

TO THE YOUTH
OF OUR CHURCH

MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE LIBRARY



3 2042 10098994 0



1934

Do You Know
What Your
Own Church
is Doing
on the
Mission Field?



METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALASIA

HEAD OFFICE:

139 CASTLEREAGH STREET, SYDNEY



The Dudley Orphanage: The School Girls

WE do not wish to foster any purely denominational spirit, but surely the first claim upon your missionary interest is the work for which your own Church is responsible.

Nor do we wish to indulge in any denominational boasting; but it is well that you should be reminded that your Society is the largest in Australia, has the greatest number of Mission workers, and the largest number of adherents. Its activities are wide and varied, and provide interest for every type of mind. We work among cultured Indians and Chinese, among aristocratic Tongans and Samoans, among practical-minded Fijian and New Guinea peoples, and among the fascinating primitives of North Australia. We have Missions in

TONGA, SAMOA, FIJI (Native and Indian)
MANDATED TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA
 (Native and Chinese)
PAPUA, INDIA, NORTH AUSTRALIA

and the following figures will reveal somewhat the extent of our work:

European Missionaries	48	Churches	1,350
Lay Missionaries	11	Other Preaching Places	729
Wives of Missionaries	56	Day Schools	987
Missionary Sisters	47	Sunday Schools	1,217
Native Ministers	251	Sunday School Scholars	42,244
Local Preachers	6,471	Day School Scholars	39,068
Catechists	402	Church Members	57,638
Teachers	1,426	At'd'nts at Public Worship	194,563

If you will compare these with the figures for your own State, which will be found in the Conference Minutes, you will then be able to measure for yourself the scale of the missionary operations, and the relative smallness of our staff.

Despite the "Depression," which caused such a fall in the Society's income, we raised last year (1933) at home and abroad

£75,000. Of this £51,430 was raised in Australia, of which £43,065 represented voluntary giving—collections, subscriptions, etc.

£43,065 may seem a large sum, but if you remember that we have 184,000 members of our Church in Australia, and divide this amount among these, the average is very small—just a little over one penny per week per member!

HOW IS THIS MONEY USED?

To Preach the Gospel. We have 2,079 Churches and Preaching Places with over 194,000 people in attendance. This may be called our settled work; but there are still vast masses almost untouched to whom we are striving to tell the Good News—70,000 Indians in Fiji; about 80,000 in our area in the Mandated Territory of New Guinea (New Britain District); possibly 10,000 Aborigines in our area in North Australia; and over 1,000,000 in our Australian Methodist sphere in India. These unevangelised people, many of them living in degrading conditions, are a great challenge to us all.

To Teach the People. We have 987 Day Schools with 1,426 teachers; and in many areas if it were not for our Mission Schools, there would be no education of any kind:

To Heal the Sick. We have four well-equipped and well-staffed Mission Hospitals where Christ-like work is being carried on—Azamgarh, India; Ba, Fiji; Salamo, Papua; Vunairima, New Britain (Mandated Territory of New Guinea).

To Mother the Motherless. We have gracious homes for motherless children in Fiji, Papua, New Britain, and India, and a new and happy life has come to those who were once so unfortunate.



Patients Waiting at the Ba Hospital.

HOW CAN YOUNG METHODISTS HELP?

By reading all you can about your own Missions. "The Missionary Review" is a monthly periodical of twenty-four pages, exceedingly well-illustrated, and with up-to-date articles mostly by your own missionaries. It is only two shillings a year post free. Get it yourself and see that your Christian Endeavour Society, Young People's Guild, Order of Knights, or Girls' Comradeship subscribe to it as a body and pass it round.

There is, also published year by year a Report of the work of your Missionary Society. This is full of valuable information, with numerous illustrations, and can be obtained for threepence. There is enough material in this for half-a-dozen missionary papers to be read at your meetings.

By thinking about your own life in relation to the need abroad. Missionaries grow old, retire through sickness, or return because of family considerations, and we must have reinforcements. Why should you not be one of these? If the call comes to you, then consult your minister or the Conference Foreign Mission Secretary regarding preparation. If you are not led to offer for service abroad, the challenge still remains to do all you can to make it possible for others to go.

By Supporting your own Missions. We are in great straits through lack of money. Young people cannot usually give large sums at any one time, but they can give small sums regularly. Why not set aside at least threepence a week for this great enterprise? Is there one of you who could not do that? (Ask your Circuit Foreign Mission Secretary about the Systematic Giving League.)

You could perhaps induce your Organization to make itself responsible for a bed in a hospital, a child in an orphanage, or a student in a college.

By Intelligent Prayer. Many of your missionaries are carrying a heavy load and your prayers will be borne to them on spiritual wireless waves. In "The Missionary Review" you will find a list of all your missionaries, and we ask you to pray for them one by one that they may be sustained in the great task.

**READ,
THINK,
GIVE,
AND PRAY**

That your Missionary Society may take a worthy place in bringing the Kingdom of God on this round earth.



Native Students