



George Hunter McNeur was a pioneer missionary of the South China Mission. He was born on Christmas Eve 1874 at Inchclutha, the second in a family of seven children of the schoolmaster, James McNeur, and Margaret (nee Hunter). Four of his younger brothers became Presbyterian Ministers, and his only sister was for many years sub-matron of Ross Home, Dunedin.

His schooling was at Stirling. After leaving school he spent six years in the printing office of the *Clutha Leader*. He enjoyed sports, especially football and swimming.

In 1895 his older brother James died, aged 23, leaving George a small life insurance to help pay his expenses for training as a missionary. George trained in New Zealand, Adelaide and Glasgow, and returned to study at Knox Theological Hall 1900-01. During these two summers he accompanied Rev Alexander Don on his visits to Chinese gold miners, learning their language and about their backgrounds in Canton villages. He left for China in 1901. In 1903 Margaret (Maggie) Sinclair of Milton joined him in Hong Kong where they were married.

He lectured at the Presbyterian Seminary, later the Canton Union Theological Seminary, as well as doing mission work in the villages. In 1926-27 he returned to New Zealand for a year as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand. The latter years in China were a time of change and strife, including the Japanese invasion, and in 1941 George and Maggie

returned to New Zealand. In 1948 George McNeur was awarded an honorary doctorate of Divinity by Aberdeen University.

Until 1950 he was pastor to the Chinese in the South Island based in Dunedin. Often acting as interpreter and intermediary in legal matters, he won permission for Chinese refugee families to have permanent residence in New Zealand.

He died on 27 April 1953 and Maggie on 25 March 1957 and both were buried in Dunedin's Andersons Bay Cemetery, and the headstone was erected by the Chinese community of Dunedin.