Faster and faster come the changes crashing in on each other. This is where God has put the United Church to live and serve.

This has been a year of discovery — of people finding that they are the Church — of people in one Region finding that they share the same Church with people of other Regions — of people learning about each other and finding new strength in their discoveries. As one old man on Choiseul Island in the Solomons said in wonder as the discovery burst upon him "Now we are one Church"!

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But within this new unity there is great variety. The Regions are different from each other. There are still many misunderstandings and suspicions. Even the meanings of the names used for various officers within a Region are not always understood by other Regions. But as long as there is growth towards understanding, these differences between Regions will be a source of strength and enrichment for the whole Church. There is no reason why all Regions should be the same in all matters.

Within all this variety, there are aspects that can be a great help and inspiration to other Regions. The Solomon Islands Region has a very good lay training programme. At a different level the Papua Mainland and Urban Regions have 'Prophet Songs' — passages of Scripture and Bible stories set to music and sung

antiphonally. The people often dance as they sing these songs so acting out what they are singing. These are two examples of what could be a help to other Regions. All the Regions have various programmes and ways of doing things that could well be studied by other Regions and perhaps adapted to their own use. God is not limited to one way of doing things. He is not confined to our grooves. He calls us to adventures in faith to find new ways of witnessing and serving.



**The Moderator and Mrs Sharp**

During the year the Administration set up an Education Advisory Committee. If its recommendations are adopted by the Government it will mean that the Territory will have a National Educational System. Under this the teachers working for the various agencies that choose to join the system will be paid by the National Teaching Service at the same rates as for Administration National Teachers. The System is organised so that education will be

more of a partnership between Government and the Churches but while it means a greater share in over all educational planning and control it will mean less control of a particular school. It will also require a greater outlay of money and material by the Churches taking part in it. But it should mean a better sharing of all resources available for education and better education for the children. Here is both real challenge and opportunity — to provide better Christian schools and to bring a Christian influence into the whole system.

Similarly our problems have great variety. Some of these have been thrust upon us by the changing society in which we live where peoples emotions, their expectations and the facts of life are all moving at different speeds in different directions. The troubles in Rabaul are an example of this. The whole community has been torn apart in the controversy over the multi-racial council. In the Commission which sought to find a solution to this situation Bishop Gaius played a prominent part and is showing great courage and skill in leading the Church as it tries to help in these difficult times.

The Bougainville problem arose out of the confrontation between modern requirements and the village people. While one deplors some of the things that happened during this confrontation, a new concept of leasing land from the people has arisen that could bring great material benefits to the people without finally alienating their land from them.

Then there are the problems of the bursting, thrusting, swarming towns. In spite of more and more houses being built and more and more job opportunities, the in-rush is such

that there are more and more people with no houses and no jobs. The children are finding it harder and harder to get into school.

Even in the more remote villages the all pervading greed of materialism is seeping in. Old ways, old concerns, old values, are being trampled down as being of no use in this modern society. Who wants to be burdened with the care of "Grandma" in this day and age?

Because of the new desires and ambitions that education and opportunity have brought to the young, there is a generation gap that is hard for a Westerner to understand. Many do not even want to return to their villages on holidays. "I don't want to remember that this is where I came from, that this is my mother and that this is my father."

But in all these problems the Church is there, involved, part of them. It is there serving the refugees from West Irian. It is there in Rabaul sharing in the pain of a society torn apart. It is there in the towns and the villages witnessing that God does care about every man, woman and child, seeking to be Christ's body on earth, doing His work. Ministers, laymen and laywomen are the Church

and all are sharing in this witnessing.

And yet there are so few to carry the load. There is a crying need for better trained local leaders. And yet who will train them? Who will share the work with Papuans and New Guineans and Solomon Islanders? There are nineteen vacancies for overseas ministers. One of our High Schools will probably have to close this year because there are not enough High School teachers. Think of this in terms of children who will not get to High School. Think of it in terms of the waste of precious, all too scarce leadership potential for the country as well as the Church. Again in the medical field we are faced with having to curtail our work here too. Local people are coming forward to be trained but until they are trained, the position for medical workers, nurses and doctors is truly desperate.

But God is working in His world. We are deeply conscious that He is leading us forward. He is ever near us. Yes God is good, God is great. To Him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

J. Sharp — MODERATOR  
W. G. Bache — SECRETARY



Rev. and Mrs N. W. Knipe and family

# PAPUA MAINLAND REGION



**Bishop Ravu**

New Zealanders working in the Region include:—

**Dr. Peter and Dr. Lyn Calvert** and their children. C.C.W.M. staff.

Peter Calvert comes from Dunedin and they share a very important medical work at Kapuna.



**Sister S. M. Pyper**

## PAPUA MAINLAND REGION

Founded in 1872 by the London Missionary Society, Papua Mainland is the oldest area of Christian witness in New Guinea. Here the N.Z. Presbyterians joined the Congregationalists in 1962. But it should be noted that the L.M.S. (now the Congregational Council for World Mission) always drew staff from other Protestant Churches.

**BISHOP:** The Rev. Ravu Henao,  
P.O. Box 83,  
Port Moresby.

## Rev. & Mrs. A. G. Dunn.

Mr. Dunn comes from Gore. Mrs. Dunn (nee Parsons) is a trained teacher. They went to Papua in 1968 and are stationed at Kapuna. They have four children, three girls and a boy.

**Rev. and Mrs. N. W. Knipe** have four children and they have been for some years at Orokolo. Recent letters have come from Ruatoka College.



**Miss I. Woods**



**Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Dunn**

They are C.C.W.M. staff. (Ruatoka was the greatest of the Cook Island pioneer missionaries serving in Papua from 1872 to his death in 1902.)

**Sister S. M. Pyper:** Miss Pyper comes from Hamilton — trained deaconess and trained nurse. She went to Papua in 1968 and worked at Kapuna hospital until transferred to Gavuone towards the end of 1969.

**Miss Wendy Reynolds** from Auckland is working as a volunteer for 1970 in the Regional office.

**Miss Lesley Somerville**, a school teacher from Dargaville, has been assigned to Fife Bay for her year of voluntary service. Here is Laws College which commemorates an early missionary, Dr. W. G. Laws.



**Miss F. R. Vickers**

**Dr. N. P. and Mrs. Thomson.** Dr. Thomson was born in South Africa. Dr. and Mrs. Thomson both come from Blenheim. Mrs. Thomson (nee Patchett, from a well known Methodist family) did secretarial work. The Thomsons went to Papua in 1964, where Dr. Thomson has been at Iruna Hospital, Mailu. The Thomsons have two sons and two daughters.

**Sister F. R. Vickers** comes from Karitane, Otago, and went to Papua in 1965 to serve at Chalmers College to work among the women. She transferred in 1968 to Daru and has worked previously in the New Hebrides.

**Sister I. E. Woods.** Miss Woods comes from the Waikato and went to Papua in 1967. She served as deaconess at Saroa until 1969 when she was transferred to Port Moresby.



**Dr. and Mrs. N. P. Thomson**



Miss Lesley Sommerville



Miss Wendy Reynolds

The last twelve months in the Papua Mainland Region of our Church has seen progress. But this word "progress" must be treated carefully, for while it would be true to say that forward steps have been taken in some directions, there have been times when we have marched up and down on the same spot, and there have been the times when we have actually stepped backward.

Half of our fourteen Circuits have local people leading them as Circuit Ministers. Our overseas brothers lead those Circuits which on the whole are not as well established and so still need the firm guidance of trained missionaries.

Personally, I have been delighted with the way that our people in the Papua Mainland Region have accepted so quickly the idea of a truly united Church in Papua and New Guinea. The people are looking wider beyond the view of their own villages.

However, it is true that there are weaknesses in our Region. These are a lack of Bible Study, lack of witnessing, lack of prayer and slackness in giving. Almost every Circuit has one or more of these weaknesses but I am not sad, because it is clear to me that more and more people are becoming aware of these things,

their eyes are opening more, and I pray that they will continue to remedy these weaknesses by much prayer and action.

The Region has had to deal with the Refugee problem, those people from West Irian who have been formed into camps on our side of the border by the Administration. The problem has in general been well handled by the Administration and our Pastors visit the camps at least twice a week to give services and conduct Sunday School for the children.

Every period of time in the history of the Church has had its own special joys and problems. It seems to me that we must not fall into the trap of losing a clear knowledge of what is the main work of the Church, that being to witness to the Glory of God and the Salvation He offers through His Son Jesus Christ. It is easy to forget to put first things first. Sometimes things that are first are put at the bottom of the list, we must always guard against this kind of thinking. Everything we do must be done in the light of Jesus Christ. We are here to serve Him.

Ravu Henao  
BISHOP



# New Guinea Islands Region

Pioneered by Dr. George Brown of New Zealand with a party of Fijians in 1875, the New Britain District, as it was known, developed over the years into the New Guinea Islands Methodist District, drawing most of its support from Australia.

**BISHOP:** The Rev. Saimon Gaius,  
P.O. Box 90,  
Rabaul



**Bishop Saimon Gaius**

New Zealand staff include the following:—

**Mr. and Mrs. Alistair Baxter.** Alistair is a printer who comes from Balclutha. He went out to Rabaul in 1967 to join the staff of Trinity Press. Last year he married Miss Gwen Bartel of Australia who is a stenographer.

**Mr. and Mrs. David Eason.** David comes from Otautau and served for a term as a builder in the Solomons. After his marriage he was appointed to the plantation staff of the New Guinea Region. Mrs. Eason comes from Queensland.

**Mr. and Mrs. Ken Skinner.** Ken served under the Order of St. Stephen in the New Guinea Islands area and then stayed on to become building supervisor for the area. Mrs. Skinner was formerly a teacher and Christian education lecturer in the Region. Ken is from Auckland and his wife from Australia.

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**Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boyd** left Motueka to serve in Northern Australia. Later, after a period in Queensland, they took on the task of managing the Rabaul School hostel.

**Mr. and Mrs. Albert Keuning.** Albert served for some years with the old Papua Ekalesia as a builder. After his marriage he was posted to the New Guinea Islands Region. Mrs. Keuning comes from Thames.

**Mr. and Mrs. I. de Leur.** From Holland to Indonesia, then to New Zealand and now to New Guinea, has been the pilgrimage of these folk. Mr. de Leur teaches at George Brown High School.

**Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Peddie** of Christchurch are the leaders of a group of Methodist Volunteers who have gone to the United Church in 1970. They come from Christchurch and are on the staff of George Brown High School.

**Miss Dianne Lloyd** is a Christ-church school teacher who is one of the 1970 volunteer group. She is teaching at Mangai High School, Kavieng.

**Miss Elaine Begg** has recently been living in Auckland. She is a very experienced teacher who has served in many countries. She is now at the Demonstration School at Gaulim.

**Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Fraser.** Mr. Fraser comes from Nelson and went to Papua as a carpenter in 1963. In 1966 he married Miss Carole Daley from Australia, serving as a nurse in Papua. They both returned to Papua New Guinea in 1969 and Mr. Fraser is Technical Instructor at George Brown High School. They have one daughter.



**Mr and Mrs R. D. Fraser**

Let us look at the problems first. Many pastors feel that they have less authority within the villages, and it is clear that there is less force in the habit of Church-going. More people now go because they really want to worship God. The sects still prove a problem and there are growing social problems that challenge the power of the Gospel to provide a real and worthwhile answer. The problem of drunkenness, the fear of magic, uncertainty about the right use of Sunday, growing laxity and sex, all force every Christian to think more fully about the real meaning and application of his faith. And this year, especially in the Gazelle, there has been the question of the Christian approach to the multi-racial Council. This has gone deep into the life of our people in a number of villages, but as yet has not affected the work of the Church. Evangelism, as ever, is a great need.

But the year has not seen only problems. We note with gratitude the

interest shown in the many study-weeks organised by the Region. We have had the benefit of visits from all the major Assembly Institutions. Christmas and Easter weekends have led many young people either to become Christians or to deepen their faith. The standard of probationers has been refreshingly high. We rejoice in all the work that has been done in the way of translation; and we are glad to have the new hymn books with their 444 hymns. All over the Region, new permanent material Churches are evidence of the sacrificial giving and hard work of the members of the Church.

The number of schools, teachers and pupils has increased at Church schools. We were delighted that the number of passes in Form III and IV at George Brown High School was well above the National average, and we hope that the same standard will be maintained. There was universal excitement at the opening of Manggai, and we rejoice that in



**Miss Dianne Lloyd**

spite of problems of accommodation, this new work is still growing. We are ready for any changes that may be made in the National education policy, and we still believe that there is much work for the Churches in education.



**Mr Bill Peddie**

The first graduates who have gone out from the Vatnabara School of Nursing are doing a fine piece of work in the hospitals. We still note the problems arising from the fact that, even among Church members, magic is often used before sick people will come to the hospitals. The faithful witness of lay Christians is one of the most important answers to this problem.

Time would fail us to tell of all that God has been doing through the year, and we know that much faithful work is not acknowledged in this short report.

Saimon Gaius  
**BISHOP**



**Mr Alistair Baxter**



**Mr Ken Skinner**



**Bishop Robert Budiara**

## ***Papuan Islands Region***

Old beliefs in magic, sorcery and different spirits continue to hold many people. New ways and customs especially relating to courtship and marriage, sometimes bring the young and older people into conflict. The changeover of village leadership especially in Local along with occasional misunderstandings has had its effect at times in the life of the local church. Church members do not easily understand how to apply their Christian faith in everyday life. To these and many other things, the Church must pay attention. (It should be noted that though there are these problems, the statistics show a marked increase in the membership as well as in the numbers of seekers and adherents). There is therefore special need to further equip ministers, lay pastors and leaders for their work. The D.C.E. has held a Ministers' Laboratory, and there have been Lay

Dr. William Bromilow was the leader of the party which began work at Dobu in 1891. New Zealand was closely involved with this former Methodist District for the first forty years. We are happy to now resume a close relationship with the area through those from this country who serve there.

**BISHOP:** The Rev. Robert Budiara, Salamo.

Pastor Retreats during the year. More are planned for 1970.

We understand that the work of the D.C.E. is only beginning here, but we are happy because people are starting to realise how important its work is and how it can help everyone — ministers, lay pastors, leaders, members, other people and youth.

The giving of the people to the work of God was only slightly above that of last year, however it is hoped that a commencement will be made on the "Stewardship" approach in 1970.

Wesley High School has distinguished itself again with above average examination work. The Region is grateful to N.G.I.R. George Brown High School for its continuing assistance given to some of our Form IV students. It is hoped that Wesley High School will commence



**Mr Doug McKenzie**

Form IV in 1971.

The medical work continues under great difficulties caused by the inadequate number of overseas staff.

Our Technical Department has been kept more than busy trying to keep up with the need for church buildings, schools, dormitories and staff housing. Boats maintenance has continued to be a heavy and never ending work. Lack of staff here is causing serious concern.

The visit of the Moderator and his wife to the people of this Region has been not only very warmly appreciated, but has begun to create a more realistic bond between the Region and the Assembly — the whole United Church.

R. Budiara  
BISHOP

New Zealand staff include:—

**Miss Nancy Beckham** of Wellington, who now teaches at Wesley High School, Salamo.

**Miss Elaine Keals**, a Presbyterian volunteer nurse, is now at Wailagi. She comes from Papakura.

**Mr. and Mrs. Doug McKenzie** have been shifted after two fruitful years at Gaulim Teachers' College. Doug is now Principal of Wesley High School, Salamo. Both Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie belong to Northland.

**Rev. and Mrs. A. L. Scarlet.** Mr. and Mrs. Scarlet both come from Gore. Mrs. Scarlet is a trained teacher. They went to Papua in 1962 and were stationel at Saroa. They have three daughters.



**Rev and Mrs A. L. Scarlet**

# New Frontiers

## in the URBAN REGION

The opening paragraph of the Port Moresby Circuit's report to Synod reads as follows:

The Church in Port Moresby is faced with many changes and problems. More and more people are coming into the town; now settlements are being established; and low, medium and high cost housing is being put up in many places. However, in the meantime, more and more people have no houses, and no work, and their children are dropping out of school, or finding no schooling at all. There are many problems arising from these things, and many exciting changes in the social, economic and political life of our town. The Church is involved in all these changes.

The Urban Region Synod Minutes indicate the United Church has insufficient resources both of money and personnel within the Urban Region, and that the Region must expect considerable support both from overseas sources, and by the release of suitable staff by other Regions.

From the Report of the work on the New Guinea Towns comes the following:

"... the Bishop ... has been impressed many times with the way in which a small number of our people are faithfully witnessing in the towns and attempting to hold the United Church people together in the Christian fellowship, and receiving and giving care and guidance." The report speaks of strong, well established, staffed Congregations, and also of small groups of lay people who are in need of a greater measure of oversight and guidance. This year some progress has been made in giving more adequate attention to such groups.

We are a new Region. We are trying to face the "new" and great problems of people living in our towns and of the church's task of evangelism and pastoral care amongst and for these people. We think there are good signs of life in our corner of the United Church, but we are aware of many inadequacies, and of our great need for a larger measure of understanding and wisdom and grace.

F. H. Butler  
BISHOP



Rev. and Mrs. P. N. Wedde

## URBAN REGION

Formed in 1968, when the new church came into being, to cater for the work in the towns of mainland New Guinea, this Region builds on work that began long ago in those towns, principally under the guidance of the L.M.S.

**BISHOP:** The Rev. Frank Butler,  
P.O. Box 83,  
Port Moresby



**Bishop Frank Butler**

New Zealanders in the Region include:—

**Sister L. M. Topp** who is giving a year's voluntary service at Gemo Island Hospital which caters for leprosy patients and Tb patients. She comes from Christchurch.

Also at Gemo is **Noel Andrews**, a bank clerk, of Auckland, who is serving as administrative and clerical officer for the hospital. He too is a one-year volunteer.

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**Miss B. J. Matheson**

**Murray Small** left Auckland during 1969 to give a year of service under the Order of St. Stephen. He was to have gone to the Solomons, but he went first to Port Moresby. Now he has married and plans are for him to go to the Highlands when his tasks in the city are finished.

**Miss B. J. Matheson** comes from South Auckland and went to Papua in 1964. She is stationed at Port Moresby and working with young people, with special responsibility for Bible in schools programme.

**Rev. and Mrs. P. N. Wedde.** Mr. Wedde comes from the Waikato and his wife from Auckland. Mrs. Wedde is a trained teacher. They went to Papua in 1964, stationed at Gavuone and transferred to Port Moresby in 1968.



**Mr Noel Andrews**

Rapid change has always been a feature of life in the Highlands Region. Now we find the rate of change accelerating. In the broader picture we see social change, economic change and political change accelerating. In each of these spheres the Church's role has been very limited, but the challenge is limitless. We are forced to face it.

This changing social, economic and political climate in which we work is having all kinds of side effects on us. The improved road communication means greater efficiency within Circuits and has enabled

in this Region attend school we cannot regard the work as satisfactory. Our rate of expansion must be speeded up right now.

Our medical work has continued to be of vital service to the area and a service greatly appreciated by the people and the Administration.

Finance continues to be a problem. This year we had no substantial change in income from the overseas Churches but our costs rose sharply.

In conclusion I record my gratitude to Almighty God for a truly blessed year in the Highlands. I would express my appreciation for a

## HIGHLANDS

me to visit Circuits with much greater frequency than was previously possible. Rising standards of living are welcomed, but have had their effects on our budget. (The rises in salaries of the native staff, approved at last Synod, has cost the region an extra \$4000.)

Within the life of the Church we see changes too. Evangelistic outreach has been changed from being basically concerned with primitive animistic people hearing the gospel for the first time, to a complex group of hardened people who have resisted the claims of Christ for ten years, and an increasing number of expatriate natives bringing their peculiar urban problems to our little towns. Perhaps our most difficult problem is the work with the new generation of Highland youth.

In the realm of education I am happy to report that this year has been the best in the history of the **Region. The increase in staff** has really been most heartening, but while less than 20% of the children

staff who have faced the challenge of a changing situation and have worked as an integrated team for the glory of God. I must too, express gratitude for the support we have received both from the other regions in the Assembly and also from the supporting Churches in Australia and New Zealand.

A. G. Smith  
BISHOP



Sister Beverley Baker

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## HIGHLANDS REGION

The Highlands Region has been in existence for just on twenty years. It was in 1950 that the Rev. Gordon Young led the pioneer party into Mendi. In that time the district has seen a long period of apparently fruitless toil, a sudden and tremendous growth in commitment to Christ, and is now in a period of consolidation.

**BISHOP:** The Rev. Graham Smth,  
P.O. Box 35,  
Mendi.

# REGION

New Zealand Staff:

**Rev. David Kitchingman** and his wife offered for overseas service while they were in a Dunedin circuit. They went to the Highlands in 1965, and after a term at Nipa have now been for over a year at St. Paul's College, Mendi.



**Sister Muriel Davey**

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**Miss  
Christine  
Lowe**



**Rev. Fred Baker** was also stationed in Dunedin when he and his wife felt called to offer for overseas. Mrs. Baker (formerly Sister Marcia Powell) was a Deaconess in New Zealand

work. With their five children the Bakers left New Zealand at the beginning of 1969 and are in charge of the South Mendi Circuit.

**Sister Muriel Davey** comes from Tokoroa and went out to Tari in 1967. She has sole charge at the moment of the Maternity Hospital where there are about 450 births a year, and the responsibility of conducting a number of distant clinics.

**Sister Beverley Baker** began her service with a year under the Order of St. Stephen (1968) and has continued on the permanent staff at Nipa.

**Miss Christine Lowe** began a year under the Order of St. Stephen in the Lai Valley in 1968, but due to family circumstances had to come home before the year was over. She has now returned to complete her year and give a further period of service.

**Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Bennett.** The Bennett family went out from Whangarei. Don is a teacher, and his wife also helps in the school at Tari. They have four children.

# The Solomon Islands

The visit of the Moderator and Mrs Sharp to the region during March and first part of April this year has been a very big help to our people. Our people want if the Moderator visits our region twice or thrice every year!

The visit of the Rev. John Mavor and the Rev. William To Kilala and other visitors gave our people a strong feeling of the Spirit of Unity. I would like to speak on behalf of our people and say that the only way at this stage of our newly formed United Church to visibly express her United Spirit with Christ and other people, is to visit each other's regions and it is more so at the other side of the political boundary. Let no money, political boundaries, economic and population differences and other real problems overcome our personal relationship with God and man.

Now I would briefly state our work, our problems, our needs, our weaknesses, our thanks giving and hope.

## 1. OUR WORK

There are many have been called to serve Christ in our Region at the present days. The work of preaching, teaching, healing, administrating, guiding and advising, and including, business enterprises (plantation) have been faithfully carried out by both full Church workers and church members. But it must be mentioned here that those who are appeared as adherents in our statistic are more active Co-operators in the life of our Church than some of the so-called members.

## 2. OUR PROBLEMS

In the midst of the above different work, there are a lot of problems. There is a big problem of how to keep up our work financially, because it has been due to the decreasing giving of our people, slowness of paying school fees, and the decreasing general grant from the New Zealand Board.

There are problems in pastoral work, problems in education, problems amongst young people. There are many many problems, but I would like to say that these problems amongst young people. There Church more alive. Therefore we have to face them.

There is a real problem of different languages. This is hard for translation work.

## 3. OUR THANKSGIVING AND HOPE

I would say and must say that in the midst of our problems,



**Bishop Leslie Boseto**

weaknesses and needs we have been seeing God's active love and concern in our region — for which we are thankful.

We are giving thanks to the Lord for giving us new Church workers this year, and for those who have been so faithful in His Church.

We hope that in 1970 we will try hard to plan and do what God's will for us through His Church. We are believing and hoping that at this

**THE SOLOMON ISLANDS REGION** was pioneered in 1902 by Dr. George Brown, Revs. J. F. Goldie and S. R. Rooney, and has been the area to which the N.Z. church has sent most of its missionaries. It is still the Region with the largest N.Z. staff and the only one with a doctor supported by the Methodist Church. Work in Bougainville began in 1916, but the political division which places this area in Papua New Guinea has made it increasingly necessary to have sub-regional headquarters in Kieta and an assistant Bishop or chairman for that region.

**BISHOP:** The Rev. Leslie Boseto, Munda,  
**BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS**

New Zealand Staff include:

**The Rev. J. F. & Mrs. Cropp.** Jim comes from Hokitika and was appointed in 1962.

**The Rev. W. G. & Mrs. Tucker.** They were at Roxburgh prior to



Miss  
Jennifer  
Harkness

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Executive we have to listen more to Him than to speak and argue in certain matters, so that our real conviction must be according to His will, purpose and plan at the present Days and situations.

To conclude, I would like to convey to you all the members of this Executive the Christian greetings from the whole region.

Leslie Boseto  
**BISHOP**

going out to the Solomons in 1969. **Sister Lucy Money** (deaconess), has been on Choiseul since 1947. She comes from Morrinsville.

**Miss Myra Fraser** (teacher), went from Southland in 1950.

**Miss Beryl Grice** (teacher), went on a visit in 1957 and has been on the staff for many years now.

**Miss Lyn Sadler** (teacher), from Greymouth has been at Goldie College since 1964.

**Miss Eileen Schick** (teacher), from Dargaville, after two years at Kihili, has now been made Education Secretary for the B.S.I.

**Dr. R. W. & Mrs. Pattinson** come from Victoria and Queensland respectively. They have been at Helena Goldie Hospital since 1964.

**Mr. & Mrs. E. Harney** went from Auckland for a year of service under the Order of St. Stephen. They stayed on at Munda. Eric is Business Secretary.

**Mr. & Mrs. K. J. S. Munro** are in charge at Goldie College. Until 1968 they were teaching at Okato.

**Mr. & Mrs. D. A. Moor** and family went out to Munda from Darfield in 1968. Denis is engineer in charge.

**Mr. & Mrs. Don Pentelow** went from New Plymouth in 1968. Don is in charge of building operations.

Volunteers include Miss Jennifer Harkness (nurse) and Miss Rosalie Edmonds (teacher).

# BOUGAINVILLE

## SUB-REGION

We record our thanks to the Assembly for the appointments of Revs. Bruce, Battersby, Duvulotho and Kitare. We report that they have taken up their respective positions and appear to be settling well to their responsibilities.

There are many new influences and challenges in the towns and villages of the Region. Some of these are for the good of the people as a whole and some of them are not. As we seek to maintain and develop pastoral oversight in these demanding situations we are aware of the power of the Holy Spirit and are thankful to God for His continuing presence.

The **KIETA** team ministry concept is forming a satisfactory pattern, and the most notable contribution this year has been the formation of an Inter-Church Council. It is through this council that we wish to work on all matters of liaison with the Administration and contractors. With them we are involved in the rapid development of this immense copper mining venture. We hope to be able to speak with one voice on all relative issues. Other churches have staff in the area and they are working satisfactorily together.

### **High School Chaplaincy**

The experiment in this field at Hutjena Government High School has proved most successful and we are alert to developments in this field at Buin and Kieta.

### **Religious Broadcasting**

Negotiations have been going on for some months with the local radio

station, and differences now seem to be resolved. We are hopeful of obtaining time on Sunday evening for a 20 minutes devotional session, and are agreed that the daily Bible readings should be supplied by Christian Broadcasting Service. Should Rev. Lipa be re-appointed to Bougainville as we have requested, this work would be a portion of his ministry.

### **Education**

Within the Sub-Region there are no permanent overseas staff in our primary schools and no supervisors either. The volunteer teachers have served us very well, and we realise that we have demanded a great deal of them. Working in one or two year spells as they do there is no continuity of work. It has become very obvious to us that the continual changing of key staff is having an unsettling effect on indigenous staff, pupils and parents. We believe that this is a major contributing factor in the present 'low' in class standards and teacher morale.

### **Vocational Centre**

The girls' work at Kihili has gone very well again this year under the leadership of Miss P. Jacobson, and Miss D. Moata. The experiment in boys' work has indicated that this is a field in which the Church can make a worthwhile contribution to the life of the community.

### **Medical**

Lack of replacement staff has created a great deal of concern during the past year. While changes in staff have not yet affected the efficiency of our work we are concerned

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that we will be lacking a full complement of new staff in the next year unless immediate replacements are available. Continuity is the essential ingredient of success in Maternal and Child Health work so it is imperative that the clinics are maintained.

It is with thanks to God that we review the year's work. It is with quiet confidence that we place our trust in Him for the days that lie untouched before us.

B. Sides  
ASSIST. BISHOP ..

**CHAIRMAN:** Rev. J. D. Flentje,  
P.O. Box 65,  
Kieta.

New Zealand Staff include:

**The Rev. M. L. & Mrs. Bruce.** Max went from a Nelson circuit with his family in 1969. Audrey was a nurse in the Solomons for six years before her marriage.

**The Rev. A. K. & Mrs. Taylor** went from Blenheim in 1967 and are at Tonu.

**Mr. & Mrs. D. R. Buchan.** Don is a plantation manager and comes from Te Aroha. He and his family went out in 1966.

**Mr. & Mrs. E. K. Field.** Eion is station manager at Tonu and Jenny teaches. They went out in 1969.

**Mr. & Mrs. J. C. F. Nagel** come from Otorohanga and went out in 1969. Chris will be managing a plantation.

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**Mr. & Mrs. G. L. Pavey** went out in 1965. Gordon is business manager at Kieta.

**Sister Pamela Beaumont** (deaconess), has been on our staff since 1951. She comes from Christchurch.

**Sister Lesley Bowen, M.W.F.** Organiser, comes from Blenheim and went out in 1957.

**Miss Pat Jacobson,** Principal of Kihili Vocational School, went out in 1962. Her home is in Martinborough.

**Sister Gladys Larkin** is from Christchurch and went out in 1960.

**Sister Muriel McCormack** went out in 1963 and is nursing at Sasamunga. She comes from Masterton.

Volunteers include Mr. A. Munro (builder), Mr. M. Sanders (electrician) and Miss Susan Corby (teacher).

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# INSTITUTIONS

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These include Rarongo Theological College, Malmaluan Lay Training Centre Gaulim Teachers' College and Ruatoka Teachers' College. Here young people are trained for teaching, the ministry and the lay pastorate of the church in all the regions.

New Zealand staff include:—

**Sister Norma M. Graves**, a teacher from Dunedin who went out in 1954 and has had close association with teacher training. She is now the Dean of Women at Rarongo Theological College, and a deaconess.

**Miss Diana Thornley**. Diana went out to the Highlands Region in 1969 and taught at Tari. She is now at Gaulim Teachers' College.

**Miss Margaret Wharfe** comes from Pukekohe and went out in January of this year. She is a one-year volunteer and works as a typist at Gaulim Teachers' College.

**Miss Diane Thornley**



**Miss Margaret Wharfe**



## THE REV. JOHN METCALFE, O.B.E.



The passing of John Rudd Metcalfe, at the age of 80, severs one of the few remaining links with that band of missionaries who served in the Solomon Islands Mission District prior to its being transferred from the Australian Board of Missions to the New Zealand Church in 1922.

Born in Yorkshire John Metcalfe early dedicated himself to the service of Jesus Christ. After training at Cliff College, he served briefly as a Home Missionary in England, transferred to the Home Mission work in Victoria in 1914, was a candidate for the ministry in 1916, ordained in 1920 and appointed to the Solomon Islands where he served until 1957. He transferred back to circuit work in Victoria before superannuating in 1958.

Early in his missionary experience he served on Choiseul Island during the time of inter-tribal strife, and with the Rev. Vincent Le Binet shared in the bringing of peace to the island. His journeys of countless miles through the island, and his voyages in a small launch along its lengthy coastline gave him an intimate knowledge of the people who came to hold him in high regard. A devoted missionary, a careful administrator, meticulous in his work he ever regarded the welfare of the people as of primary importance. He furthered the educational and medical work, took the gospel to every village, fostered the maintenance of native skills and crafts, and established responsible church government by the people themselves.

In 1930 he transferred to Teop and for four years served there. Despite the depression years the work prospered. Returning to Choiseul he continued his work there, ably supported by various mission sisters who cared for the women's work. In 1922 he married Sister Ivy Stanford who had been on the field since 1916 and she shared his work throughout the years, a wonderful source of strength and encouragement to him. One daughter, Elizabeth was born to them.

When the Islands were overrun by the Japanese invaders John Metcalfe was one of the missionaries who continued to serve behind the lines until evacuated by the American forces. He returned to Choiseul after the war, to find the mission station destroyed, but the church under native leadership was alive and buoyant.

His appointment to the Chairmanship of the District in 1951 meant his transferring to Roviana but he continued to regard the Choiseul people with special paternal regard.

His fellow-workers regarded him with affection; his good humour, his musical ability and his unflinching enthusiasm for the work of the mission all contributed to spiritual stature of one who proved himself a good and faithful servant of his Lord.

Brother James says,

*“What good is there in  
you saying to them,  
‘God bless you! Keep warm  
and eat well!’ -  
if you don’t give them the  
necessities of life?”*

(The Letter of James, Chap. 2, verse 16)

**METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND**

**Overseas Mission Department**

P.O. Box 5023, Auckland, 1

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