

CORRESPONDENCE : SECRETARY'S REPORT.

1. INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL.

Resignation of Dr. John R. Mott.

A letter from Dr. John R. Mott (New York, 15th January 1942) announces his resignation from the Chairmanship of the International Missionary Council, and the designation by him of Bishop James C. Baker, to serve as Chairman of the Council as from the date of the letter. The letter is accompanied by a statement, prepared by Dr. Warnshuis, on the change in the Chairmanship. Both letter and statement are of great importance and will be presented to the Executive in full.

2. WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

The Secretary in America, Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, writes most appreciatively respecting the plans for our July Conference; and intimates that its purpose is in line with a Conference to be held at Delaware, Ohio, in March, which will be attended by representatives of the Churches of the United States and Canada, as well as by Dr. Paton and other leaders from Britain. Co-ordination of these studies throughout the world is being attempted, and we in South Africa are being put in touch with the Study Department of the World Council of Churches.

3. UNITED SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN LITERATURE.

The Secretary, the Rev. T. Cullen Young, writes fully respecting the relations between the Society and Christian Councils in various parts of the world. It is the policy of the Society to subsidize the production and publication of Christian vernacular literature in the various Mission Fields. The Christian Councils of India and China, for instance, are receiving substantial help; and Mr. Young expresses the hope that our own South African Council might "be enabled speedily to inaugurate a similar literature department within itself and thence proceed to a relationship with the British sources of financial (where necessary, also, of technical) co-partnership." This most encouraging suggestion has, of course, been followed up; and our Literature Section, under Dr. Shepherd, will be prepared to make definite proposals when the correspondence has reached the appropriate stage.

4. RENT-PAYING NATIVES ON MISSION-OWNED FARMS.

In correspondence on this subject the Superintendent of the Swedish Mission (the Rev. K. H. Swensson) mentions a Minute of the Executive of this Council, dated 8th August 1938, which suggests a deputation to the Government. No subsequent reference to this matter can be found in the Minutes of the Executive. It has been suggested to Mr. Swensson that the matter be brought up by him at the present meeting of the Executive.

5. SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

The Bishop of Southern Rhodesia, in asking for literature and information about the Christian Council, expresses the desire that the Church of the Province in his Diocese, and other Churches in Southern Rhodesia, may co-operate effectively with the Council; and makes the interesting suggestion that the Council may become the Christian Council, not of South Africa, but of Southern Africa. The Head of the Methodist Church in Southern Rhodesia, the Rev. Herbert Carter, invites the Secretary of this Council to visit Rhodesia, partly in the interests



of the Christian Council, and hopes that a representative Conference may be arranged. The advisability of following up these suggestions should be considered by this Executive.

6. WORLD SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

The Association's Secretary, writing from New York on the 28th January, expresses the Association's keen interest in our plans and asks to receive all information and reports concerning the July Conference.

7. CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP.

The Rev. W. J. Dower, of Cape Town, is deeply impressed with the need for our preparing and issuing to young people a "Primer of Christian Citizenship." It is not unlikely that such an enterprise might grow out of the Conference on "CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTION", and might well be a task to be undertaken by our Youth Movements Section.

8. "Youth" at the July Conference.

The Rev. Donovan Martyn, Vicar of Stanger, expresses the view of his Study group that present day Youth should have a spokesman or spokesmen at the Conference in the person of one young minister or more, able to express the point of view of the new generation. We are seeking to bear this in mind in building up the membership of the Conference.

9. INDEPENDENT ORDER OF TRUE TEMPLARS.

The Secretary of the Order, the Rev. J. D. Mokuene, in enclosing a donation of £5. to the funds of the Christian Council, states that the Grand Session of the Order desires to become affiliated with this Council. The matter might well be considered at a later stage of this agenda, when matters of our Constitution are to be discussed.

10. AFRICA COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS CONFERENCE, NEW YORK.

The Secretary of this Committee, Dr. Emory Ross, has written at length in a letter received on the 23rd March, enclosing a programme for an Africa Conference to be held in America in June. Copy of a questionnaire was enclosed which we were requested to send out to our affiliated bodies. The ground covered in the questionnaires was so wide and the task of answering them so formidable that a group of members of our Executive called into consultation, unanimously agreed that our own heavy commitments and the shortness of time allowed made it impossible for us to attempt the task suggested. Dr. Emory Ross was informed of our decision.

*Edward W. Grant*

Honorary Secretary.

16th April, 1942.



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CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

EDUCATION SECTION.

There is not much new to report since the Fort Hare Conference. The topic which is occupying the attention of the Conveners at present is the need for importing definite Christian instruction into the curricula of the Secondary schools; into the courses for the training of teachers, and even into the Degree courses at our Universities and University Colleges. Efforts are being made to establish a Divinity school at one of the Colleges, where ministerial students of a number of English-speaking Churches might receive instruction of University grade; where lectures might be given on teaching of Scripture in schools, and where it might be possible for a student to include a Course in Bible literature in the ordinary Arts Course. A number of agencies are interested in the three-fold objective, viz: several Churches, groups of teachers, and the Student Christian Movement, in addition to the Christian Council.

The matter of the training of the Ministry is of great interest to the Churches, and has been, or will be, brought before Conferences and Assemblies.

Your Conveners are in correspondence with the Master of Rhodes over the proposal to establish a Chair, and over the steps necessary to attain the other objectives, but it is too early yet to say what steps are possible during the war, or to record any definite measure of agreement on the location of the Courses. But it is possible to say that the proposal has aroused very real interest in several quarters, and if the war is staying progress on the one hand, on the other it is bringing people to a realisation that if a Christian civilisation is to be built after the war, much more definite instruction in the fundamentals of that civilisation, and especially in the literature that enshrines those principles, must be given to our youth.

For the general adult public of the Union, no finer means of education could be devised than the study-circle which was so widely made use of last year in preparation for the Conference. All kinds of topics of interest and value to Christian people may be treated in these circles, and if enthusiastic and informed guidance is available, as it generally is, a body of enlightened opinion on the bearing of Christian Truth on social, economic and educational problems will be gradually built up. It is to be hoped that the method will be freely employed and it is suggested that the Report of the Conference might be commended as a basis for such groups as did not participate last year.

Your Conveners note with interest the formation of an Association for the promotion of Christian Education, and would wish all members of the Council to lend what aid they can in support of its programme.

Dr. Alexander Kerr.  
Rev. P. E. Goldie.

Conveners,  
Education Section.

September 29th, 1942.



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SUPPLEMENT to Dr. Kerr's report on Education to the Christian Council, 29/9/42, relating to the work of the Christian Education Movmt.

1. The Aims and Objects have been defined as follows:-
  - To work out the meaning and implications of a Christian Education for a democratic South Africa.
  - To do all in its power to foster and improve religious instruction.
  - To stimulate interest in the ethical side of education, both personal and social.
  - To bring together parents, teachers, clergy and youth leaders, and to give them practical help in discharging their respective functions in Christian Education.
2. The Movement is inter-denominational, with its centre in Johannesburg. It has influential backing from church, university and education leaders in the Transvaal. Its governing Council comprises teachers from all types and grades of school, training college lecturers, clergy, representatives of certain parents' organisations, and interested lay people. It has a whole-time organizing secretary, Miss M.C. Snell, whose address is P.O. Box 3624, Johannesburg. So far, its membership is approximately 150, mainly on the Reef, but with a strong group or regional association in Natal, and with individual members in the Eastern Province and in S. Rhodesia. The minimum subscription for individuals is five shillings, and arrangements are going to be made for certain kinds of societies to become affiliated as groups. The Movement is in close touch with the S.C.A. on its English-speaking side, and with the organisers of the recent Grahamstown Vacation Course in Religious Education. It desires to give the strongest support to the move for the establishment of a Divinity School at Rhodes or elsewhere.
3. On its Council and Executive Committee, C.E.M. has Europeans engaged or interested in Native Education, with the hope of eventually being able to help in this field. So far however, it has not been possible to give attention to this, and it may turn out better for the Christian Council to concentrate on this aspect. In its early stages the scope of the Movement was discussed with sympathetic leaders of the Dutch Reformed Church, and it was decided that the Movement had better not try to embrace the Afrikaner side of the community... for precisely the same reasons as have led the D.R.C. to hold aloof from the Christian Council. There is work which urgently needs to be done amongst the English-speaking community; in doing it C.E.M. will always strive to be loyal to South Africa as a whole.
4. Recent activities have included the following:- The holding of a Refresher Course for Teachers at the Johannesburg Training College in co-operation with the Education Department; the organisation of various meetings with prominent speakers in Johannesburg and in various Reef towns; the running of three study circles on Character Training and Training for Citizenship, Religious Instruction in Schools, and the Place and Function of Voluntary Christian Groups in Schools; a visit by the Organizing Secretary to S. Rhodesia at the invitation of the Department of Education to give lectures at a Conference. Two numbers of a periodical "Christian Education" are being issued this year, and we hope next year it will become a quarterly; and after the war a more ambitious thing altogether.
5. The Organizing Secretary will give advice on demand; will provide speakers and study circle outlines and bibliographies; has a certain number of books for loan; will consider organising conferences etc.
6. As long as the war lasts progress is bound to be slow and membership small. But C.E.M. believes it has a contribution to make to the educational life of the country in the days ahead. It welcomes the best support of, and the closest co-operation with, the Christian Council in its educational work. Members and friends of the Christian Council are cordially invited to the annual meeting of the Movement at Darragh Hall, Johannesburg, on October 27th, when the year's work will be reviewed and an address will be given by a member of the Council, Professor (Major) T. Williams.

Conveners, Education Section,  
Christian Council.

Dr. Alexander Kerr.  
Rev. P.E. Goldie, M.A.



1-5 NOV 1942

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THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA

Report of Hon. Secretary to Executive.

12th October, 1942.  
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It will be the aim of this report to deal, as briefly as possible, with matters which do not come directly before the Executive in any other way.

The three months under review have been a period of sustained activity. This is reflected in the agenda for to-day's meeting. Much of the work accomplished has, naturally, arisen from the success of the Christian Reconstruction Conference of last July.

1. Programme of Reform. Following a resolution of the Conference, that as a challenge to immediate, fearless, organised action, the Christian Council present a minimum programme of reform to the Churches, and other bodies represented, the authorities of several of the larger Churches, whose annual assemblies and conferences meet at this time of the year, have been approached with the suggestion that they accept the Findings of the Conference as embodying such a programme. Contact was made with the editors of Church magazines, with the object of securing publication of the Conference Findings in such magazines. In one or two cases excellent publicity was given. In others, lack of space and paper restrictions have limited the amount of publicity given to our Findings. Meanwhile, news constantly reaches us of meetings in many centres addressed by delegates to the Conference.

2. Inter-racial and Interdenominational Ministers' Gatherings. Another Conference suggestion led us to approach European Ministers' Fraternal in the larger centres, pointing out the danger lest the gulf between European and non-European Churches be widened in these days; and urging them to consider the possibility of arranging periodic gatherings of Christian ministers of all races and Churches. It was suggested that in such gatherings the social element should not be neglected. One or two fraternalists have indicated that the suggestion is a welcome one and that steps are being taken to follow it up. We hope to hear from others that similar action is being planned.

3. S.A. Institute of Race Relations. The Institute has placed at our disposal all the information which it so efficiently gathers and supplies. It also expresses its willingness to help our Study groups in the same way. The suggestion has been made by Senator Rheinallt Jones that there be reciprocal representation as between our own Executive and the Executive of the Institute. This question might well be considered by us to-day.

4. Southern Rhodesia. Subsequent to the approval expressed by the Executive in April, the Hon. Secretary accepted an invitation to visit Southern Rhodesia. He was privileged to attend an important three days' meeting of the General Missionary Conference of Southern Rhodesia, and to deliver several addresses to the Conference. Certain local difficulties made it inadvisable at the present moment for the Conference to seek formal application with the Council, though the desire for such affiliation was strongly expressed. But the closest possible links were forged with the missionary forces of the colony. Deep interest was aroused in the question of Christian Reconstruction, and several public meetings were convened for the purpose of receiving information about the Conference and our plans.

5. Suggested branches of the Council. Meetings in Grahamstown led to steps being taken by a group of ministers and influential laymen, to form what they describe as a "branch" in Grahamstown of the Christian Council. A meeting of representatives of Churches and Welfare Societies has been called, the aim being to set up a body which shall identify itself closely with the Council, use its literature, and prosecute its aims in the study of problems of Christian Citizenship and in definite united social service. A similar suggestion comes from Cape Town. An example that might be followed in other centres with very great profit seems to have been provided. I would ask the Executive to-day to approve of the formation of such active branches



wherever possible, with an elastic constitution capable of modification.

6. Social Security Congress. It was indicated that it might be possible for Mr. Blaxall to attend the meetings of this Congress in Durban. There was little time for consultation, but it was agreed by the President and the Secretary that an important step would be taken if Mr. Blaxall could be accredited to the Congress as a representative of this Council. A letter urging that this might be made possible was at once despatched to the Organising Secretary of the Congress, and Mr. Blaxall attended. A report from him is anticipated with interest.

7. International Missionary Council. We have been in close touch with the Officers of the Council overseas. Dr. Mott, the new Chairman (Bishop Baker), and the Secretaries (Dr. Paton and Dr. Varnshuis); acknowledged in the kindest terms our messages of greeting on the occasion of Dr. Mott's retirement. Their interest in the growth of our work is deep and sincere. They have followed with appreciation our plans for the recent Conference, and have received all the literature which was prepared for it, and that which has resulted from it.

8. Other Correspondence.

a) The National Christian Council of China. A copy of the first overseas News Letter from this Council has reached us. Our colleagues in China desire news of us in return. Unfortunately, no clear address is indicated in their letter, but an effort will be made to get into communication with them.

b) Joint Theological Colleges for Africans. The Africa Committee of the British Conference of Missionary Societies sends a memorandum on the growing need for joint schemes for the training of African Evangelists, Ministers & Priests. Christian Councils are urged to give consideration to this matter. It is suggested that the question be remitted to our section on Education, for consideration and report.

c) The Ministry of Information: (Religions Division (overseas)), welcomes the receipt of our Conference literature, and desires to make use of it in its publication: "Spiritual Issues".



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THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

REPORT of the Secretary to the EXECUTIVE, 11th January, 1943.

CORRESPONDENCE.

1. International Missionary Council. Correspondence with the I.M.C. has been handicapped by the prevalent irregularity in the mail service. A letter received in December, 1942, from Dr. Warnshuis, contains the following :-

"The reports of the Conference made a good impression here  
and reference has been made to it in our Committee meetings.  
"Particular attention was given to the report of the Conference  
"in brief statements that were made to the commission that is  
"engaged in the study of a basis for a just and durable peace,  
"which is the commission appointed by the Federal Council of  
"Churches.  
" It seems to us that the Conference has given a real lead  
"to the churches and missions in South Africa. I am particularly  
"impressed by the plans of the Council's Continuation Committee  
"which seem to promise that the findings of the Conference may  
"provide a program of action. It is by such services that the  
"Christian Council of South Africa will justify itself to its  
"own constituency.  
" We shall be interested in the development of programs for  
"the production and publication of Christian Vernacular literature."  
"This is a subject to which we in the International Missionary  
"Council are devoting increasing attention and we hope that some-  
"thing can be done to make the development of the great program  
"of Christian literature a reality in the missionary program of  
"the world-wide church. Naturally we depend upon the initiative  
"of the churches and missions in different areas. We shall  
"welcome any proposals that you may make regarding any assistance  
"we can give you."

The letter also states that there has been made to our Council a special gift of one hundred dollars from the Phelps Stokes Fund in recognition of what the Council is doing to improve relationships between white and black races in this country.

The new Chairman of the I.M.C., Bishop Baker, in a letter dated 23rd September, announces that Dr. Warnshuis retires from the Secretaryship on the 31st December, 1942. The Council hopes to have his continuing counsel and assistance in many matters. A memorandum making due acknowledgement of his distinguished service is to be sent to affiliated bodies.

The new Secretary is the Rev. John William Decker, D.D., formerly a Foreign Secretary of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, with wide experience of work in China and other parts of the Far East. Of him Dr. Mott has written :-

"It is a matter of great significance and satisfaction that  
"Dr. Decker is the one on whom, after much thought and prayer,  
"the whole Committee of the International Missionary Council  
"and its chief executive officers have united. He commands the  
"intellectual and spiritual confidence of the discerning leaders"  
"of the world mission near and far."

The I.M.C. has begun the issue of a series of bulletins to all its constituent bodies. In the first of these, pride of place



is given to a note on our Christian Reconstruction Conference, which is commended as an example to be followed by similar groups everywhere. The Bulletin is a valuable survey of the world field of missions. It is hoped to make use of some of the material thus supplied in the columns of our own "Christian Council Quarterly". From the I.M.C. has also come material for use in connection with appeals for Orphaned Missions.

2. The World Council of Churches. The Secretary in America, Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, informs us that steps are being taken to acquaint the churches in America with the findings of the Fort Hare Conference.

3. The Church Missionary Society. The Secretaries of the C.M.S. in London were greatly impressed with the Report of the Conference. At their request copies have been sent to a number of C.M.S. missionaries in West Africa, the Sudan, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya.

4. The remainder of our increasingly heavy correspondence relates to matters which appear on the long Agenda of this meeting of the Executive, and will be dealt with as our business proceeds.

#### GENERAL.

One is impressed with the need, at this stage, of increasing personal contacts with sympathisers throughout the country. The Fort Hare Conference has made a deep impression. A recent visit to Cape Town on other duties made it possible to meet, with good effect, the study group which made so vital a contribution to the Conference; an inter-racial and interdenominational Committee on Women's Work; and a number of individuals of various churches who are desirous of doing all they can to help the Council in its work. It seems imperative that visits should be paid by the Secretary, at least to some of the larger centres, during 1943, with the object of extending the influence of the Council and the understanding of its aims among Christian people of all churches.

*Edward W Grant.*

Honorary Secretary.

Lovedale,  
January, 1943.



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THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA.

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 1941 to MAY 1943.

It is with deep gratitude to God that we present this report of the activities of the Christian Council of South Africa for the past two years.

MEMBERSHIP.

Very soon after its 1941 meeting, the Council was greatly strengthened by the renewal of the affiliation of the Church of the Province of South Africa, whose representatives have become closely identified with the Council's activities. Other applications for affiliation are to be considered. The following Churches and Societies are now constituent members of the Council and appoint representatives :

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| The Church of the Province of S.A.                     | The Church of Scotland.                            |
| The Methodist Church of S.A.                           | The Church of the Nazarene.                        |
| The Congregational Union of S.A.                       | " Swaziland Missions Confce.                       |
| The Presbyterian Church of S.A.                        | " Methodist Episcopal Church.                      |
| " African Methodist Episcopal Ch.                      | " Moravian Missionary Soc.                         |
| " Bantu Presbyterian Church.                           | " Swiss Mission.                                   |
| " United Free Ch. of Scotland.                         | " Transvaal Missionary Asscn.                      |
| " Hermannsburg Mission.                                | Die Ned.Gereformeerde Sendingkerk van Suid Afrika. |
| " Transkeian Miss: Conference.                         | The American Lutheran Mission.                     |
| " Transvaal Interdenom.African Ministers' Association. | " Norwegian Mission.                               |
| " South African National Sunday School Asscn.          | " American Board Mission.                          |
| " Church of Sweden.                                    | " Natal Missionary Confce.                         |
| " Ciskei Missionary Council                            | " London Missionary Soc.                           |
| " Scandinavian Alliance.                               | " Ind.Order of True Templars.                      |
| " Paris Evangelical Mission.                           | " Society of Friends.                              |
| " Free Methodist Mission.                              |  |
| " Salvation Army.                                      |  |

Minor changes in the Constitution of the Council require to be considered in order to make it possible for the Council to avail itself of the experience of individuals whose knowledge of and interest in those matters with which the Council is concerned are of the highest value to its growing work.

THE EXECUTIVE.

In accordance with a resolution of the 1941 meeting, the Executive has met each quarter and has visited several centres. Meetings have been held in Johannesburg (three), Bloemfontein (one), Cape Town (two), and Fort Hare (one). As a result of its enlargement and of the further inclusion of Sectional Conveners, the Executive became a very representative body. The power to appoint proxies for absent members has brought into touch with the Council's work a number of influential Christian leaders in the various places of meeting. In some cases gatherings of a more public character have been arranged in connection with Executive meetings, and the educational value of these has been high. The Executive has dealt effectively with a growing volume of business during two formative years.

THE "CHRISTIAN RECONSTRUCTION" CONFERENCE.

The Conference held at Fort Hare in July 1942 was an event of outstanding importance in the religious life of the country. During the several months devoted to preparatory work, one hundred & twenty groups in all parts of the country, many of them interdenominational and some inter-racial, studied material prepared in advance by the Conference speakers and published through the office of the Council. The "findings" of a number of these groups were conveyed to the various speakers, and gave added significance to the discussions at the Conference. Before the delegates met, many Churches shared in Intercession for the Conference based on specially prepared material.

The Conference itself was probably the most widely representative



gathering of Christian leaders ever held in South Africa. Its one hundred and forty members came from most of the racial groups of the country and represented forty Churches, Missions, and Societies. Around the theme of "Christian Reconstruction" a comprehensive programme had been built up. From the outset the deep conviction was evident that the Christian faith is the only adequate basis of a new order and the only guarantee of the attainment of peace-assuring relationships in the post-war world. The implications of our faith as applied to the Family, to Society, to Race Relationships, and to the Economic Order were frankly and courageously faced, both by an impressive team of speakers and by the rank and file of the delegates. Throughout the Conference the notes of worship and of consecration to God's will were strongly and clearly maintained, in services of Holy Communion and of Intercession, and in sessions of corporate worship in the Conference Hall. The memorable spirit of truest fellowship was strengthened by the common meals and the hostel boarding arrangements. To this end the unstinted hospitality of the South African Native College and perfect organisation by a local committee were a memorable and outstanding contribution.

The discussions and findings of the Conference attracted widespread interest both in South Africa and overseas. Two editions of the full report, "Christian Reconstruction in South Africa", comprising fifteen hundred copies, have been sold out. The Conference findings were brought to the notice of the authorities of the Churches and Missions of the country. The British Broadcasting Corporation is making use of them in a series of special broadcasts by the Ministry of Information on the affairs of the Universal Church. One Missionary Society asked that copies of the report be sent to its leading missionaries throughout Africa.

The task of following up the work of the Conference and of putting its resolutions into effect was at once begun by a small Continuation Committee. In several large centres Regional representatives were appointed. It seems probable that this may lead in some cases to the formation of local Auxiliaries of the Council which will seek to apply its principles to local conditions and in local Church relationships. One such Auxiliary is already in successful action. The Emergency Committee in Cape Town and the Social and Economic Research Committee in Johannesburg (see below) are among the direct results of the Conference. A group of Church leaders in Cape Town has accepted the task of defining and stating for future publication, the Christian attitude toward current ideologies. The Information Service for which the Conference pressed has been set up and operates through the "Christian Council Quarterly". As the result of an appeal from the Council, some of the Ministers Fraternalists have begun to hold inter-racial gatherings of Christian ministers, a step long overdue and full of promise. The value of the post-Conference work in race relationships was recognised by a grant of One hundred dollars from the Phelps Stokes Fund.

In addition to activities which are directly traceable to decisions taken at the Conference, the marked quickening of interest which resulted within the Christian community has manifested itself in a number of enterprises in which the influence of the Conference is clearly seen. Outstanding among these was the Cape Town Summer School, one of whose avowed objects was to perpetuate the spirit and intention of the Fort Hare Conference. Several leading members of the Christian Council took part in a week of lectures and public discussions, in which the challenge of Christianity to the present world order was not only courageously sounded, but itself challenged, to the great increase of understanding on both sides. Interdenominational Conferences on Reconstruction have also been held in Pretoria and Johannesburg.

#### THE COUNCIL'S SECTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

The day by day work of the Council is organised in seven sections under Conveners, as follows :-



Evangelism: Rev. J. Dexter Taylor, D.D., Johannesburg.  
 Women's Work: Mrs. L.S. Creed, Wynberg, Cape.  
 Education: Principal A. Kerr, M.A., LL.D., Fort Hare.  
 Rev. P.E. Goldie, M.A., Johannesburg.  
 Medical: Dr. Neil Macvicar, Johannesburg.  
 Social Work: Rev. A.W. Blaxall, B.A., Roodeport, Transvaal.  
 Literature: Rev. R.H.V. Shepherd, M.A., D.Litt. Lovedale.  
 Youth Movements: Rev. D.P. Anderson, M.A. Zeerust.  
 Mr. J. Nhlapo, B.A. Evaton.

Of these Conveners, Mr. Blaxall and Mr. Anderson have been appointed since the last meeting. Since the Fort Hare Conference, Mr. Blaxall has been in charge of the Social and Economic Research Committee then formed, which virtually replaces the Section for Social Welfare. Mr. Anderson is preparing a programme of work among young people whose scope will be considerably widened by the appointment; as Joint Convener, of Mr. J. Nhlapo with the purpose of linking up the work of the Section with the needs of non-European people, a precedent which might well be followed in some of the other Sections. Mr. Goldie's appointment as Joint Convener with Dr. Kerr in matters of Education, brings into service his unusual knowledge of questions relating to religious education.

The task of each Convener is to get into touch with leaders who are concerned with his special subject; to act as a centre for the exchange of ideas and the creation of an informed public opinion; to promote interdenominational and inter-racial enterprises in line with the purpose of the Council; and to advise the Council of action which should be taken in respect of legislative and other proposals which come before the community; and in relation to which it is necessary to promote or safeguard Christian interests or principles. One or two outstanding instances of what has been accomplished in this respect should be recorded.

The Section on Medical Work has been responsible for the preparation of a document of the highest importance relating to Medical Missions. It is in the form of evidence which is to be presented to the National Health Services Commission, and is calculated to remove many misconceptions and much ignorance as to the part Mission Hospitals have already played in the battle for the health of the non-European community through long years where-in State provision of medical services for these under-privileged groups has been almost negligible. The memorandum also indicates the place of Medical Missions in any future scheme of National Health Services. It has been widely submitted to Mission authorities and Mission Hospitals, with the result that this Council is authorised to represent before the Commission the views of practically all the Missions who engage in Medical work, including those of the Roman Catholic Church. Dr. Macvicar has been greatly helped in preparing the evidence, by Dr. R.D. Aitken and by Mrs. J.D. Rheinallt Jones, to both of whom our gratitude is extended.

A task of the highest practical value has been undertaken by Dr. Shepherd as Convener of the Section for Literature. The need for Christian vernacular literature to be supplied to non-European soldiers was brought to our notice. An appeal for funds has so far brought in about £400. Of this sum, a gift of £240. from the Department of Native Affairs has been used to establish twelve small vernacular libraries in camps within the Union. The remainder has been expended in sending, free of charge, parcels of Christian literature in several Bantu languages to Africans serving in Egypt and Libya. These are distributed through the Chaplains in charge of the welfare of such troops. The deepest appreciation has been expressed and there are urgent requests for the extension of this service. An attempt is being made to reach South African non-European prisoners of war in Italy.

Our Education Section is deeply interested in a scheme for the endowment of a chair of Divinity at a University college, which is sponsored by four of the principal English-speaking Churches, who propose to unite in this significant enterprise. Not only is joint training of the Ministry foreshadowed, but also the inclusion of



divinity subjects in the Arts degree course and, it is hoped, a definite deepening of interest in religion and religious education within the College. This Council has direct representation on the Committee which is drafting the scheme for presentation to the authorities of the co-operating Churches.

The Council is subsidising the issue of the quarterly magazine, "New Leadership", which is edited by the Convener of the Section for Youth Movements. This Section is also charged with the promotion of Sunday School work among the children of all races, and is in touch with the S.A. National Sunday School Association and the Young People's Departments of several of the Churches.

In connection with Women's Work, a representative local Committee has been set up in Cape Town. The Convener of this Section plans to visit other centres in order to enlist the interest and co-operation of Christian women in a programme of work among women of all races.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES.

The Emergency Committee, pressed for during the Fort Hare Conference and immediately set up under the Convener'ship of Advocate Douglas Buchanan, K.C., is essentially a Committee of action. Centred in Cape Town, its task is to watch the trend of legislation and to take prompt action whenever it is necessary that the Christian view-point should be impressed upon the authorities. The Committee is in frequent consultation with sympathetic Parliamentarians, and on several occasions its intervention has been most effective. Swift action led to the abandonment of a gambling racket of a most objectionable character. Urgent representations have been made in the appropriate quarters with respect to the repressive use of a war-time emergency regulation which bore hardly upon non-European workers; and a public meeting of representative citizens, summoned by our Committee, achieved a striking unanimity of view-point respecting this issue. The differential treatment meted out to non-European troops in respect of pay and allowances has been effectively dealt with and a strong case has been presented to the Government. The Emergency Committee arranged for representatives of this Council to meet with the Prime Minister in the interview to which reference is made below.

Another important result of the "Christian Reconstruction" Conference, is the Social and Economic Research Committee, to which attention has already been called. Its valuable statement concerning the basic Christian principles which must underlie a reconstructed society has already been published ("Christian Council Quarterly" January, 1943). The Committee contemplates a full programme of enquiry relating to the Christian approach to such questions as wages, housing, private possession of land and the means of production, social insurance, and social evils such as drink, gambling and impurity. It is anticipated that the Committee's discussions will lead eventually to the publication of material of the highest value in awakening and fortifying the social sense of the Christian community in South Africa.

#### DEPUTATIONS.

In January 1942 a representative group of members of the Executive interviewed Mr. D. L. Smit, Secretary for Native Affairs. Matters of considerable importance concerning the relations between the Government and Missions were discussed, and the interview was fruitful in removing several misconceptions and in establishing upon an even firmer basis the friendly relations which exist between Christian missionary forces and the Department of Native Affairs.

The Council's approach to the Prime Minister, Field-Marshal the Rt. Hon. J. C. Smuts, in January 1943, was an event of very considerable significance. The matters discussed included the health of South Africa's non-European population, the extension of industrial conciliation measures to embrace non-European workers, and a wider and more direct representation of non-European interests in the government of the country. No specific undertaking was given by the Prime Minister. The wide publicity given to the interview in the press however, had a high educative value; while at the same time the importance attached to the expression of the Christian viewpoint on such problems of race relations was freely acknowledged by the Prime Minister, and the way opened for further approaches by this Council to the Head of the Government.



## PUBLICATIONS.

Following the memorable meeting of the Council two years ago, its hopes and plans were broadcast to the Churches in a pamphlet, "A New Beginning". This was followed by the issue in booklet form of a valuable address on Christian unity by Dr. Alexander Kerr, entitled "The Old Church in a New World". The task of publishing a series of nine Study Group pamphlets covering the subjects subsequently discussed by the Conference at Fort Hare was successfully carried through. As already noted, the full report of the Conference, "Christian Reconstruction in South Africa", has had a very wide circulation.

In October 1942 was published the first issue of our periodical bulletin, "The Christian Council Quarterly". This has been well received. It embodies our Information Service, news of the Council's activities, and short articles on matters of moment to Christians of to-day. We acknowledge most gratefully the generosity of the United Society for Christian Literature (London) in subsidising the issue of the Quarterly for the first two years.

An encouraging beginning has been made with a new series of booklets, "The Christian Council Study Series", designed to maintain and extend the study group organisation which was set up in connection with the Fort Hare Conference, by providing a stream of fresh material. There is a steady demand for the new series of which the following have been published:-

- No.1 "Christianity & Communism". By C. Edgar Wilkinson. Price 6d.
- No.2 "The Church's Guide to Politics". By Professor A.H. Murray and Dr. M. Versfeld. Price 6d.
- No.3 "Post War Reconstruction and Native Policy". By Margaret Ballinger, M.P. Price 3d.
- No.4 "The Philosophical Basis of Christianity and Marxist Communism". By H.P. Junod. Price 3d.

This note on publications would be incomplete without a reference to the place given to the Council in the columns of the "South African Outlook". From the beginning the "Outlook" has been an official organ of the Council; and for the past two years not one of its monthly issues has appeared without some reference to this Council and its work.

## VARIOUS INTERESTS.

Among the many other interests of the Council, a high place must be given to its administration of funds for the support of Orphaned Missions. The work of our Hon. Treasurer, Rev. Dr. J. Dexter Taylor, has covered not only the collection and disbursement of funds in this country, but also the distribution of funds contributed from overseas. This work has eased distress and sometimes averted the abandonment of work carried on by Missions whose home bases are in occupied countries of the Continent of Europe.

Other interests served include those of the Goodwill Sunday organisation, African Chaplains to the Forces, and Italian prisoners of war. The Secretary is in frequent communication with a group of interned missionaries, to whom help is being given in the provision of books for library and study purposes. Through its Medical Work Section the Council is directly represented on the National Council for the Care of Cripples.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNCILS, &c.

Within the Union of South Africa, plans are afoot for the appointment of a fully bilingual Liaison Committee to establish the closest possible fellowship between ourselves and the Federal Council of the Dutch Reformed Churches. An approach along these lines has been made by this Council to the Federal Council.

We owe much to the generous help given from time to time by the South African Institute of Race Relations. The experience and knowledge of the Institute are always available to us, and this valuable assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Whilst we are engaged in the task which is imposed upon us



by the complex conditions of our country, our vision is kept wide and clear by close and friendly relations with similar Councils in other lands. We have many valuable contacts in Rhodesia, and are in touch with Missionary Councils in Belgian Congo and in Uganda. Above all, there is the inspiration of frequent communication with the British and American headquarters of the International Missionary Council of which we, together with similar national Councils the world over, are a constituent body. Any sense of isolation is removed as we thus feel the pulse of the Christian enterprise in the world. Already we are being consulted with respect to plans for an International Round Table Conference of Christian leaders to deal with post-war problems. We cherish these inspiring contacts with the Church's world-wide mission, and feel ourselves to be part of the forces which seek to accomplish the vast purposes of God for this generation.

A. ARTHUR WELLINGTON,      President.  
EDWARD W. GRANT,              Hon. Secretary.

8th May, 1943.



**Collection Number: AD1715**

**SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF RACE RELATIONS (SAIRR), 1892-1974**

**PUBLISHER:**

*Collection Funder:- Atlantic Philanthropies Foundation*

*Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive*

*Location:- Johannesburg*

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