

# 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.*

## FAR EAST

### JAPAN AND CHINA.

'It is the duty of all Japanese nationals to conform to the dictates of Kodo, to respect justice and to discharge their respective duties so that they may contribute to the progress of the State, and this must be the special concern of all Government officials.'

This recent declaration on 'correct behaviour' by the Japanese Premier has wide implications; not only are Government employees enjoined to be models for the nation, but throughout the kingdom all alike are exhorted to foster a spirit of harmonious co-operation and to enhance the public trust. The Premier, further urged that, in order to give full effect to success on the battlefield and secure permanent peace and security for East Asia, the entire national resources must be concentrated to the establishment of 'a new order.' Interpreting this new order in Asia the Premier declares it means only one thing: Japanese domination and virtual control of China. The Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek replies that the Sino-Japanese war will continue with unabated energy: it is working the birth of a nation of free people who will outlive Japanese materialism.

The Japanese Premier, when asked to interpret the Kodo principle, finally stated it to mean that all must be devoted to the service of the throne. There is a danger, he declared, in over independence and the State must always be supreme. It will be noted that a similar doctrine, now held in Central Europe, is working destructive results to weaker nations.

Referring more explicitly to China, he further stated that the Government was determined to go forward at all costs for the achievement of its final purpose, namely, to lay the foundations of East Asian prosperity and progress, in their co-operative, political, economic and cultural aspects, in Asia, Manchukuo and China, through mutual understanding between the three countries and relations of helpfulness, amity and solidarity.

Japan apparently demands an increasingly rigid censorship of Chinese affairs; consequently news of late from most parts of the country has been scanty. There are not wanting evidences, however, of the unquenchable spirit of the Chinese people. The further Japan encroaches on Chinese territory the more united and strong becomes the resistance of her people. Their methods of guerilla warfare are described in picturesque fashion in a recent communication to us. The guerillas are said to be 'like swarming flies flying before the Japanese advance, only to filter back in the wake of a Japanese withdrawal.'

Anti-British agitation in the Japanese-controlled press becomes increasingly virulent and untruthful. Vilifying reports of missionary work and denunciation of the Christian religion are also current

in many of the cities. They are disproved, however, by the crowds who are flocking to the Christian hospitals, and by the splendid work of rescue among the hundreds of thousands of refugees driven from their homes by the bayonets and bombs of the invaders.

We learn from several sources in Central China that missionaries there are doing more than preserve life ; they are also driving in Christian stakes where a new civilization is being built up. In not a few places in West China a new life and broader outlook has resulted from the influx of Christians and Christian schools from the East. Through their suffering, intelligent Chinese are shifting their sense of values from the material to the spiritual, seeking less of security and showing a spirit of trust for the morrow. Our missionary correspondents report that where old channels are blocked, new lines of work and service are opened up. They are impressed also by the lack of resentment on the part of Chinese Christians toward the Japanese who have wronged them so deeply. The Chinese recall that the Lord Jesus Christ lived while on earth in what was 'occupied territory,' and by catching His Spirit and studying His attitude to Roman rule, they hope a way may be found of co-operation with the Japanese if this can be done without compromise, rendering unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's and unto God the things that are God's.

#### KOREA.

The Korean Church is passing through the most difficult crisis in its history. The Japanese authorities in Korea are still endeavouring to force the Christians to do obeisance at the national shrines, which is regarded as virtually an act of worship. Many have conscientiously refused compliance, and arrests and imprisonments are common.

#### MANCHUKUO.

The missions report accessions everywhere. The marked progress being made has moved the Japanese authorities to exercise a certain control over the missions, which are now required to be registered, together with their missionary workers.

#### MONGOLIA AND CENTRAL ASIA.

Inner Mongolia is wide open to missionary work, and the Japanese authorities are favourably inclined to the work of the Bible Societies. Both in Inner and Outer Mongolia the lamaistic system, for the destruction of which Gilmour prayed fifty years ago, is weakening. 'Never before,' recently wrote a missionary, 'have I found such readiness to hear the Word of God, from the Prince himself, downward to lamas and laymen.' Soviet Russia forbids missionary work in Outer Mongolia. There is now no liberty for missions in the great Central Asian plateau, one of the largest unevangelized areas in the world to-day. The Swedish mission in Chinese Turkistan has been expelled.

## INDIA.

At the Madras Conference in December last, 'mass' movements were reported in the Dutch Netherlands, and in New Guinea and other islands of the Pacific. Among the hill peoples of Assam the triumph of the Gospel is also being notably seen.

Among the sixty million of the depressed classes in India, mass movements toward Christianity have been passing over the land for several years, and still continue. Emphasis is now being laid upon the experience of personal conversion and of an instructed Church membership. These unprecedented ingatherings are not due alone to the zeal of missionaries and native Christians, but rather are the evident outcome of a divine initiative. Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam are being shaken and forced, in an endeavour of self-preservation, to interpret their faiths in modern terms to fit in with the rising tide of nationalism and the influences of Christian evangelism. The state of Europe, is, however, a stumbling block to many; for there it is seen that the results of science are being used not to build a new world, but to destroy men through war and oppression. It has been pointed out that while in Europe and the Americas there are about eight hundred million people, two-hundred-and-forty million of these claim no connection of any sort with organized Christianity.

## BURMA AND SIAM.

Difficulties have arisen with the Buddhists in both these countries. They seek to increase their hold upon the people by allying themselves with the popular nationalistic movement. In Burma determined attacks have been made upon Moslems, and Christians have been warned by the Government to be circumspect and not to stir the Buddhists to reprisals. The Christian Church is meeting the situation by a greater reliance upon its own resources and a more intensive training of evangelists. In Siam religious liberty is complete, but Buddhist influence is working actively against Christian expansion and retains a close control over the young, ninety per cent of the schools being located in Buddhist temples.

## NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

### EGYPT.

Egypt stands out commandingly as the cultural and religious leader in the Near East and is sensitive to every influence adverse to Islam. Last year, legislation was attempted to prohibit foreign religious teaching to young people under eighteen, or even sixteen, years of age, but as such a measure would contravene the Montreux Convention it is not likely to pass into law. In the same spirit Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan*, which was a text-book in the English literature course in the Fuad the First University, was attacked by the conservative religious authorities of the Azhar University on the ground of its offensive references to the Prophet and Islam, and they secured its prohibition. The unchristian state of Europe

draws the contempt of the Azhar University. In a broadcast speech on King Farouk's nineteenth birthday, its Rector, the Sheikh al-Maraghi, said,

'Certain elements lusting to satisfy their passions are attempting to deprive the weak of their birthright and crush those unable to defend themselves. Under the veneer of a sham civilization certain nations carry in their bosoms the microbes of annihilation. I urge the clergy of all religions to preach on behalf of peace and tranquility.'

Provision has been made in the current budget of Al-Azhar University of £5,000 for the spread of Islamic culture in foreign countries. Of this sum, £800 will be given to the Moslems in New York for the building of a mosque, and £200 to the Moslems of Juba in the Southern Sudan for the same purpose.

#### PALESTINE.

The White Paper (Cmd. 6019) issued on 17th May, gives the proposals of the British Government for Palestine. An interval of ten years is recommended before any final constitutional changes are made. This would give an opportunity to Arabs and Jews to prove that they can increasingly co-operate. Divided they can ruin the country; united, they can make of it the key State of the Near East. Already they are co-operating in various industries, notably in the lucrative citrus fruits export trade. This season 12,000,000 boxes were available; in four or five years, when all the groves are bearing, 20,000,000—30,000,000 boxes will need a market. Arabs and Jews are about equally benefiting; their interests lie in co-operation.

Mr. Th. A. L. Zissue, lecturing to the Anglo-Palestinian Club on 15th February, urged Jewish colonization of the Negeb, a territory of 4,500 square miles south of Beersheba, at present roamed over by four or five thousand semi-nomad Bedouin.

The project to restrict Jewish immigration has roused a protest from the Jewish Agency for Palestine. It has requested the British Government to obtain a ruling from the International Court of Justice at the Hague. It contests the legality of restriction on grounds other than the absorptive capacity of the country. The National Council of Palestine Jews was reported, on 25th April, to have floated an internal loan of £1,000,000 to finance agricultural settlement, public works and industry.

#### SYRIA.

The Italian occupation of Albania, largely a Moslem State ruled by a Moslem king, has convinced many militant nationalists of the necessity of strong protective French forces in Syria. The four chief cities of Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo, are reported to be breaking away from the nationalist *bloc* which has been dominant in the parliament at Damascus since 1936.

The 'Communities Ordinance' which conferred real religious liberty upon every Syrian, Moslem or Christian, continues to be stoutly opposed by the Moslems as being subversive of Islam.

*Al Insha* (Damascus) in its issue of 10th February, trenchantly condemns it, so does *Al Wakt* (Aleppo) in its issue of 12th February. *Al Bechir*, which voices the opinion of the Christians, warns the Moslems that their insensate opposition may throw them into the hands of the Turks, when their condition would be worse than under the French. News from the Republic of Hatay states that Turkish law, which restricts religious activity and institutional work, has been completely applied to that territory (formerly a part of Syria). The special régime, which gave to the Christians of Istanbul certain privileges over the rest of Turkey at the time of the exchange of the Greek and Turkish populations, will not be applied in the Hatay. Restrictions on Christian work appear, therefore, to be certain, where formerly a wide measure of liberty was enjoyed. An open door only partially entered appears to be practically closing.

#### TURKEY.

The early Moslem conquerors of the lands of the Near East granted a large measure of autonomy to the tribute-paying Christians. Their religious leaders ably consolidated through the centuries their social, political and ecclesiastical domination, so that in more recent years Christian minorities have become an irritating obstacle to national consolidation of the Near Eastern countries. Turkey is resolved to have no more Christian minorities, hence her severe restraint of missionary work. Evangelical missions, with a purely spiritual message, are fitting into the national mood, eschewing any statistical appraisal of their work.

Nevertheless, there is heart hunger in Turkey. Books recently published, proving that the Turkish tribes accepted Christianity as early as the second century, four centuries before Mohammed preached Islam, have had a wide circulation. A series of articles, entitled, 'In the Mountain of God,' which appeared in the daily paper *Jumhuriyet* during January, dealing with an ancient Turkish tribal search after God, attracted a wide circle of readers. Turkey, it should be remembered at this time, has for centuries treated the Jews generously. The Prime Minister recently declared, 'There is not and never will be a Jewish question in Turkey.' Her 85,000 Jews are dwelling in all security and freedom.

#### IRAQ.

The success of King Ibn Saud, in organizing over two hundred agricultural settlements of the roving bedouin, has stirred Iraq to make a similar effort to settle its nomads. A beginning has been made at Rutbah Wells, where several thousands are being instructed in agriculture, and a comprehensive system of education is being developed which includes the teaching of English as well as Arabic. To reach with the Gospel the nomad peoples of the Near East has hitherto seemed impossible: fixing them on the land will simplify the work of the pioneer missionary.

By vast irrigation schemes, by road and rail extension, Iraq

is being opened up to missions. Five of these are at work and to their medical, evangelistic and Sunday-school activities a response, regarded as encouraging, is being made by the Moslem people.

#### ARABIA.

Christianity was established in Southern Arabia and flourished from the fourth to the middle of the seventh century, when it was destroyed by Islam. Southern Arabia is again indicated as a field of missionary penetration by the way of Great Britain's Aden Protectorate, which includes within its area of 110,000 square miles the whole of the Hadhramaut, to which special attention is now directed. The most recent and authoritative information about Arabia and its evangelization by means of medical mission work is now available in Dr. Harold Storm's book, *Whither Arabia?*<sup>1</sup>

#### IRAN.

The Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf were linked by the Trans-Iranian Railway on 26th August last. Branch lines and feeder roads are planned, which will confer a freedom of movement definitely favourable to missionary advance. Iran's frontiers run with those of Russia, Afghanistan, Arabia, Iraq and Turkey, and, as the arch of the House of Islam, it is of supreme missionary importance. The Church Missionary Society and the American Presbyterian Mission have gathered a Church of more than three thousand, about one thousand of whom are converted Moslems. The Church inherits the tradition of the early 'Church of the East,' rich in missionary triumphs and memorials of its martyrs. It is a triumphant example of inter-racial Christian fellowship, barriers of racial and religious animosity, centuries old, have been swept away.

#### AFRICA.

##### ETHIOPIA.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Italy is reported to have received a message from Addis Ababa announcing the dissolution of the Communities of Falasha Jews by order of the Italian Viceroy. The publication of the Italian Jewish laws cancels the permission to establish Falasha Communities in Addis Ababa and Harrar, and relegates them to the lowest position among the native people. Nevertheless, the Falasha Jewish Christians are holding together and preaching the Word. An Ethiopian evangelist, Alaca Fetene, writes a very encouraging report to Mr. Heintze, of the Church Missions to Jews, who is debarred from returning. The Ethiopian Christians at the two towns of Gore and Sayo (lying about 200 miles west of the capital), formerly occupied by missionaries of the United Presbyterian Church of America, likewise report progress, although their missionaries were expelled. The mission premises and chapel were taken by the Roman Catholics; the native believers then erected another chapel and opened five preaching stations. From one thousand to sixteen hundred hear the Gospel

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<sup>1</sup> *Whither Arabia?* by Harold W. Storm. World Dominion Press. Stiff paper cover 3/10 post paid. Cloth boards 5/6 post paid.

preached in these six places every Sunday. The communicants number about three hundred, a similar number are being prepared for communion, and about fifty are seeking baptism. The Waldensian Church of Italy, assisted by the Government, has placed two ministers at Addis Ababa. These are caring for evangelical believers among the Ethiopians and Italians. Four weekly services are held; there is also a small school and a dispensary. The Waldensian Church will enlarge its effort as opportunity offers.

The Emperor of Abyssinia has entered his son, Prince Asrati, as a student for missionary work. The Prince is fifteen years of age and is a sincere Christian.

#### ERITREA.

The two Waldensian missionaries formerly employed by the Swedish Mission, which was suppressed by the Italians, are the only Protestant missionaries permitted to remain in the country. Their report is encouraging.

#### IVORY COAST.

The Methodist Mission recently opened a new centre at Divo, which is in an area evangelized by 'Prophet' Harris. The missionary found two hundred African local preachers who, although mostly illiterate, conducted services. During his first six months he visited eighty of their churches. The local language is Dida, and the New Testament is being translated into it.

#### FRENCH EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

The advantage of taking a course in French before proceeding to French colonies as a missionary, is emphasized by Dr. Floyd Faber, in the *Brethren Evangelist*. He recounts his experiences of a night ride for a hundred-and-forty-five miles in a deluge of rain which ruined the roads. He had been hastily summoned to conduct the funeral of a Protestant administrator because the missionary in the administrator's district did not know sufficient French.

#### NORTH AFRICA.

The innovation of broadcasting Gospel addresses from Tunis city every Saturday evening continues, and large numbers of French-speaking Roman Catholics, Jews and Moslems are listening in to them.

#### SOUTH AFRICA.

The annual report of the Executive Committee of the Chamber of Mines, published recently, notes the striking success of efforts to safeguard the health of Natives in the Rand, about which public opinion had become seriously concerned. The pneumonia death-rate which, in 1937, was 10.25 per thousand, had dropped to 3.41 in 1938, and the rate for all diseases declined from 18.18 to 8.60.

Dr. D. A. Dormer, Superintendent of the King George V Tuberculosis Hospital at Durban, dealt recently in his report with the incidence of tuberculosis which is assuming disquieting proportions. He states that the diet of Natives in their natural surroundings is superior to that which they can afford in the town



areas. This, and also the crowded housing conditions, spread tuberculosis. Further, the economic poverty of Natives keeps medical men away from Native territories, because they cannot make a living there. The Government, therefore, has commenced the formation of a State medical service for Native territories, lessening the number of doctors in the larger towns of the Union where there is an over supply.

#### SOME AFRICAN STATISTICS.

Protestants number about 9,319,900; Roman Catholics, 6,837,790 (these figures include 3,641,012 Whites); Abyssinian Coptic Christians, 4,000,000 and Coptic Christians in Egypt, 999,170. Sixty years ago Africa was known as the 'Dark Continent,' but to-day it is well on the way to becoming the most enlightened continent of the non-Christian world.

#### EUROPE.

##### GREAT BRITAIN.

There can be no form of National Service more beneficent to the nation than that of drawing our people nearer to God. Let us, therefore, hold in high honour all those who are thus seeking to remove the causes of national weakness. The Bishop of Southwark, for example, has urged the Home Office to institute an immediate enquiry into the gambling evil of football pools. Some ten million persons participate in them, and the poor are large spenders. The result is a diminution of food, and an increase of debt, and pawnbroking. The people are spending at least £50,000,000 annually and the promoters are estimated to make £9,000,000 in a season.

##### ALBANIA.

The Italian occupation of Albania may adversely affect the work of the Albanian Evangelical Mission at Kortcha, in view of Italian action against similar work in Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somaliland. This is the only evangelical mission in the country, and under King Zog it enjoyed a fair measure of liberty for its work, on condition that it did not openly engage in proselytizing propaganda. The three important religious bodies are the Moslems, (who number 688,280); the Orthodox Church of Albania (210,313) and the Greek Roman Catholics (Uniat), (104,184).

##### GREECE.

The new law, restricting religious liberty, is intended to apply to various sects of which the Government does not approve; also to the Roman Catholic Church which has (including both regular and Uniat) about 35,000 adherents. Another decree has recently been issued against proselytism; imprisonment and a fine up to £90 is the penalty of infraction. Those guilty of it in schools or philanthropic institutions may be expelled. The Greek Evangelical Church with some 3,000 members, and the Brethren, are exerting a useful spiritual influence which extends to the Orthodox Church. The evangelical Zoë movement continues to grow; its

paper now has a circulation of over 100,000. The Greek Government apparently fears the disturbing effects on national solidarity produced by proselytism. The Ministries of Cults and Foreign Affairs will control the entry into Greece of members of the clergy of all religions who are not Greek subjects. Further, no Church of any religion may function without obtaining the authorization of the Ministry of Cults.

#### GERMANY.

The Provisional Church Council in Munich recently issued a survey, signed by Dr. Meiser, based on a number of reports from higher institutions, which makes serious reading for Christians. Young people (it says) are becoming frankly dechristianized, and a general scepticism is everywhere infiltrating. On the other hand, a German student writing in *Die Christliche Welt*, on 18th March, finds among theological students, although their number is greatly reduced, a spirit of dedication expressed in the vows: 'Cost what it may, and be the way never so hard, we would serve our Lord, and through Him our people.' The writer confesses, however, that in his university of Leipzig, the number of theological students dropped from 597 in 1933 to 173 in 1938. Roman Catholics have been reading the Scriptures during the past five years as never before; more than a million copies of the New Testament having been circulated among them during that period. This new interest in the devotional use of the Scriptures is of Roman Catholic origin and inspiration. The Bishop of Augsburg is prominent in the movement to extend this practice.

'Jewish Slave Labour in Germany,' is the title of an article in the *Jewish Chronicle* of 14th April; which was further referred to in its issue of the 21st April, which quoted the *Israelitisches Wochenblatt* of Zurich. It appears that until the international situation is clarified, the Jews are being set to work on all kinds of war preparation in Germany instead of being deported. Their labour conditions are indicated by the title of the article.

#### SPAIN.

Services continue in some of the evangelical Churches in Catalonia and there is perhaps ground for hope of improved relationships in future between Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. The Evangelicals gave disinterested help to the Roman Catholics when they were being persecuted by political extremists. The special Relief Fund for Spanish Protestants has spent over £3,000 in food and other necessities which have been sent to Spain. The entire fund was thus used, the cost of administration having been borne by the World's Evangelical Alliance. The International Committee for the Evangelization of Spain, profiting by the presence of a number of Spanish Evangelicals in France, and a few in other countries, as a result of the Spanish situation, has been investigating certain questions with regard to training for the evangelical ministry.

#### MALTA.

Sir Charles Bonham-Carter, the Governor, on 14th February,

promulgated Letters Patent which grant Malta a new Constitution.

The following are some of its principal points: The Council, consisting of twenty members, will have no ecclesiastics as members. English will be the official language used in Council business, Maltese being permitted where English is not known. In the Law Courts, cases will be tried in Maltese, or exceptionally in English; Italian will cease to be officially used. Full liberty of conscience, and free exercise of religious worship are secured. Since 1933 the Roman Catholic clergy have entirely abstained from political activities. They can safely do so, for their faith is probably more strongly established in Malta than in any other part of the world.

#### RUSSIA.

*Antireligioznik* (No. 2) discusses in an article the grave danger to the Godless Movement of various International Women's Organizations in Europe and the United States of America. Three are especially mentioned:

1. The International League of Catholic Women which has affiliations in thirty-five countries and meets at Utrecht.
2. The International Association of Young Women which has affiliations in fifty-five countries, and a membership of some 5,000,000, which meets at Geneva.
3. The Women's Church Organizations in the United States of America with 7,000,000 members.

*Bezbojnik* devotes an article to Russian children, a subject which is stirring the country. The Godless Movement (says the writer) has scarcely touched the forty million elementary school children and pupils in other schools. School staffs and Communist youth societies are blamed, and a demand is made for the training of teaching staffs to eradicate religious influences among children. The article continues: 'The communistic education of our youth without the fight against religion, endangers the interests of State and Party.' Parents are warned against forbidding their children to attend Godless classes, nor may they bring pressure upon them to fulfil religious duties. A new law came into force on 15th May giving children the right to appeal to the Soviet in case of reprisals by parents.

*Komsomolskaya Pravda*, in a recent issue, calls attention to the new and dangerous tactics being employed by clergymen. They are teaching that Christianity is socialistic and even communistic, thereby drawing many away; therefore the fight against religion by Communist youth must be intensified. Kalinin, the President of the High Council of the Soviet, is quoted as saying 'Lenin told me personally that only the theatre could replace religion. It is not much merely to destroy religion, a substitute must be found in the theatre.'

*Bezbojnik* reports the discovery of another sect known as the 'Samaritans' which has a large following among Russian peasants. It is working against Godless propaganda and has influenced parents

to refuse to send their children to Godless meetings. The sect has been suppressed where practicable.

The eighteenth Congress of the All Union Congress Party opened on 10th March, at which Stalin gave a report. No mention was made by him of religion or Godless activities. Yaroslavsky followed with a speech praising Stalin's achievements and added; 'It is necessary to say at this Congress that the struggle against remnants of capitalism in the conscience of workers includes in it the vital element—the struggle against religious prejudices; a well-organized anti-religious propaganda.' The International Godless circles report that during recent months, as a result of the delicate international situation, interest in the Godless problem has declined, and a growth of interest in religion is noted in many countries.

### LATIN AMERICA.

A century has passed since evangelical work was founded in Latin America. During that period Churches have been established in the twenty republics, which have a total of 337,714 evangelical communicants and an evangelical community of 1,724,584. Nearly one half of the evangelical communicants and fifty-eight per cent. of the evangelical community are in Brazil. Nevertheless, it is estimated, says Mr. K. G. Grubb, that 'one half the population of Latin America—some sixty millions—have no reasonable chance of hearing and understanding the Gospel message.'

### BRAZIL.

Some new developments are reported from Brazil. The Institute of Religious Culture, a new movement, with headquarters at São Paulo, is presenting Christianity in an attractive way to the educated classes, and publishes a review *Fé e Vida* (Faith and Life). The movement is inspired by Brazilians and directed by them. A school for Lay Preachers is training laymen in Christian truth and preaching, enabling them to conduct services in their own churches in co-operation with the pastors. The two Presbyterian Missions, the Central and South, have been merged for administrative reasons, and will henceforward be known as the Central Brazil Mission. In a country which has an estimated land area larger than that of the continental United States, the lack of roads in the interior makes it impossible for committees or administrative groups from widely spaced regions to meet for planning and organizing work.

The Southern Presbyterian Church, from its base at Recife in North Brazil, is doing extensive evangelistic work; teams visited all the principal estates and at Caruaru a new cause was started. Eight evangelists travelled about 14,000 miles and added 188 communicants to the Church; they also visited the Sunday Schools, of which there are nineteen in the area, with 930 scholars. The Church co-operates in the evangelical seminary with the Congregational Church. In West Brazil the São Sebastiao do Paraíso field has been given over entirely to the Brazilian Church. The

Bible Institute here received men and women students this year from five denominations.

Population: 41,560,147; Christians: 837,355, or 1 to 41 of population. Missionaries: 547, or 13 per million.

#### COLOMBIA.

The Latin American Evangelization Campaign, in the department of Bolivar, has made considerable advance; many towns and villages have been visited. Four new workers have entered and two new stations have been occupied. Workers are now in the following stations: Monteria, Sincelejo, Magangué, El Banco, San Andres. In two of these there are only Latin American missionaries.

Colombia has 154 missionaries, representing fourteen different missionary groups, and was never so well occupied as at the present time. There is complete religious freedom and Colombia is becoming one of the most democratic of the republics. In 1937, Article 41 of the National Constitution, which provided that public instruction should be in agreement with the Roman Catholic religion, was deleted.

Population: 9,305,995; Christians 14,805, or 1 to 628 of population. Missionaries: 154, or 16 per million.

#### BOLIVIA.

The Evangelical Union of South America reports encouraging progress in its new mission work in Bolivia. Tract distribution, Sunday Schools, medical work and preaching are being carried on. Most of the people in the locality are Quechua-speaking Indians.

The establishment of the Socialist-Military Government in Bolivia caused difficulties to the Roman Catholic Church. Eucharistic Congresses have been held in most of the large cities to conserve and increase the loyalty of the people to the Church. The Bolivian priests are opposing measures which place the wealthier and larger parishes under the control of foreign clergy.

Population: 3,226,296; Christians; 15,650, or 1 to 206 of population. Missionaries: 172, or 53 per million.

#### MEXICO.

The headquarters of the Salvation Army in the city of Mexico were recently opened. The buildings and grounds were given by a leading member of the Union Evangelical Church of Mexico City (English speaking). The city has about 1,000,000 people, and the co-operation of the Salvation Army in evangelizing them is welcomed.

The American Bible Society has been hampered in its work in recent years because of high customs duties levied upon its Bibles. A personal letter from the Society's representative to the President has now secured free admission of the Bible into Mexico.

Population: 16,552,722; Christians: 133,914, or 1 to 123 of population. Missionaries: 226, or 14 per million.

## CENTRAL AMERICA.

The following quotation from a leader in Central American religious work, summarizing the activities of his particular mission during 1938, might well be descriptive of the work in general of all the various mission groups :

' Our hearts leap with joy as we review the unusually rapid succession of incidents, which within a recent brief period have given new encouragement and assurance : *viz.*, missionary occupation in so many new posts ; numerous calls for new workers, some of them from places where, as yet, there are no organized groups ; the many confessions of faith in both old and new territories ; the appointment of a large group of new missionaries, with their equipment and support guaranteed, even in these troublous times.'

## GUATEMALA.

Guatemala is the most important of the six Central American republics, and has the largest population. Like Venezuela, Guatemala has made an astonishing economic recovery. The evangelical movement has been a national blessing, notably in its work of giving the Gospel to the Indians who only fifty years ago were little higher than beasts of burden. The New Testament, which is being translated into the tongues of their various tribes with a Spanish translation in parallel columns, will be available for more than one million Indians.

Population : 2,245,593 ; Christians 53,729, or 1 to 42 of population.  
Missionaries : 81, or 36 per million.

## PANAMA AND CANAL ZONE.

This last year there was a revived interest in missionary activity throughout the republic. An encouraging work is going forward among the San Blas Indians, but the Government is unfavourable to it, as it regards the Indians as the wards of the Roman Catholic Church. The Methodist Church of Jamaica has a work among the Valiente Indians which has passed the pioneer stage, and is gathering the elements of a native Church.

Population : 467,459 ; Christians 28,367, or 1 to 16 of population.  
Missionaries : 91, or 104 per million.

## SOUTH SEAS.

### AUSTRALIA.

The aborigines of Australia are estimated to number 80,000 but of these only about 20,000 have been reached by missionary effort. The Australian Churches are being urged to take a keener interest in their evangelization. A decline of the membership of the Australian Churches in proportion to the whole population is reported. The Anglican Church, between 1921 and 1933, declined from 44 to 38 per cent, the Roman Catholic Church from 22 to 19 per cent, and a similar proportion among other bodies. The three largest Churches at present are the Anglicans, the Roman Catholics and the Presbyterians. The Roman Catholics are reported to be better organized, and more aggressive than the Protestants.