

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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INFORMATION SERVICE

Unless otherwise stated, figures refer only to Evangelical Christians.

EUROPE

GREAT BRITAIN.

Evangelism as an integral part of the work of the Church is receiving more serious attention. The need of a revival of religion among our people is emphasized by European movements of pagan content. Wesley regarded the Anglican Church and Methodism as the stable and evangelistic forms respectively of one work, and desired their fusion in one organization, but failed to achieve it. The present and urgent task of the whole Church is that of adapting evangelism to twentieth-century needs and as organically a part of its work.

The Lambeth Conference of 1940 will be attended by 320 bishops from every diocese of the Anglican Communion. In preparation for it a missionary survey, entitled *Partners*, has been published. This brings out vividly the growth of self-government and self-support on the mission field.

The following facts stated in the survey are of interest. It states that *Canada* has twenty-six dioceses. Of these, eleven are self-supporting and assist the remaining fifteen. *Australia* has twenty-five dioceses, of which seventeen are wholly self-supporting. In the remaining eight, contributions from England amount to about £6,000, out of a total budget of £100,000. In *Asia* and *Africa* self-help is being increasingly adopted, for instance, in Korea, Assam and Chekiang, Central Tanganyika, the Niger, Lagos, Madagascar and Upper Nile.

In 1937 the total raised by Churches on the field was £1,084,483, and the total sent from England was £1,115,890, the Churches overseas thereby contributing almost one-half of the total amount required for their support, including the foreign missionary staff.

The soundness of the principles of the indigenous Church, the advocacy of which has been the chief concern of the World Dominion Movement for a number of years, is receiving confirmation by their progressive adoption by missionary societies.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

Slovakia has passed under the supreme control of the Roman Catholic Church and its 200,000 Protestants may expect little consideration. In the Sudeten area a new Government order practically places Catholic and Protestant Church finance under direct State supervision.

FRANCE.

Roman Catholics are making vigorous efforts to reach the people. In Paris, ninety-seven new churches and six chapels have been erected during the last six years on the initiative of Cardinal Verdier. Seven churches are nearly finished, ten are being commenced, fifteen others are planned.

Since the 1st January, 1939, the new organization of the Reformed Church of France has been operative. Decentralization makes the sixteen regions created in France and North Africa independent and autonomous, while guarding their inter-regional solidarity. Evangelism will be the work of the Church, not that of separate societies. Consequently, the Central Evangelical Society, the principal society of evangelism in France, will be absorbed and, after 1940, will become the evangelization agent of the Church to create Missions and Churches in needy localities.

The Evangelical Methodist Church of France has taken steps to affiliate itself with the Reformed Church of France.

The Financial Report of the Society of Evangelical Missions of Paris, 1938-1939, states that the total receipts were 5,275,756.33 francs, being an increase of 970,000 francs on the receipts during 1937-38. Expenditure was 6,050,181.32, leaving a deficit of 774,424.99. Important sums were contributed to wipe off the 1937-1938 deficit, also previous accumulated deficits totalling 662,000 francs.

GERMANY.

Pastor Niemöller has been informed by the Evangelical Consistory of the province of Brandenburg that, in conformity with the order of 19th March, 1939, relative to the moving of pastors, as he has now been in prison for two years and it cannot be foreseen that he will be released to take up his work again, the Consistory considers that the situation indicates that he should be put on the retired list. Fifteen days have been given him in which to make a reply.

The Church in Germany is so dependent on the Government that it can make no effort at reconstruction. Its inertia arises from obedience to the State in all matters pertaining to secular life. The State contributes to the salaries and pensions of clergymen. German pastors have always been quasi-State officials, and still so consider themselves. The State furnishes the finance and claims control over the Church, which, under present conditions, cannot exist without grants-in-aid from the State. The only hope for the active and effective influence of the Church on the German State lies in their separation, but neither the Church nor the State in Germany wants this.

IRELAND.

The Scottish Association for Irish Missions reports that, in the past twelve months, its colporteurs sold 77,726 religious books, of which 48,966 were Scriptures and of these 47,284 were purchased by Roman Catholics. This definite recognition by the latter of the authority of the Word of God is something new in the life of the Irish people, and is of hopeful significance.

RUSSIA.

The religious struggle in Russia now centres around the education of the young. Godless and Christians are both putting forth

their utmost efforts. Russian parents in large numbers are constraining their children to attend religious classes and their 'constraint' is being punished by the Government. Lay persons in official positions, at parents' request, have been giving, in privacy, voluntary religious instruction to the young. It is reported that two hundred persons in Moscow and hundreds in other towns have been punished by the Government for this unauthorized and 'objectionable' activity. Even fairy tales and children's story-books in libraries and book-shops are to be carefully revised. The word 'God' will be deleted and replaced by the word 'accident' or 'destiny.' Children's books must not have a religious influence. The schools are under a specially rigorous supervision; teachers are receiving a more effectual atheistic indoctrination for their class work. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* says this measure was adopted following the resolution of the *Komsomol* (younger section of the Communist Party) at their eighteenth Congress.

Religious persecution is vitalizing the Russian Church. Stalin is reported to have counselled the Godless societies to propagate atheism, not openly to attack the Church. The Metropolitan Sergius is reported to be suffering through home arrest by the O.G.P.U. The newly appointed Government agent to the Metropolitan is the godless Samilenko, who tries to browbeat him. Sergius recently sent an impressive message to the whole Russian Church, urging clergy and laity to forget their differences and to unite as Christ commanded them.

The Soviet Trades Unions, whose members number 26,000,000, were suspected of having a million Church adherents. A campaign by Government, Party and Trades Unions succeeded in capturing 325,000 of these (sixty-eight per cent. women) and a further effort will be made to enrol the remainder of the million.

Professor Golubowski, the Russian nerve specialist, lecturing recently at Kiev on 'Nervous Diseases in the Soviet Union,' remarked that many of his patients for various reasons connected with religion had lost their reason, and had to be confined by order of the Government. Many of them live a year or two and, in spite of supervision, they find a way to commit suicide.

Yaroslavsky, president of the godless organizations, writing recently of the 'Creative work of the Party,' stated that a new fact in the situation of the Orthodox Church in Russia was the solid basis it had secured by the support of the Agricultural State Co-operatives (*Kolkhoses*). Numbers of Churches are entirely supported by them. They also courageously contend that the Stalin Constitution gives them the right, if they obtain a majority in any district, to vote for the maintenance and upkeep of places of worship.

SPAIN.

Sr. Juan Orts Gonzalez, writing recently in the *Evangelical Christian*, takes a hopeful view of the future of Protestant work in Spain. The majority of Spaniards, he writes, in time past 'considered it dishonourable and unpatriotic to be a Protestant,' a traditional prejudice which experience during the war has dis-

pelled. This removal of prejudice against Protestantism is one of the greatest assets for the future spreading of Christianity in Spain. A further helpful development for Protestantism is that, in spite of all calamities, enormous numbers of Bibles and New Testaments have been sold to persons who previously had no connection with the Protestant Church. 'I do not hesitate to affirm,' he concludes, 'that, given religious tolerance which will permit the use of the radio, theatres and large halls for evangelical preaching, a new era will begin for Protestantism in Spain.'

SWITZERLAND.

Pastor Marc Du Pasquier, of Neuchatel, at the recent annual meeting of the Paris Missionary Society, called attention to the missionary spirit in Switzerland. Swiss Protestants, he said, support nine societies in which they have three hundred missionaries. The Paris Missionary Society, and the Basle, Moravian and Phil-African Missions have received about one-half of this number. The Churches of French Switzerland support a work which is their own: the Swiss Mission in South Africa.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

ARABIA.

The exploitation of the rich oil wells at Damman in El Hasa Province (opposite Bahrein Island) by the Californian Standard Oil Company will probably tend to concentrate influence at this new source of wealth to the Government. Some three thousand workmen and dependents, European and Arabs, are in the Company's camp. The goal of missionary endeavour is service in Nejd, with its capital at Riyadh. Here is the heart and religious strength of Arabia apart from the sacred cities of Mecca and Medina. El Hasa gives a direct approach to Nejd.

EGYPT.

Al Mokattam publishes an appeal by the Rector of the Azhar for the defence of Egypt should war arise. Everyone must serve as a religious duty, in national defence. War in Islamic lands is always religious war, and preparations for it in Egypt deeply stirs religious feeling. This is shown by a prevalent sensitiveness to any apparent criticism of Islam. This was thought proved in the case of two harmless Christian books which had been freely circulated for several years. They were banned and the colporteur was sentenced to a year's imprisonment. There is talk again of a Government measure to restrict Christian work among Moslem youth. On the other hand, the Copts are reacting against Moslem propaganda among Coptic youth, which will become stronger now that the progressive party has won election to the Coptic Community Council. This may in some measure arrest the drift of Copts to Islam. *Minbar-al-Sharq*, in an article on 'Islam and Evangelism,' states that the evangelistic appeal having failed, the present missionary method is to instil *doubt* in the Moslem mind. This war of doubt, it says, is a war which has no end and leaves young people suspended, knowing nothing surely.

The drug menace, always threatening, has taken the new form of opium injections. More than 45,000 syringes for this purpose were sold in 1938.

There is a marriage crisis in Egypt which an article in *Al Balagh* says is serious and threatens the basis of the nation which rests upon the family. Modern materialism is destroying morals and marriage is shunned. Contributory causes are the ruinous expenditure on marriages and accompanying festivities, the expensive requirements of emancipated Moslem girls and the excessive freedom now permitted them by their parents. Government intervention is urged. *Kowkab-al Sharq* discusses in an article the decline of marital control and questions whether the Koranic sanction of discreet chastisement to secure wifely obedience is destined to disappear. It cites, however, a test case, decided on appeal from the Sharia Court of Suez, which upheld this right of a Moslem husband.

PALESTINE.

The British Government is constructing an important trans-desert road from Haifa through Trans-Jordan and on to Baghdad, a distance of six hundred miles. Subsidiary feeder roads will join it from Damascus, Cairo, Jerusalem and Amman. This commercial route has an obvious missionary importance and will facilitate the advance of pioneer missionaries.

Al-Jamiah-al-Islamiyah publishes an article entitled: 'Using Religion in the Service of Imperialism.' Europe, it says, is Christian in name, but pagan in fact and belief, and, by its imperialism, has antagonized Christians and Moslems who formerly dwelt together as brothers. Christianity and Islam have the sources of true religion though serving God in mosque and church. Our faith is: 'God is our Lord, the East our Home, Islam and Christianity pure springs of truth, our religions.' It urges a study of the reasons for the failure of the League of Nations and the implementation of its purposes by the Arab Eastern League as these may be applicable to the Near East.

'We go on with our work,' declared Dr. Chaim Weizmann in a recent speech at Kingsway Hall. The *Jewish Chronicle* repeats: 'We go on with our work. We buy more land, five pounds redeems one dunam (four-and-a-quarter dunams equal one acre).'

SYRIA.

The United Missionary Council of Syria and Palestine at its recent twentieth anniversary meeting resolved to develop evangelism in the Near East and to work for a true religious freedom for converts to the Christian faith.

The Syrian Government has published decrees which will assure increased local autonomy to the territories of the Alawiya, the Jebel Druze and the Jezirah. *Lisan ul Hal* (Beirut) denounces in an article divisive sectarianism which has been the bane of Syria for centuries. Government devolution is being vitiated by certain local movements to divide the municipalities on sectarian lines. *As safa* (Beirut) says: 'We are a people whose strength

is weakened by religious divisions. Every people divided against itself falls. Our blood has been sucked by counterfeit leaders who work for divisive sectarianism.' On 23rd July, the former Sanjak of Alexandretta (renamed the Republic of the Hatay) was formally handed over to Turkey and will, in future be known as 'Vilayet No. 65.' Missionary work will, it is expected, come under the régime at present in force in Turkey.

The newspaper, *Beirut*, has an article entitled: 'The Tea Party,' which throws light on modern social developments. Whisky and cocktails are served by some Syrian girls of good families instead of the homely tea: 'Freedom for women! If it results in whisky parties at which my daughter reels like a drunkard,' says the writer, 'let me take hold of myself and think a little about the meaning of freedom. The new social awakening requires that the wise mother will protect her daughter from licence.'

TURKEY.

There is a marriage crisis also in Turkey for reasons similar to those obtaining in Egypt, which is dealt with in an article in *Jumhuriyet*. The Government has now decreed the abolition of the old Moslem custom of expensive marriages and accompanying festivities.

An encouraging sign of change in Turkey is shown in an article by Samih Nafiz Tansu in *Yeni Gun*, No. 4, on: 'Jesus and the Idea of Jesus.' A reproduction of El Greco's 'Resurrection,' illustrated the article. Christ's supreme character, His incomparable teaching, His betrayal and crucifixion are faithfully recorded. The new magazine *Turkluk* has an interesting article on early Turkish flags. It suggests that before the Seljuk Turks entered Asia Minor, Turkish tribes had already entered Anatolia and were converted to Christianity. Conservative Moslem opinion, of course, does not admit this.

The Government monopoly which is pushing the sale of *raki*, a liquor of high alcoholic content, and the Green Crescent Temperance Society are in conflict. *Tan* has a scathing article against its continued use and says: 'Raki never forgives its addicts, the humble individual or the genius, ninety-five per cent. of *raki* drinkers become drunkards.'

FAR EAST.

ASSAM.

A Danish missionary, working in the district of Goalpara among the Boro people, of Mongolian origin, has translated the New Testament into Boroni. This was printed in Calcutta in 1938 by the British and Foreign Bible Society. A Boroni grammar, reading-book, hymn-book and Scripture lesson service book have also been published. A translation of the Old Testament is now being prepared. The Danish Mission is evangelizing some 125,000 of the Boro people, of whom 2,800 have been baptized.

BURMA.

A certain tension prevails, due to the possibility of Burma being involved in a world war. The Buddhist press reflects this

mood in its antipathetic attitude to Christians generally and, in particular, to foreigners and missionaries and their work. Every care is being taken to avoid giving occasion to ill-wishers.

The Kachin (Jinghpaw) Baptist Convention recently brought together about four thousand Christians and was a great success.

CHINA.

The Japanese have met in China something which is new and baffling, something which eludes military conquest. Christianity has influenced the nation in unsuspected measure. Miss P. S. Tseng, speaking recently in Glasgow, said that Christian influence in China is ten times stronger and more pervading than it was before Japan invaded China. Intangible, this influence cannot be seized, pervading it cannot be confined, but embodied in missionary personalities it can be attacked, and the instruments of missionary work, whereby that influence went forth, may be destroyed. And this is being done.

There is an absence of vindictiveness on the part of suffering Chinese against the Japanese, which would be strange if it were not Christian. Where groups of Christian Chinese can meet for worship there is commonly heard prayer offered to God that He would forgive their enemies and comfort the bereaved mothers and wives of the Japanese dead. Yet, unprintable reports reach us of the savage degradation of Chinese women and young girls by Japanese soldiers in some occupied areas.

Dr. Scott, Bishop of Shantung, recently recounted an instructive adventure. On one occasion visiting a Chinese village he met a band of armed guerillas who covered him with their rifles. He took off his hat and shouted: 'Church!' 'What Church?' demanded the leader, who advanced and, pulling a Bible out of his pocket, asked: 'This Church?' 'Yes,' said the Bishop. Whereupon the soldier took the cartridges out of his gun, the band gathered around, in a friendly way, and asked him to pray for China, which he assured them he did every day.

The Times of 3rd August, announced that the Anti-British Committee at Taian, in Shantung, had ordered Bishop Scott and three other Anglican missionaries to leave at once.

INDIA.

A special week of evangelism has been held from 27th August to 3rd September, in Travancore and Cochin, in which the Mar Thoma Syrian Church, the Church of India, Burma and Ceylon (Anglican), and the Salvation Army co-operated. Pastoral letters were issued by the heads of the three religious bodies, and plans were made for special literature to be published during the week.

The Travancore Government formerly granted to pupils of the Depressed Classes in the State schools of whatever religious persuasion, concessions in the matter of fees which amounted to free education. This favour has now been withdrawn from those pupils who are Christians. The Hindu Mission is active in persuading pupils and their families again to profess Hinduism and thus to qualify for Government educational assistance.

Political issues are being discussed in every village. Each party seeks its particular interest. The Moslem League promotes Moslem interests, the Hindu Mahasabha, Hindu interests, the Kisan Sabha, the peasants' interests, the Zemindars are watchful of their rights. The ' Harijans ' are hoping for amelioration within the Congress fold, but their leaders know that ' Caste ' is keeping them down and that caste Hindus will continue to dominate them selfishly, in spite of the efforts of Mr. Gandhi and his friends.

The Church in India faces the problem of a population ninety-two per cent. of whom are unable to read or write. Of the outcaste community it is stated that only about two per cent. are literate, compared with twenty-two per cent. for the whole Indian Christian community. The majority of Christians are won from the outcaste community. Illiteracy is, therefore, a stumbling block to progress in building up an indigenous Church. Education in India has been top-heavy. The present Congress Governments hope to give an impetus to village education; the share of the outcaste community, however, in this benefit, does not appear to be very promising.

JAPAN.

Over fifty years ago, in the month of February, 1888, a memorable meeting of missionaries and Japanese Christians was held in Tokyo to celebrate the translation and publication of the whole Bible in the Japanese language. Since that time until the present day more than 28,500,000 copies of the Scriptures have been distributed in Japan.

Nippon Seisho Kyokwai is the newly organized Bible Society of Japan. In its name the three Societies, the British and Foreign Bible Society, the American Bible Society, and the National Bible Society of Scotland, are co-operating in publishing the Scriptures. The three Societies have united their forces, and are seeking to create a deeper interest and to secure a larger financial support from the Church in Japan. A Board of Directors has been formed, of whom sixteen are leading Japanese pastors and laymen and eight are American and British missionaries. A quarterly magazine, *Nippon to Seisho (Japan and the Bible)* seeks to develop the co-operation of Japanese, British and American Christians in circulating the Scriptures.

NETHERLANDS INDIES.

About 70,000,000 native peoples occupy the 735,267 square miles of the islands of the Netherlands Indies. Thirty-seven Protestant societies and Churches and eleven Roman Catholic Orders are at work. Four leading personalities in the missionary world of Holland have jointly written the most authoritative and deeply interesting missionary volume on this fascinating island world. This was published by the World Dominion Press.¹

¹*The Netherlands Indies* by Joh. Rauws, H. Kraemer, F.S.F. Van Hasselt and N.A.C. Slote Maker de Bruine. Published by World Dominion Press. Price 3/10 & 5/6 post paid.

The report of the Christian and Missionary Alliance for 1938 shows encouraging progress. It states that during the year, on the island of Lombok seventy converts were gained ; on Billiton, forty ; on Southern Sumatra, five hundred. Among the Dyaks of West Borneo there is now a Church of three thousand Dyak converts ; in the Boelongan District there are three thousand, and in the Sesajap River District there are one thousand. An attempt in 1938 to penetrate the interior of Papua had to be given up owing to physical obstacles. A new expedition was successfully carried out in Dutch New Guinea. (See page 392.)

AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA.

ETHIOPIA.

Dr. John A. Cremer, surgeon and superintendent of the United Presbyterian Church hospital at Addis Ababa, succeeded last Easter in forming a Church of Christian Ethiopians. The Italian authorities have now informed him that they need his hospital for native soldiers—another mortal blow to evangelical work in Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIAN BORDERLANDS.

The missionaries of the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society were deported from Ethiopia on Good Friday, 1937. Five of them are still working among Ethiopians who are refugees in Djibouti (French Somaliland) in British Somaliland, in Isiolo (Kenya) and at Gedaref in the Sudan. Converts are being won at all these centres.

TANGANYIKA.

Germany's treatment of the Jews and Czechs has deeply impressed the native people of Tanganyika. Christianity has so definitely permeated them that they would be affronted by being again placed under Nazi rule. The whole population of six million ardently desire more Christian instruction, and ask for an inclusive plan of primary education to include one million children at present outside the schools. Two Ruanda missionaries, the Rev. E. L. Barham and Dr. Church, crossed the border into Tanganyika, and, at Bugufi and Katoke, recently conducted missions with results which are described as 'miracles of transformation and profound spiritual blessing.'

NORTH AFRICA.

The French National Eucharistic Congress was recently held in Algiers. The Papal Legate to the Congress, H. Em. John Cardinal Verdier, referred touchingly to the great North African missionary, Cardinal Lavignerie.

Lavignerie embodied apostolic missionary fervour combined with great executive capacity. His dream of winning the Moslems of North Africa, and then of planting a line of stations across the

Sahara to the Sudan, faded as he grasped the impossible nature of his task. Islam, in its very genesis, was a protest against misbeliefs held by the Roman Catholic Church, and that protest abides. The missionary order of the White Fathers, founded by Lavigerie, ultimately laboured chiefly in Uganda.

At a recent North Africa Mission conference held at Tizi-Ouzou, Algeria, one-hundred-and-twenty Christians—Arabs, Kabyles and other nationalities—gathered for spiritual fellowship. The conference was organized by the native Christians themselves. After more than half-a-century of patient labour the missionaries are being encouraged by results in this hard Moslem field.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Executive of the South African Council met in Bloemfontein on 17th May. It was made clear to the Executive that there is now no hope of official co-operation by the Dutch Reformed Churches in the World Sunday School Convention to be held at Durban in 1940. The stated reason is that there will be no 'colour bar' in the Convention. Individual members of these Churches may attend in a personal capacity.

The Native Churches in South Africa would have a better standing if they would do more to heal the schism of the African Separatist bodies which number about five hundred. The various reasons for their disaffection cannot be discussed here, but certain remedies are obviously indicated: a deepening of the spiritual life of native Christians; a genuine endeavour to remove causes of conflict; a sustained endeavour to end illiteracy and a raising of the standard of training of African pastors. Finally, a programme of devolution giving more responsibility to African leaders in the recognized Churches, is called for, together with the steady application of indigenous principles.

The Rev. Alexander McLeish, Survey Editor of the World Dominion Movement, recently stressed the importance of giving instruction in indigenous expansion in Sunday schools on the mission fields. This is especially true of Africa, which, numerically, is becoming outstandingly Christian. Sunday School scholars increased fifty per cent., he says, during the quadrennial ending in 1936, so that there are now more than 1,500,000 scholars and 81,522 teachers in Africa.

MADAGASCAR.

The Report of the Fifth Inter-Missionary Conference in Madagascar has just been issued. Progress is everywhere reported. Protestants now number 620,000, Roman Catholics 310,000. Three-quarters of the population, 2,800,000, are still, however, non-Christians.

The French Mission was asked to consider the possibility of evangelizing the people of the Comoro Islands.

WEST AFRICA.
BELGIAN CONGO.

The official report of the administration of the Belgian Congo for 1937, gives the Native population as 10,217,408, (not including Ruanda Urundi) being an increase of 170,677 over the previous year. The birth-rate and mortality returns indicate that increased efforts must be made by the Government to combat sickness and a high death-rate.

Missions are still classified as national (Roman Catholic) or foreign (Protestant), which is not true to the facts and tends to carry nationalism into the field of religion. The Government subsidy to Roman Catholic Missions in the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi for 1938 amounted to the sum of 34,548,750 francs. During the period 1931-1937, Roman Catholic missionaries increased from 1,702 to 2,730; Protestant missionaries from 699 to 814; Roman Catholic mission stations from 204 to 300; Protestant mission stations from 161 to 191. Women supervise 187 of the Roman Catholic mission stations, and, during 1937, Roman Catholic female orders opened a number of new stations.

LIBERIA.

The ninety-second anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of Liberia was celebrated at Monrovia in July. The Three Year Plan for the rehabilitation of the country, commencing in May, 1936, has been worked out by President Barclay with conspicuous success. An able Government and a loyal people have seconded his efforts, so that Liberia to-day, both in its internal situation and external relations, is a striking contrast to the Liberia of 1936. Reform and development is everywhere apparent. Finance, industry, trade, transport, roads, agriculture, medical service, health and sanitation, education, all have been put on a sound and progressive basis. Warm acknowledgement is made of the valuable assistance rendered to the Government by foreign specialists.

The Protestant Churches have in view a more complete occupation of the country and have recently opened new churches and schools. The Roman Catholics, by greatly increasing their workers, and by liberal financial aid, are making a notable advance. Ten Protestant missionary societies are at work, nine of them from North America. This is a propitious moment to give an impetus to evangelical effort in Liberia.

AMERICA.

LATIN AMERICA AND U.S.A.

The South American Republics are seriously occupied with the general question of immigration. Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia are strictly controlling immigration and in certain cases are forbidding it. Paupers, persons not readily assimilable to the population, and undesirable characters are not wanted.

ARGENTINA.

The Confederation of Evangelical Churches of the River Plate

(Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) was recently established in Buenos Aires. The Confederation will seek to stimulate evangelical spiritual unity and to give it expression. It will represent the Churches before the Government and public opinion, and make contact with other national and international organizations of a similar character.

The Government now requires, civil associations to register, stating their purposes and furnishing details of their personnel. Such associations may not depend upon a foreign Government, nor receive foreign subventions. Some exceptions are made for associations engaged in *bona fide* cultural, artistic or philanthropic work. The measure curtails Nazi or other subversive activities.

The population of Argentina at the end of 1938 was 12,958,217, and showed an increase of 196,708 upon the previous year. The balance of immigration over emigration was 40,327. The daily reading of the Scriptures is being advocated by the Catholic Society of St. Paul in Florida, Buenos Aires. In agreement with the Archbishop of La Plata a league has been formed to popularize the movement.

BRAZIL.

After the abortive integralist rising of 1938, decrees were issued touching the use of foreign languages in churches and schools. They particularly applied to the German minority in South Brazil which, after a century of immigration and natural increase, now numbers nearly one million, many of whom have not troubled to learn Portuguese. The Government now requires that the national tongue shall be taught in all German and other foreign schools in the primary classes. Nationalist feeling is reported to find expression in the closing of some church schools in South Brazil, and in a certain antipathy to foreign missionaries. Evangelical work, however, is progressing, and the Evangelical Confederation of Brazil, though compelled to curtail its budget, continues to function well.

BOLIVIA.

The Roman Catholic Church is making special efforts to regain its former prestige in Bolivia. The recent Eucharistic Congress was an example, also the intensive staffing of certain towns by priests and nuns. The evangelical missions everywhere report progress; the Canadian Baptist, the Brethren, the Bolivian Indian and other missions are encouraged by numerous baptisms. The Evangelical Union of South America is planning to extend its successful work among the Indians at Aripalca by occupying the towns of Camargo and San Lucas. In September the missionaries hope to begin the revision of the Quechua New Testament.

ECUADOR.

The Radio Mission in Quito has not only interested a number of prominent citizens in that city in the Gospel, but has stimulated the circulation of evangelical literature in the different republics. Its director recently visited Colombia and spoke from radio stations in various towns.

HAITI.

Recent reports from the Methodist Missionary Society, the Haitian Gospel Mission and the Brethren, tell of increase in membership of the Churches and numbers of baptisms. There is a notable diminution of the influence of the pagan African cults of Obeah, Voodoo and similar rites, which have survived in the bush hinterlands.

MEXICO.

The American Bible Society has just celebrated its sixtieth anniversary in Mexico. During that period 2,478,940 volumes of Scripture have been circulated, of which 72,272 were circulated during 1938.

PERU.

The Evangelical Alliance of Peru, in agreement with the different denominations, urged Peruvian Protestants to register themselves in the census which was taken in August, with the simple word; 'Protestant.' Thus their solidarity will be the more clearly seen, and their rights receive greater consideration.

SALVADOR.

The new Constitution of El Salvador was approved by the Constituent Assembly of 1939. Liberty of worship is guaranteed, but ministers are forbidden to use their spiritual authority for political ends. Peaceful assembly and association for lawful ends are permitted, but the establishment of conventual orders and monastic institutions is forbidden. Freedom of thought and expression may not include anti-social publications. In schools supported wholly or in part by State funds, no religious instruction may be given.

URUGUAY.

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay were represented at the River Plate Evangelical Congress of young people which met in Montevideo in April. The central committee of the Latin American Congress on that occasion decided that the Latin American Congress of young people would meet at Lima (Peru) in February 1940.

VENEZUELA.

An Indian of Apure heard of the Bible for the first time and secured a copy in 1924. As a result of his activities there was a movement toward the Gospel in the interior of Venezuela. It developed with some missionary assistance, but generally by the energies of the Native people, until to-day there are some 2,000 people who worship in nine churches they have built. No foreign funds have been used in any part of the work.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

In 1936 there were 221 denominational bodies in the United

States, which was an increase of five in ten years. Churches increased from 232,154 to 245,422, and membership from 54,500,000 to 63,500,000, which shows an increase of about 9,000,000 in ten years.

The three Negro Methodist denominations—African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Coloured Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Church—representing over one million families, will definitely pronounce on unification in the autumn of 1940.

PRAISE AND PRAYER AROUND THE WORLD

World Dominion articles, Information Service, and the Praise and Prayer notes, are alike intended to give information which may suggest topics for intercession.

EUROPE.

One of the most expressive uses of Hebrew in the Old Testament occurs in Psalm xxvii, 13: 'I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.' Prayer can move the arm that moves the world.

'Christian' Europe is preparing for mutual slaughter and messages come to us from Moslem, Buddhist and heathen lands offering instruction in higher thinking!

Let us sustain our people by prayer: that GREAT BRITAIN may do and suffer the will of God valiantly. That our spiritual unity may be increased for our national strengthening, and that national weaknesses and besetting sins may be purged away in repentant turning unto God.

In GERMANY, religious Protestants and Roman Catholics alike are reading the Scriptures and praying as never before, while pagan ideology based on race, blood and soil spreads over the nation. Since 1938 the Russian Godless Press has recognized the developing identity of view concerning Christianity of Germany and Russia. Let us be instant and constant in prayer that Germany may be mercifully enlightened and restrained. Let us praise God for His succouring bounty ministered through His people to the suffering refugees from Germany and Austria.

In FRANCE there is a widespread seeking for the strength and comfort of religion. Both Roman Catholics and Protestants are building a number of new churches, and there is a notable demand for religious literature. Let us strengthen the soul of France by our fellowship in prayer.

Let us ask for RUSSIA that its people may find true religion as they meet Christ in His Word. Let us ask that sustaining grace may be granted to true Christians, and divine protection for those who are risking their lives to prevent the Godless Organizations capturing the 40,000,000 children in the schools.

ASIA.

CHINA grew strong through the intellectual renaissance and national solidarity which gradually became operative after the revolution of 1911. To-day, China is incomparably stronger by reason of the spiritual awakening which has resulted from the suffering inflicted by the Japanese invasion. Let us bear up in prayer the Christian leaders in Government and Army, the Chinese Church, the millions of refugees, and the work of the Christian missionaries.

NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

Let us praise God that the Moslem peoples of the NEAR and MIDDLE EAST are standing together for peace. Islam in these lands forbids alcoholic liquors, but their increasing use has become a menace in TURKEY, EGYPT, SYRIA and PALESTINE. Egypt is trying to grapple also with a dangerous increase of drug addiction. The peoples of these lands are in a state of transition from the Middle Ages to modern times and need our prayers.

Let us pray, too, that they may recognize the pure, spiritual message of Christianity, and cease to identify it with Western imperialism or with aspects of civilization which are pernicious. Let us pray that as a result of this, Christian missionaries may be granted a wider freedom for their work throughout the lands of the Near and Middle East.

AFRICA.

Polygamy is a snare in which many African Christians are taken, weakening the Church, and preventing others from entering into it. The question is sometimes raised by these as to whether monogamy is essential to Christianity, but the missionaries are standing for the New Testament teaching of Christian marriage. Requests for prayer to deal with this difficulty come from the BELGIAN CONGO, EQUATORIAL AFRICA, the SUDAN and EAST AFRICA.

UGANDA had a remarkable revival in 1936-37, but paucity of leaders, both European and African, made adequate follow-up work impossible. Reactions of discord and backsliding have resulted. Let us uphold the Church in Uganda by our prayers.

The Sudan United Mission, by means of a hospital, plans to open the Moslem Province of Bornu to the Gospel. Let us pray that the Christian Church may endorse this brave advance in a hard field.

LATIN AMERICA.

The future of evangelical Christianity in Latin America will be shaped in large measure by the youth of the rising generation. Unusually important, therefore, is the first Latin American Congress of Young People which will be convened in February 1940, in the city of Lima (Peru). Dr. John A. Mackay of the United States of America and Dr. Sante Uberto Barbieri of Brazil are expected to lead the devotions. Let us assure the success of the Congress by our prayers.