

The Anglican Church in Melanesia

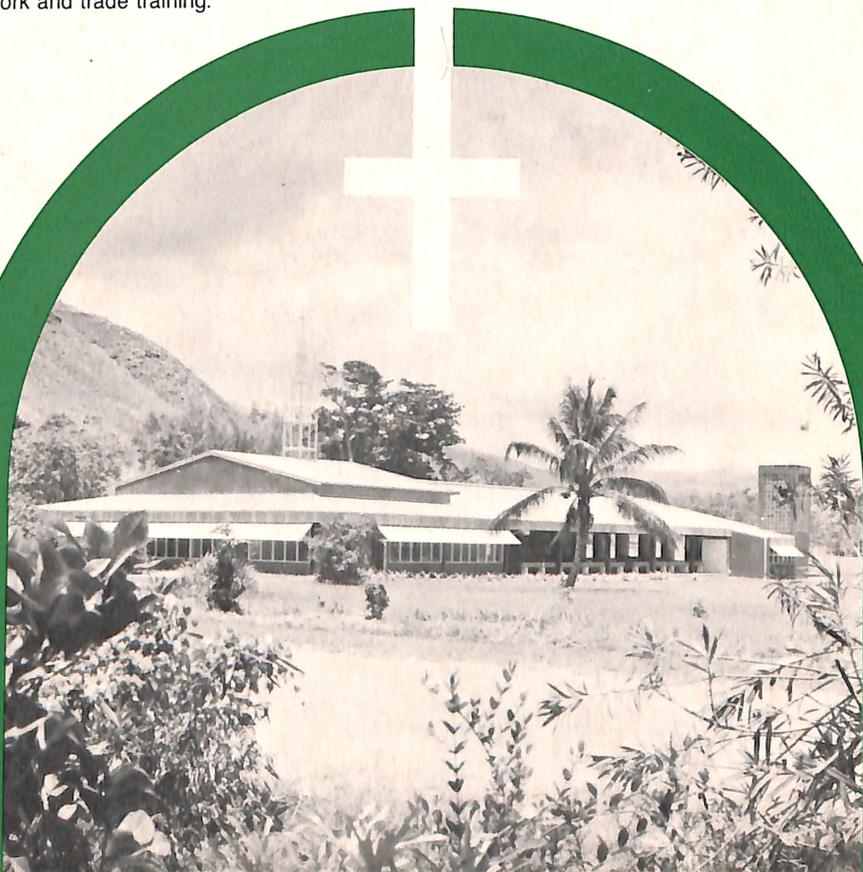
"Folks say that it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. This proved true when destruction of bush kitchens by Cyclone Wendy speeded up our plans for starting a system of community eating!"

The above paragraph appeared in a newsletter of Vureas School, on Aoba Island, Longana, in the New Hebrides. Intended for home consumption only, it demonstrates a remarkable degree of cheerfulness in adversity and a willingness to accept whatever may be in store—fruits of a living faith.

The Diocese of Melanesia is the only part of the Pacific where the Anglican Church is the largest church. Half the Christians of the region (who are about two-thirds of the people) belong to it. The diocese embraces the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides and Santa Cruz Islands.

It is one of the most indigenous of the Pacific churches. Over 125 of its 138 clergy are indigenes. The Melanesian Brotherhood, an evangelistic order founded by Ini Koporia in 1925, is a remarkable expression of indigenous Christianity.

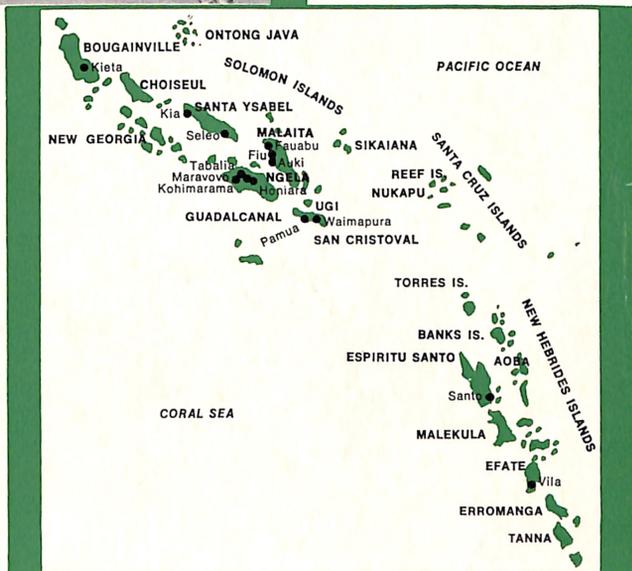
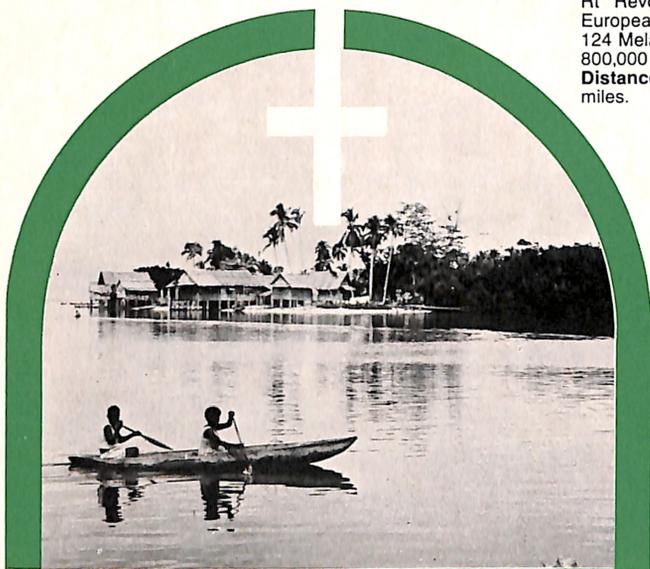
In Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands, a strong urban ministry radiates from St. Barnabas' Cathedral. In the villages, important advances are coming from island village training centres, set up to meet a need for spiritual renewal at village level. The Pattenon Theological Centre at Kohimarama on Guadalcanal provides excellent training for priests, lay evangelists, lay readers and Melanesian Brothers. Other important diocesan activities include education, medical work and trade training.



St. Barnabas' Cathedral, Honiara, Diocese of Melanesia.

The Anglican Diocese of Melanesia

Founded: 1849. **1st Bishop:** John Coleridge Pattenon (martyred 1871). **Present Bishop:** Rt Revd J. W. Chisholm. **Bishops:** 3—1 European, 2 Melanesian. **Clergy:** 10 European, 124 Melanesian. **Clergy in training:** 55. **Area:** 800,000 square miles. **Population:** 225,000. **Distance:** From Sydney to Guadalcanal, 1,900 miles.



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