

WORLD DOMINION

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

Editor: THOMAS COCHRANE.

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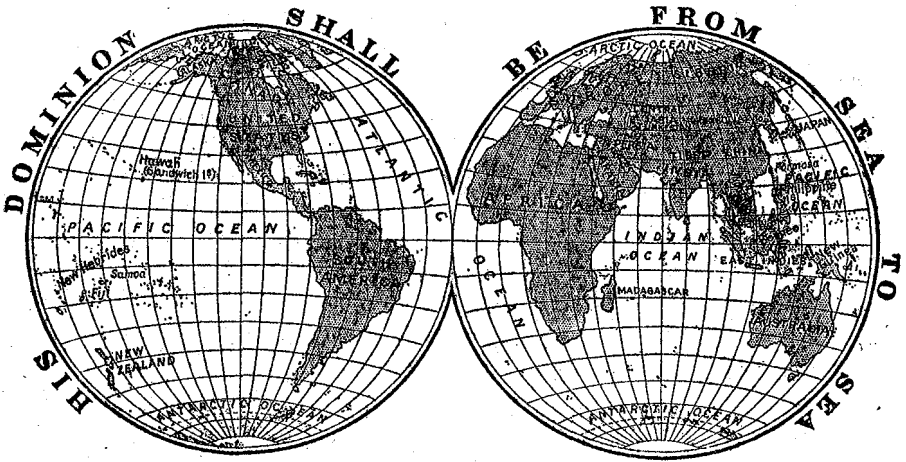
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World Dominion



Thinking to Scale in the Missionary Enterprise

Dr. Cochrane had to leave for America before the material for **WORLD DOMINION** was quite complete. We publish, therefore, in place of an Editorial, the gist of a lecture which he delivered at the Mildmay School of Sacred Instruction on the eve of his departure.

THE definition of a 'principle' given in the Oxford Dictionary is 'A general law as a guide to action,' and in our missionary thinking it is essential that we should recognize that there are certain laws which are fundamental. If we were asked to name all-inclusive principles which should govern the whole missionary enterprise we should reduce them to three:—

- (I) READINESS TO GO AWAY
- (II) THINKING TO SCALE
- (III) PLANTING THE CHURCH

I. *Going Away*.—The missionary should remember that he is only a temporary factor. He goes to evangelize, to plant a Church and then to pass on. This does not mean superficial work, his task is an exceedingly difficult one and requires solid work, it may be slow, but, as far as the missionary is concerned, it is of a temporary character.

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His temptation will be to engage in all kinds of activities, but it must be borne in mind that the *permanent factor is the Indigenous Church*, self-governing, self-propagating and self-supporting. Christian activities should not centre round the missionary, but should be the outcome of the life of the indigenous Church.

II. *Thinking to Scale*.—In the missionary enterprise we must ever remember that the task is the *evangelization of the whole world*. If we really thought in world terms it would mean that forces and resources would be intelligently distributed on a plan suggested by continuous world survey. It would mean that we should not spend time and money on activities which would be much more effective if done by the indigenous Christians. We should not find, as we do at present, that undue attention is given to some fields and peoples while others are still unevangelized.

One of the founders of the World Dominion Movement was Mr. S. J. W. Clark, who, starting as a poor boy, became in a remarkably short space of time a highly successful business man. At a comparatively early age, he gave up business and tramped the mission fields of the world in order to study missionary methods and policies, and finally gave his wealth for the extension of the cause of Christ and the propagation of the Gospel. He maintained that missionaries should not give 'cake and jam to some people while others had not even bread,' that, metaphorically, a missionary 'should never unpack his bag,' in other words, that he should evangelize, plant the Church and pass on. Only thus, he considered, could the whole world be evangelized.

III. *Planting the Church*.—The Church is a divine institution. It is the permanent factor in the education of its members and the evangelization of the country. Unfortunately, some missionary societies, particularly unattached missions, do not give sufficient attention to planting a Christian Church.

Our home surroundings and practices are not always a good preparation for planting a Church in the mission field. We are apt to think too much in terms of buildings

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and a paid ministry, and to forget that a Church is a group of believers, with the Scriptures and Sacraments, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit—with perhaps no roof over it but the sky—self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating from its very inception. This is the New Testament ideal of a Christian Church. The true criterion of successful missionary work is not the number of stations or out-stations, but the number of Christian Churches.* And let us always bear in mind that we are on the mission field to advise, not to rule or govern. Missionaries are sometimes apt to develop a superiority complex in this respect, and this must be guarded against.

Methods, too, have to be considered. Methods are avenues of approach by which we implement principles. For instance, the medical approach is the best method in many fields. We must never forget, however, that medical work—or any other work—is merely a method of securing the right kind of contacts. It is a means to an end, not the end in itself. Our chief job as missionaries is that of soul-winning.

Missionaries are apt to get a 'station complex.' They erect a station, and then as more money comes in, they plant out-stations and engage paid evangelists, all dependent on the first station and the missionary, and the progress is dependent on the money sent in by missionary constituencies. On the whole this has proved a dangerous principle. Let us remember that the missionary's main task is extensive evangelism and the planting of Churches.

These methods are applicable at home as well as abroad. For instance, it is possible to travel long distances in the new housing areas without finding a church. Instead of waiting until churches are built, Christians might, in the meantime, begin by inviting neighbours into their own homes for meetings.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to deviate from ideal methods, just as a yacht has to tack in a head wind. We must, however, get back on our course again.

* See *The Establishment of the Church in the Mission Field*, by Roland Allen, World Dominion Press, Price 6d. (post paid 7d.).