October 24, 1952

Dear Dr. Matthews:

This is a request for your cooperation in a very important responsibility of the World Council of Churches. Race is a problem that disturbs the Christian churches and harasses the world.

The World Council hopes to help the churches to bring the Gospel to bear effectively upon this problem at its Assembly in 1954. In preparation for the Assembly a commission needs to gather the facts about the problem and the insights and achievements of the churches bearing upon it.

We seek your assistance by replying to the attached survey. It will require considerable time; but we make no apologies, for the problem is exceedingly urgent. We assume that you will be able to obtain the help of others in compiling the information. The length of the survey form results from its being explicit. It will require no more time than a series of general questions which could be stated on half a page.

If you will do your part, the commission should be able to provide valuable assistance to the churches in their efforts to make their witness more effective. Their witness must be the witness of the Gospel. But the witness must be obviously relevant to the current situation. Consequently, we need information as well as insight.
Your replies should be in our hands by January 15, 1953, so that they may be used in the compilation of background material that should be in the hands of the churches a year before the Assembly. It will help the Commission if you can send at least the documentation (Part I) and your opinions (Part IV) by December 1, 1952.

The Commission seeks not only your replies to the survey but also your help in commenting on the drafts of information and suggested policy which the Commission will submit to the churches. We earnestly solicit your help.

Sincerely yours,

Roswell P. Barnes,
Chairman

Robert S. Bilheimer,
Secretary

Enc.

P.S. Please send your reply to Robert S. Bilheimer, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.
PREPARATORY COMMISSIONS
for the Evanston Assembly

Surname and Christian names:

Date of birth: Profession:

Titles:

Church affiliation:

Address:

Languages (English, French, German)
you can read:

" " " speak:

" " " understand:

Special interests in the area of your Commission:

To be returned to the Study Department, World Council of Churches
17 route de Malagnou, Geneva, Switzerland