

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.

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Vol. XVII., No. 1 CONTENTS JANUARY, 1939

EDITORIAL :	3
THE UNSHAKEN THRONE. <i>T. Wilkinson Riddle</i>	5
EVANGELICAL CHURCH IN POLAND .. .. .	.. .. .	10
EUROPE FACES A NEW TRAGEDY. <i>Alexander McLeish</i>	.. .. .	11
AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT .. .. .	.. .. .	19
EVANGELICAL RUSSIANS. <i>Joachim Müller</i>	.. .. .	20
INTERNATIONAL ATHEISM .. .. .	.. .. .	29
THE BIBLE IN THE WORLD. <i>R. Kilgour</i>	.. .. .	30
RELIGION IN JAPAN .. .. .	.. .. .	35
THE PRINTED PAGE AS PIONEER. <i>John Savage</i>	.. .. .	36
THE BIBLE AT WORK .. .. .	.. .. .	40
AN APOSTLE OF LIBERTY. <i>Santiago Canclini</i>	.. .. .	41
A HAPPY HOME FOR MILLIONS ? .. .. .	.. .. .	44
POSITION OF THE CHURCH IN EGYPT. ' <i>Onlooker</i>'	.. .. .	45
FORTY YEARS IN THE SUDAN. <i>Gilbert Dawson</i>	.. .. .	53
WEST INDIANS FEAR THE 'EVIL EYE' .. .. .	.. .. .	61
NEW VISION FOR LEPROSY WORK. <i>Robert Cochrane</i>	.. .. .	62
THE NEW DAY IN ARABIA. <i>J. J. Cooksey</i>	.. .. .	67
SKY-SCRAPERS IN ARABIA .. .. .	.. .. .	72
PHILIPPINES—ACHIEVEMENT AND CHALLENGE.	<i>E. K. Higdon</i>	73
1938 .. .. .	.. .. .	80
CLOSED LAND OF NEPAL. <i>Katherine Harbord</i>	.. .. .	81
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE IN JAPAN .. .. .	.. .. .	85
'OUT WITH THE PACK.' <i>W. W. Harrison</i>	.. .. .	86

The Editor does not accept responsibility for views expressed by the writers. Communications may be sent to WORLD DOMINION PRESS, FOUNDER'S LODGE, MILDMAY CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON, N. 1, and 156, FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK. Published Quarterly. Annual Subscription, 4/6, post paid; Single Copies, 1/2, post paid. The next number of the magazine will be published on the 23rd March, 1939.

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INFORMATION SERVICE

FAR EAST.

We hear to-day of 'Japan's dream of world power,' towards which what is perhaps the most ruthless war ever waged is said to be a stepping stone. Asia for the Asiatics and eventual world conquest has been declared by responsible Chinese to be Japan's programme and what she conceives to be her 'world mission'. The Chinese despise force, her sages have always advocated peace. The Chinese are deeply disappointed that foreign powers have not come to their aid, at least financially. Great Britain has millions of pounds invested in China. If and when the Japanese have subjugated China, economic problems of grave magnitude will present themselves, and these problems are likely to be settled to the detriment of the Western Powers. Japan will be in a dominating position in Eastern Asia and will be a menace to British, French, Dutch and American possessions. From the point of view of the Christian Church, Japan may be a hindrance to the spread of Christianity by pursuing a policy similar to her nationalistic policy in Korea.

'The Sack of Nanking' was published in the July *Reader's Digest*, a condensation from *Ken*. 'It is unbelievable that credence could be given a thing which is so obviously rank propaganda and so reminiscent of the stuff fed the public during the last war,' wrote one subscriber. Similar comments were received from a number of readers. At considerable pains, the *Reader's Digest* has collected letters from the handful of Americans who stayed in Nanking during these awful days. The letters were written by a surgeon inured to bloody scenes and trained in scientific accuracy of statement, by missionaries and teachers reporting to their mission boards, and by Y.M.C.A. workers. The material we have seen would fill an entire issue of this magazine, all of it corroborating the typical extracts which follow':

'Two patients were admitted this afternoon whose condition represents about the last word in fiendish, unmitigated, atavistic brutality. One is the sole survivor of 140 led from one of the refugee camps to the hills where they were first sprayed with a few shot and then soaked with gasoline and set afire. His head is burned to a hideous fixed stare minus the eyes, which are burned out.'

'One man who just got in to-day says he was a stretcher-bearer, one of 4,000 men marched to the banks of the Yangtze and machine-gunned. S— says that the big trenches built for tank traps were filled with the bodies of dead and wounded soldiers and, when there weren't enough bodies to fill them so that the tanks could pass, the Japanese shot the people living around there indiscriminately, to fill up the trenches. He borrowed a camera to go back and take pictures to bear out his statement.'

Other extracts tell hideous, almost unprintable stories of rape and looting. What do Japanese Christians know of all this? We are told that nearly every Christian denomination in Japan is carrying on a special evangelistic campaign. The Japan National

Christian Council has a speaking force consisting of the finest preachers among all denominations. Meetings are being held all over the nation, attended by tens of thousands of distraught souls seeking comfort and guidance in these bewildering times.

An All Christians' Conference has just been held in Japan to promote evangelism and Church union and to study what Christianity can contribute to the nation in this hour of emergency in China and internationally.

The Rev. George A. Young, of the Baptist Mission in Shensi, wrote on the eve of his recent return to China :

' I hope to continue the work of city evangelism among the quarter-of-a-million souls of the pagan city of Sian, the capital of Shensi Province. Shensi has not yet been invaded by the Japanese, and the work of the Church has gone forward wonderfully, a mighty revival sweeping through the Church and the people in hundreds coming to Christ.'

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

Conventional methods of Christian work are being, to a growing extent, replaced by others.

A correspondent writes from Melbourne, Australia, that the work of the Churches is being supplemented by a notable development of gatherings which are being held outside them. Large business houses and banks are now having regular meetings at convenient hours, and men's classes and girls' classes are meeting for weekly Bible-study in city tea-rooms.

The *Australian Board of Missions Review* says :

' Even under the favourable conditions of Government protection and sympathetic help of Christian missions, the aborigines decline in numbers at a rapid rate.

' Their isolation for very many centuries from the rest of the world lays them open to disastrous ravages when, through contact with Whites, they are attacked by measles, influenza and tuberculosis.

' Contact with civilization induces also a lack of desire to live, they lose interest in their own affairs, they become restless, reach out hungrily for the cast-off odds and ends of the Whites and become pauperized. " hangers-on " on White settlements.'

BURMA.

A correspondent writes :

' There is a far greater emphasis on evangelism throughout Burma than formerly ; the seminaries of the American Baptist Mission and the Anglican Divinity School—both near Rangoon—are pressing forward the preparation of efficient evangelists. A hindering factor has been the persistence of an attitude of mind which requires the payment of a stated salary to indigenous workers, which increases the difficulty of local Churches to guarantee the support of their pastors. It is necessary to get away from the idea that ability in the service of the Church must have a specific financial value. Already this truth is finding acceptance in some quarters, and sacrifices are being made by the indigenous pastorate as the fact is being grasped that the indigenous Church must rely on its own resources for expansion.

INDIA.

The following notes are from two of our correspondents in India :

' In conference with missionaries in various parts of India the writer sensed the general opinion that the pressing need of India is a revival

of spiritual religion. His own experience of the past twenty-four years in the Tamil country corroborates this.

'The Madras Representative Christian Council which met in Madura early in August called attention to the prevalence of enticements to gambling, and that the vice was spreading among Christians. Football pools, largely advertised, and pushed among people who know practically nothing about football, have become a snare and a gamble. Crossword puzzles are being run in such a way as to make them simply a gamble. A large subsidiary business is also done by magazines, such as the *Competitor's Companion*, which gives suggestions of the various ways in which the crosswords can be made up.

'The *Madras Mail* of 25th July, reports public addresses by the Hon. Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Minister for Public Health, who is in charge of Hindu Religious Endowments. The speaker stated that there was everything else but God in most of the temples in the Province. The atrocities committed in the name of God in the temples had no parallel anywhere in the world. The Government had under consideration a Bill to punish the persons who committed crime in the name of God, and considered a proposal to take over the functions of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.'

NEAR EAST.

ARABIA.

The Aden Protectorate dominates South Arabia. Its coastline from Aden to Dhufar runs for over 800 miles; inland it extends into the 'Empty Quarter', and within it lies the territory of the Hadhramaut. The importance of the Protectorate in the general situation of East Africa, arising from the conquest of Abyssinia, has greatly increased.¹

EGYPT.

It is certain that Egypt will be drawn within the orbit of Near Eastern politics. She is strengthening her relations with neighbouring States, and has recently ratified a treaty of friendship with Turkey. An important consideration, from the missionary point of view, is whether these relationships must of necessity have an Islamic basis. Are they political and economic only, or are they cultural and social as well, also Islamic? Considerations such as these largely determine the attitude, whether tolerant or not, which the Government may take up toward Christian missions.

If Egyptians are to be unified in a racial mould, there must be a unified kind of education says the Egyptian paper *Al Ahram*, and goes on to say that it is dangerous for the Egyptian people to allow their young people to be trained by other than the Egyptian Government. The weakness of the Egyptian people, it says, is in the fact that foreigners, with their own forms of education, and their own languages, have had the educational training of young people. It is distinctly dangerous to divide the education of children between the Government and various religious sects, especially in the primary schools. It is imperative that religious education be limited to secondary schools.

¹ See *Whither Arabia?* A Missionary Survey by Harold Storm, M.D., 5/6 and 3/10 post paid. Published by World Dominion Press.

The Director of Education in the SUDAN has just issued an extensive report of education. The newspaper *Al Nil*, commenting on the report, says that when we study education closely in the Sudan we see that the policy of separating north and south Sudan will greatly hinder the unification of the Sudan as one people. In south Sudan, it says, education has been neglected or left in the hands of certain missionary societies, who approach the people from an angle which, being neither natural nor just, will make future relationships difficult. The Government, as a civilized Government, should pay attention, from humanitarian reasons if from no other reason, to education in south Sudan.

The Government is doing what it can to suppress all that would divide Moslems and Copts.

The following is a translation of verses from the poet Shawki, which are being quoted with approval :

Our compact with the Copts craves only one nation for the land.
We revere the teachings of their Christ
And they, for our sakes, respect Islam.
Our religion concedes to the other its glory.
If your Lord had willed, He could have made all nations one.
Those are your graves and these ours ;
Our skulls and bones mingle together.
By the sacredness of the dead and their rights,
Live as befits neighbours in tolerance.'

IRAN (PERSIA).

His Royal Majesty the Shah has given his patronage to the movement to end illiteracy by means of night classes for adults.

The Church in Iran is largely the fruit of the work of the Presbyterian Mission in the north, and the Church Missionary Society in the south. This Church has the background of the former great Church of the East, rich in missionary triumphs and in the memorials of its martyrs. The Church of both missions has a total membership of more than 3,000. About 1,000 of these are converted Moslems, more than 200 are converts from Judaism, a few were formerly Zoroastrians, and numbers are Armenians and Assyrians. The Church is a triumph of inter-racial Christian fellowship ; barriers of racial and religious animosity, centuries old, have been swept away.

IRAQ.

The efforts of the Government to attract the Bedouin to a sedentary mode of living are now being shown at Rutbah, site of the wells which have been renowned for centuries. Here several thousand Bedouin are encamped. The boys are being taught by efficient teachers, the subjects including Arabic and English. At night, adults who so desire are being taught. The important highway, now being constructed by the Palestine Government from Haifa to Baghdad, will pass through Rutbah ; a route from Damascus to Baghdad is also being developed, which passes through Rutbah. The place is, therefore, becoming important : hence this effort is on foot to render the Bedouin sedentary.

TURKEY.

Popular interest in religion in Turkey is noticeable in the sales of the Christian Scriptures through the Bible Society colporteurs.

There has been considerable misunderstanding as to the attitude of the Turkish Government toward Christian communities to-day. These are not being interfered with, except in certain individual cases in cities remote from the centres. There are scattered groups of Gregorian, as well as Protestant Armenians, in many towns in Anatolia, and each of these conducts its public worship.

With rare exceptions services go on wherever there are Christian groups large enough to sustain such. Four evangelical Churches in Istanbul continue their services as usual without hindrance. Where Sunday-schools are known as 'Services for Worship for Children', they go on unhindered.

A comparatively new development along religious lines is the interest shown in the history of the early introduction of Christianity among Turkish tribes. A book has appeared by a Turk on this theme, showing the extent of the early prevalence of Christianity in central Asia among Turks.

France and Turkey have settled the question of Alexandretta to their mutual satisfaction. Turkey's ambitions do not extend further, either to Iraq (Mesopotamia) or Arabia. By the Treaty of Ankara with Iraq, in 1926, the Mosul problem was solved; as to Arabia, it is too distant to fit into the Turkish national policy of a compact Kingdom.

Northern Iraq has a large and important Turkish-speaking minority, but Turkey does not share the theory of the German Reich as applied to the Sudeten Germans of Czechoslovakia.

PALESTINE.

The Times says that eminent divines and prominent laymen of both the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches have telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain urging Great Britain to stand by the Jews in Palestine. They state that the terms of the Mandate, the pledge to the Jewish people made through the Balfour Declaration, the magnificent effort made by the Jews to uplift Palestine, their trust in Great Britain and, finally, that Palestine is the one remaining hope of the Jewish people, preclude any wavering on the part of Great Britain in face of Arab demands. And the *Daily Telegraph* says that the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, in its issue of 11th October, reminds Great Britain of the agreement whereby the United States must be consulted before any change is made in the British Mandate held under the League of Nations. The report of the Arab ultimatum to Dr. Weizmann, the Zionist leader, threatening 'the worst calamities so far written in history' unless Zionists agree to the annulment of the Balfour Declaration has evoked a response from Jewish communities in all parts of the world.

The conflicting claims of Moslems and Jews in the Holy Land are well known. It is not so generally recognized that there is also an important Christian population which numbers about 110,000. In Transjordan there is another of 30,000.

Before the Arab conquest in A.D. 636, the majority of the population of Palestine were Christians, but under Islamic rule many became Moslems, which accounts for the racial affinity of the present day between Arabic-speaking Christians and Moslems. Christians have a continuous history as a religious group since the first century. In blood they are a mixture of Jews, from whom they are originally descended, with Gentile Aramæan and Hellenistic stock, and in later centuries with Christians of various races who came into Palestine over a period of some 1,600 years.

These 140,000 Palestinian and Transjordan Christians represent a body of people who have refused to be absorbed by Moslems and have defended their Christian heritage. They are one of the three monotheistic faiths of Palestine, and should not (they say) be placed under the non-Christian rule of either Moslems or Jews, which at present is expected to be their lot. Moreover, this Christian body is genuinely international. Judaism also has been international, but, in Palestine, it is striving to become more and more national. Islam, although international, is also totalitarian and identifies nationality and religion.

Al Difa (Arabic press) reproduced a long article from *Al Ahram*, published in Egypt. It opened with a statement, 'If it is asked why two Semitic peoples have clashed so severely who for ages used to live in the utmost goodwill, the answer is that the Zionists say, "Palestine must be ours." The Arabs, however, say—emphatically, "No," and the Islamic world repeats this "No," from one end to the other.' The alleged 'nationalism' of Zionism seems to be one of the chief stumbling blocks.

At the end of 1937 the population of Palestine was estimated at 1,335,253. This is exclusive of nomads and the British military forces. The religious distribution is as follows: Moslems, 816,891; Jews, 295,845; Christians, 110,874; all others 111,643.

SYRIA.

The United Missionary Council of Syria and Palestine, composed of some thirty-five missions and Christian bodies, is an important factor in furthering the evangelization of those countries. It stands for missionary investigation, common principles of action resulting therefrom, co-operative effort, for the effective occupation of the entire field, mission comity and spiritual fellowship.

The outstanding feature of the Council's meetings was the great sense of responsibility of the Syrian and Armenian members for the evangelization of Moslems and other non-Christians. Until recent years this was regarded as the work of foreign missionaries, but this year the meetings on evangelization were led by Syrian and Armenian pastors, and foreigners took a subordinate place in the discussions.

EUROPEAN SUMMARY.

Insurgent Fascist SPAIN seems to be inimical to evangelical Christianity, as compared with Government Spain.

The liberty of the Protestant Church in ITALY is curtailed.

British and American missions have been expelled from Abyssinia, Eritrea, Somaliland and Libya.

There is discouragement and pessimism in the Confessional Church in GERMANY owing to restriction of freedom of conscience.

In POLAND, Roman Catholics suggest that Roman Catholicism and patriotism are identical. All ministers of the Lutheran Church, not Polish citizens, have been exiled, and one imprisoned for 'insulting' the Virgin Mary. The Government is afraid of its minorities: the Ukrainian minority amounts to 7,000,000. The condition of 3,500,000 Jews is deplorable. The country is seething with religious and political unrest.

Protestant minorities exist in HUNGARY, PORTUGAL and GREECE. SWITZERLAND, HOLLAND, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, the SCANDINAVIAN countries and the UNITED STATES are rendering what help they can, but evangelical religion in Europe is in dire straits. The growth of anti-semitism is appalling. Nine-and-a-half million Jews in Europe are being persecuted, and this has a brutalizing effect on their persecutors. There are four million Moslems in Eastern Europe. Less than one-fifth of the population of Europe are *nominal* Protestants; two-fifths are Roman Catholic; one-fifth Orthodox, and one-fifth make no profession at all. CZECHOSLOVAKIA, the bulwark of Protestantism for five hundred years, is in the melting pot, and is a kaleidoscope of racial and religious divisions.

In BELGIUM, in the coal and iron region around Charleroi there are, as so often in similar districts, well-established congregations of believers, among whom the varied gifts of the Spirit are developed. There is undoubtedly an increase of interest in the Scriptures in FRANCE. There are movements within the Roman Catholic Church which indicate enquiry in spiritual things. Among the Russian immigrants a good work goes on. In HUNGARY, there have been large Gospel and Bible-study meetings recently in Budapest, which show that seekers after truth are numerous and accessible. While there is liberty in many large centres there is persecution in some smaller places where Roman Catholic priests and Reformed pastors unite to suppress gatherings of believers and their Gospel testimony outside of their own systems.

AFRICA.

Since the missionaries were expelled from ETHIOPIA the native Protestant Christians have baptized fresh converts. Missionaries in KENYA, and their friends who have at heart the welfare of the African people, may draw encouragement from a like solicitude which is being shown by many leading settlers and by the Press, as interpreted by thoughtful articles in the *East African Standard*. Together they are gradually forming a public opinion which is being ranged on the side of those who are working to realize the vision of a great African Dominion created by White guidance. Solid progress has already been achieved. The Native Lands' Trust Bill, a Bill to amend the Crown Lands Ordinance, is a step toward more fully implementing the Carter Commission Report accepted by the Government in 1934. Further, the recent

attempt to restrict the Highlands to Europeans only, by Order in Council, has been negated as savouring of racial discrimination. This, then, is a fitting movement to hearten the men of progress and goodwill. Kenya has its problems, which, on a superficial view, invite the kind of Press criticism which has 'the grain of truth that makes distortion and exaggeration more deadly.' Christ has begun a good work in Kenya, and He is adequate to carry it to a large and successful conclusion.

Peasant families, to the number of 1,800 sailed for LIBYA from Genoa, Naples and Syracuse on 28th October (the anniversary of the march on Rome). A part of this number will disembark at Benghazi for Cyrenaica, and another part at Tripoli for the province of that name. A number of villages, containing 1,800 farmhouses, have been constructed and organized for their reception during the past six months. They were sent away with demonstrations of patriotic enthusiasm, after a solemn ceremony in which the importance to the Italian Empire of this colonizing venture was brought home to the emigrants.

The Governor General of MADAGASCAR has recently promulgated a lengthy decree regulating the conditions of native labour in the island. These dispositions reveal the desire to continue the enlightened native policy of the past and to give to native workmen those guarantees which are offered in most civilized societies. The decrees extend to all classes of work. For example, Article 8 states: 'In public or private enterprise, whether lay or religious, whether they are of a professional or charitable character, the duration of the workman's effective day . . . cannot exceed eight hours.'

The Government of France has decided that the remains of Queen S.M. Ranavalona III, who was buried in Algiers, are to be returned to Madagascar. This symbolic action has aroused much enthusiasm in the island as illustrating the confidence which France has in its colony. The local press comments: 'A tangible proof has been given that the colonies are no longer far-off possessions, but the Greater France.'

There have been recent threats to prevent Protestant missionaries from entering MOZAMBIQUE in future, and those on furlough or absent, from returning. It seems that behind this move is the newly-appointed Roman Catholic bishop who has been active in propaganda against evangelical work on the ground that the British missionaries were responsible for the fact that Nyasaland was lost to Portugal.

Many of the Moslem Emirs of Northern NIGERIA are enquiring into the Christian faith, and have accepted copies of the Hausa Bible. During the first half of this year, nearly 3,000 copies have been sold. Illiterate pagans also are turning to Christ and learn to read in about six weeks. They become intelligent and fearless preachers of their Faith.

In NORTH AFRICA the French authorities announce that work will begin in October on lengthening the motor-road which runs from Algiers via Kano across the Sahara to Fort Lamy for a further

1,000 miles to Bangassu, on the Belgian Congo frontier. The trans-Saharan road is already 2,770 miles long. When this prolongation is begun, the Inter-African Conference will be held at Costermansville in the Belgian Congo. The main subject before the conference will be to study the linking up of the road when it reaches Bangassu with the network of roads in South Africa. Ultimately, there will be a motor road—the longest in the world—from North Africa to the Cape.

In SOUTH AFRICA the British South Africa Company has handed over to the Government of Northern Rhodesia an area of 947,600 acres in recognition of the needs of the Natives for more land than is at present available in their reserves. The Company has also sold to the Government land in Abercorn and Moulungu townships at an agreed price.

In TANGANYIKA it is reported that German planters, subsidized by the Reich Government, are able to offer higher wages to the Natives than are the British, thereby creating a sentiment in their favour. The German community is forming itself into an independent and self-contained unit, a kind of unofficial State within the State.

AMERICAN CONTINENT.

In the early days of October the final settlement of the Chaco war was reached in Buenos Aires, when Paraguay and Bolivia accepted arbitration fixing the frontier between the two countries. The President of Ecuador telegraphed to the President of Argentina only seven days later asking for the intervention of the same four Powers (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay) in the frontier dispute between his country and Peru.

Steps have been taken during recent months to examine the position preparatory to bringing into existence a Federation of Evangelical Churches of the River Plate (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay). A great number of workers have taken part in these discussions, representing a great number of the organizations working in this area. After several months an interdenominational commission has drawn up the basis of statutes of the projected Federation.

An interdenominational programme of evangelical broadcasts is being sent out twice a week from Buenos Aires. During recent months hundreds of letters have been received from all parts of the country, and each of these has been replied to by the sending of a copy of the New Testament. This main radio work is helped by various smaller efforts from radio stations in the provinces.

The Government of BOLIVIA sent to the National Convention a projected new Constitution, amongst which the principal reforms suggested include the suppression of the *Patronato Nacional*, or the separation of the State from the Church, allowing to the latter the same rights in private property as are guaranteed to private citizens, and proposing that for five years the Government should give a subsidy to the Church. Equal suffrage is suggested for men and women, and all public offices are open to both sexes equally.

The State should exercise protective care over the family and also the indigenous races.

The first evangelical youth congress of BRAZIL took place at the end of August. Delegates from five denominations and a number of representatives of other interests were present. Brazil is at the present time passing through a period when an effort is being made to secure 'Brazilian' feeling and outlook. All resident foreigners are expected to become naturalized. All schools under foreign control are forbidden to function unless the director and all those teaching are Nationals. The Lutheran Church has been obliged to preach in Portuguese instead of German, and in the southern States where there is a large number of German-born evangelical Christians, there has recently been great demand for Bibles and hymn-books in Portuguese.

The Government has instituted new regulations controlling immigration and colonization in BRAZIL, which do away with the old system of the *carta de chamada* and other formalities. The law stipulates that the number of immigrants from any one country should not exceed two per cent. of the number of people of the same nationality who arrived in Brazil during the years 1884-1935; certain exceptions and elasticities of this rule are outlined. As regards colonization, efforts have been made to prevent the formation in the life of the Republic of groups which resist absorption.

The second Annual Conference of all missions in COLOMBIA was held in the spring, and the third Conference was held during November. Sub-committees were appointed at the spring meeting to draw up a tentative statement of doctrine for a proposed federation of evangelical bodies working in the country, and also to investigate the possibility of the use of radio for evangelistic purposes.

In MEXICO, although it is commonly supposed that a great number of churches have been opened at the order of the President, and that full religious liberty has been restored, the fact is that conditions are more or less unchanged, except that churches and groups already in existence no longer suffer molestation as in the period when extremist feeling was predominant. The Protestant groups are able to carry on their work quietly under the limitations which the laws permit.

Although the Salvation Army has work in some eighty countries of the world, legislation made it seem almost impossible that it could enter Mexico. However, a young Mexican, a former Government official and Communist leader, was converted, and, without knowing anything of the Salvation Army or its methods, began work in the slums of Mexico city amongst drunkards and other human wreckage, on lines very similar to those employed by the Army. A number of zealous young people joined him. Street meetings were held in defiance of the law, and, when arrested, the leaders continued to preach the Gospel in gaol. The number of transformed lives at last convinced the Government sufficiently for the work to continue unmolested.

PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

EAST ASIA.

Pray for Christians and the Christian Church in East Asia. In KOREA pressure is being brought to bear upon all, including Christians, to attend the Shinto Shrines where, despite the statement by the Government that to bow there does not necessarily mean worship, the Christian conscience has been greatly disturbed. In MANCHUKUO the Nationalistic policy of Japan has led to torture and imprisonment of suspected persons, and the Christian Church is in fear of political domination that would interfere with religious liberty. Pray for JAPAN herself and praise God for the concern which the Christian Church feels in the present situation, which has stimulated evangelistic activity. Pray for CHINA in the awful physical and mental torture of these cruel times, and thank God for the spirit of her Christians and the aggressive Christian work which many of her spiritual leaders are manifesting.

KOREA.—Population, 22,900,000; Christians, 170,000; 1 to 135 of population. Missionaries 462, or 20 per million.

MANCHUKUO.—Population, 34,000,000; Christians, 39,000; 1 to 871 of population. Missionaries 273, or 8 per million.

JAPAN.—Population, 69,254,148; Christians, 20,400; 1 to 3,394 of population. Missionaries 829, or 12 per million.

CHINA.—Population, 422,707,868; Christians, 618,010; 1 to 684 of population. Missionaries 5,747, or 13 per million.

CENTRAL ASIA.

CENTRAL ASIA is a term which covers MONGOLIA, CHINESE TURKESTAN (SIN-KIANG), RUSSIAN TURKESTAN (SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA) and TIBET. Here are areas and figures as far as they can be ascertained.

MONGOLIA.—Area, 625,783 sq. miles. Population, 2,077,669.

CHINESE-TURKESTAN.—Area, 550,340 sq. miles. Population, 1,200,000.

RUSSIAN-TURKESTAN.—Area, 293,321 sq. miles. Population, 7,813,200.

TIBET.—Area, 469,294 sq. miles. Population, 3,722,011.

This immense region from a world point of view is of extreme importance. In days to come it is bound to play a great part in world affairs. Prayer is urgently needed to-day when formative influences from Japan and Russia are moulding the destinies of all these lands. If indigenous pilgrim preachers and living witnesses to the power of Christ could arise, the Christian Church could make a contribution of tremendous importance in this formative period. Pray for workers in or on the borders of these lands: the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the 'Brethren', the Norwegian Mission, the China Inland Mission, and the Central Asian Mission. In some parts of this vast area any one confessing Christ may be in danger of torture and death.

SOUTH SEAS.

Pray for AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND, and thank God for their Christian testimony; ask for them an ever clearer vision of world need that, with other so-called Christian countries, they may

play a greater part in world evangelization. Pray for the SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, that the thousands of islands, great and small, may see a revival and an extension of Christian work. There is still unreached territory there, for example, in the NETHERLANDS INDIES. Here are some figures which will help towards an appreciation of the situation.

REGION	AREA IN SQ. MILES	POPULATION	I CHRISTIAN TO
Sumatra	163,093	7,661,399	17
Riouw, Bangka and Billiton	18,923	577,171	—
Borneo	206,061	2,194,533	145
Java and Madura	51,057	41,717,232	530
Moluccas and North Guinea ..	192,402	893,030	4
Celebes	73,160	4,226,586	9
Timor Archipelago	24,530	1,656,636	10
Bali and Lombok	4,070	1,802,146	3,360
	733,296	60,728,733	42

SOUTH PACIFIC.

EASTERN ISLANDS.—Population, 1,496,058; Christians, 265,141; 1 per 5 of population. Missionaries 609.

WESTERN ISLANDS.—Population, 534,942; Christians, 111,206; 1 per 4 of population. Missionaries 240.

Pray for the Church and its witness in the PHILIPPINES where co-operation and union are very gratifying characteristics of missionary work. The following figures give a background of information.

Population, 13,266,700; Christians, 330,000; 1 per 39 of population. Missionaries 328, or 24 per million.

ASIA.

FORMOSA. This large and beautiful island was ceded to Japan by China after the latter had been defeated in the China-Japan war in the closing years of last century. The Mission of the United Church of Canada and the English Presbyterian Mission work, the former in the north and the latter in the south of the island. Japanese Christian Churches are also working in Formosa. Earnest prayer should be offered for Japanese Christians that they may be allowed the liberty which the Japanese Constitution states is their right. Here is the position statistically in Formosa.

Population, 5,212,719; Christians, 19,395; 1 per 268 of population. Missionaries 42, or 8 per million.

INDO-CHINA consists of the provinces of Annam, Cambodia, Cochin China, Laos and Tong-king. Much success has attended the work of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, for which we should give thanks to God. There are some 'Brethren' in Indo-China, and the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society is in Haiphong. Here are some figures:—

Population, 23,357,000; Christians, 8,975; 1 per 2,602 of population. Missionaries 64, or 3 per million.

MALAYA is a great meeting place of races, and its development has been enormously helped by Chinese and Indians. But the Malays have been neglected religiously, and form a difficult problem, also there are Sakais and some aboriginal tribes practically untouched. The south of Malaya has become of great strategic importance in world affairs as a naval base.

SIAM is interesting to the Christian Church. Evangelistic work has unfortunately suffered by the withdrawal of a number of missionaries to man institutions. Great tribal areas are very needy.

MALAYA.—Population, 4,385,346; Christians, 26,290; 1 to 166 of population. Missionaries 150, or 34 per million.

SIAM.—Population, 14,464,487; Christians, 13,597; 1 per 1,063 of population. Missionaries 89, or 6 per million.

BURMA. Prayer for Burma should be concentrated upon the opportunities for Christian service among its tribes. Great results have been achieved among the Karens, and for their numbers and testimony praise should be mingled with our prayers. Buddhism is the Hindenburg Line in Burma, the Burmans themselves being hard to win.

Population, 14,667,146; Christians, 241,425; 1 to 60 of population. Missionaries 298, or 20 per million.

INDIA. For those who desire to see the task of the Christian Church set out in provinces, *The Directory of Christian Missions and Churches in India, Burma and Ceylon*¹ should be consulted, but here are summaries with the outstanding prayer needs. Pray for a struggling witness and more workers in the Frontier lands; for the evangelization of 500 unoccupied Indian States; for personal and communal witness and wider evangelistic contacts among Depressed Classes and Aborigines, and for a revival of the Church of India, that it may have power to witness.

FRONTIER LANDS.—Population, 14,620,000; Christians, 9,355; 1 to 1,562 of population. Missionaries 100, or 7 per million.

INDIAN STATES (562).—Population, 81,310,845; Christians, 603,437; 1 to 134 of population. Missionaries 759, or 9 per million.

BRITISH PROVINCES.—Population, 256,859,787; Christians, 2,157,696; 1 to 119 of population. Missionaries 4,042, or 15 per million.

NEAR EAST.

ARABIA is a hard Moslem field for the missionaries of the Arabian Mission on the East coast, and those at Aden in the south where, for so many years the Church of Scotland South Arabia Mission has worked. Prayer is needed that their faith and courage may not fail. For some time now we have been hoping for funds to commence medical work in the Hadhramaut, but in these days funds are not easily obtained. The chief statistical facts about Arabia may be thus condensed.

Population, 7,000,000; Christians 23. Missionaries 38. Hospitals 8. Beds 245.

¹ Published by the National Christian Council, Nelson Square, Nagpur, Central Provinces, India; obtainable from the World Dominion Press. Post paid 4/6.

EGYPT is at present of great importance and earnest prayer should be made for her. She is in a key position geographically and politically. But from no point of view is she more interesting and important than in her religious situation. Nationalism there, as elsewhere, is the predominating factor, and friendship between her Coptic Christians and Moslems is urged on the ground of nationalistic solidarity. In Egypt as in India, much is being heard against proselytizing. There is much confusion of thought here. The Christian does not proselytize, that is, he does not ask anyone merely to change his religion, but to accept Christ as Saviour and give Him supreme allegiance as Lord. Until this is done on a universal scale there cannot be lasting peace and true prosperity in the world. Nationalism is a patriotic virtue, but is only safe and good for the country itself when practised in conformity with feelings of good neighbourliness for other lands and peoples. In other words, there never can be peace anywhere if Christ's words are not practised, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy mind, and with all thy soul and with all thy strength, and thy neighbour as thyself.'

The prayers needed for EGYPT are needed for IRAN, IRAQ and TURKEY, namely, freedom to witness for Christ. 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.' The Christian cannot seal his lips, the life of the true Christian will demonstrate its moral and spiritual superiority.

EGYPT.—Population, 15,904,525; Christians, 28,470; 1 to 558 of population. Missionaries 408, or 26 per million.

IRAN.—Population, 15,000,000; Christians, 3,373; 1 to 4,447 of population. Missionaries 189, or 12 per million.

IRAQ.—Population, 2,857,077; Christians, 349; 1 to 8,186 of population. Missionaries 22, or 7 per million.

TURKEY.—Population, 16,158,018; Christians, 1,847; 1 to 8,694 of population. Missionaries 95, or 5 per million.

The following passages are from information supplied by our correspondent in PALESTINE and are quoted to guide prayer :

'The Christian Church in Palestine is not escaping the bad results of the present conflict. Racial bitterness and fear are destroying the sense of Christian unity and love.

'Evangelization in the villages of the usual kind has had to be discontinued. Co-operation with the Orthodox Church and spiritual encouragement from within that Church, is the official policy of the Church of England in Palestine at the present time rather than direct evangelization.

'The Hebrew Christian Fellowship has been active, and its members are witnessing to their faith in Christ, despite the widespread racial bitterness and economic difficulties. The Jewish settlements visited have usually welcomed the missionaries, and there is ground for greater encouragement than in former years.'

SYRIA. The United Missionary Council of Syria and Palestine, composed of some thirty-five missions and Christian bodies, is, as noted in the Information Service, an important factor in furthering the evangelization of those countries.

Pray that this Council may seek and obtain such wisdom and spiritual power that its influence may result in widespread revival and evangelism.

Population, 3,630,000 ; Christians, 11,814 ; 1 to 307 of population. Missionaries 339, or 93 per million.

EUROPE.

A survey of Europe reveals vast needs and shows the insufficiency of the forces to meet them. We urge that in all countries the founding and spread of Churches composed of the people of the land, and carried on in accordance with the principles and examples given in the New Testament, is the most effective means of bringing the Gospel to the masses of these populations. That this may be done is a constant subject for prayer.

There are such Churches scattered throughout many countries. It is not desirable to tabulate them or try to organize them, indeed in some countries this would bring serious hardships upon them. Prayer is needed that existing evangelical missions and activities may be brought back to early apostolic ways, especially that there may be full acceptance of the essential leading and power of the Holy Spirit in the testimony. This would enable them to show effective fellowship with Churches in the various lands, and even to found such Churches without imposing upon them association with any foreign denomination or taking charge of them in a way that would weaken their faith in God.

ALBANIA. The following remarks of our correspondent are suggestive :

' May I refer to one matter in which we seem to be at variance with some people. This is in reference to co-operation with the ancient Churches. We have enjoyed intimate contact with many Orthodox friends—so intimate as to allow us to see the Orthodox Church through their eyes. The more intimately we are acquainted, the more are we convinced that co-operation is impossible. Five centuries of evangelical history must be forgotten, and the great truths of God's Word compromised before we could join forces with them in presenting Christianity to the Moslem. Such an alliance would be no recommendation of our message to the Moslem, who regards the Orthodox Church as utterly idolatrous. Even in Albania the Roman Catholic Church is quite superior to the Orthodox Church ; and though our co-operation with the Catholic Church is never recommended, this could be effected with less sacrifice of principles than could our co-operation with the Orthodox.

' Yet that the Orthodox themselves do not welcome this attitude of co-operation is obvious from our past thirty years' history. A colleague has attempted without ceasing to join causes with the Orthodox Church ; his purpose has been to reinvigorate the dry bones, accordingly he has discouraged any separation from the old, and the formation of a new Evangelical Church body. The result is that after thirty years we have no concrete evidences of a work having been done. On the other hand the Orthodox priests never have recognized the mission's aid, but have continually discouraged the children from attending the Sunday-school, and the adults from coming to the preaching services. It would seem apparent to us that while enmity is not our policy, co-operation cannot be. And this is precisely the verdict of those who have forsaken the corrupt Church for the preaching of the Gospel.'

AUSTRIA. The large number of Roman Catholics entering the Protestant Church recently (over 20,000 in a few months), while

largely a political movement, draws attention to a sense of spiritual need which has long existed among the people and encourages prayer for them. It must not be forgotten that in the sixteenth century 'indigenous Churches' spread with great rapidity over Austria and were only exterminated after long persecution of a ferocity seldom paralleled. Prayers for this people now will have behind them the prayers of those martyred saints.

ITALY. The Waldenses, or Vaudois, were the historic successors of the primitive Churches in Italy in apostolic times. They were not reformed Roman Catholic Churches for they had preserved the New Testament teachings which existed before the development of the Roman Catholic Church. They were not Protestants for they existed long before the Reformation. So that, as our correspondent points out, they were the original Churches in Italy, or rather they were a portion of them, driven by persecution later into the Alps. Recent developments in Italy curtail the liberties and add to the difficulties of Churches which endeavour to act on the principles of Scripture. Prayer for them is needed.

RUMANIA. The Decisions regarding the regulation and authorization of religious associations, published officially in June, 1938, would have the effect of making the meetings of hundreds of Churches, Baptists, 'Brethren' and others, illegal. They make such as might continue to meet, as well as all who would make known the Gospel, publicly or privately, into criminal and political offenders. The putting into execution of the 'Decisions' has been repeatedly postponed, but it is announced that they will definitely come into force now. An insistent call for prayer comes from Rumania that the Lord may intervene in favour of these thousands of His saints.

AFRICA.

Pray for evangelical Christians in ABYSSINIA that in spite of changed conditions they may be sustained, and spread the Gospel by effectual witness among their own people. And that in MOZAMBIQUE Protestant mission work may not be curtailed by political propaganda.

NORTHERN NIGERIA. Praise is called for in view of the spirit of enquiry in this long closed area.

WEST INDIES.

Pray that, while economic and social conditions are being studied by the Commission recently appointed, spiritual issues may be stressed by the Christian Church.

AMERICAN CONTINENT and the BRITISH ISLES.

Pray that in the English-speaking world the political leaders may turn to God for guidance in these momentous times.

An all-night of prayer is to be held at Mildmay on the 31st December, and thousands throughout the world have been invited to follow this example.