

Asia, in the Phillippines. He has also been an active member on the Board of Turakina Maori Girls' College, in Marton, since 1975. His daughter has just completed her fifth form year at the school.

A member of the Tuhoe tribe, Mr Takao was raised as a Ringatu, before joining the Presbyterian church when he was 21.

Although a bachelor, Mr Takao has adopted four children, three nephews and a niece.

Another issue Mr Takao was concerned about was the "barriers" Christians created around themselves and prevented them from communicating with other people. This was a dangerous indication of their increasing isolation and insulation.

"What we often ignore or turn away from as 'distasteful' or irreligious in modern life only increases our isolation and makes it less possible for people to understand our message.

"A way must be found through the barriers of self-satisfaction and false confidence which many of us have built around us."

Creative change was also important, he said. Change in the church was always necessary as the church was not only a divine institution, but also a sociological human structure.

After his year in office, Mr Takao will settle in his parish in Hawkes Bay.



Tame Takao on a work party visit to ► Vanuatu 1971.



Visiting Rangi Ruru School Christchurch 1981.



Vanuatu 1971. Photos Keith Lyon.