

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.

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NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments ; to advance the cause of world-wide missions through an extended information service and authoritative surveys of conditions in non-Christian lands ; to promote the extension of gospel-centred missionary activity, the upbuilding of an indigenous church and the training of responsible native Christian leadership through existing missionary boards and agencies ; to emphasize the ideals of apostolic Christianity and deepen interest in the cause of missions through Bible conferences, evangelistic services and missionary gatherings ; also through the publication and circulation of books, magazines and other literature. The theological basis upon which said objectives are to be attained is that commonly held by evangelistic bodies ; giving emphasis to belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is held to be the world's only Saviour, and the Final Authority of Holy Scriptures.'

We are glad to have Dr. Downs and Dr. McNicol as American colleagues on the Council and we welcome the two books that have just come from their pens.¹

American erudition, enterprise, knowledge of world affairs, sane outlook, and zeal for the extension of Christ's kingdom will make the Movement what it could not otherwise be.

For all the courtesy, kindness, consideration and hospitality which we have received in our many visits to the United States we again record our gratitude.

The World To-day

WE first introduced our readers to Alves Reis in the April, 1932, number of *WORLD DOMINION*, and we are glad now to publish from his pen a further article on 'Christ and the Crook.' The sub-title of the article, 'In the School of the Grace of God' is a striking one, seeing that he writes from prison in Portugal. When he concludes this contribution to our pages with a request

¹*Heart of the Christian Faith, The*, by Francis Shunk Downs, D.D. Published by the American Tract Society, Seven West Forty-Fifth Street, New York. Price \$1. 50.

Christian Evangel, The, by John McNicol, D.D. Published by the American Tract Society. Price \$1. 50.

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for prayer, we are reminded of an experience which we had in Shanghai over three years ago.

We were visiting the 'Door of Hope,' and were particularly interested in that section of it where young girls were finding a refuge from cruelty in what was practically slavery. *World Dominion* and the *Prayer Bulletin* were much used by those who carried on the work of the Institution and guided its prayer life. Simple talks on world need and world evangelization gave a fine background at prayer time. These girls had been told the story of Alves Reis, and had actually written to him and received a reply. After we had spoken to them they were asked to pray, and all of them (there must have been over a hundred present) knelt, while a wave of prayer, such as we have seldom heard, rose to heaven. It is interesting to think that Alves Reis owes much to these prayers.

We wonder whether it has ever struck our readers, as it has often impressed us, that one of the strongest of Christian evidences is the prayer for other people that characterizes every Christian assembly. Whenever there is war or unrest or suffering, or famine in any part of the world, Christians everywhere are moved to pray for peace, prosperity and relief. Regardless of distance, race or condition, soul touches soul in an unbreakable fraternal bond. Once in Japan we were speaking to lepers in a hall attached to a leprosarium, and we were interpreted by a blind Japanese Christian preacher. In thanking him afterwards we were much touched by a reference which he made to Matheson, the blind Scottish minister. Said he, 'Matheson's, "O Love! that wilt not let me go," is my favourite hymn.' Thus a Christian brotherhood, speaking the language of heaven, encircles the world. Such a fellowship, greatly strengthened, is the world's only hope.

It is to such a fellowship that Mr. Grubb refers in his topical article, 'The Modern State and Missions.' This article deals with a problem of the gravest importance in the world to-day. It is found in a very acute form in

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Eastern Asia. A totalitarian State, which assumes that its authority is derived from a divine ancestry, is the greatest possible menace to human liberty and is now confronting Koreans and others with alternatives which must become the concern of the whole Christian world. These alternatives might be briefly set out thus, ' Shall we bow in the " house of Rimmon," reserving to ourselves the right to consider it as a gesture of respect, or shall we resist unto blood ? Shall we accept and act upon the assertion that to bow at a Shinto shrine is not an act of worship, but an expression of respect ? '

Korea is no longer ' The Land of the Morning Calm,' at least for Christians. The Japanese are trying to force assimilation by insistence upon the use of the Japanese language in the educational system, and, what for Christians is a very serious thing, by insistence upon worship at Shinto shrines. The reticence which has been observed in this delicate situation cannot be much longer continued. Things are happening in Korea which will, in the long run, reflect upon Japan's wisdom and, if continued, discredit any claim she may make to a humane civilization. Interference with conscientious convictions breeds unending strife, and it is a pity that Japan should create for herself avoidable difficulties in these days of Far Eastern conflict.

The conflagration in the Far East raises problems of great complexity. Mongols, Manchus, Chinese, Koreans and Japanese are directly, and the rest of the world directly or indirectly, affected. Conquest, as *The Times* says, means destruction, but too much destruction will make the conquest fruitless. 'The collapse of a central authority in China would double the invader's difficulties and halve the victor's rewards,' and intervention by the U.S.S.R. is a very possible complication.

In the light of present happenings, it is interesting to record that some Christian Japanese and Chinese met together early in this year and set an example of how international problems should be solved. A ' Retreat ' was held which gave opportunity for a frank exchange of views on the

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problems that the Church is facing in both countries. The North China situation, the Inner Mongolia question, the traffic in narcotics, and the smuggling of merchandise into China through North China were vital questions discussed. Japan's population problem, scarcity of food supplies, and lack of natural resources were also fully considered. The Chinese delegates pressed for an answer as to the inner meaning and scope of Japan's much reiterated economic 'life-line.' How far is it intended that this life-line shall penetrate the Asiatic continent? The Japanese delegates found difficulty in returning an answer, and were told that until this point is made clear China will remain restive, suspicious and apprehensive. It was, however, agreed that a clear-cut policy, that will advance the prosperity and advancement of both nations, should prevail. The need was stressed of both nations striving to understand each other's problems, to avoid movements which arouse hostile agitation, and to guide the sentiments and attitudes of the two peoples into right channels.

Seven measures were agreed upon, whereby better relations might be established, these measures to be realized by active co-operation by the two National Christian Councils and the Christians of the two nations.

A problem of crucial importance in the world to-day is discussed in the article entitled, 'A New Social and Economic Order.' Modern progress is making its impact upon the age-long village systems in India. It can bring to India a fuller and healthier life, but how can it do so with the least amount of disturbance?

When *World Dominion* first appeared, we said :

'The great objective of the magazine is world survey with a view to world evangelization and the creation of indigenous churches. In the pursuit of this objective *World Dominion* touches every phase of life, and its readers will be brought into touch with the inner situation in the various countries of the world.'

We are trying to live up to this promise.