

Thus closed a meeting of much significance and importance. We are left with the consciousness of great and urgent tasks to be attempted, and of a large measure of conviction and earnest desire that the Christian forces of the country should attempt them without delay. The one remaining essential is that of leadership. The Council still awaits the emergence of that particular personality, with the needful gifts for this service and the opportunity to exercise them. Seldom in this country has so great a thing depended on the provision of a God-given leader. Let us pray with deep faith and true sincerity that the need may soon be met, so that at this critical juncture the Christian Council of South Africa may be able to fulfil the purpose for which God called it into being.

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The Durban meeting had more than usual interest on its personal side. To not a few it was a source of gladness and inspiration to see representatives of so many churches and missionary societies, as well as of varied nationalities, deliberating with freedom, friendliness and zest the affairs of the Kingdom of God in Southern Africa. The Durban City Council committee room (which some of us thought to be the Council chamber itself till we saw the sumptuous place in which the Council meets) contained a remarkable cross-section of the men leading in various branches of the Christian enterprise of our country.

Unfortunately, one must say "the men," for no body has been wise enough to appoint a woman as a member of the Christian Council. This is a disabling lack. Until it is remedied the Council or its Executive would be justified in using its powers to co-opt additional members by appointing a woman to every possible place. The meeting at Durban owed more than can be told to a woman for the local arrangements, so that Miss English, by her attendance at every session and her quiet efficiency, became quite innocently and unintentionally an ever-present rebuke and a reminder of how the Council was suffering from the lop-sided nature of its personnel.

It is difficult to speak of the Archbishop's chairmanship and his leading of the Council without seeming exaggeration. That leadership is primarily spiritual, but with it is a patience, a wit and a supremely human touch that make for constant good feeling, and withal there is a freshness of mind that seizes on the main points and is not afraid to jettison plans if a greater good is to be secured. In these days when there is a shying away on every side from anything savouring of the Fuehrer idea, the reappointment of the President for another term was a notable personal triumph.

Mr. Blaxall as Secretary had no easy task, but it was obvious that he had brooded over the Council's affairs and had backed up his thought with much hard work. The result was that the essential things were to the front and their relative importance kept in view. One wonders again how much the Council owes to one of the excluded sex working behind the scenes.

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# THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

## QUARTERLY

South African Institute  
of Race Relations,  
The Secretary,  
Box 97,  
Johannesburg.

by the Christian Council of South Africa

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SEPTEMBER, 1945.

## The Durban Meeting of the Christian Council

It was fitting that the biennial meeting the Christian Council at the end of May should be held in Durban. That city has lately shown an awakened interest in the wider aspects of the Church's life and work in post-war South Africa, a keen awareness of the demands which this new age will make upon the Christian forces, and a consciousness of the call to co-operative effort if the demands of the times are to be adequately met. This awakening is largely due to the farsightedness and energy of a small band of Christian people. Their careful local preparation helped to make the meeting of the Council so successful.

Despite travelling difficulties, and the fact that Durban is not by any means central in its situation, the meeting was representative of a large number of affiliated Churches, Missions and Societies, including the following:

- African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- American Board Mission.
- Bantu Presbyterian Church.
- Church of the Province of South Africa.
- Church of the Nazarene.
- Church of Scotland.
- Church of Sweden.
- Congregational Union of South Africa.
- London Missionary Society.
- Methodist Church of South Africa.
- Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Moravian Missionary Society.
- Norwegian Mission.
- Paris Evangelical Mission.
- Presbyterian Church of South Africa.
- Salvation Army.
- Swiss Mission.
- Society of Friends.
- Ciskei Missionary Council.
- Independent Order of True Templars.
- Natal Missionary Conference.
- Transvaal Interdenominational African Ministers' Asscn.
- Transvaal Missionary Association.
- Christian Education Movement.
- Free Methodist Mission.

The President of the Council, the Most Reverend the Archbishop of Cape Town, was in the Chair. The Council was welcomed to Durban by the Mayor of the City, Councillor Ellis Brown. The Venerable Archdeacon Martin of Durban conducted devotions.

The Archbishop then delivered his Presidential address. The effect of it was to place the work of the Council in its right setting against the background of these critical times, and to reveal anew those unbounded spiritual resources

which are at the disposal of God's people to-day. The address was characterised by that deep insight, inspiring leadership, and true wisdom which have marked throughout the distinguished Presidency of His Grace the Archbishop.

It was agreed to regard the pamphlet, "Plan of Action," as the Council's report for the two-year period under review. The pamphlet, which is the work of the former Honorary Secretary of the Council, presents in the form of an outline programme the results of the Council's work as set forth in the proceedings of the series of Provincial Conferences held last year.

### The Secretary.

The vital question of the Secretariat was, very wisely, faced at an early stage of the meeting. The situation which had arisen as a result of the resignation of the Reverend E. W. Grant from the Honorary Secretaryship was laid before the meeting.

The following resolution was passed:

"This biennial meeting of the Christian Council of South Africa, assembled in the Committee Room of the City Hall, Durban, on Wednesday 30th May, 1945, hereby records its deep sense of obligation to the Reverend Edward Grant, formerly Principal of the Bible School, Lovedale, and presently Governor of Healdtown Missionary Institution, for the services rendered as Honorary General Secretary to the Council during the critical years, 1940 to 1945. Mr. Grant's work was at all times efficient, diligent and marked by a breadth of outlook, and deep devotion, which has helped to make the Council a vital force in the life of South Africa, while also sharing in the witness of ecumenical Christianity. In placing this expression of gratitude in the Minutes, the Christian Council desires to associate with the name of Edward Grant that of his competent and equally devoted wife."

The recommendations of a sub-committee respecting a new appointment had been carefully considered by the Executive, which brought certain recommendations to the Council.

In the discussion which followed, it became clear that a very large majority of those present were of opinion that it had become essential to the successful functioning of the Council that a full-time Secretary be appointed; and it was urged that the Council face boldly the need for budgeting in such a way as to make the appointment possible. The Council was also strongly of the opinion that the Secretary should if possible be an ordained minister of a Church affiliated to the Council; and that in spite of the present acute shortage of clergy, one or other of the Churches should set aside a man for this work. Certain definite proposals were made.

Since the meeting of the Council, every effort has been made to secure a suitable appointment, even though it be of a temporary nature. So serious, however, is the understaffed condition in which the Churches find themselves to-day, that at the time of going to press no appointment has been made. Meanwhile the general work of the Secretariat lies in the devoted hands of the Reverend A. W. Blaxall, who thus continues to add a very heavy additional burden to his already overloaded days.

#### Officers for 1945-1947.

To the great pleasure and gratification of everyone present, His Grace the Archbishop of Cape Town accepted nomination to the office of President for a further period of two years, and was elected with acclamation. The Vice-Presidents for the new period are, the Reverend E. W. Grant of Healdtown Missionary Institution of the Methodist Church, and Chief A. J. Luthuli of Natal. Chief Luthuli is a well-known, able African layman of the Congregational Union. Mr. Grant will continue to act as Treasurer until an appointment can be made, and he will also remain for the time being in charge of the literary side of the work of the Secretariat.

The following, in addition to the officers mentioned above, were nominated to the Executive Committee of the Council:—

Reverends Dr. R. H. W. Shepherd ; Dr. J. Dexter Taylor ; H. P. Junod ; E. Hallendorff ; W. T. Whalley ; E. E. Mahabane ; J. Mvusi ; D. Anderson ; H. M. Agnew ; Dr. J. Coan ; Archdeacon Rouse ; A. W. Blaxall ; with Mr. Maurice Webb and Senator E. H. Brookes.

It was noted with regret that the Executive does not include the name of any woman. This is a decided weakness. It cannot be removed until affiliated Churches nominate women among their representatives on the Council. Meanwhile, the need for taking advantage of the experience and driving power of women members can be partly met by co-opting women as members of the Executive in the manner allowed under the constitution.

#### Orphaned Missions.

Much work has been done during the war years under the aegis of this Council, through Dr. Dexter Taylor, in relieving the necessities of Missions based on the Continent of Europe and cut off by war conditions from home support and even in some cases from any direct communication with their various headquarters. Considerable sums raised partly overseas and partly in South Africa have been disbursed. Without this timely aid a good deal of missionary work must either have closed down or been taken over by societies already heavily burdened. It was reported that the balance of funds available is now small, and the advisability or otherwise of issuing a further appeal is to be considered by the Finance Committee.

#### Evangelisation.

Dr. Dexter Taylor pointed out that suggestions from this section, of which he is in charge, had led to the five Provincial Conferences whose reports had been adopted under the title, "Plan of Action." It was recognised that the programme embodied in the pamphlet can only be carried out effectively by the new Secretary. Dr. Taylor agreed to continue as Convener until the new appointment is made.

#### Literature.

The report of Dr. R. H. W. Shepherd called attention to the very considerable work done by the Council in supplying non-European Troops with literature in the several vernaculars and in English. In 1944 alone nearly ten thousand books and pamphlets had been so supplied. A task of the future must be a wide survey of the whole question of Christian literature for the African people. The Reverends R. Paroz and J. A. Persson were appointed to assist Dr. Shepherd in carrying out the programme of this section.

#### Medical Work.

The Convener of this section, Dr. Neil Macvicar, had been obliged to relinquish his office on completing the great task of preparing the impressive memorandum which he had submitted in the name of the Council to the National Health Services Commission. Dr. R. D. Aitken, of Sibasa, assumed responsibility in the place of Dr. Macvicar. In his behalf Dr. Alan Taylor of Durban pleaded for the recognition of Mission hospitals with State subsidy on the patient-day basis. The Council was reminded that the difficulties experienced in bringing into operation the recommendations of the Commission were mainly due to the Provincial system of Government. The National Health Committee has been appointed chiefly to deal with these constitutional difficulties, and it was decided that the Council approach the National Committee and, if possible, consult also with the Provincial authorities. The Dutch Reformed Church in the Transvaal wished to be associated with the Christian Council in this matter.

#### Social Welfare.

The Reverend A. W. Blaxall, who is in charge of this section, stated that memoranda had been submitted to several Government Commissions, notably that on Social Security. Through the Council's Emergency Committee in Cape Town a protest had been lodged against the hasty passing of the Welfare Organisations Bill. The Council had been complimented on its evidence by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee.

#### Education.

There was considerable discussion on various aspects of educational work. The Council was urged by Mr. Maurice Webb to assist the cause of adult education until illiteracy no longer exists in South Africa. It was resolved to express to the Minister of Education the Council's gratification at the wise step recently taken with respect to the finance of African education ; to urge that Missionary Societies be represented on the proposed National Native Education Board ; and to offer to suggest the names of persons suitable for such an appointment.

The appropriate authority is to be approached with thanks for the extension of school-feeding to African children and certain administrative difficulties connected with the scheme are to be pointed out.

The Secretary of the Christian Education Movement, which is now affiliated to the Council, was appointed co-convener of this section with Dr. A. Kerr.

#### Women's Work.

In approaching the consideration of this important matter the Council was faced immediately with the tragic results of the passing of Mrs. Rheinallt Jones, who had accepted the convenership of this section. The plans

which she had made, which would probably have resulted in a marked drawing together of Christian women of all races in the Churches, had never been carried out. The great loss to co-ordinated Christian effort which arises from the fact that the Council has no organised work among women was stressed, among others, by Miss E. F. English, to whose initiative co-operative Christian effort in Durban owes so much. It was left to the President to secure, if possible, the active interest of someone who is in touch with the women's organisations of the Churches.

#### Youth Movements.

The Convener, the Reverend D. P. Anderson, reported on the camp for Leaders which had been held at Grasmere, Transvaal, during January; and of the plans for the proposed African Youth Conference arranged to meet in July at Roodepoort. The periodical *New Leadership*, which is edited by Mr. Anderson and subsidised by the Council, had increased its circulation and was proving of real value to young people of all races and to those who work among them. The report was received with great interest. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Nhlapo, his co-convener, were re-appointed.

#### Local Councils.

The Council very wisely gave considerable time to matters relating to the organisation of local Christian Councils.

During the years of the Council's development it has become clear that it cannot vitally touch the life of the Churches so long as it functions from a single headquarters. As interest is aroused so the desire grows among Christian people to further the purposes of the Council in their own areas and to apply its principles of co-operative Christian effort to local problems and conditions. In several of the larger centres people of various Churches came together with this end in view. Such groups became known as "Christian Council Auxiliaries." They were not an integral part of the Council itself, and many have advocated such constitutional changes as should give to such recognised bodies clear representation on the Council.

This necessary provision has now been made at the Durban meeting. The term "Auxiliary" is to be dropped and local bodies of this character will be known as "The Christian Council in ————." Each local body will draft its own constitution in consultation with the Executive of the parent body; and it will call into its fellowship such Churches and Societies as it may wish whether or not these Churches and Societies are officially affiliated to the Christian Council. It is suggested that the different sections of the Council's work be represented by local conveners, thus building up a number of corresponding committees who will assist the section conveners of the central Council. The task of increasing and strengthening the Local Councils will be one of the main responsibilities of the Organising Secretary when he is appointed.

The Council is to be congratulated on having taken this most important step.

#### Home Life.

The report of an important Commission on this vitally important question, which was appointed in November 1944 and centred on Grahamstown, was rightly given a prominent place in the Council's discussions. The Commission was under the Chairmanship of Sister Frances

Mary, C.R., and its report is a document of the first importance. After free discussion by the Council the matter was sent down to the Executive with instructions to consider the possibility of organising a campaign on Home Life to be concentrated in a National Week.

At a later stage the Executive gave prolonged consideration to this suggestion. A motion calling for a "Home Week" to be organised in September was before the meeting. It called for the co-operation of Churches and religious organisations not affiliated with the Council, and of the Government, the Press, and the Broadcasting Corporation. There was complete and wholehearted unanimity as to the urgent need for such a campaign in the near future. But once again the fact had to be faced that without the services of a full-time organising secretary, such a programme could not be carried through effectively.

At the request of the Executive the President summarised the discussion and declared the unanimous will of those present in the following forceful statement:—

"An important issue emerged from the meeting of the Christian Council held in Durban on May 30th and 31st.

The vital urgency of a fresh effort to promote home-life was felt by all to be a challenge that could not be ignored.

To deliver that challenge required the co-operation of bodies and associations in a far wider circle than could be reached by the Christian Council.

We need the co-operation of Churches not represented on the Christian Council and we feel the need of the backing of Government for a really effective presentation to the people of South Africa of this pressing challenge.

The Christian Council will endeavour to secure co-operation as far as possible and has no desire to be more than one co-operating body in a welcomed effort.

The challenge must be fourfold:

1. The family is the heart of the nation and the challenge must be put before all sections of the nation.
2. The break up of family life among non-European populations in rural areas is causing a fatal disintegration of their peoples as a vital element in the life of South Africa. African tribal life must be safeguarded.
3. In urban areas the same process going on is scarcely less dangerous. The Government of South Africa must be aroused to these two aspects of a gross national peril. Slums must go.
4. The provision of proper housing for returned soldiers is most urgent. They have to build up afresh after years of separation from their wives and home life. In inadequate houses this will be impossible and if inadequate houses are provided worse evils will befall the nation. Frustrated lives are the chief cause of discontent and social failure.

The plan is: (1) to provide outlines for study and other relevant literature; (2) to organise with the help of the Government if obtainable a National Week for promoting Home Life along more or less the lines of a National Health Week; (3) to set up some organisation for following up the work of the Week.

Committees to make preparation have been set up and those interested can communicate with the Acting-Secretary."

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# THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL QUARTERLY

*Published by the Christian Council of South Africa*

No. 13.

FEBRUARY, 1946.

## The New Secretary of the Christian Council

The Rev. Stanley G. Pitts, B.A., S.C.F., who will take up the duties of full-time Secretary of the Christian Council when released from military service, is one of the most outstanding of the younger generation of Methodist ministers in this country.

Born in London in 1914, Mr. Pitts came to South Africa in 1936 to enter the ministry of the Methodist Church of South Africa. He received his training at the University of Cape Town and the Methodist Theological College Mowbray, and took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, specialising in Philosophy. As a Circuit minister, he continued his studies with a view to taking his Masters degree until the call to Military service interrupted his scholastic ambitions. Mr. Pitts is a keen student and reader, with a vigorous and alert mind.

During the short time he was in charge of the Methodist Church at Claremont, Cape Town, he proved himself equally successful as a preacher and pastor. His devotion to studies did not prevent him from applying himself diligently to the work of the Church, and from establishing friendly contact with his people; and the spiritual life of the Church flourished under his ministrations.

In 1941 Mr. Pitts became a Chaplain to the Forces, and for the last five years has served with conspicuous success in South Africa, Egypt and Italy; at present being Senior Chaplain of the Free Churches in Italy. As a Chaplain he has proved exceedingly popular with the men, and one often hears returned soldiers from the North speak of Padre Pitts with respect and admiration.

He has never flinched from the most arduous duties, going into the front line and sharing with the men every danger and hardship.

The Christian Council is fortunate in securing the services of a man like Mr. Pitts whom the Methodist Church can ill afford to spare from the ranks of its own Ministry. A thoughtful and powerful preacher who can fill any pulpit with distinction; a forceful personality of great mental ability; a man of strong convictions and conscientious devotion to duty, Mr. Pitts has proved himself in several spheres of service. Academic tastes are in him allied with spiritual gifts, and his Army record has shown that he is able to make successful contacts with men in the rough and tumble of military life, and he is also possessed of administrative ability.

His sympathies are not confined to his own branch of the Christian Church, for he has a deep appreciation of the riches of the great inheritance of the Christian faith and of the devotional life and practices of the historic Church. We believe that Mr. Pitts will bring to the work of the Christian Council, and to the interests of the Kingdom of God in South Africa, the same devotion to duty and capacity for hard work which

he has shown in other spheres of Christian services; and that he will prove himself capable of working in fruitful co-operation with the wide constituency which the Christian Council represents.

E. LYNN CRAGG.



REV. STANLEY G. PITTS, B.A.  
Secretary: Christian Council of South Africa.

*The distribution of the "Quarterly" will be undertaken from the office of the Secretary of the Christian Council.  
Temporary address: "Glenhurst" Gloucester Road, Mowbray, Cape.*

*Editor: Rev. E. W. Grant, Healdtown, Fort Beaufort, C. P.*

## Home Life

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN CAPE TOWN JANUARY 22nd, 1946

The Christian Council of South Africa, of which most of the Churches and missionary organisations at work in this country are constituent members, is proposing to organize during this year a crusade for the sanctity of Home Life and a challenge to the citizens of this country to realize the moral dangers to which we are exposed by the alarming increase of divorces and the prevalence of indifference to the spiritual values in life. We are not concerned about the title of any such movement. We are concerned about the principles on which it is based and the message which it is purposed to deliver.

We shall ask the men and women of our land to consider these points which we believe to be fundamentally necessary to the full life of the community and of the individual:

1. The law of human life is that of consideration for and service to others as done unto God.  
(A big job! But the Lord Jesus Christ as Son of Man has shown us the perfect example and as Risen Saviour supplies the power to live such a life).
2. The home is the natural (and the divinely appointed) place in which such a life can be learnt and practised. The home is absolutely essential to the welfare of society and the development of the individual. (This is not merely pious talk. It is perhaps one of the main lessons of history, and this principle governed the life of ancient Rome in its rise and of the Hebrew nation).
3. Anything that makes home life impossible is anti-social. (This may be the tyranny of a parent, the economic pressure of acquisitive society or the selfishness which breaks up a home by divorce).
4. The popular idea that "self-expression" or "self-realization" is the natural way for the individual, ignoring the need of self-discipline and service, leads through selfishness of one kind or another (e.g. greed, lust or mere pleasure-seeking) to the spread of crime, destruction and death.

We believe that these principles apply to all races in our country and in our programme will endeavour to appeal to all the constituent races of South Africa. We do not forget elements in the situation which are not stressed above such as educational methods and aims, the need for good housing, the provision of opportunities for recreation, health services, employment etc. All these in some measure depend upon a recognition of the four principles we have stated.

Our programme will include the organizing of big meetings in the main centres, and so far as we can secure co-operation, the use of existing organisations for a wide diffusion of the challenge in various ways. For instance, we hope we may secure a certain amount of support from public bodies, women's organisations and perhaps Rotary Clubs. We hope that study groups may be formed in many places.

But first of all we seek to secure the co-operation of all the Christian bodies in our land. We believe that our four

principles are held by them all. We are fully aware of the limits of possible co-operation, and the Christian Council is always careful not to attempt to impose on any Church any message or method unacceptable to it. Co-operation in the first instance will be given by a sympathetic acceptance of this statement of principles, and next by permission to approach the various leaders and organisations in any given Church with a view to seeking their active co-operation.

What we aim at ultimately will be to arouse and enlist the men and women of our country in active service to our community and generation in the Name and Power of God. It is obvious that such service will be largely focused and directed by the organisations of the denomination to which these men and women already adhere.

For the Council,  
JOHN R. DARBYSHIRE,  
*Archbishop of Cape Town,*  
*President of the Council.*

## Thoughts from the Council Office

**Home Week Campaign.** Since the Durban meeting enquiries have been made both by the President and Secretary and it seems clear that this suggestion will meet with a warm response, both from local authorities and the public in general. The President discussed the suggestion with several highly placed Government officials and was assured that if the organisation is really comprehensive and supported by all Christian Churches the State will give every possible assistance. Obviously such organisation is impossible until the Council has a full-time secretary.

**Native Education Advisory Committee.** As suggested at the Durban meeting the Secretary wrote to the Minister of Education and asked that when he fills the nominated seats on the committee he will offer at least one to an educationalist thoroughly conversant with missionary work. Both Mr. Hofmeyr and Major v.d. Byl replied indicating that they would welcome such a member on the committee. Mr. Hofmeyr asked that names be submitted, which was done through our educational convener. The membership of the Committee has now been announced in the press and I am glad to see the name of Dr. A. Kerr, Principal of Fort Hare College, included.

**National Health Committee.** The medical work section, ably guided by Dr. R. Aitken, presented an important memorandum to this committee with the result that they were asked to give personal evidence. This was done in collaboration with the Institute of Race Relations. It is cheering to note that representatives of the Dutch Reformed Church and the Roman Catholic Church co-operated. Since then Dr. H. Gluckman has been appointed Minister of Health and invited a number of people to an informal meeting in his Pretoria office on the 9th January to discuss the constitution and scope of the permanent National Health Council. I have been invited in another capacity but will naturally bear in mind the points made in Dr. Aitken's memorandum.

### VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

The Christian Council, as I think of it, will perform two functions in the future.

In the first place it will provide a forum for the consideration of current questions in the light of Christian teaching. Where there is clear need for action the Council will take the initiative, e.g. the question of hospitalisation in remote areas which National Health schemes are not likely to reach for many years.

In this work the machinery available to the secretary is (a) the group of advisors known as sectional convenors whose task it is to assist him as specialist advisors; (b) the Executive elected by the full Council. Before the war this body met quarterly, but for obvious reasons meetings have been less frequent during the last few years. If memoranda, and other documents are to go out with the real authority of the Council it is important that the Executive meet regularly, and that a system of properly appointed sub-committees be approved to further special interests. There is temptation sometimes to be weary of committee work, but it is the only safeguard against bureaucracy and totalitarianism.

Secondly the Council can become a great force for strengthening Faith and Service among our people of all races in the land.

It is a commonplace to say that Christian witness is enfeebled by lack of unity. Leaders and people alike know it is true, and yet so little is done to emphasize how much Christians of varying traditions and modes of worship do believe in common, and to mobilize the witness of Christian service.

Much valuable work is being done by existing bodies such as the Cape Peninsula Church Council, the Church Council of the Witwatersrand, the Transvaal Missionary Association, and groups of a similar nature. But they hardly touch the "man-in-the-pew," and in any case they are confined to the larger towns having no influence in the many larger country dorps of our vast land, to say nothing of rural areas.

During the last fifteen years my service with the blind, and the deaf and dumb, has taken me to most parts of the Union and given me the privilege of visiting most of our larger educational institutions. Time and again I have been struck to notice how hungry many are for leadership, and how willing groups of people are to discuss the deepest things of life, both personal and national.

This has often caused me to think what a tremendous opportunity awaits a man who can travel, has time to organize, is a good mixer, and has patience to talk at great length even although at times he may have to endure fools and their folly. In colleges and schools such work is already covered by the travelling secretaries of the S.C.A., but in our towns there is nothing similar.

Ministers of the various Churches complain that study groups dwindle to three or four people, and when asked why the small groups in the different Churches do not amalgamate and make one larger group, the answer is invariably the same—"because no one gives a lead."

This lead cannot, of course, be given from a central office although that will be necessary to supply literature and give general guidance and advice. But personal con-

tact is essential, and it is here I feel we could follow the example of our brethren overseas by organizing special "weeks" in different places.

In England we hear of many such special efforts, a "Religion and Life Week," a "Bible Study Week," "Christian Social Service Week" and so on, and I believe the same method of rousing general interest is followed in America and other countries.

In South Africa I feel it may be necessary to make slight adaptations. A name which hammers in my mind is a "Faith and Service" week. Let me try to sketch what I mean by an imaginary "Faith and Service Week" in Beaufort West.

**Visiting team,** Secretary of the Christian Council and three helpers, one at least being a woman. 75% if not all the team, should be bilingual for this particular town and it would be good if one could be a Coloured person.

**Time:** 10 days: Saturday evening, united welcome in a central hall. Sunday to Sunday, campaign in full swing, sectional meetings in the day and a central general meeting every evening.

(The form of the central meetings to depend on local conditions—it may be a general meeting with visiting and local speakers, or a meeting which breaks up into class work etc.).

Final Monday, evening only, concluding meeting.

During the week steps to be taken to start a "Christian Council in Beaufort West," the result being announced the final Monday evening.

In the course of about five years I visualize a number of local councils established in this way. Then will be the time for grouping into regional councils as was suggested during the discussion at the Durban meeting.

A further vision which comes to me is that of a Union-wide fellowship formed of men and women of all races who have attended these gatherings and form the background of their local councils. The fellowship might well take the name chosen by our former secretary when he issued a short report on the Fort Hare Conference, namely "A Fellowship of Faith and Service." No rules will be needed. The only condition of membership being practical evidence of (a) Fellowship in Faith by membership in one or other of the Christian Churches associated to the Council and (b) Fellowship in Service by active participation in at least one community service.

Dreams like these naturally leave room for much fuller consideration, but in the meanwhile if any reader of these notes cares to send me thoughts and comments on these ideas I will hand them over to the in-coming secretary, who will doubtless find much in them to help and guide him in the great task to which he is called.

A. W. BLAXALL.



## An Appeal for Funds

The appointment of a full-time Secretary, which the situation of the Council demanded if it was to go ahead, has meant that a much higher expenditure must be faced with no prospect of an early increase in the Council's normal income. We publish below the text of an appeal for funds which has been authorised, therefore, by the Executive, and which will be circulated to all interested persons in due course.

February, 1946.

**The Christian Council of South Africa**—a body representative of almost every responsible Church and Missionary Society in the country—has, since the Fort Hare Conference on "Christian Reconstruction" in 1942, grown to such dimensions that its Secretarial work can no longer be carried on by voluntary workers. If the Council is to fulfil its purpose of presenting the voice of the Christian Church in this country on the vital issues of our day and of fostering within the various Churches an awakened consciousness of the wider implications and demands of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then it will do so only as it plans bravely and boldly in the face of the challenge of the spirit of our day.

**To that end the Council has embarked on a venture of Faith.** It has taken the big step of appointing a full-time Organising Secretary who will be free to travel extensively and to devote himself wholly to the work of the Council. It has pledged itself to provide an office and clerical assistance in addition to meeting the considerable expense that the Secretary's travelling will involve. After much trouble the Council has secured the services of the Rev. Stanley G. Pitts, a Chaplain who has seen a great deal of active service with our men, and who was, until he was recalled from the north to take over this work, the Senior Free Churches Chaplain with the troops in the field.

**The future of the Council demanded that this step be taken.** But it will need money. The estimated cost to cover this imperative advance will be in the neighbourhood of £1200 per annum.

**We therefore appeal to every Christian who has the advance of God's Kingdom at heart** and who can appreciate the vital role that the Christian Council is called upon to play in this country, to make this an opportunity of personal Christian service and help to ensure that the immense possibilities before the Christian Council may be realized.

**You can help in either or both of the following ways :**

1. By a special donation or an annual subscription.
2. By guaranteeing a certain amount per annum for two or three years, which will be called for only in the event of a deficit.

**Postal Orders, Money Orders, and Cheques** should be made payable to the Rev. E. W. Grant, Healdtown Missionary Institution, P.O. Fort Beaufort, C.P. or contributions may be handed to any of the undersigned.

J. R. DARBYSHIRE, Archbishop of Cape Town,  
*President.*

E. W. GRANT, Principal of Healdtown  
Institution, *Vice-President.*

A. J. LUTHULI, African Chief, Groutville, Natal,  
*Vice-President.*

### EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Executive of the Christian Council met at Cape

Town on Friday, 18th January. The President of the Council, His Grace the Archbishop of Cape Town, was in the chair. The two matters of major importance before the Executive were the appointment of the new Organizing Secretary, which is referred to on the front page, and the Campaign on Home Life which the Council purposes to launch during the coming year. Elsewhere in this issue we have published a "Statement of Principles" by the President which will act as the basis of the Council's message. This it is proposed to publish and to circulate to the heads of all the Christian Churches asking for their co-operation in the launching of the Campaign which, it is hoped, will prove an effective recall to a proper regard for Marriage and Home and Family life and lead to a stemming of the tide at present flowing through the Divorce Courts. In addition to the Christian Churches it is hoped to secure the support of non-religious bodies, and to publish a series of pamphlets and study-group papers which will prepare the ground. Later in the year, when the ground has been prepared, a series of mass meetings will be held in all the main cities of the Union and from these meetings we hope that the Christian witness and challenge will be carried to the inland towns and villages. Meanwhile, the Secretary, with a small sub-committee, has things in hand in Cape Town, and progress will be reported in the Council Quarterly.

Other matters receiving attention by the Executive arose mainly from the reports of the various sections of the Council's activities. A letter expressing warm appreciation of the work of the Literature section in the distribution of Vernacular and other literature to African troops was received from Col. Mockford, the Director of non-European Army Services. A further amount of £96—the remainder of the fund—will go to provide books for African ex-volunteers still in hospital. The Medical section reported steps taken in co-operation with the Institute of Race Relations to ensure that Mission Hospitals received assistance in the proposed National Health programme. Thanks were expressed to the President and the Cape Town Emergency Committee for their vigilance in connection with the Welfare Organisations Bill which had ensured that their suggestions would be considered before the Bill was tabled in Parliament. The Education section reported that in response to representations Dr. A. Kerr had been appointed to the Native Education Advisory Council thus ensuring that the voice of the Council will be heard in its deliberations. Mrs. C. D. Wark, who was thanked for accepting the office of convener of the section on Women's work, said she hoped soon to meet representatives of Women's organisations in various parts of the country when the work of this section would be discussed. Youth work was reported on by the Rev. D. P. Anderson who gave details of the African Youth Leader's Conference which was held last year at Roodepoort, and outlined plans of other conferences to be held this year, especially of an inter-racial meeting that was contemplated. The Executive felt that there was need for a clear statement of the Christian attitude on the subject of colour and that this demanded attention. In this connection the following resolution was adopted unanimously :

"This Executive expresses its gratification at the steps which have been taken in the Synods and governing councils of responsible Churches to remove the disabilities under which our non-European peoples suffer. The Executive affirms its intention to support in every possible way all efforts to secure social righteousness and in particular in relation to the non-European."

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# THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL QUARTERLY

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MAY, 1946.

## The Secretary Reports Progress

### The Home Life Campaign

In launching its country-wide Campaign on Home Life the Christian Council has had no need, happily, to bring this matter before the Churches and the public as a new object of concern. Headlines, such as "Divorce Sweeps the Country," are common in the newspapers to-day, and thinking people are everywhere disturbed at the present situation, though different views may be taken of it. It is not a South African problem alone. It is a matter of grave concern in Britain and America, and attempts have been made in many directions overseas to tackle the situation. Individual ministers of religion have held "Marriage Refresher Courses" in their churches, and Bishops have offered their services as mediators in any of the thousands of cases of impending divorce. More recently, in England, the "Religion and Life" weeks of the British Council of Churches have given place to weeks on "Home and Family Life." It is significant that in our own country the report of a committee on Adult Education recommends that a scheme to provide adult education on a wide scale should include adequate and systematic training for family life, and that the possibility of training leaders for sex and parent education should be explored. There are many different channels through which the whole situation respecting Marriage, Home Life, and Divorce, might be improved, and all effort in this direction must be welcomed. The Christian Council, feeling the urgency of action, has decided that it can best serve this cause by initiating a Home Life campaign.

The first step in the launching of the campaign was taken in the issuing of a Statement on Home Life by the last Executive meeting in Cape Town in January. This was published in the February issue of the *Quarterly*. Since then it has been separately printed and circulated to the heads of the Churches and Missions throughout the country, seeking their support for the campaign, and as we go to press replies are still being received promising their full support in the sending forth of the challenge that is envisaged. The Statement sets forth the four principles upon which that challenge will be based and sets out the form that the campaign will take—Mass Meetings to be held in the main centres of the Union, backed by the co-operation of religious and non-religious organizations which, it is hoped, will be able to arrange for speakers on Home Life and kindred subjects at their local meetings during the period, somewhere between August and October, in which the public challenge is to be presented. All possible publicity will be sought for the campaign in

each individual centre, by press, by radio, and by advertising, and it is intended that the message shall be carried from the cities to the towns and villages inland.

The Executive at its last meeting also appointed a small sub-committee to go into the matter of the necessary literature. This committee met early in March, and after careful consideration decided that the literature supporting the campaign should be of a light illustrative type that would be read by non-churchgoers as well as by Christians, and that Africans should be catered for separately in their own vernacular. This side of the campaign the Secretary now has in hand, and several people have been approached in connection with the preparation of the literature.

The approach to the Churches and the provision of literature were the two matters requiring to be done from the central office. Thereafter the task became one of local organization. Before setting out on a tour of the main centres of the Union, however, the Secretary was able to give attention to two important matters in Cape Town—the approach to the National Council of Women through its Biennial Conference in Cape Town, and the enlisting of the co-operation of the Cape Peninsula Church Council.

The extending of an opportunity to speak, in response to our request, at the Biennial Conference of the National Council of Women was an honour of which the Secretary was deeply sensitive. It was, of course, an extremely important matter that so influential a body as the National Council of Women should be acquainted with the Christian Council's plans and their support enlisted. The plan for the Home Life Campaign was therefore laid before that Conference, and the barrage of questions following the brief address indicated that there was no lack of interest. There was a keen anxiety that every section of the population should be approached and that the co-operation of the different professions should also be sought. This being promised, an assurance was given from the chair that we should almost certainly be able to rely on the assistance of local branches of the National Council of Women when the local campaigns were launched.

The other immediate matter was the harnessing of the Christian forces of Cape Town to preparation for the Home Life Week in that city and district. We are happy to say that the Cape Peninsula Church Council has now become recognized as the Local Christian Council in Cape Town and the Secretary was asked to speak on the Council and the Home Life Campaign at the annual meeting of the Peninsula Council at the end of April. Several consulta-

tions had already taken place between the Secretary of that Council and the Secretary of the Christian Council in connection with the Peninsula Council's new status and with the organization of the Home Life campaign in Cape Town and district, and the opportunity to speak meant that the whole of the Local Christian Council would be acquainted with the intentions of the central body. Having spoken briefly on the Council as such, therefore, the Secretary, at the annual meeting, went on to outline the general plan for the Campaign. It was arranged that a meeting of the Social Welfare Committee of the Local Council, which had been charged with responsibility for the campaign in Cape Town, should be convened almost immediately to go into the details of the organization. Accordingly this committee met two days after, under the chairmanship of Bishop Lavis, and the detailed plans for the local organization were gone into as thoroughly as time at that first meeting would permit, and the nature of the local campaign began to emerge. It was decided that the Week should begin with a Mass Meeting in Woodstock on the Monday night, to be followed by public meetings in all of the suburbs in the local town halls during the ensuing week. Similar meetings for Coloured and African people would be held in their own areas. It was hoped to secure the full co-operation of religious and non-religious bodies throughout the Peninsula in presenting this moral and religious challenge to the people of Cape Town so that altogether a real impact might be made upon the life of the people. And the Week—in all probability the third week in September—will be wound up with a day's conference in the City Hall to be followed by a public Brains Trust on the evening of the same day, the second Monday of the campaign. Special sermons on Home Life will be arranged for throughout the Peninsula Churches during the Week.

Arising from the Mass Meeting the following practical steps are envisaged in addition to the unassessable effect of the challenge to be presented :

1. The formation of Marriage and Family Guidance Councils.
2. The issuing of a manifesto over the signatures of leading people in our public life, with possibly the forwarding of certain practical suggestions for improving the present situation in respect of divorce to the appropriate authorities.
3. Serious study of Marriage and Home Life within the Churches and the different organizations, aimed at creating and enlightened public opinion on these matters and a new attitude towards them.

From Cape Town, after a few days for consultation with the Convener of the Youth Movements Section—the Rev. D. P. Anderson—at Tiger Kloof, the Secretary will journey to Bloemfontein, and from thereon a rough itinerary is provided by the following: May (4th week)—Kimberley; June—Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Pietermaritzburg; July—Durban, East London, and Port Elizabeth; August—Grahamstown and Healdtown. Exact dates cannot be given because on this initial visit it is not possible to gauge exactly beforehand how long each place will require to get things going. But the above can be taken as a rough

guide, and the series of visits will take close on four months, ending a little before the time proposed for the Mass Meetings in the various centres.

The ground is already being prepared in certain of the cities by the visit of Mrs. C. D. Wark, the Convener of our Women's Work Section. In Bloemfontein, which Mrs. Wark visited first, a meeting was held of women interested in the Christian Council and especially in its Home Life Campaign. Mrs. Wark set out the plan to be followed in the main centres, and has been able to set the local Women's Organizations on to preparation for the Mass Meetings. The same policy has been followed in Kimberley, and in each place one particular lady has agreed to act as a liaison between the Council and the various Women's Organizations in the city. As we go to press Mrs. Wark is at Durban, and we await developments in that city. There is every reason to believe that in each centre the Christian forces will rise to what the Christian Council envisages for the Campaign, and if this be so, then, under God, we may see a radical improvement before long in the situation respecting Home Life, Marriage, and Divorce.

#### The Council's Office :

It should be noted that while the Secretary is absent on tour the Council's Office will continue to function from the new address which we should be glad if all our readers would note : "Melrose," Osborne Road, Mowbray, Cape.

#### The Appeal :

So far the response to the appeal, launched in connection with the work of the Christian Council and the new appointment of a full-time Secretary, has been somewhat slow, but it is a source of gratification that new friends of the Council are springing up in different parts of the country. It is to be hoped that the tour now being undertaken by the Secretary will arouse further interest in the Council's work, and that those who can appreciate the work that the Council is called upon to do and the important role it can play if used to the full, and the expense that is inseparable from the proper fulfilling of its function, will not be slow to respond with the necessary financial support. It would be most unfortunate if, with the great opportunities before it, the Council's work should languish because the many people who wish it well should forget that good wishes make few things possible.

We need many more regular subscribers who, by their support, will make possible such a regular income for the work of the Council as will free those who are charged with the responsibility of planning that work from forever being concerned about where the money is to come from for the work that cries aloud to be done, and which can be done only by such a body as the Christian Council, composed of representatives of the Churches and Missions throughout the country, is designed to be.

We append below a list of donations and subscriptions to date. Progress will be reported monthly in the *South African Outlook*, and quarterly in this paper.

Stanley G. Pitts.

## World News

### The Belgian Congo.

From the Conseil Protestant du Congo's circular letter dated the 5th March we pass on the following important news:

"*Equality.* The big news is that on February 27th, during our Council Meeting, I received a letter from the Belgian Colonial Minister telling us that the Belgian Government had decided that from now on all Christian Missions in the Congo would be on the same footing; they would receive equal treatment, not only in the matter of educational subsidies but in other things too."

After giving thanks to Almighty God for the long desired change in the attitude of the Colonial Government toward Protestant Missions the Council passed a minute placing on record its thankfulness and appreciation.

### The West Central African Conference.

Plans are going ahead for the big Missionary Conference to be held at Leopoldville in July of this year. Delegates will be coming from all over Africa and from America, Britain, and other parts of Europe. The conference theme is to be "That they might have life—John 10, verse 10;" and the subjects to be discussed include "The Christian in Africa," "The Church of Christ in Africa," "The Challenge of Changing Conditions," "Christian Responsibility in Health, Education, and Literature," and "The Application of Conference Findings to Regional Needs and Possibilities."

### The World Council of Churches.

The Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches (still in process of formation) met in Geneva in February. At a public meeting in the Cathedral of St. Pierre, Pastor Niemoller made a passionate confession of Germany's guilt, and the Archbishop of Canterbury prayed for the tearing down of the wall that "separates and divides." The Assembly which will establish the World Council of Churches on a permanent basis will meet either in Holland or Denmark in 1948.

Meanwhile, the Reconstruction Department of the World Council of Churches carries on its gigantic task of rebuilding Church life in Europe.

### The International Missionary Council.

The Ad Interim Committee of the International Missionary Council met in Geneva in February also—the first meeting since that held in Holland in July, 1939, before the war. Travel difficulties still existed but there were representatives from Canada and the U.S.A., from Latin America, from Britain, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, China, India, and Indonesia. The two Chinese delegates travelled 16,239 miles from China in ten days in order to be present on time. It was a momentous meeting, and among other things the Ad Interim Committee made plans for a meeting of the Committee of the Council in the early autumn of 1947 in North America. The Conference addressed a message to the Christian world which is so obviously the throwing open of a long-closed door that we give it in full below:

"Our first word must be to place on record our thankfulness to Almighty God who has brought us together after long years of war and separation. It is of His Grace that our personal contacts have now been renewed and our Christian fellowship restored. We rejoice that we have been able to see each other face to face and unitedly to praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Since last we met the second world war has fallen upon the nations and has dealt such swift and staggering blows to the Missionary movement that it might well have been brought to a standstill; in addition loved and trusted leaders like Wm. Paton and Wm. Temple, V S. Azariah and Elizabeth van Boetzelaer have been taken from us; but we record with thankfulness that the work of the International Missionary Council has been carried forward with vigour and with vision. We remembered with gratitude that the Council will this year complete its 25th year of service, and it was a special satisfaction to us that continuity with our foundation days was embodied in the person of our dear friend and Hon. Chairman, Dr. John R. Mott.

"In our conference together few things have moved us more than what we have heard of God's dealings with those missions that were cut off, for shorter or longer periods, from their parent societies and churches during the war. We have rejoiced to learn that by the generous help gladly given by Churches and Societies in many parts of the world, the work of the Orphaned Missions was so effectively maintained that scarcely an area was entirely abandoned nor a single missionary left without assistance whose need was known and who could be reached. This is not only one of the great achievements of Christian history but the outstanding proof in our time of the reality of our fellowship in the family of Christ. It has prompted many to affirm that "the spirit of Tambaram still lives" and it has led all to determine that the new relationship shall not be allowed to die.

"We have also heard with deep thanksgiving of the faithfulness of our fellow-Christians under pressure and persecution. None present will ever forget the statement to which we listened of the experiences of the Churches in Scandinavia and in Holland, in Germany and in France, in China and in Japan, in Korea and in Indonesia, in Burma, Thailand and in the Philippines. From them all have come stories of suffering and of heroism which have not often been equalled in the history of our Faith. Rarely, if ever, has there been so widespread and so determined an attack upon the Christian cause, yet the Church not only lives but shows increasing proof of God's power in the midst. Evidence of this is to be found, especially in the war-stricken lands, in the discovery of the relevance of the Biblical message, in the closer inter-relation of missionary societies and churches, in the growing concern for missionary work, in the generous giving for its support and in the large number of candidates offering for service overseas.

"Our second word is that there has been laid upon us the conviction that God is calling us in this new epoch to a fuller share in His redemptive purpose.

"During the war years Christian men everywhere have discovered that the universal Church is, in the phrase of Archbishop Temple, "the great new fact of our time."

While the nations have been fighting one another God has been continuing to fashion and to perfect this His chosen instrument for the winning of the world. During those same years he has put into men's hearts a growing concern for evangelism in its widest terms, including both the building of a world wherein dwelleth righteousness and the setting forth of the Gospel to men in such a fashion as to command their attention and win their response. In these and other ways God has been making the crooked straight and the rough places plain so that in due time the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

"Believing that God is calling us to-day to attempt a great new evangelistic advance in His Name and Power we call upon the constituent Conferences and Councils of the I.M.C. to join with us in joyously dedicating ourselves, our souls and bodies to this task which is our reasonable service. We rejoice in the vigorous growth of the World Council of Churches and we set ourselves to discover what relationship between the I.M.C. and World Council will contribute most to the speedy bringing of the whole world to the feet of Christ. We learn with deep interest of the increasingly close integration of the missionary cause into the life of the Churches in many lands, and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to quicken the mission-consciousness of the churches and the church-consciousness of missions. We gratefully acknowledge the precious fruits of co-operation in planning and in action, and we are resolved to give the clearest possible proof of our essential unity and of our common eagerness to carry out the Great Commission of our Lord by developing yet further this method of discovering and carrying out the gracious will of God. We draw particular attention to the need for study and research by the I.M.C. and the World Council acting jointly, to the necessity for their joint consideration of far-reaching international issues such as religious liberty, to the close co-operation of the two bodies in the planning of world conferences, the distribution of ecumenical news. Attention should also be drawn to such ventures as the opening of the way for a wider participation of women in the co-operative work of the Christian enterprise, the winning of the ardour and vision of Youth for the service of the World Church, the putting of Christian literature in a central place in the life of all lands, the selection and training of missionaries for the new day in the light of the expressed desire of the Younger Churches for men and women with special graces and qualifications, and the provision of an adequate ministry for the Younger Churches.

"A great chapter in the history of the I.M.C. has come to an end, and a new chapter begins. We and those we represent can do no other than give humble and hearty thanks for God's leading hitherto especially during the war years and we joyously respond to the revealing of His purpose which has been granted to us during these memorable days of prayer and consultation."

#### China.

Since Pearl Harbour the work of the Church in China has been split into two sections—that in occupied China and that in the unoccupied areas. Very little contact was possible between the headquarters in Chungking and Shanghai, not only because communications were difficult

but because there were obvious embarrassments and dangers that might be felt on both sides. But in January of this year the Executive Committee of the National Christian Council of China met in Shanghai, and this meeting marked the formal ending of the period of separation, and with deep satisfaction the National Christian Council was brought under one central authority for all China. Reports of the effect of the war on the Church in China make very sad reading. The overseas news-letter from which we quote, says: "Some places have been through incredible difficulties. One area was divided up into sections controlled by four different parties, the Central government, the Japanese, the guerrillas, and the communists. Reporters said more people are interested in religion than ever before. Many churches have died out and been closed. Where they have stood it has been through the faith and loyalty of some man or woman, ordained or lay. Usually where there was no pastor the church declined. Where there was a well-trained pastor the church came through best. In many places there has been a real advance in lay responsibility and giving, a fact which has to be put alongside what has just been said about the pastors, and does not necessarily contradict it. There has been a serious loss in the full-time ministry of the church, through age and economic difficulties compelling pastors to devote much time to business or withdraw from church work. Many reported that self-support has really meant the support of the pastor by himself, and there has been a serious set-back to church self-support in the true sense. At the same time the real problem is the lack of personnel rather than finance, and the need for well-trained leaders meets us at almost every point. The existing church leaders are longing for encouragement and fellowship to counteract the subtle influences of the strain and demoralization of war, whether in free or liberated areas, due to financial worries, or the atmosphere of fear and suspicion. Large numbers of middle school students have become Christians and active Christian groups in the government Universities are encouraging. Church unions forced by the Japanese have not proved permanent. Christian institutions, especially schools, are hurriedly re-establishing themselves in some places without much regard for any larger considerations of over-all planning. This points to the urgency of joint planning in this and other fields, for which there is happily a keen desire in many quarters."

## Youth Movements Section

*New Leadership*: For the past four years the Youth Movements Section of the Christian Council has published a magazine for Youth—*New Leadership*. It has served a useful purpose in that, although it has never attained any very large circulation, it has reached into more than a dozen territories. At the last meeting of the Executive of the Council, however, this publication came under review, and its high cost of production at its present circulation, on the one hand, and the feeling that something different was now required, on the other, led to the

decision that publication of "New Leadership" should be discontinued.

Subsequent consultation with the new full-time Secretary of the Christian Council has brought the conviction that the objects of the Youth Movements Section will best be attained by publication from time to time of special literature for youth, and that news of the plans and activities of the Youth Movements Section should appear in the *Christian Council Quarterly* so that all who read it may be acquainted with the Council's Youth work.

If you are not on the mailing list for the *Christian Council Quarterly*, and you wish to receive a copy regularly will you please drop a line to the Secretary at the address given elsewhere in this issue and he will gladly send you a copy in future.

In addition, some of you who have paid in advance for copies of *New Leadership* may like to have returned to you what money is still outstanding. If this so will you please send a postcard to the Rev. D. P. Anderson, P.O. Tiger Kloof, C.P. Otherwise, we shall have pleasure in sending you copies of other publications from time to time until the money outstanding is covered. Our publication *A Charter for Youth* has been in great demand and our intention is that other publications shall follow as the need arises.

Meanwhile, we are engaged with the Home Life Campaign of the Christian Council for this year, and news of further activity following that, and possibly arising out of it, will appear in subsequent issues of the *Christian Council Quarterly*.

D.P.A.

APPEAL, 1946

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## On What Foundations?

Few post-war documents produced by Christian leaders can rival in importance that which has been issued by a Commission on Evangelism appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. It bears the title, "Towards the Conversion of England," and is described as "a plan dedicated to the memory of Archbishop William Temple." Much of its content is so strikingly relevant to our consideration of our task in South Africa, that it behoves us to ponder with extreme care its searching analysis of the present situation and its weighty judgments as to how that situation should be met by Christian forces.

Here follow some extracts from the report as it considers "The Situation Before the Church."

"It has been recently estimated that from 10% to 15% of the population are closely linked to some Christian church; that 25% to 30% are sufficiently interested to attend a place or worship upon great occasions; that 45% to 50% are indifferent to religion though more or less friendly disposed towards it; while 10% to 20% are hostile. It is open to question which is the more alarming feature, the failure of the Church to attract or its failure to repel."

### "The Increase of Moral Depravity."

"Depravity is a sure symptom of spiritual disease. This war has revealed, and also accelerated, a sharp decline in truthfulness and personal honesty, and an alarming spread of sexual laxity, and of the gambling fever. Religious leaders of all denominations have drawn attention to the gravity of the situation in their public utterances and in the Press. Magistrates have expressed their anxiety at the

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