

Uiaku. Mr. Percy J. Money writes under date, 30th April, 1907:-

Upon my return to work at Wanigera the Bishop sent up three new South Sea Island teachers to help in my district; William Palmer, who came to the Mission some months ago, and Peter Sewa and Ambrose Darra, two of the last band which lately arrived from Mackay.

Ambrose was accordingly placed at Uiaku to help Willie Pettawa, and William and Peter at Wanigera to assist Reuben. We were just getting things nicely into order and were all settling down to our duties, when Willie Pettawa got very ill. This necessitated my presence at Uiaku. He seemed to have fever in a very obstinate form, and when the launch returned from the north I sent him down to Dogufa. This made it necessary to recall Samuel from Sinapa to assist in the school here. The enrolment is very large now, there being 73 girls and 100 boys upon the books; the attendance is good and there is a lot of work for the two teachers, who are only assisted by two of the more advanced boys.

Neither Samuel nor Ambrose can take the services in Maisin yet, and so I am tied down to Uiaku and cannot go to Wanigera to hold the Catechumen's class on Sundays; this is a great pity for the time for their baptism is drawing near and many of them need particular care and very definite teaching at this period. Reuben is doing very well at Wanigera and great things can be expected from him in the future.

The station boys and I visited Wanigera on Friday, 12th inst. Before leaving Uiaku I opened school and gave the scripture lesson; we got away at 10.30, and as there was no breeze we had to row all the way (nine miles). The teachers were all well and seemed very happy in their work. We left again about three o'clock, and a leading breeze enabled us to sail home. After tea we had service and were about to leave on a pastoral trip to Marua, when a heavy rain storm came over. I had given up the idea of going and was preparing for bed when the boys came and said, "Let us be off, the rain has all gone". It was now after ten and the distance to Marua is 16 miles; but the Maisin are fond of travelling by night and the boys were anxious to go, so I got my traps ready while they launched the boat and shipped our gear. We set off merrily, and some of them taught me a song which they had learned from the Baruga people who live on the Musa River. In most dances drums are beaten as an accompaniment to the singing; but, in this one, each of the performers takes a piece of bamboo about five feet long, in the top of which a hole has been made and the intervening partitions knocked out, leaving the bottom one intact; they beat time with these by "jabbing" the ground with the solid end, thus setting up a noise somewhat resembling that made by tom-toms, and which can be heard a long way off. The song goes with a good swing and it put all the boys into high spirits, and the boat fairly danced over the wavelets. We reached Marua at 2 am and anchored in the mouth of the river and slept in the boat. We were up at daybreak and shot a few snipe for breakfast and some wild ducks to take home. At 7 o'clock we had service in the village, but the attendance was very small as a number of the people were away up one of the creeks helping a collector who was in the neighbourhood. After service we had breakfast and then went up to the collector's camp. We were hospitably received and I spent a few hours in conversation. About 3pm we left for home. On the way we called at Airara, and while waiting for tea to be prepared I had a quiet talk with a number of the men about God and His desire that we should love and serve Him. At 8pm we got away from Airara with a fair breeze, and a little after 10 o'clock we reached Uiaku all thoroughly tired out after our two days almost continuous travelling, during which time we covered between 55 and 60 miles.

The Rev. S. Tomlinson visited us last Tuesday week and administered the Holy Communion at Uiaku on the Wednesday, and at Wanigera the next day, after which short stay he again left for Mukawa.

Unfortunately the Bishop is very unwell and is unable to visit any of the stations, a circumstance which he feels keenly and which causes him a great deal of worry. We all hope he will soon be strong enough to travel about again.

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John - noticed this in our new lot of NBM MN + Reviews. It may help.
Hope all is well.