



Church of Melanesia Monthly Newsletter

CHURCH OFFICE, P.O. BOX 19, HONIARA, S. I.

No. 9

DECEMBER 1976

A Message from Fr H. Reynolds

My dear Friends,

I have been asked to write a Christmas and a farewell letter, and I am very grateful for this opportunity. First, may you have a Blessed and Glorious Christmas, adoring our Blessed Lord in worship and Holy Sacrament. Pray God, in the words of a hymn, 'There is room in my heart for You! With the Christmas Greetings, we have the New Year ones also, bringing to us all the Divine Challenge in the words of St Paul at the time of his conversion, 'What shall I do, Lord?' This is a question we all must all ask Him, a question too which the Church of Melanesia with its four Dioceses must ask. It is a question I have asked myself often in the past year or so, and I believe that God is directing me in the step that I am about to take. Naturally, with over forty years behind me in the isles of Melanesia, I go with sadness but also with deep thanksgiving for the past. I thank God for calling me, actually in the very words St Paul heard at Troas, 'Come over to help us.' God called me and God gave me His Grace to answer, 'Here am I, send me.' When I came (almost to the unknown) I placed myself in His hands and so I have tried always to take a day at a time -- they've mounted up to 41 years.

I thank God for all the friends (ever remembering the 'amazing' Tasiu Charles) I have in Melanesia of the Family of God -- deep, true and lasting friendships, so many with the 'great and small'. Friends, we have to remember we are all brothers and sisters in Christ, knowing, as we say in our prayers, that neither time nor space can ever separate us, we are all in Christ, members of His Body.

During these years, there were times of joy, times of sorrow, there was fine weather, there were koburus. There is no space for many reminiscences, but may I mention just a few? My first three and a half years in the New Hebrides taught me much, and the few gifts I may have as a missionary were really got in those early days. I learnt to love the Melanesians deeply, and to recognise their many potentialities, and these have multiplied in the years that have followed. I shall not forget my first hurricane at old Vureas on Vanua Lava! Now to the Solomons in late 1938. After a year at the Catechists' College at Siota, Bishop Baddeley appointed me as supervisor of the Melanesian clergy, and before his retirement the Archdeacon of the Solomons. What a joyous task, 'A life on the ocean wave, a home on the rolling deep.' What a privilege and satisfaction it was to be able to guide my brother clergy and catechists too in their difficulties and their loneliness. A volume could be written on those wonderful and never to be forgotten days. I shall not write much on the war days with its excitements and its dangers, nor of the many months I spent with the Melanesians in the labour camps on Guadalcanal and elsewhere. Certainly a day at a time, ready for anything at any time. How fortunate we were to have the strong leadership of Bishop Walter. We knew that at all times our Lord was with us and so in spite of war, there was a 'great calm.'

There were sorrows, problems and frustrations but God gave us courage, so I often experienced sorrows turned into joys, frustrations into hope. May I briefly digress? It is to say thank-you to so many for your helpful understanding and prayerful support, when I passed through those dark days ('the valley of the shadows'), when I went out really wondering (with others) if I would return. But again, God called and by His Grace and through your prayers. I did.

One of my greatest joys came with Bishop John asking me to direct the Vocations of so many young people, helping them to answer the question, 'What shall I do, Lord?' By the Grace of God, many were directed and are serving Christ in so many ways, either in the ordained ministry, in the Religious Life or in the lay ministry. Remember, "You did not choose me; I chose you." St John 15, v. 16. Stand firm in your vocation.

As many know, the last five years of my ministry in Melanesia have been spent at the Hospital of the Epiphany, Fauabu, primarily as Chaplain to the Hospital and S. Francis Leper Colony, but there have been, thank God, others avenues of service in the guidance of clergy and catechists and especially in the training of men, most in their middle age, for the Village Ministry. All this has given me tremendous satisfaction and I shall ever be most grateful for all the help and fellowship I have had in these my closing years.

Of the Bishops I have served under, little mention has been made, but I owe them all so much, true and faithful shepherds of the Flock of Christ. How clearly do I remember S. Andrew's Day, 1963, a milestone for the Church of Melanesia, the Consecration of our first Melanesian Bishops Dudley and Leonard (now my Diocesan). Now two more have joined their ranks, sharing their privileges and responsibilities, Norman, our beloved Archbishop and Casper as the Assistant Bishop of Central Melanesia. How wonderful, we have a Melanesian as our Chief Shephe
Praise God.

As I come to a close, I would repeat words I said at the recent Provincial Synod, "Let us go forward. And this is what we will do, if God allows." I am certain and convinced that you will do so, remembering our Archbishop Norman's recent Call to Renewal of Faith and of Prayer. Let not this spiritual call go unheeded. Pray hard, serve hard and give of your talents sacrificially then all will be well. God has given to Melanesia a "goodly heritage". May these islands become more and more islands of the Lord. "Good luck in the Name of the Lord." Pray for me, as I shall pray for you at all times. God bless.

With deep love, ever yours in the Lord,

Harry Reynolds.

My New Zealand address will be:

Selwyn Village
Target Street
Point Chevalier
Auckland
New Zealand.

To the clergy and people of the Diocese of Malaita:-

Dear Bishop and friends of Malaita,

I wish to thank you all most sincerely for the wonderful farewell you gave me at Fauabu on November 28th. It was tremendous organization. It is quite impossible to thank you all personally, but especially I would express my deep appreciation to Bishop Leonard, my fellow clergy and the laity, and also to the Matron, Helen Barrett and her tireless team. Nor do I forget the Master and crew of M.Y. Southern Cross for all they collected - clergy, laity, dancers and so much food to feed the multitude.

So many thanks, and God bless.

Father Harry.

YEAR OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The Archbishop wants everyone in the Province to observe January 26, the Feast of the Inauguration of the Church of the Province of Melanesia as the beginning of a YEAR OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL. It would be good if clergy could plan a special service of some kind for their District, using the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Day and adding a prayer for spiritual renewal or revival work (Companions' Handbook page 22 For Revival Work or page 30 -For the Church). In this year there will be the Combined Churches Outreach - "Solomons for Christ 77" and Renewal Conferences for the Clergy, etc.
CLERGY - HOLD RETREATS FOR YOUR PEOPLE IN 19 - !

The New Province of Papua New Guinea

The Anglican Diocese of Papua New Guinea will become an autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion in 1977. The Archbishop of Brisbane who is the Metropolitan and Archbishop of the Province of Queensland will relinquish his Metropolitan authority over Papua New Guinea at the time of the Inauguration. The new Archbishop of Papua New Guinea will be the present Diocesan Bishop, the Right Reverend David Hand.

The Inauguration Ceremonies will take place on Sunday February 27th at Dogura, in the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will be in Papua New Guinea at this time.

All the Bishops in the South Pacific Anglican Council Region hope to be present at the Inauguration and to meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A South Pacific Anglican Council meeting will precede the Inauguration.

The Enthronement of the diocesan bishops in their respective dioceses will follow at a later date in the different centres. The Archbishop-Elect believes that the new Province will continue to be part of the South Pacific Anglican Council Region as is the case with the new Province of Melanesia.

New Dioceses:-

1. Aipo - Rongo = Diocesan Bishop - Jeremy Ashton
2. New Guinea Islands = Diocesan Bishop - Ewan Meredith
3. Southern Papua = Diocesan Bishop - David Hand
4. Popondeta = Diocesan Bishop - George Ambo
5. Dogura = Diocesan Bishop - Rhynold Sanana

Will you please pray for God's Blessing on the new Province of Papua New Guinea and for David Hand the Archbishop-Elect.

With every good wish,

Rt Rev. J.L. Bryce,
SECRETARY, SOUTH PACIFIC ANGLICAN COUNCIL

INTERCHURCH NEWS

Theological Students Conference

On November 22 and 23 a Theological Students Conference was held at the Bishop Patteson Theological Centre, Kohimarama, Guadalcanal, the Theological College of the Church of Melanesia. The Conference was organized by the students at Kohimarama, and the Chairman was Mr Ellison Pogo, a student who next year will be attending St. John's College, Auckland, New Zealand.

Roman Catholic Colleges represented were Holy Spirit Seminary and Marist College, both at Bomana near Port Moresby; Chanel College, Ulaia, near Rabaul; and Nazareth Apostolic Centre, Tenaru. The South Seas Evangelical Church was represented by graduates of Onepusu Bible College. The United Church was unable to send representatives. All the participants were Solomon Islanders except the visiting Speaker, Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne of the Church of Melanesia who gave the opening address. The subject chosen for the Conference was "Melanesian awareness of Divinity".

Some members of the Conference presented their studies of different aspects of Melanesian religion which showed that Melanesians were seeking for the knowledge of God before the coming of Christianity. Over forty people took part in the Conference and others attended as observers. A report will be prepared for the Theological Colleges and Churches from which the students came, and it is hoped to hold another Conference in the Solomons in 1977.

Unity Talks

The third round of the Anglican-United Church Unity Talks in the Solomons was held from December 8 - 10 in Maralaun in the Russell Islands. There were six representatives and one observer from the Church of Melanesia - Fr. Fraser Kapu and Head Brother Robert Wobur from the Diocese of Central Melanesia; Fr. Thomas Siau and Mr. Lionel Oloni from the Diocese of Malaita; Fr. Mitchell Rakiono and Mr. Peter Ruim from the Diocese of Ysabel; and Fr. Brian Macdonald-Milne who was Minutes' Secretary and resource person (and also attended as an observer as he is a member of the Executive of the Pacific Conference of Churches.) Fr. Kapu was elected as Chairman of the Talks for the next three years.

There were five representatives from the United Church Solomon Islands Region: The Rev. Gaby Runikera from Honiara Circuit, the Rev. Burley Mesepitu from Vella Lavella Circuit, the Rev. Luke Pitu from Marovo Circuit, Mr. Stainer Pitadunga from Choiseul Circuit, and Mr. Zakia Mazini from Simbo Circuit. Mr. Runikera was elected as Secretary for the next three years.

Everyone was very pleased that this round of talks was held in a village, and it was agreed that if possible all further talks should be held in villages. The next talks are due to be held in Patutiva in the Marovo Circuit, if the United Church agrees, in 1977. After that, it should be the turn of the Diocese of Malaita. The members were very happy with the way the people of the Russell Islands looked after them, and were very grateful to the Diocese of Ysabel for being host for the talks.

The following recommendations were agreed on, and it is hoped will be agreed by both Churches:

1. A Programme Committee should be formed, which would organize joint activities between Anglican and United Church people.
2. Roman Catholics should be invited as observers at the next Talks and to joint activities if they were interested.
3. The emphasis should be on co-operation of the two Churches, with the eventual aim of union between them.
4. More explanation was needed of what was going on between the two Churches, at the village level, and the meaning of "Unity" and "Union".
5. There should be longer exchanges of students between Kohimarama and Rarongo Theological Colleges, and exchange of staff if possible.
6. Anglican Deacons and Probationer Ministers of the United Church should when possible spend some time in areas belonging to the other Church, and theological students should have the opportunity of doing some field work in the areas of the other Church.
7. Joint refresher courses for Anglican and United Church clergy should be held at Kohimarama.
8. Representatives of the other Church should be invited to all Synods.
9. A booklet should be prepared describing both Churches & comparing them.
10. SICA activities should be more widely known, and a diagram of its organization be prepared for Church members & it should be represented at Synods.

FUNCTIONS OF THE PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

Acting on the agreement of the second Provincial Synod, the Board of the Department asked Rev. Brian Macdonald-Milne and Mr. Allen Daniel to reset (b) of Bill 4 ("Purpose"). The following is what we've produced. In the new Canon, the "Purpose" has been set out very simply, so we have decided to describe the "Functions" or works of the Department so that everybody in the Province is clear about what we are trying to do.

PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION NOVEMBER 1976

Functions of the Department will be as follows:-

1. The Department shall promote throughout the Province -
 - (a) evangelism and spiritual renewal;
 - (b) prayer, worship and Bible Study;
 - (c) the Provincial Bible Correspondence School;
 - (d) Christian Stewardship and team work;
 - (e) Christian Citizenship and Community Development;
 - (f) Christian Education in Schools, villages, urban areas and homes;
 - (g) women's work and Christian family life, especially through the Mothers' Union;
 - (h) youth work, especially through the Melanesian Christian Youth Movement and Interisland Voluntary Service;
 - (i) cultural activities, music and drama;
 - (j) other activities connected with evangelism and community education.
2. The Department shall work together with and give assistance if requested to:
 - (a) the Religious Communities;
 - (b) the Companions of the Melanesian Brotherhood;
 - (c) the Melanesian Guild of Servers.
3. The Department shall work together with other Churches and Councils of Churches to promote:
 - (a) interchurch activities and training;
 - (b) justice, peace and development (in co-operation with non-Church agencies).
4. The Department, in consultation with the Bishop Patteson Theological Centre, the Dioceses and the Training Centres shall promote and co-ordinate:
 - (a) training through courses in Training Centres, towns and villages;
 - (b) the planning and evaluating of courses of training for lay workers.
5. The Department shall prepare:
 - (a) books and teaching materials;
 - (b) audio-visual aids;
 - (c) cassette recordings and programmes for broadcasting.
6. The staff of the Department, in consultation with the Board of the Department, shall organise each year a conference on Training for Ministry.

Allen Daniel Borugu

CYCLONE WARNINGS

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT CYCLONES AND WHAT TO DO IF THEY COME IS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. PLEASE PUT THE NOTICE IN A PROMINENT PLACE WHERE MANY PEOPLE CAN READ IT, AND EXPLAIN WHAT IT SAYS TO THE PEOPLE IN YOUR DISTRICT. MORE COPIES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE S.I. INFORMATION SERVICE, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MINISTER, P.O. BOX 618, HONIARA

ORDINATION

REMEMBER ALBERT TOLIVUTI TO BE ORDAINED DEACON ON DECEMBER 31 in the Diocese of the New Hebrides .

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE?

About 300 people celebrated the closing day of St Martin Kulu School East Tasiboko. To mark the closing day the presentations of prizes and speeches were held. Traditional dances, football matches and feast followed. This was held on December 4.

The Honiara Parish made a farewell feast for Father Walter Siba and his family at the Cathedral Hall. Many people attended, including the Archbishop and his family, the Dean and his family and many friends from the whole Parish. This was held on Saturday December 4.

Father Willie Pwaisiho and Kate had a baby daughter. The Archbishop baptized their daughter before he and his family left for Temotu Region. The service was held on the evening of December 4.

The Mothers' Union throughout the Solomon Islands went to the Mothers' Union Training Centre, Bunana, Gela Island for their Course, from November 7 - 17. The course was for M.U. Leaders.

Sister Helen Jane of the Sisters of the Church took retreat for them. The speakers were Mrs Elizabeth Palmer and Mrs Anne Williams.

They closed the course by celebrating the festival of St Hilda. Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Dean, the Very Reverend Frazer Kapu. Dances and feast followed.

Gela Regional Conference was held at Haleta on Big Gela from December 13-15. The Chairman was Fr. Brian Macdonald-Milne, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Central Melanesia. The Conference was held to discuss the changes which would be necessary because the Region has joined the Diocese of Central Melanesia.

Bishop Casper Uka attended the Gela Regional Conference and visited Tulagi with Fr. Brian to discuss problems of the Church there. It is hoped to appoint another priest there as soon as the matter of his housing has been settled. Fr. Andrew Riropo will be moving there from Tasiboko District in 1977. The congregation there agreed to help the SSEC to build their own Church house at Tulagi, as the SSEC had helped with the building of the Church of Christ the King.

The Gela Regional Conference agreed that the Regional Office would be at Taroaniara, where the new Senior Priest, Fr. Augustine Taukerei, lives. The Regional Secretary for the time being would be Mr. Charles Tarai. An Executive Committee was appointed which will look into the budget for the next financial year and also consider the future of Hakama Farm, and make recommendations to the next Regional Conference in July 1977. It was agreed that Savo should be attached to Guadalcanal, as the people there had requested this.

On the third day of the Conference, Fr. Alan Dutton and his son Stephen paid a visit. Fr. Dutton worked at St. Peter's Theological College at Siota on Gela for many years, and part of that time Fr. Brian was working with him. Stephen was born in the Solomons - on a ship taking his mother to Honiara from Gela! Fr. Dutton is paying his first visit to the Solomons since he left in 1967. He is now Chaplain of Christ Church Grammar School in Perth, Western Australia.

After the Gela Regional Conference, Bishop Casper make his first tour of Sandfly, Buena Vista and Savo, before returning to Pamua for Christmas.

Ellison Suri and Johnson Naban returned from the Pacific Theological College on Sunday November 28. Ellison attended the UNESCO course on oral tradition in Honiara before going home for Christmas. He will start his work as Adviser in Communication with the Provincial Department of Evangelism in January, and be ordained in St. Barnabas Cathedral, Honiara, on February 13. He obtained a Bachelor of Theology Degree from the PTC. Johnson Naban and Dominico Tareka obtained Diplomas in Theology. Johnson will be ordained deacon in the Diocese of Ysabel. Deacon Dominico will be ordained priest in the Cathedral of St. Barnabas, Honiara, on February 13.

John Lapli is at present attending an Alphabet Course at the University of Papua New Guinea, studying the best way to write the languages of Santa Cruz. This is being paid for by the Temotu Region. Martin Moia, who has just left Kohimarama with a Diploma in Theology, was supposed to have gone, but the doctors advised against it. He is probably going to be ordained in Honiara on Feb. 13.

John Lapli and Ellison Pogo are due to go to St. John's College in Auckland in 1977, while Fr. Willie Pwaisiho will go for further studies in Christian Education and help in a parish there. Fr. Walter Siba and Fr. Abel Ta'ai and their