



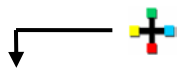
Editor's Notes

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With this number of the Review we propose to resume an earlier custom and to include in each issue some news of the current concerns of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. We would take this opportunity to draw the attention of readers to the fact that the *Ecumenical Review*, the organ of the World Council of Churches as a whole, will carry reports and official documents of the Division of World Mission and Evangelism, as of other divisions. These notes will contain information about matters which are engaging the attention of the staff of the DWME.

The most important event of the year 1962 for the work of this division was the publication of two books which represent the fruit of the study of the Word of God and the Church's missionary obedience – a study originally projected as part of the follow-up to the Willingen Conference of 1952. They are *The Missionary Nature of the Church*, by Johannes Blauw, and *Upon the Earth*, by D. T. Niles. Both books have also been published in German, and a French translation of Dr Niles' book is expected to appear during the year. Notices of both are included in this issue of the Review (pp. 211-15), and it is hoped to secure further articles on them.

The notable series of IMC surveys on the training of the ministry has recently been augmented by surveys in Latin America and the Middle East. The report of the latter, by the Rev. Douglas Webster, has now been published, and is reviewed on p. 236. An Arabic version of this report has also been issued by the Near East Christian Council. The report by Dr Wilfred Scopes of the Latin American survey has been published and is available from the offices of the division. Dr Scopes is visiting British Guiana, Trinidad, San Jose, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Mexico to help the seminaries in following up the report.

Among the institutes for theological teachers in Africa planned for the coming months there are three of approximately one month's duration each, with the general title 'Christian Theology and the Contemporary Religious Scene in Africa'. They are to be held in



Salisbury, Ibadan, and either Leopoldville or Yaounde, in July and August, 1963. Those who have accepted responsibility for leadership include Professors B. Idowu, H. P. Van Dusen, E. G. Parrinder, A. D. Galloway and Georges Cassalis. The Theological Education Fund has continuing plans also for refresher courses for ministers of independent churches in South Africa and the Rhodesias.

At the time of going to press, preparations are being completed for a two months' seminar on the Christian Home and Family Life, to be held under the auspices of the All Africa Church Conference at Mindolo, Northern Rhodesia. Christian Councils from all parts of Africa are participating by sending persons experienced in this field who together will be able to plan the kind of programmes and the appropriate literature and other tools by which the churches in Africa can help their people to find and to do God's will in the matter of family life. A number of specialists are helping to lead the seminar, and the general arrangement of the study programme is in the hands of the Rev. G. R. Dunstan, Secretary of the Church of England Council for Social Work.

The Conference on Christian Literature held at Bethel, Bielefeld, in October 1962, proposed the creation of an international fund for Christian Literature, analogous to the Theological Education Fund. The divisional committee has agreed that this important proposal must be thoroughly explored, and has appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Dr Johannes Blauw to investigate it, and to bring proposals to the meeting of the Commission in Mexico. The Executive Committee of the Committee on Literature and Literacy of the Division of Foreign Missions (NCCCUSA) has generously released Dr Floyd Shacklock of its staff in order that he may work full time as secretary of this exploratory committee.

Following the integration of the IMC and the WCC at New Delhi, a number of missionary councils in Europe have been reconsidering their relations with the churches in their countries. A variety of patterns of relationships is being suggested. In view of the importance of the issues, and of the need for careful consideration of all the factors involved, the DWME has requested the German Missionstag to make available the services of Dr Th. Muller-Kruger, in order that he may conduct a survey of the various proposals. This request has been granted. At the time of going to press the survey is beginning, and it is hoped that the results will be available shortly.



A good deal of staff time in recent months has been given to the affairs of 'Radio Voice of the Gospel', the powerful short-wave transmitter which began broadcasting early in 1963. By an agreement originally made between the Lutheran World Federation and the Near East Christian Council at a time when it was not known to which of these bodies the Imperial Ethiopian Government would grant the franchise, the station is owned and operated by the LWF but the Near East Christian Council has certain important rights, including the right to an amount of broadcasting time equal to that employed by the LWF. As the result of discussions held in Paris in August 1962, a co-ordinating committee has been set up, consisting of representatives of the Near East Christian Council, the East Asia Christian Conference, the All Africa Church Conference and the DWME. The privileges and responsibilities of the NECC in relation to the station have been transferred to this committee, whose task it will be to ensure that the very large funds required are secured, and that the Christian councils in these three regions are helped to produce programme material of a quality and quantity appropriate to the opportunity. The generosity of the agencies related to RAVEMCO has ensured that the co-ordinating committee will be furnished with sufficient funds to start its work. It is now the task of all concerned to see that the Christian message is effectively communicated through this new instrument. There is much evidence to show that short-wave radio is becoming an increasingly important factor in the struggle of ideas in this shrinking planet.

One of the consequences of integration has been that the Orthodox churches are involved in the work which was formerly the responsibility of the IMC. Readers will have noted the article in the January number on the missionary movement in the Greek Church, and the article by Fr Spiller of Moscow on p. 195 of the present issue. The Editor and the Rev. R. K. Orchard will be spending a few days in Athens early in 1963 to meet with leaders of both the Orthodox and the evangelical churches, and especially to have discussions with the leaders of the young and vigorous Orthodox missionary movement.

Preparations are proceeding for the meeting of the Commission in Mexico City from 8th to 20th December, 1963. The work of the Commission will be based upon biblical study centring on ten words which together open up the main lines of the biblical message of salvation for the world. Each day's work will be based on one of these words. The

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leaders of the bible study will be Professor H. Berkhof, of the University of Leiden, and the Rev. Philip Potter, of the London staff of the Methodist Missionary Society. The Commission will divide into four sections for the study of the following subjects: 1. The Witness of Christians to Men of other Faiths; 2. The Witness of Christians to Men in the Secular World; 3. The Witness of the Christian Congregation to its Neighbourhood; and 4. The Witness of the Church across National and Confessional Frontiers. The Christian councils affiliated to the Commission are in the process of appointing their delegates to the meeting, and other councils will be invited to send observers. In addition to staff and advisers there will also be a youth delegation. A preparatory booklet containing material for bible study and prayer in the churches is being prepared and will be issued in July or August, in English, French, German and Spanish.