
WORLD SERVICE EXHIBITION

JOHANNESBURG 1930

 AT the suggestion of the Bishop of Johannesburg, the Transvaal Missionary Association has undertaken to hold in Johannesburg, probably in October, 1930, an exhibition of the world-wide service of the Christian Church.

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL CHARACTER.

In spite of the existing divisions in the Church of Christ, it is now generally recognized that the saving of the world and the building of a thoroughly Christian social order is the task not of one, but of all the bodies of Christian people who together make up the universal Church. Everywhere in Christendom to-day there is felt a strong urge toward unity. The mission fields of the world especially are forcing upon the attention of the Church the necessity of unity of approach to non-Christian peoples. Much of the real progress that has

made toward unity has been made in the mission fields. While the basis for the ultimate unity of the Church, which is being sought for prayerfully by devout Christians in all parts of the world, has not yet been found, there is a unity in the results of missionary labours, which it is felt can best be portrayed in a united exhibition. The Transvaal Missionary Association invites the co-operation of all the Christian Churches in this exhibition of the world-wide service of the Church of Christ.

WORLD-WIDE SCOPE.

Already world exhibitions of the Church's missionary enterprise have been held, beginning with The World in London, which attracted immense crowds and was repeated in several American cities. The proposed Exhibition might well have been called "The World in Johannesburg." No adequate understanding can be had of the immensity of the Christian enterprise nor of the enormous influence of the Christian message on the life of the world without a study of its world-wide activities. Just as no true estimate of present historical events can be made until they can be seen in the perspective of History, so no true impression can be gained of the missionary enterprise merely by seeing it (or imagining one has seen it) near at hand. One must seek the impression of the whole. The attempt will be made therefore to set forth, so far as may be possible in an Exhibition, the social effects on the life of the nations of the educational, medical and social welfare work carried on in the name of Christ, as well as the effect of the Christian message on the non-Christian religions.

Special emphasis will, of course, be laid on the work in Africa.

EXHIBITS.

There will be "courts" or stalls for each of the great racial units of the world, wherein both Christian and non-Christian social and religious conditions will be portrayed. Every effort will be made to deal fairly with non-Christian faiths and civilizations.

Denominational activities will appear only as parts of a whole. Every aspect of missionary service will be vividly presented, evangelistic, literary, educational, medical, industrial, agricultural and social, in exhibits representing institutions engaged in all these aspects of missionary service. There will be actual real-life demonstrations, cinematograph films, lantern lectures, dramatic presentations in pageant and play.

ORGANIZATION.

A small Management Committee has been appointed by the Transvaal Missionary Association, consisting of Rev. Dr. Dexter Taylor, Rev. E. W. Grant and Rev. R. E. Phillips. An Executive Committee will shortly be formed consisting of the chairmen of sub-committees, and a General Committee representative of all the co-operating Churches. The Witwatersrand Free Church Council and the Diocesan Board of the Church of the Province are co-operating in the formation of these committees. Sub-committees will be formed, to each of which will be committed some single aspect of the task of preparation; the following among others: Finance, Courts, Dramatic Presentations, Publicity, Screen Demonstrations, Literature, Refreshments, Stewards, etc.

The Executive will determine the allocation of space, co-ordination of denominational interests, and all other general matters.

FINANCE.

It is expected that the Exhibition will pay expenses. If any profit is made it will be devoted to such co-operative missionary effort as may be determined by the Executive.

It is estimated that a Guarantee Fund of not less than £600 will be required. This fund, it is expected, will be secured by contributions from the various Churches. An apportionment of the amount has been agreed upon, and each denomination will be informed of the quota requested from it. Contributions from individuals, Churches or other bodies will be warmly welcomed and may be sent to Mr. W. McEwan, Hon. Treasurer of the Exhibition, Box 3324, Johannesburg.

PURPOSE OF THE EXHIBITION.

The aim of those who will share in the very heavy labour involved in the carrying out of the Exhibition is a distinctly spiritual one. It is to interest a wider public in that most stupendous, most influential and most fascinating of all world movements, the enterprise of Christian Missions.

It is hoped that the Exhibition will not only interest and amuse and instruct, but that it will also prove a stimulus to faith and an incentive to service.

To this end the prayers of all Christian people are earnestly requested.