

ADDRESSES AND OTHER RECORDS

Report of the
JERUSALEM MEETING
of the
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL
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PART THREE
STATEMENTS

**ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL
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INCLUDED IN ANY OTHER VOLUME**

STATEMENTS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL

THE PLACE OF MEDICAL MISSIONS IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

THE ministry of healing was a part of the work of the Lord Jesus who, revealing the attitude of the Father toward us, entered into fellowship with suffering men and women and exercised His power for their relief. Of Him it is written, 'He went about doing good and healing all manner of sickness,' and 'Himself took our infirmities and bare our diseases.'

As the Christian Church, animated by the same spirit of divine compassion, seeks to follow in His footsteps, it should attempt, wherever needed, to carry on effectively the ministry of healing. Work done in this spirit is spiritual service.

In the missionary enterprise the medical work should be regarded as, in itself, an expression of the spirit of the Master, and should not be thought of as only a pioneer of evangelism or as merely a philanthropic agency.

In view of the teaching of the Scriptures as to the place of the Church in healing, there ought to be closer co-operation than often exists in this work between the medical profession and the ministers of the Christian Church.

THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY

It follows that for carrying on such work the most important single factor is the personality of those who

engage in it. They should be persons who have a vital experience of Christ, who share His compassion for the suffering, and for His sake desire to serve them.

Along with this is the need of the best possible medical training, that they may be able not only to make the most worthy contribution to the relief of suffering, but also to meet the demands of work in countries where they will be thrown so largely on their own resources.

PRESENT NEED

While there is a call for more mission hospitals, the greatest need at the present time is that existing mission hospitals should have more and better equipment and increased staff in order that the work may be more effective and not inferior to any other work in the countries concerned. Lack of proper equipment and staff not only cripples the work but has a discouraging effect upon the workers, lessening their initiative, lowering their professional ability and decreasing the power of the Christian witness. Without sufficient staff there is not possible that absence of hurry which is essential for the personal contacts which are of such vital importance.

There is a serious shortage of medical missionaries in all fields where medical mission work is being carried on. For lack of doctors, some hospitals within the last few years have had to be temporarily or permanently closed, others have been understaffed and expansion has been hindered. This might be avoided in some cases by closer co-operation of missions working in the same area.

RELATION TO THE INDIGENOUS CHURCHES

With a view to the acceptance by the indigenous churches of the ministry of healing as part of their work, provision must be made :

1. For first-class training for doctors and nurses, and for giving to them in mission hospitals opportunities for gaining experience in doing conscientious work of the highest medical standard in the spirit of Christ, in order to enable them to assume full responsibility as superintendents of hospitals.

2. For the indigenous church to share in the administration of mission hospitals through membership on hospital committees.

3. For encouraging the local churches to venture on new efforts either alone or in union with others or in co-operation with the missions.

SELF-SUPPORT

While self-support is desirable and has been attained by some mission hospitals, the attaining of it ought not to be laid as a burden on all. The effort to obtain money may injure the spirit of the work and hinder the poor from seeking relief.

RURAL NEEDS AND PREVENTIVE MEDICAL WORK

Since the rural areas are less well supplied with medical relief there is a call to extend work in the villages, and mission boards should consider whether the time has not come when some mission hospitals should be moved from cities to rural areas.

In view of the waste of life, especially infant life, due to preventable diseases, there is urgent need of devoting far more attention to preventive medicine

and welfare work. Hitherto medical missions have been almost wholly engaged in curative work.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

Christian Medical Associations in various countries are urged to investigate the general needs in their respective countries, the needs in regard to any specially prevalent diseases such as tuberculosis, sleeping sickness, leprosy, etc., the need of an extension of medical services into congested industrial areas and the need of medical research work, and to make the conditions known through their National Christian Councils.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION TO THE JEWS

IN view of the needs and opportunities of the present situation in Jewry throughout the world, as shown in the volume reporting the proceedings of the two international conferences held at Budapest and Warsaw in April 1927, this Council appeals to all the churches of Christendom to consider the claim for active work among Jews, and especially to study the changed conditions which call for intercession and for increased support of all the recognized agencies now labouring among this people.

The Council further refers the findings of the report to its Committee for favourable consideration and action.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSION AND WAR

INASMUCH as the world-wide Christian Mission is an expression of the spirit of the Prince of Peace, and an attempt to realize the truth that in

Him all dividing lines, whether of race or class, are transcended ; and

Inasmuch as war is universally acknowledged as a most grievous hindrance to the triumph of this spirit among men :

The International Missionary Council summons all who share in the world-wide Christian Mission to unremitting prayer and effort to secure (1) the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy ; (2) the adoption of peaceful methods for the settlement of all international differences ; and (3) the changing of those attitudes and practices which constitute the roots of war.

THE PROTECTION OF MISSIONARIES

INASMUCH as Christian missions involve the largest possible identification of the missionary with the people of the country of his adoption ; and

Inasmuch as missionaries have generally relied upon the goodwill of the people among whom they live and the protection of the government of the locality for the protection of their lives and property : and

Inasmuch as missionaries, both as individuals and in groups, and several missionary societies have asked that steps be taken to make plain that they do not depend upon or desire the protection of foreign military forces in the country of their residence : and

Inasmuch as the use or the threat of the armed forces of the country from which they come for the protection of the missionary and missionary property not only creates widespread misunderstanding as to the underlying motive of missionary work, but

also gravely hinders the acceptance of the Christian message :

The International Missionary Council places on record its conviction that the protection of missionaries should only be by such methods as will promote goodwill in personal and official relations, and urges upon all missionary societies that they should make no claim on their governments for the armed defence of their missionaries and their property.

Further, the Council instructs its officers to collect and circulate to the national missionary organizations information concerning any action regarding this matter that has been or may be taken by the missionary societies.

Finally, the International Missionary Council desires to record its conviction that, since the foreign missionary enterprise is a spiritual and moral and not a political enterprise, its work should be carried on within two great human rights alone, the right of religious freedom for all men, and the maintenance by each nation of law and order for all within its bounds.