

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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for Christianity and Malagasy hearts for the coming of Christ. And having made this study, we know better the most fruitful methods of approach in presenting the Gospel to the people of Africa's great island.

It has been a privilege to write this short article on a subject not often discussed, a duty gladly discharged to friends of mission-work in Europe, and especially in England. The writer hopes it will have led the reader to understand the Malagasy better, to sympathize with them more readily and even to love them in a more Christ-like way.

We are all glad to bring our gifts to Christ's feet, and in reply to this humble offering, He seems to say: 'I am come to Madagascar not to destroy but to fulfil.'

Use of Proverbs

'Madagascar is probably the richest in proverbs of any country in the world; missionaries have collected 4,000 and have had them printed in book-form to preserve them. Realizing how pregnant in possibilities the free use of native proverbs may be (and was) I familiarized myself with hundreds. As an evidence that God has not left Himself without a witness in any country, there are dozens of Malagasy proverbs about the Divine Being. . . and a fundamental belief among the Malagasy in the existence of God, a valuable starting point for the pioneering missionary, for he can take that for granted without reservation. There are also certain attributes of the Almighty known to them, every one of which can be seized to hammer home some pertinent truth. One proverb says, "God does not love that which is evil." Another says, "Do not think you can go into a deep dark valley and do evil, for God can see right over the hill and discern what you are doing in secret."

'I analyze these proverbs and drive home what they teach about God, one by one. I am on familiar ground to them, which I should not be were I flinging texts of Scripture at them. And yet, through them I am teaching what the Scriptures teach.

'If, after more than twenty-six years in a heathen land . . . I may presume to offer a word of counsel to those beginning their work, it would be this: "Spend a year, or two or three, studying minutely the native, his mind, his beliefs, his customs, his mode of living, his language and legends and literature, until your own mind is saturated with them . . . On his own tragically low level you will always find something you can seize by which to lead him to higher ground.'"

W. KENDALL GALE, *Church Planting in Madagascar.*