

# WORLD DOMINION

The World Dominion Movement advocates Informed Continuous Co-ordinated Evangelism to reach everyone at home and abroad. Its basis is belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the World's Only Saviour, and in the Final Authority of Holy Scripture.

Editor: THOMAS COCHRANE.

## Vol. XV., No. 1                      CONTENTS                      JANUARY, 1937

	PAGE
EDITORIAL .. .. .	3
A FOREST SACRIFICE. <i>Kenneth G. Grubb</i> .. .. .	6
RELIGION IN RUSSIA .. .. .	11
AN UNPARALLELED SITUATION IN INDIA. <i>D. A. McGavran</i>	12
PLACE AND IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION <i>J. I. Hasler</i> ..	21
PAGAN AREAS AT HOME. <i>Maurice Whitlow</i> .. .. .	28
WORK IN A NEW HOUSING ESTATE .. .. .	33
SPAIN TO-DAY. <i>Kenneth G. Grubb</i> .. .. .	34
PREPARATION FOR DAYS OF TRIAL IN SPAIN .. .. .	39
PROBLEMS OF A MISSION HOSPITAL. <i>Norman Green</i> ..	40
CHINESE MEDICAL LITERATURE. <i>Bernard E. Read</i> .. ..	44
NATIONALISM AND MISSIONS IN BRAZIL. <i>John C. Granbery</i>	48
HADRAMAUT—ITS CHALLENGE. <i>W. H. Storm</i> .. .. .	53
EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST AS LORD .. .. .	57
MISSIONS AND GOVERNMENTS .. .. .	57
PIONEERING IN NORTH INDIA. <i>Hope Lee</i> .. .. .	58
MOVEMENTS OF DEPRESSED CLASSES INTO CHRISTIANITY ..	66
A NEW STAGE IN SOUTH AFRICA. <i>William Eveleigh</i> ..	67
AN IMPORTANT TOOL .. .. .	76
MAKING THE SPOON OR SPOILING A HORN. <i>H. D. Cook</i> ..	77
PRISON LETTERS .. .. .	84
PIONEERING IN CHINA. <i>E. W. Burt</i> .. .. .	85
ANDREW WEIR OF MANCHURIA .. .. .	93
NEWS FROM CHINGLEPUT LEPROSARIUM .. .. .	94
CURRENT HISTORY .. .. .	95

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# Current History

## EUROPE

GREAT BRITAIN.—Sir Theodore Chambers, Vice-Chairman of the National Savings Movement, stated at Cambridge on 18th September, that a total of £2,848,000,000 now stands to the credit of the thrifty in Great Britain. The Church Missions to Jews has a deficit of £15,380; the Baptist Missionary Society, £18,600. Methodist Missions are retrenching to the extent of £27,000. The London Missionary Society received less last year by £12,000; the Church Missionary Society, £9,296; the Church of Scotland, £8,854; the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, £3,270, and the list could be lengthened. It may be safely assumed that a proportion of this colossal sum of £2,848,000,000 belongs to Christian people, and it is quite certain that these few thousands of pounds of missionary deficits are the obligation of Christians. The Christian duty of thrift and the Christian duty of world evangelization appear to require adjustment.

UKRAINIA.—The Ukrainian Evangelical Reformed Church reports that evangelical Christianity is appealing to the poorer section of the people. They are drawn almost entirely from the Roman Catholic Church and Orthodox Churches. The Government hinders the transfer from their old religions by requiring legal permission and a payment of \$2.50 for each person. Only 1,345 have been able to face the ordeal and find the fee, thereby becoming full members of the Evangelical Church. The Roman Catholic Church hinders by retaining Protestant children from seven to fourteen years of age under its teaching, by virtue of its concordat with the Ukrainian Government.

GERMANY.—Cardinal Faulhaber and Herr Hitler were in conference on 4th November. Full co-operation with Italy, the improvement of relations with Austria, good relations with Spain (if Franco wins the war) may involve a better understanding with the Roman Catholic Church. The Protestant Confessional Movement may benefit by a separation between the Reich and the Church. Easter 1936 was fixed as the date for exclusion of Jewish children from State schools. This has proved impracticable, and 1.5 per cent of 'non-Aryan' children are now permitted in elementary and high schools. These, however, are separated from their fellows, denied participation in sports, and condemned to listen to diatribes of abuse of their Jewish forebears as part of the teaching of school history. The result is lamentable.

## ASIA

CHINA.—Fear of the menace of Japan which the chaotic disunity of China invited is reflected in the Chinese Press. Articles

## WORLD DOMINION

stress the painful fact that from Manchuria to Jehol, and from Jehol to Chahar and Hopeh, the conquest of China is proceeding with alarming pace and facility. It is being pointed out that China purchases thirty-five per cent of its grain abroad, this could be cut off if her ports were closed. The *I Shih Pao* calls for a revolution in agricultural industry, and asks for increased production instead of theories of national reconstruction. The *Shin Wen Pao* of Shanghai, keen to mark influences in north China which may offset those of Japan, notes that the British Embassy will stay in Peiping for six months of the year. The Protocol of 1901 gives the right to maintain by foreign guards lines of communication between Peiping and the sea. The Five Years' Evangelistic Movement continues with fruitful results all over China, especially in the rural areas.

INDIA.—The Maharajah of Travancore made proclamation on 13th November that the Untouchables would be admitted to Hindu temples under his control. This, the first governmental attempt to stem the movement toward Christianity, promises to have repercussions throughout India. The Untouchables number nearly one-fifth of India's total population of 360,000,000. Several millions have recently requested Christian instruction, and some ninety per cent of the present membership of Christian churches come from this class. The Rev. Alexander McLeish, the Survey Editor of the World Dominion Movement, is at present in India. Mr. McLeish edits the *Directory of Christian Missions and Churches in India, Burma and Ceylon*, and has an intimate knowledge of the missionary work in these countries. He is studying the situation afresh and is giving special attention to recent mass movement developments. His visit will be of great value to the whole Christian cause in India.

THE PHILIPPINES.—Ten years hence American sovereignty will cease in the Philippines. A fine system of primary education built up by American teachers over a period of thirty years, which has made one half the population of 10,000,000 literate in English, may be in jeopardy. Of 900 American teachers, barely 100 remain. These are superintending a Filipino school staff of 27,000 teachers and 1,200,000 scholars, including 30,000 Moro Moslem children whose confidence the Americans won. A task is set the Filipino churches to maintain the high standard of efficiency they have inherited.

JAVA.—A recent survey of Christian progress in the Netherlands Indies shows a total of 78,222 Javanese Christians. The population of Java is 42,000,000, so that the task of evangelization has only commenced. During 1935, the increase in membership was fifteen per cent, the highest yet recorded. Mohammedan converts were fairly

## CURRENT HISTORY

numerous. Among the most promising sections of the work is that among young people, who are keenly interested to receive Christian instruction.

### NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

IRAQ.—Bakir Sidki, the new dictator, crushed the Assyrians in 1933, and the Yezidis in 1935. His portable gallows became famous. France agreed to settle 20,000 Assyrians from Iraq on lands in north Syria, but, having surrendered the Mandate to an Arab government, has cancelled the agreement, fearing Moslem hostility to the Christian Assyrians. Another 8,500 are encamped in fifteen villages along the river Khabur, in north-east Syria, near the Turkish frontier. These are in desperate poverty and will be at the mercy of Kurds and Bedouins when the French garrisons are withdrawn. Minorities are in peculiar danger in view of the violent nationalism prevalent in the Near and Middle East, being regarded as a weakness to the unity of the various Moslem States. The revival of the evangelical churches, and an altogether more serious attempt to evangelize Iraq and neighbouring countries, can alone meet a menacing situation.

SYRIA.—The Franco-Syrian Treaty has been followed by serious riots in Beirut, the most progressive city in the French Levant. Even-handed justice to minorities may be the touchstone of the Treaty. The Lebanese are predominantly Christian, but Moslems are numerous, and the latter demanded union with Syria, which is mainly Moslem. Mutual killing and pillaging of shops ceased when the Lebanese Moslem deputies voted ratification of the Treaty. Religions flourish in Syria. Islam, Judaism and Christianity predominate among its 3,000,000 people, but a score of religions and cults have adherents, with whom politics and religion are inextricably mixed. No greater blessing could come to Syria than a purification of religion through a New Testament presentation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

PALESTINE.—The Arabs in Palestine fear that they will eventually take second place to the Jews. The present total population is 1,336,000, of whom the Arabs number 940,000, and the Jews 370,000. During 1935, immigration from all sources totalled 61,804. Among these immigrants were several thousands of Germans and Poles, who not only brought over £6,000,000 into the country, but also a mental and physical equipment of a high order. The pressure of persecution upon European Jewry, especially in Germany, has created for the Palestinian Arab a new problem, which he fears to face. Moreover, this stream of European virility, enterprise and scientific capacity, is backed by the financial resources of world Jewry. The Council for German Jewry in

## WORLD DOMINION

Great Britain, the British Empire and in Europe, will alone raise a total of £1,000,000 to assist emigration. It is contended, however, that the intensive development of Palestine will absorb a very large population. The death of Sir Leon Levison, President of The Hebrew Christian Alliance, is a great blow to all Hebrew Christians.

ARABIA.—King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud of Arabia has ended a ten years' quarrel with Egypt, and the Egyptian government will again annually send the *Kiswah* or Holy Covering for the *Kaaba* at Mecca, and resume the payment of the charitable bequests withheld since 1926. Ibn Saud has given many proofs of broadmindedness. He has invited medical missionaries on several occasions to his capital, Riyadh, and has done nothing to hinder their Christian witness there or elsewhere. His 'good countenance' made easier a daring journey across Arabia from Bahrain to Jedda by Dr. Harold Storm; who from thence turned southward to the Hadramaut, traversed it, and returned to Bahrain. The story of the journey, its missionary implications and challenge, will soon be published.

The Hadramaut was Christianized in the fifth century and Dhufar was the seat of an important bishopric. Sanaa and Najran in neighbouring Yemen were episcopal seats. Nestorian influence upon the religious evolution of Mohammed is greater than was previously thought.

### AFRICA

TRIPOLI.—The Italian Society for Scientific Progress held its annual congress in Tripoli during the first week in November. This is the first time the congress has been held outside Italy, and its colonial character was emphasized at its sessions. Of special interest was the paper on the Coptic Church, the report of which we extract from the *Messagero* (Rome, 3rd November) :—

Professor Gaspare Ambrosini of the University of Palermo dealt with the subject of the Coptic Church and the systematization of its institutions according to the new Imperial Italian order. After having spoken of its origins and its severance from Rome, the orator lightly traced the various attempts made to unite the Coptic Church with the Mother Church of Rome and appreciatively described the work of Catholic missions of the seventeenth century and those of to-day.

He demonstrated how with the Abyssinian conquest and the creation of an empire in Africa there have emerged new problems, among these are the necessary purgation and reorganization of the Coptic clergy and the union of this dissident Church with Rome, problems, the solution of which will be achieved more easily by cordial collaboration between the civil and ecclesiastical authorities in a move toward reconciliation.

## CURRENT HISTORY

Professor Ambrosini concluded his narrative by setting forth that to-day a new era really opens in the land of Africa, not only by the expansion of the power and civil influence of Fascist Italy, but also by the propagation of the Faith and the glory of the Catholic Church.

The Medical Mission of the North Africa Mission at which the Gospel has been preached for fifty years has been closed by the Italian authorities. Dr. James Liley who was in charge was ordered to leave Tripoli by 17th November.

**MOROCCO.**—Moorish nationalists have rioted in Fez, Rabat, Meknes and Casablanca. The latter city and Fez have considerable native populations which violently demonstrated against the French Government. Demand for autonomy similar to that granted recently to Syria was made. It is credibly reported that General Franco has promised autonomy to the Riffs in Spanish Morocco as a reward for the thousands of Moslem troops they have sent to Spain. Moorish nationalists in French Morocco will seek to exploit this should it be correct.

There is a project on foot to preach Christ in a thousand Moorish and Berber villages and to leave a copy of the Scriptures in each of them.

**SOUTH AFRICA.**—The native population of Johannesburg has increased considerably during the past five years. Released from tribal traditions these Rand labourers have in large numbers repudiated marriage rites, Native or European. Thousands of children born in these conditions are growing up with no sense of the meaning of authority ; being like their parents not subjected to tribal discipline, nor adjusted to European standards. Wild, devil-may-care, they roam the streets day and night, many of them leading lives of crime. The City Council is perturbed by the situation and a skilled social and recreational officer has been appointed, and if he is successful, others will be appointed in all major towns of the Union, especially those of the Transvaal and Natal.

### AMERICA.

**UNITED STATES.**—The 1926 Census returned 54,580,000 Christians distributed among 212 denominations and 231,000 churches. The ten-year census now proceeding is expected to show an increase in membership and ten or fifteen more denominations. Revolutionary Communist statistics published by the *Presbyterian* need not, therefore, alarm us. They reveal 3,000,000 members, 6,000 paid speakers, and 600 subversive papers and magazines.

**BRAZIL.**—The *Iglesia Cristã Evangelica* was constituted this year as an autonomous body. From a small annual convention held in the State of Goyaz by missionaries of the Evangelical Union

## WORLD DOMINION

of South America it has grown considerably. This development is welcome and significant.

The Baptist churches are earnestly developing their work, and recently sent two more missionaries to strengthen their effort in Portugal.

**JAMAICA.**—A serious effort is being made to correct the social evil of an illegitimate birth-rate of some 70 per cent. It is a legacy of the days of slavery when marriage between slaves was forbidden or discouraged because it hindered their being resold. Children born on the plantations were the masters' property, and marriage might be held to confer rights which were inimical to good business. In 1834 about 255,280 slaves were emancipated in Jamaica at a cost of £5,854,000 to the British Government. The present population of a million is prosperous and progressive, but home and church life suffers from this persistent canker.

**PERU.**—A law was passed in July to curtail the rights of itinerant vendors of goods. The law was used to prohibit the work of the colporteurs of the two Bible Societies represented in the country.

An appeal to the Government elicited a specific statement that colporteurs selling Bibles and religious books were exempt, and a special notice was published in August making known the exemption in favour of the Bible Societies. Copies of this official notice have been furnished to all colporteurs, which testifies to all concerned that their work has the special sanction of the Peruvian Government.

### *AUSTRALIA.*

**BATHURST ISLAND.**—The attention of the Australian Government has been directed to Bathurst Island. Japanese traders have been taking advantage of a scarcity of food to accept from the polygamous natives, women and girls in barter for food and tobacco. Mgr. Gsell, Principal of the Bathurst Island Mission, states these facts and asks assistance to increase the food supply of the native people, so that they need not frequent the Japanese luggers.

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We are always glad to hear from our readers, contributors and correspondents. It is impossible to answer all the numerous letters which we receive. Sometimes material sent for which space cannot be found is very valuable for forming a background of information. The letters of appreciation that come to us from all over the world greatly cheer and encourage us. This number begins the Fifteenth Volume of the magazine, and we thank God for the influence which it has exerted. In a letter accompanying an article contributed to one of the early numbers the writer, a prominent minister of the Church of Scotland, said, 'The magazine is too good to live and too honest to pay.'