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Continental Evangelical Life and Work

Will Editors of Christian papers, etc., in European countries, please send us regularly their issues in exchange for EVANGELICAL CHRISTENDOM?

We shall be grateful also if Continental readers will send us information, in Letters or Newspapers, containing information of interest concerning Protestant and Evangelical movements on the Continent.—[Ed.]

The German Church Conflict Events in Germany have moved rapidly since our last issue. We have received a good deal of information, and it is not easy to sift and condense it. The religious conflict in Germany is likely to continue, and although we do not wish to be included among the prophets, and false prophets at that! we do not see at present any other issue but the formation of a German Free Church. From a recent article by Dr. Karl Barth on the new decisions concerning the Confessional (or Protesting) Church taken by the new Reichminister Kerrl, it is clear that these decisions are aimed against the Confessional Church, including as they do restrictions upon the substance of the Church as well as the right to examine, to ordain, to appoint its own ministers, to make pulpit announcements, to convene synods, in fact everything that may be included under the term of "freedom of preaching." Although these decisions are likely to be serious for the Confessional Church, Dr. Barth is of opinion that it will be found impossible to dissolve or dispose of the Confessional Churches, as Herr Kerrl seems to imagine. The latter have made good use of the long period of persecution, and there is every likelihood that the Confessional Church will remain in being. There has come upon the scene all over Germany a theological youth which has learned the facts, and is likely to develop into an influence for good. Dr. Karl Barth remarks:

Let Herr Kerrl try, what he can do against these unarmed or, rather, *otherwise* armed men! I make bold to prophesy to him that he will accomplish *nothing* but some apparent and partial success. *The Confessional Church will continue in being.* Once again: no man can to-day say: how? and it would be idle to picture to oneself whether it will come to the so often envisaged descent into the catacombs, and all that that implies. But the Confessional Church will con-

tinue in being—Herr Kerrl, and certain timid onlookers abroad too, may depend upon it. Professors can be dismissed. Trade Unions and student corporations can be dissolved. But a Church is neither a trade union nor a corporation. A Church which has once again tasted something of what the Church really is can be mocked and oppressed and "crippled" and persecuted, if external power is sufficient to do so: but afterwards, and even in the midst of all that, it will none the less be there once again, to the astonishment of all worldly-wise and timid people. . . The Word of God has this property among others, to make even the weak strong, even the fearful courageous, even the uncertain determined. And, as I know my friends out there, I believe that I can predict—without wishing to overestimate and glorify them—that something of that will prove true in the given case. And even the smallest "something of that" will *certainly* save the German Church in this distress which has become so acute.

Foreign Sympathy—An Appeal In reply to the question, "What can be done by those in foreign countries to help the Confessional Church?"

Dr. Barth says:

The Evangelical Churches outside Germany may not regard this event and happening disinterestedly. This matter is their own immediate concern. For in Christian things there are no national boundaries and no neutrality. Must one raise the question, whether the present of Germany might not become the future of Europe? There should be not a moment's delay on the part of the Evangelical Churches outside Germany with a word of solidarity to the oppressed brethren and of warning to their oppressors. Words are no mere words when they are open, clear, decided words, when they are not cautiously pious hints. If such words are found now in England, in Sweden, in Holland, in Switzerland, then they will be heard in Germany, by the oppressed as well as by the oppressors; they will not be spoken in vain. . . Still less would it be in vain if the Evangelical Churches could and would *pray* now! The moment may come when the situation of distress there may in some way call upon our active practical aid. The hearts of all those who know why and wherefore they belong to the Evangelical Church are already called upon to-day.

EVANGELICAL CHRISTENDOM

made by the Ministers on the Sunday. In one area the Vicar of the parish, and his flock, co-operated with the other Churches of the district, attended all the meetings, joined in the united Communion Service, and held a Prayer Meeting in his own church, a Free Church Minister giving the address.

TIBERIAS, PALESTINE.

The Universal Week of Prayer was again a season of great joy and refreshing to us here on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The meetings were, as usual, well attended, and there was a fervent spirit of prayer and supplication. On the Wednesday evening there was a total eclipse of the moon exactly in the middle of the Prayer Meeting. As we heard the poor Moslems outside shouting and beating frantically on tins and drums in an endeavour to frighten away the fierce dragon which they believed was endeavouring to swallow the moon, we felt the tremendous difference which it makes when one believes in a God Who is a loving heavenly Father, Who loves each one of His children with an individual and eternal love, Whose love was so great that He sent His only Son to die on Calvary's Cross that men might be saved from sin. This year I succeeded in arousing the keen interest of the Greek priest. He would have come to some of the meetings had they, unfortunately, not been held at an hour that was not very convenient for him. We feel tremendously strengthened and encouraged by the knowledge that all over the world our brethren are praying with us and for us.

MANMAD, INDIA.

We had special meetings for Prayer during the week with our Indian Biblewomen and Bible Students in the Mission Compound, using the topics sent out by the Alliance translated into Marathi. On three days we had a speaker from outside to lead us—the old Indian Pastor who still lives in the town though he has now retired, the present Pastor, a much younger man and very keen, and the former Head-master of our Girls' School here, a fine Christian man. On two days there were meetings of the Indian congregation which we attended, and one day one of ourselves took it.

NORTH VANCOUVER, CANADA.

We experienced a very successful Week of Prayer. The first service was at St. Agnes' Church, Ministers of the Presbyterian Church and the United Church of Canada assisting. We then continued through the week at St. Andrew's (Presbyterian), St. John's (C. of E.), and St. Andrew's (United). There was some growth in the attendance, and all felt that such united effort must be productive of good results.

BAHRAIN, PERSIAN GULF.

We have had our Week of Prayer. It has been a blessing to all of us as it was last year. Various ones took part as leaders, taking the subjects assigned to them. Many of the converts took part in prayer afterwards. I think they all felt the unity of the Christian world community as we all

joined the universal Church in prayer and supplication for the world's needs. We are sending you a small remittance. This is to pay for the translation of the programme in the Arabic language for our benefit. It was a great help to have the topics in the language of the people. We greatly appreciate having these programmes in ample time, so that adequate preparations can be made for the meetings. The little weak church community is progressing on its knees. I feel that we get together in prayer as is possible in no other way. Will you pray for our enquirers and converts?

TORONTO, CANADA.

The attendance and interest this year were better than last year. They increased as the meetings went on. The co-operating Ministers have practically decided that next year (D.V.) we shall be present at each meeting, no engagement being allowed to interfere with the prayer meetings during that week. We all feel the tremendous need of prayer these days. We also deeply appreciate what the Alliance is doing in securing a wider interest and share in the Week of Prayer. We sincerely thank God for the work of the World's Evangelical Alliance.

SALONICA, GREECE.

We wish to express our hearty thanks for the Week of Prayer topics. The weather was fine and we had a wonder week this year, the like of which has never been seen. The believers came every evening in crowds to attend the meetings.

CONJEEVERAM, S. INDIA.

The South India United Church in this place held meeting each evening during the week. The average attendance was between thirty and forty. This is the only church in this city. I happened to be in Vellore in the course of the week, and was glad to find that the Week of Prayer was being observed there also. I am not sure if in that case any union was effected between the congregation connected with the S.P.G. and that of the S.I.U.C. On two of the evenings a well-known preacher from Madras conducted the meetings.

BRODERICK FALLS, KENYA COLONY.

The services were a means of blessing and deepening of spiritual life of the Churches. The sense of fellowship with believers in all lands is in itself a spiritual uplift. All the services were held between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m., and were largely attended. There was a manifest refreshing in gathering in the early morning for prayer and waiting upon God. At Kaimosi there were union meetings attended by the Christians from the various centres gathering at the place chosen. The Christians from Vihiga, Kyavakali, and Munzatsi gathered for a union service at Mbale on one of the days. In other places, Sirhanda, Malava, and Kakaluva, there were evidences of the presence and blessing of the Lord as they gathered for united prayer. There is at present a very gracious work of the Spirit at Malava. This is specially gratifying as it has been a field which has presented peculiar difficulties for a number of years.