

*See Passing*  
24. 11. 1950

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOUTHERN RHODESIA  
MISSIONARY  
CONFERENCES

1946 & 1948

AND

S.R. AFRICAN MISSIONARY  
CONFERENCES

1946 & 1948



# SOUTHERN RHODESIA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

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## OFFICERS FOR THE ENSUING PERIOD

**President:**

The Rev. H. St. JOHN EVANS

**Vice-President:**

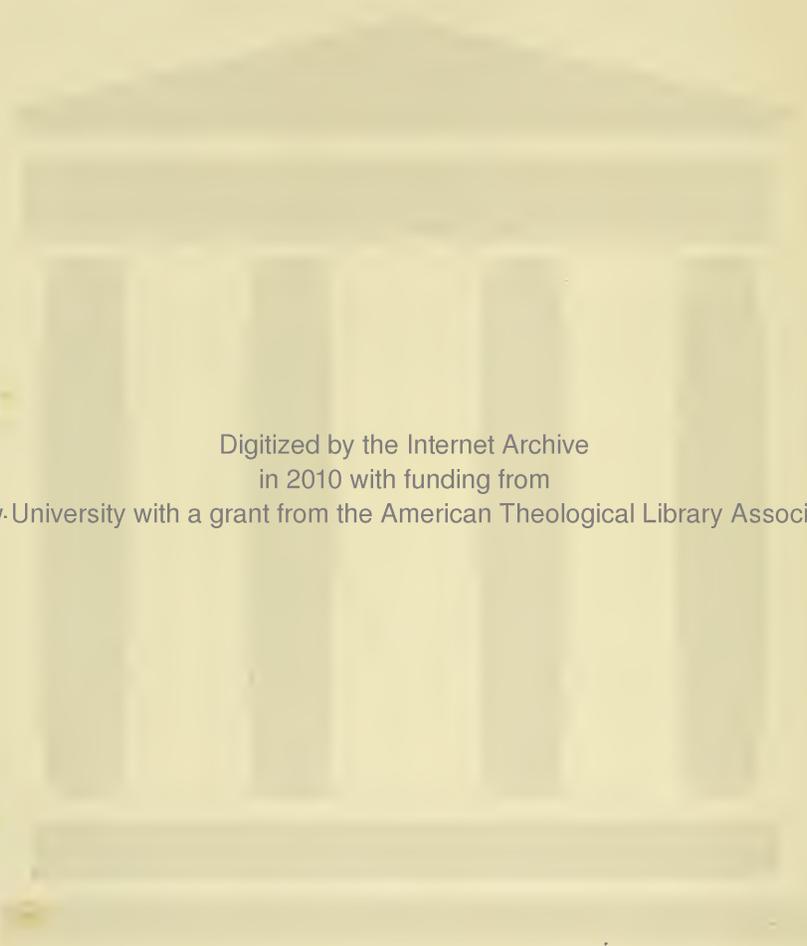
The Rev. J. S. MARSH

**Secretary and Treasurer:**

The Rev. A. M. CLIMENHAGA

**Executive Committee:**

The above Officers together with  
The Revs. H. H. BRUBAKER, W. J. van der MERWE, E. SUNDGREN,  
M. J. MURPHREE, H. CARTER, W. W. ANDERSON, GARFIELD TODD,  
Mr. C. J. BRAND and Miss B. TREGOLD



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## FOREWORD

It has fallen to my lot to write the Foreword for the booklet which contains the Proceedings of the Conferences of 1946 and 1948. Due to the departure from the Colony of the Rev. A. A. Louw, Jr., and certain attendant difficulties, the 1946 Proceedings were not printed by the time of our meeting in 1948. It was, therefore, decided to have the minutes of both Conferences printed in one booklet. It was also decided that the minutes of the Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference should be published together with those of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference. This decision will give permanence to the minutes of the African Conference and add interest and value to those of the European Conference.

The appreciation in which the services to the Conference of Mr. Louw are held is voiced elsewhere. It is fitting that recognition should be given Mr. C. J. J. Brand, the Acting Secretary of the Conference during the period of Mr. Louw's retirement to the close of the 1948 Conference. Mr. Brand stepped into the breach and in an admirable manner served the Conference.

The Conference of 1946 was to be opened by His Excellency the Governor, the late Sir Campbell Tait, but due to illness he was unable to be present. The Conference of 1948 was honoured by the presence of His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Kennedy, who opened the Conference.

The invitation to tea at Government House in the afternoon on the opening day of the 1948 Conference was much appreciated by the European and African delegates. The kindly thought which prompted Lady Kennedy to grant the delegates the privilege of picking flowers from the garden at Government House was, we are certain, the subject of many conversations on isolated mission stations and in lowly African villages. In fact some of the African delegates carried the flowers all the way back to their homes!

The scope and variety of subjects dealt with by the Conferences were as wide as ever. A new Government Notice dealing with African Education was brought into force during the period covered by the Conferences. Much time and thought was given to the implications of the Regulations. Emphasis was given to the co-operation existing between Missions and Government in the educational task. This was evidenced by the presence at the Conferences of members of the Government Departments concerned.

At the 1946 Conference representations were made to the Director of Medical Services for greater assistance to medical missions. It is recorded with satisfaction that generous response has been given to this request.

The united morning service with the special afternoon service on the Sunday of Conference was a new feature which was highly valued by the delegates.

The ranks of the older missionaries are visibly thinning, but we are heartened by the presence of many younger members, several who are children of former members of the Conference.

H. H. BRUBAKER.

# MINUTES

## OF THE

### SOUTHERN RHODESIA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

BULAWAYO, 21st-25th JUNE, 1946

#### FRIDAY, 21st JUNE.

The Conference assembled at 10.30 a.m. in the Methodist Hall in a Joint Session with the Native Missionary Conference, about 220 members and visitors being present.

Devotions were conducted by the Rev. T. A. O'Farrell, who spoke on the words: One thing is necessary. In our busy life as missionaries we have to be careful to do the one thing. Every life bears a message, and that message must be the dominant thing—a beautiful devotion to Christ. Albert Schweitzer saw life as at-one-ment; he had one divine purpose in life, and so became one of the greatest missionaries in Africa. As missionaries we, too, must have and retain the one great purpose for which we have been called.

#### OPENING CEREMONY.

It was with great regret that the Conference had to learn that His Excellency the Governor had found it necessary on medical advice to cancel his engagement to perform the opening ceremony of the Conference. The meeting, however, received with great appreciation a message from His Excellency expressing his admiration for the work the Missions were doing, and assuring the Conference of his best wishes and prayers.

In the unavoidable absence of the Governor the Honourable Mr. Justice Tredgold had very kindly consented at very short notice to open the Conference. In his address Mr. Tredgold stated that the researches that Mr. Hiller had done had revealed very clearly how much the missionaries had done for Southern Rhodesia.

No endeavour for a high purpose is ever lost. The modern missionary is not ordinarily called upon to face the same difficulties which confronted the earlier pioneer missionaries, but he has nevertheless tremendous problems to cope with. He had to guide the impact of an alien civilisation on a large mass of uncivilised people. But his object is as clear as ever. Although he sometimes has to pass through a desert, if he works in the right spirit his efforts will not be lost. It is largely a question of approach. The missionary's concern is how to lead the African not so much to a living as to life. The future of the country rests upon a right relationship between the races. The races must not remain at arm's length. There has been a tremendous advance in the attitude of the Europeans towards Africans. Missionaries must not be discouraged by the apparent absence of visible results, for beneath the surface the leaven is at work. In conclusion Mr. Tredgold expressed his great confidence in what this Conference could achieve.

The Rev. A. E. Walden thereupon expressed the warm appreciation of the Conference towards Mr. Tredgold for kindly undertaking to open the Conference, and for his kind words and wise advice.

After the tea interval the President, the Rev. H. H. Brubaker, delivered his Presidential Address.

After taking a retrospect in which he touched upon the many evidences of real progress amongst Africans, the speaker pointed out that the work of evangelising the Africans was the most urgent need of this hour. This task challenges every well-wisher of the African who is thinking of lasting values. The African was enjoying a measure of freedom never before realised, but there were numerous subtle influences surrounding them that were ready to enslave the newly liberated. We must not expect

too much from legislation, nor are we to look upon education in the narrow sense as the key which will unlock all the doors. The African must learn to master the brute instincts, and must learn lessons in reverence, service, humility, love and godliness. In Christ alone can these things be found. Our primary purpose is therefore still to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to needy souls. The most effective way of proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom is preaching the good tidings of God in Christ, and bringing men into personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of Life. How to be and remain evangelistic in effort when overwhelmed by the multitude of demands upon his services is the problem of the missionary. Yet we must be amongst the African people for Christ in any and everything we do.

The President's address was manifestly very warmly appreciated.

The next item on the Agenda was an interesting talk by Mr. D. Aylen, Acting Secretary of the Natural Resources Board, on "Ways and Means of Adopting Soil Conservation."

In the opinion of the speaker it was impossible to separate European from African farming. It was all one. The old time was the time of exploitation of the soil. Now, however, most Europeans have come to recognise their obligation towards the land. The case was different with the African community. It was most difficult to get them to work as a community for the community in the matter of conserving the productivity of the soil. In this Missions have a valuable prestige which, if rightly used in the matter of soil conservation, would be a great example to Africans in the reserves. A full-time officer was needed for the specific purpose of advising Missions on soil conservation and agriculture. A booklet on this subject and also pamphlets in Sindebele and Shona would be extremely helpful.

After the address several questions were put by members of the meeting and answered by Mr. Aylen. In reply to a question Mr. Aylen explained that Government loans were available for the purpose of soil conservation, and also grants-in-aid upon recommendation of the Natural Resources Board. The speaker was thereupon thanked by the Secretary for his illuminating address, and also for the film he was going to show in the evening.

## NOTICES OF MOTION.

The following notices of motion were now tabled:

### **Full-time Adviser on Agriculture and Soil Conservation.**

"This Conference asks the Government to appoint a full-time adviser to Missions on Agriculture and Soil Conservation." Proposer: The Rev. D. F. Stowell.

### **Marriage and the Enabling Certificate.**

"This meeting of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference, held in Bulawayo in 1946, re-affirms the opinions expressed by a previous Conference held at Great Zimbabwe in 1915, when the then Government put forward a Memorandum on Native Christian Marriages expressing a desire for legislation similar to that imposed in 1929, which now demands an Enabling Certificate as a preliminary to marriage by Christian rites in the case of African Christians. This preliminary is not demanded in the case of other races, and is therefore legislation of a racial character. In 1915 the Conference then stated in reference to the Government's proposals: 'We cannot see that the suggestions of the Government memorandum, that the contracting parties should appear before an approved Government official to have the meaning of the contract explained to them would materially help. Moreover to such an arrangement there are many objections.'

"Experience in the working of Section 12 of the Native Marriages Act of 1929 shows that the opinions expressed at the 1915 Conference were by no means unfounded, and this Conference of 1946 asks that the demand for an Enabling Certificate be withdrawn, as it is not only useless but burdensome to all concerned." Proposer: Rev. Father Baker.

### **Native (Urban Areas) Accommodation and Registration Act.**

"This meeting of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference held in Bulawayo in 1946 expresses its disapproval of the Native (Urban Areas) Accommodation

and Registration Act, which in certain circumstances requires an African to carry no less than six passes. The Conference strongly asserts that the Pass requirements should be relaxed rather than made more stringent, as they are burdensome and a cause of annoyance to the African people of this Colony. It should be noted that the Governor's Deputy at the opening of the present session of the Rhodesian Parliament bore testimony to the African population which never wavered in its loyalty throughout the years of war, and this Conference requests that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Native Affairs as a protest against legislation of this character." Proposer: Rev. Father Baker.

Conference adjourned at 12.55 for lunch.

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION.**

After the lunch hour Conference resumed again at 2.15 p.m.

The Roll of Voting Members was thereupon called and the Conference constituted as follows—

**American Board:** Rev. J. S. Marsh.

**Anglican Church:** Rev. Father R. H. Baker, Rev. R. H. Clark, Rev. E. Paterson, Rev. A. D. Bailey, Rev. D. F. Stowell.

**Brethren in Christ:** Rev. W. O. Winger, Rev. C. F. Eshelman, Rev. A. Brenaman, Rev. A. M. Climenhaga.

**Church of Christ:** Mr. Garfield Todd, M.P., Mrs. Garfield Todd.

**Church of Sweden:** Rev. H. von Sicard, Rev. A. Albrektson, Dr. O. Nordesjo, Mr. A. J. Bergman.

**Dutch Reformed Church:** Rev. H. W. Murray, Rev. A. A. Louw, Dr. W. J. van der Merwe, Rev. S. K. Jackson, Rev. J. Jackson.

**London Missionary Society:** Rev. A. E. Walden, Rev. W. W. Anderson, Rev. A. J. Haile.

**Methòdist Church (U.S.A.):** Rev. M. J. Murphree, Rev. T. A. O'Farrell, Miss I. M. Scovill, Rev. R. C. Gates.

**Methodist Missionary Society:** Rev. H. Carter, Rev. F. Hudson, Rev. H. H. Morley Wright, Rev. E. H. Bowen, Sister Muriel Pratten.

**Presbyterian Church:** Rev. R. M. Cousins, Miss F. Ellener.

**Salvation Army:** Brigadier A. Pallant, Major T. Lewis, Major W. Walton, Major S. Bennett, Major D. Dolman.

**South African General Mission:** None.

**AFRICANS AND THE LAND** was the next subject on the Agenda and was introduced by Mr. M. M. Hove. After making a comparison between the amount of land allotted to the European and that allotted to the African, the speaker stated that we should be one in regard to the possession of the soil. The reserves are not sufficient and safe for the African to live on. The only way to make a friend of the African was to keep him on the land and help him to develop the land. At the end of the address Mr. Hove proposed the following resolution, which was accepted by the Conference as a notice of motion:

"In view of the fact that there is a great shortage of land for Africans, and that although there are many Africans who qualify and receive the Master Farmer's Badge, they find no room for the exercise of their attainment in the congested Reserves, this Conference requests the Government to lease at least ten acres to each progressive Master Farmer in the unassigned areas or in Crown lands, thereby providing an incentive to better methods of farming. Further, we suggest that their produce be sold on the same basis as that of the European farmers."

Several speakers participated in the debate urging that the whole matter of more land for Africans be more prominently put before the public of Southern Rhodesia, and that the unalienated land be set aside for the use of the African.

The Conference now listened to an interesting talk on **TEACHING ADULTS TO READ**, by the Rev. S. K. Jackson.

Dr. Frank Laubach, the speaker said, was the father of the movement to teach adults to read, yet there was no real Laubach method. It was more a Laubach spirit, and success was due to the spirit in which the teaching is done. Mr. Jackson thereupon proceeded to explain various principles which had to be kept in mind in drawing up a system for teaching adults to read, and also described the methods that had been found to be successful in various parts of Africa. The best way seemed that one person who had himself been taught to read should teach one other person at a time, according to a motto of Dr. Laubach's, "Each one teach one." Reading and writing could be successfully taught together to adults. It was found that the average time it took to teach old people to read was four weeks, yet there were some cases where people had learnt to read in nine days.

After the tea interval the Rev. C. F. Eshelman presented a very informative paper on the matter of **CATTLE SALES**, in which Mr. G. Braithwaite had also collaborated.

After quoting verbally the correspondence between the Executive Committee and the Government on this subject Mr. Eshelman put forward the joint findings of himself and Mr. Braithwaite. In their opinion the present system seemed fair as regards the prices paid for Native cattle at the sales. Weaknesses in the system, however, were that there were not scales everywhere, and the grading was done by sight, while the bonus was not paid to the individual but into a fund for the general benefit of the community. This money is also not spent immediately but is sometimes hoarded for a considerable time. In conclusion the speaker recommended that the bonus be paid to individuals in spite of the practical difficulties that existed. If this could not be done, that the bonus be scrapped and in the place of it a higher cash value be given. After a little discussion it was decided to leave it to the Executive to go on with the matter.

The last item on the Agenda, to which the Conference could give little time, was an address by Mr. J. K. Tsolo on **EXEMPTION FROM NATIVE CUSTOMARY LAW**. After making it clear that there were many enlightened and educated Africans who were finding the application of Native Customary Law to themselves irksome, the speaker moved the following:

"This Missionary Conference requests the Government to make provision for educated and enlightened Africans to get letters of exemption from Native Customary Law in order to free them from heathen customs which they are fast outgrowing. We further suggest that character, standard of education, and modes of living be the qualifications for such exemption."

No vote was taken.

The Conference closed with the benediction by the President at 5 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, 22nd JUNE**

Conference commenced at 9 a.m. with Devotions conducted by the Rev. H. H. Morley Wright, who spoke on the words: "I am come that they may have life and have it abundantly." The whole of man is our concern as missionaries, and we can only do this if evangelism comes first. Some of the many things we do must be left to other agencies, and we must come into personal contact with the people, know them, and enable the Holy Spirit to live in them through us. Evangelism, therefore, remains our task; we can not simply hand it over to our African fellow workers. The danger is that we may become so engrossed with other things that we become inefficient in Evangelism.

The Minutes of the previous day were now read by the Secretary, confirmed and signed.

The report of the Executive was thereupon presented to the Conference, and adopted. The report is on record.

The Rev. Dr. W. J. van der Merwe was now called upon by the President to present a report on the question of **EVANGELISM**, which was assigned to him by the last Conference. Dr. van der Merwe stated that eleven Churches and Societies had responded to a circular he had sent out. After giving a short history of the establishment of the various missionary agencies in Southern Rhodesia, the speaker dealt with

the question of the missionary approach to evangelism in Southern Rhodesia. It was gratifying to find that many missionaries still consider evangelistic work to be of primary importance. It is the task of the missionary to lead the Native Church to a realisation of its calling, which is to be the primary agent for evangelism. Statistics showed that in nearly all the Missions there has been no increase of ordained European Missionaries during the last fifteen years, but a great increase in unordained Europeans. With one exception all Missions started using ordained Native workers only since the last fifteen years. Among the methods employed in evangelistic work were the following agencies: special evangelistic campaigns, the use of literature in the vernacular, and getting the Indigenous Church to launch its own missionary enterprise. The fruits of evangelistic work have been a very rapid increase in Native church membership. A summary of the statistics sent in for the eleven societies shows the following figures: church members, 44,356; catechumens, 34,597; total, 78,484 professing Christians.

In conclusion the speaker made the following suggestions:

1. The Missions in Southern Rhodesia must make attempts to enter the unoccupied areas of this Colony.
2. Missions must give much more co-operative thought to the avoidance of overlapping.
3. Missions must co-operate in developing a unity of spirit amongst the members of the various African Churches which they build up. This includes mutual recognition of discipline, uniformity of preparation for church membership and shepherding of migrating members of other churches into their own areas.
4. African Churches must be brought to a self-supporting stage.
5. Missions should strive to nurture an evangelistic spirit in the African Church, in view of the fact that the Indigenous Church is the primary agent for evangelisation of the African.
6. Some missionaries must be released especially for evangelistic work.
7. Evangelisation of the African must be through the vernacular.
8. The need for religious literature in the vernacular must be met.
9. Faithful preaching of the gospel and believing prayer must be prerequisites to any successful attempt at evangelistic work.
10. More concentrated efforts must be made to lead converts to a purposeful and powerful Christian life.
11. In all missionary efforts Evangelism must receive the right emphasis, and other missionary auxiliaries be properly related to it.

Dr. van der Merwe's paper was much appreciated, and he was requested by Conference kindly to continue his survey and bring it fully up to date for the following Conference.

After the tea interval the subject of **EDUCATION** came before the Conference. It was greatly regretted that the Rev. Mr. Pluke had not found it possible to present a report to the Conference. In view of the fact that the Government had in mind the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry on Native Education, Conference decided to leave this question until such a time as the proposed Commission had published their report.

By leave of the Conference, Mr. R. G. Todd now proposed, seconded by the Rev. A. E. Walden, the following resolution:

"This assembly of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference urges upon the Government the necessity of taking over, as from January, 1, 1946, the full payment of all wages of approved non-European teachers engaged in African Education, and also the necessity of raising the grants-in-aid for European teachers in African education from that date."

In the opinion of Mr. Todd there was no reason why Native teachers could not still be appointed by Missions and be under their control even though the Government paid their full salaries.

After some discussion it was decided to separate the resolution into two parts and put them to the vote separately.

Upon being put to the vote the following was carried unanimously:

"This assembly of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference urges upon the Government the necessity of taking over, as from January 1, 1946, the full payment of all wages of approved non-European teachers in African education."

The other part of the resolution, reading:

"This assembly of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference urges upon the Government the necessity of raising the grants-in-aid for European teachers in African Education as from January 1, 1946," was carried with one dissentient vote.

The next item on the Agenda was a very interesting paper on **LITERATURE**, by the Rev. S. K. Jackson. The speaker began by urging very strongly that there should be close co-operation in the production of literature in the vernacular between the Missions themselves on the one hand and between the Missions and the Government on the other hand. In this Europeans and Africans must work together. There should also be full co-operation in the distribution of the literature which is produced, with the help, if possible, of the United Society for Christian Literature. The three Mission Printing Presses in Southern Rhodesia must get ready for a much larger output in the immediate future because there is a trend amongst Africans to become book-minded. Greater use must be made of the publication grant offered by the Government. English books must also be procured for the Africans who are able to make use of them, although they must not be a substitute for books in the vernacular. Mr. Jackson now gave a list of the publications in the vernacular in the various denominations, and also one of suitable English books.

In conclusion the following recommendations were made:

1. That a strong Central Literature Committee be formed with a secretary who will have time at his disposal to do the work.
2. That we agree to level down differences in the Shona dialects when preparing literature which is not intended merely for the church work of the Denomination.
3. That an exchange of books in the Shona dialects for use in schools be encouraged. This will help to smooth out differences.
4. That the Government be approached to get the matter of orthography settled and used generally.
5. That the Government be requested to make use of the vernaculars in publishing bulletins on Agriculture, House Building, Health, etc.
6. That special attempts be made to spread literacy generally, attention being given especially to aliens who come from areas and countries where the reading of the Scriptures is not encouraged.
7. That the Central Literature Committee explore the desirability or not of collaborating with the United Society of Christian Literature.
8. That Missions be asked to regard literary work as a branch of their activities on a par with other departments such as Educational and Medical work. We must be literature-minded.

The above eight recommendations were thereupon referred by the Conference to the Executive for consideration and action.

The following Notices of Motion were now tabled:

**On Thrift:**

"This Conference, realising that Africans selling their cattle may be in danger of losing the proceeds by careless spending or otherwise, requests the Thrift Officer

to take all possible steps to make clear the advantages of investing the money received (e.g. in the Post Office Savings Bank). It is suggested that explanatory leaflets in the hands of Native Commissioners, Government Demonstrators and Missionary workers might be of the greatest service to this end, and that sub-agencies for the Savings Department should be placed in the reserves where needed for this purpose." Proposer: Rev. F. Hudson.

#### **The Franchise:**

"This assembly of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference strongly urges that should the conditions for the franchise be altered, no racial discrimination should be introduced, but that the standard of education required of all new applicants for registration on the electoral roll should be raised to what may be considered an adequate basis for stable democratic government." Proposer: Mr. Garfield Todd.

#### **African Supervising Teachers:**

"This Missionary Conference requests the Native Education Department—

- (a) To permit approved E.T.C. teachers or those of higher qualifications to be used as African Supervising Teachers for Primary schools;
- (b) That each Supervisor be allowed a minimum of ten and a maximum of fifteen schools;
- (c) That the Missionary Superintendent make at least one visit to each school annually, and to be responsible for the organisation and conduct of the schools;
- (d) That the Superintendent have a minimum of ten schools and a maximum of forty-five;
- (e) That grants to cover salaries and travelling of the Supervising Teachers be provided." Proposer: Rev. T. A. O'Farrell.

Conference adjourned for the lunch hour and resumed discussions again at 2.15 p.m.

Dr. M. H. Steyn now presented an interesting survey of **MEDICAL WORK** done by Missions in Southern Rhodesia.

Medical Work, Dr. Steyn said, was essentially a community work and had to be undertaken by a wider service than can always be provided by the organised Church. It was gratifying to know that our Government does consider the health of white and black a national responsibility, and has declared a definite forward policy. But considerably more could and should be done by way of prevention of disease and medical services to every individual. Malaria, bilharzia, hookworm, venereal diseases, tuberculosis and trachoma were the most prevalent amongst the Africans, yet there was not more than one doctor for every 55,000 of the population when there should be one for every 5,000. The Missions had six centres with resident doctors and nurses and 30 clinics. Government had 66 such clinics. All this went to show that medical services for the Africans were hopelessly inadequate. Figures went to show that the Missions were doing about 32 per cent. of the African patients in the Colony. In view of the fact that the Government was about to consider the report of the National Health Commission, it was an opportune time now to press for more adequate grants-in-aid.

As no concrete proposals had been framed by Dr. Steyn, Conference requested the two doctors present to draft suitable resolutions that could be submitted to the Government, and put them before the Conference at a later date.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. R. M. MORRIS.**

The Secretary was also requested to convey to Dr. R. M. Morris the warm congratulations and best wishes of the Missionary Conference on his recent appointment as Medical Director of the Colony.

The Rev. E. L. Sells now presented to the Conference a report of a Committee which had been appointed to make a study regarding **UNIFORMITY OF DISCIPLINE**. This was an age of co-operation in almost every respect, and Missions should also

co-operate in the matter of discipline and Church rules, because we are all interested in Church unity. There are phases of unity that are greater than we many times admit. Such are hymns of the Church, the basis of our Christian faith in the Bible, Christian experience and fellowship, our primary object of proclaiming the gospel message, baptism, confirmation, and church membership, marriage, denunciation of sin, and the development of the Indigenous Church. The following recommendations were now put before the Conference:

1. That some arrangement be formulated so that it would make it possible to recognise the discipline of other churches.
2. That there be an agreement on the standards for membership.
3. That major points of discipline be listed.
4. That there be uniformity in the transfer of migrating members.
5. Recognition of each other's membership with regard to the Lord's Sacrament.
6. Agreement with regard to marriage.
7. A closer approach to one another with regard to contributions for the Church.

In conclusion the following two resolutions were adopted by the Conference:

"That in cases where Church members fall under discipline we pass on information to Churches who may desire it, and that we agree to seek information concerning disciplined members before receiving them into Church membership."

Adopted with one dissentient vote.

"That the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference Executive suggest uniform Forms for the Transfer of Membership in the case of migrating members between Churches which may desire to co-operate."

Adopted with one dissentient vote.

Before the Conference closed at 4 p.m. the motions on the questions of **Thrift** and the **Franchise** tabled earlier in the day were put to the meeting and passed unaniously.

Conference closed with the Benediction.

### MONDAY, 24th JUNE

Conference assembled at 9 a.m. with Devotions conducted by the Rev. C. H. Murray, the theme being, "God's Master-builder." Paul called himself God's Master-builder. Arrogant self-assertion is always a temptation—it was Paul's also. But arrogant self-assertion may become courageous humility. The builder must know the architect's plan. He must be in constant fellowship and companionship with the architect. So we as missionaries must constantly study his plan and specifications—and this takes time. In the phrase of Donald Fraser's: Spirituality is bought with life's most precious coin—time. Then only will our building be able to stand the test of fire.

The Minutes of the previous day were now read by the Secretary, confirmed, and signed.

Arising from the Minutes the following resolutions on Medical Work were brought before the meeting and carried unanimously:

#### **Appreciation:**

"The Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference wishes to express their gratitude to the Southern Rhodesia Government for the grants-in-aid towards Medical Missions, and for the help given by the Government Medical Officers to Mission Clinics and Hospitals.

"This Conference reassures the Government that the Missions will always be willing to co-operate in matters relating to the health of Africans, and their request for a revised scale of grants-in-aid is made with the view to stimulating and making possible the extension of Medical Missionary Work."

#### **Increased Grants-in-Aid:**

"This Conference wishes to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that in spite of increased costs of living, increased costs of medicines, and increased

building expenditures, the Government grants-in-aid towards Missions for medical services have not increased since 1928, when the present regulations came into force. We, therefore, urge upon the Government to earnestly consider a revision of the said regulations, so that they may come into better line with the present needs and requirements.

“This Conference, therefore, asks:

1. That the grant-in-aid to every full-time Doctor be raised to £400 per annum.
2. That the grant-in-aid towards a full-time qualified European nurse be raised to £150 per annum.
3. That the Government pay the whole salary for any qualified African nurse holding the same certificate as a European nurse.
4. That the Government pay the whole salary for any African orderly, male or female, or African Mission nurse or midwife, with certificates recognised by the Medical Director. The salaries of these to be in accordance with the Government scale.
5. That the Government pay £18 per annum per pupil in any recognised Nurses' Training School. The Mission Nurses' Training Schools to be recognised as equivalent to the Government Training School.
6. That the Government pay 50 per cent. of approved hospital and clinic expenditures, such as drugs, equipment, light, water, washing and ambulance.
7. That the Government pay £6 per annum for each approved bed in hospitals and clinics.
8. That the Government pay at least 50 per cent. of the cost of any building erected for the treatment of sick Africans, after appropriate plans have been approved.”

#### **Date of Payment of Grants:**

“This Conference requests the Government that grants-in-aid be paid to Missions at an earlier date than in the past or, if not possible, to provide for an advance in the payment of grants, such as obtains in the case of grants-in-aid of Native Education.”

#### **Accommodation in Hospitals and Clinics:**

“This Conference urges the Government to increase the accommodation in the existing hospitals and clinics, and to appoint more doctors in rural areas, not only to undertake curative measures but also to organise and promote measures for the prevention of diseases.”

Conference also suggested that Dr. Nordesjo interview the Medical Director and elucidate the requests of the Missionary Conference.

#### **UNITED BIBLE SCHOOL.**

The Secretary submitted to the Conference a report that had been sent in by the Rev. G. E. Hay Pluke, who had been asked by the last Conference to draw up a scheme for a Common Bible School, and lay it before the affiliated Churches and Societies. In the light of the replies he had received from the various Missionary bodies Mr. Pluke now recommended that the Conference appoint a convener, who would himself be the head of one of the Missions, to call together such other heads of Missions as are prepared to consider joint theological training, and further that the Conference having done this should consider its own work in the matter to have been completed. Both these recommendations were adopted by the Conference, and the Rev. H. Carter asked to be Convener as indicated in the first recommendation.

#### **PUBLICATION OF SELECTIONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

In response to a request from the last Missionary Conference the Rev. J. S. Marsh had made certain investigations regarding suitable selections from the Old Testament which could be published in Shona in a separate volume. Mr. Marsh had discovered that the Northern Rhodesia Missionary Conference had already prepared such a selection and recommended that we make use of the same list of selections. The Conference regretted, however, to learn from Mr. T. P. Bevan, Rhodesian Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, that the Society could not possibly undertake

the printing of such selections at the moment, and he recommended that the Scripture Gift Mission or the United Society for Christian Literature be approached to find out whether they could undertake this. In view, however, of the fact that the manuscript of the whole Bible in Union Shona was now in the hands of the Bible Society, the Conference passed the following resolution unanimously:—

“This Conference urgently requests the British and Foreign Bible Society to print and publish the whole Bible in Union Shona at the earliest possible moment.”

In view of the fact, however, that there still seemed to be a need for Old Testament selections in the vernacular, Conference passed the further resolution:—

“That the possibility be further explored of publication of extracts from the Old Testament in Shona and Sindebele.”

Conference now proceeded to deal with the following two motions that had been tabled previously:—

#### **Full-Time Adviser on Agriculture and Soil Conservation:**

“This Conference asks the Government to appoint a full-time adviser to Missions on Agriculture and Soil Conservation.” Proposer: Rev. D. F. Stowell; Seconder: Rev. J. S. Marsh.

After considerable discussion during which a diversity of views was expressed, Conference decided to alter the phrase “soil conservation” to “conservation of natural resources.” The resolution was adopted by a majority vote.

#### **African Supervising Teachers:**

“This Missionary Conference requests the Native Education Department—

- (a) To permit approved E.T.C. teachers or those of higher qualifications to be used as African Supervising Teachers for Primary Schools;
- (b) That each Supervisor be allowed a minimum of ten and a maximum of fifteen schools;
- (c) That the Missionary Superintendent make at least one visit to each school annually, and to be responsible for the organisation and conduct of the schools;
- (d) That the European Superintendent have a minimum of ten schools and a maximum of forty-five;
- (e) That grants to cover salaries and travelling of the supervising teachers be provided.”

Proposer: Rev. T. A. O'Farrell; Seconder: Rev. W. W. Anderson.

As it appeared from the discussion that the present regulations made it possible for African Supervising Teachers to be appointed, and as the number of schools proposed in the resolution was debatable, Conference resolved to refer the whole matter of the appointment of African Supervisors of Schools to the Joint Conference of Missionaries and representatives of the Native Education Department.

#### **WOMEN'S WORK.**

Miss Scovill, who had been appointed by the last Conference as Convener, now presented the results of her investigations with regard to work among African women. After giving a very encouraging survey of what was being done for Christian women religiously and educationally, and for heathen women, Miss Scovill put forward the needs which were still unmet, and made suggestions for meeting those needs. These included a literacy campaign, training courses for village leaders, the use of trained girl teachers to give the women of the community the help they need, and visiting nurses in both towns and reserves. In these things it was essential that Missions co-operate.

In conclusion Miss Scovill offered a resolution on the question of immorality, and means of combating this menace. After some discussion Miss Scovill was asked to redraft the resolution in the light of the discussion, and lay it before the Conference for adoption.

## **INDUSTRIAL WORK.**

Conference now had the privilege of listening to a very interesting paper read by Mrs. C. F. Eshelman on the subject of Industrial Work. After giving a picture of the old conception of education, where academic growth was separated from industrial growth, Mrs. Eshelman dealt with the changed outlook regarding industrial education. The need for industrial education is only too apparent when we look at the home life of the African. The African is eminently capable of working with his hands if instructed how to do it, and much is already being done, but more can be done. In conclusion the speaker said that the following was necessary:—

1. More time must be given to industrial work in the lower standards and also in the training school.
2. There must be more well-trained industrial teachers and supervisors.
3. Conferences should be held for industrial teachers.
4. The need of the community must be stressed, and educational opportunities offered beyond our schools.

The paper was much appreciated, and Conference resolved that it be sent for publication to the Bantu Press.

Furthermore, that the Executive be requested to arrange for a meeting of Industrial Teachers at the next Conference.

## **MARRIAGE AND ENABLING CERTIFICATE.**

Conference now proceeded to deal with the motion proposed by the Rev. Father Baker and seconded by the Rev. T. A. O'Farrell tabled previously. After considerable discussion the question was put, and the motion lost, ten voting for and eighteen against it.

## **NATIVE (URBAN AREAS) ACCOMMODATION AND REGISTRATION ACT.**

The motion on the above subject proposed by the Rev. Father R. H. Baker and seconded by the Rev. D. F. Stowell was now brought before the meeting. With the consent of the seconder, the proposer added to the original motion the following rider: "That the Native Affairs Department be asked to revise the form of the present Registration Certificate by providing a neat card on which essential particulars can be typed with space for necessary endorsements on the back, which will do away with any need for more passes than one—the card to be enclosed in a waterproof case."

As a number of speakers felt that the Conference should not condemn the whole Act, in view of the fact that there were many good points in it, the whole original motion together with the rider were subsequently withdrawn, and the following resolution, proposed by the Rev. Father Baker and seconded by the Rev. H. W. Murray, was adopted unanimously by the Conference:

"This assembly of the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference wishes to record its appreciation of the attempt made to improve the conditions of African urban life by the introduction of the Native (Urban Areas) Accommodation and Registration Act, which it recognises as a forward step. At the same time it urges that the Government should simplify the pass system to provide for the carrying of only one document which could have provision in it for any and all data required. It also suggests that such documents be provided in waterproof cases."

## **POSITION OF THE AFRICAN IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

By leave of the Conference the following motion was now put to the meeting:—

"This Conference wishes to disassociate itself completely from the statement made at the British Labour Party's Conference in England by Mrs. Dennington that the Native population of Southern Rhodesia is living in abject slavery. The missionaries here present know that such a statement is very far from the truth. While recognising the many defects and shortcomings which exist both in principle and practice with regard to the position of the Africans, the Conference records its appreciation of the better trend in public opinion and the improvements secured in economic conditions,

education, and health services, and draws attention to the complete religious freedom which obtains in the Colony."

Proposed by the Rev. H. Carter, and seconded by the Rev. Father R. H. Baker. The resolution was carried with one dissentient vote.

#### **THE USE OF THE NEW SYMBOLS AND CONJUNCTIVE WRITING IN SHONA.**

In a paper which he presented to the Conference the Rev. Father Baker strongly advocated that the six new symbols that had been in use in the orthography adopted by the Government Language Committee in 1929, and officially sanctioned by the Education Department for the last sixteen years, should be discarded, and also that the form of conjunctive writing then introduced should be modified. Father Baker proposed the following resolution:—

"That this Conference, realising the inadvisability of pressing for the continuance of the revised orthography which is now used, and which has been in use for the last sixteen years, desires to revert to the use of the recognised 26 symbols of the Roman alphabet, and to break away from the excessive conjunctivism which at present is in use. It, therefore, requests the Department of Native Education to ignore for the future recommendations 6 and 7 in Dr. Doke's Report on the Unification of the Shona Dialects, dated February 14th, 1930, and to instruct the Government Language Committee accordingly."

After a good deal of discussion with speakers taking strong opposite views, Conference decided that the whole question of the use of the new orthography and conjunctive writing be referred to a Committee to be appointed by the Executive, with the further recommendation that Africans be included on this Committee.

#### **LAND BOARD.**

Rev. H. Carter, the representative of the Missionary Conference, now gave a brief report of the activities of the Land Board, showing what was being done by the Board to get Africans settled on the land and make them landowners. The report is on record. Conference was glad to know that it had a representative on the Board who could, when necessary, put the point of view of the Conference.

#### **UMTALI REGIONAL COMMITTEE.**

In view of the fact that to its disappointment the Executive had found that the Regional Committees called for by the last Conference had not been functioning satisfactorily, it had asked the Committee of Umtali to report their activities to the Conference to act if possible as a guide to others. This report was presented by the Rev. J. S. Marsh. The various Missions operating in the Umtali region had been invited to attend, even if they were not affiliated to the Conference, also the Circuit Inspector. Meetings were held twice per annum, and various subjects were discussed. In the view of the members of the Committee, it was fulfilling a very useful purpose and they had found it very profitable in stimulating co-operation in educational matters between the various Missions. Mr. Marsh stated that copies of their brief contribution were available for those interested.

#### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOUTHERN RHODESIA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE AND THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

As it had appeared that the functions of the newly constituted Christian Council of Southern Rhodesia and the relationship between the Council and the Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference were not clearly understood by many people in and outside Rhodesia, the Rev. H. Carter put before the meeting a clear and concise statement regarding the matter. The Conference welcomed the statement. The statement will be included in the printed report of the Conference, and will also be forwarded to the International Missionary Council.

#### **VACATION AND REFRESHER COURSES FOR AFRICAN TEACHERS.**

The last item for the day on the Agenda was a paper on VACATION AND REFRESHER COURSES FOR AFRICAN TEACHERS, presented by the Rev. J. S.

Marsh. Mr. Marsh stated that they had found vacation courses very profitable and their Mission would consider it a great loss if they had to do without them. The courses they had given could be grouped under three types—extensive, intensive and refresher courses. The extensive type lasted for a week or two weeks and covered a wide range of subjects. The intensive type lasted from three to four days and concentrated on one or two special subjects; the refresher type had teachers for a school week at the Central Training Institution to study the methods there employed. Each of these types had its own advantages. Vacation courses gave teachers fresh inspiration and understanding of their high task. No resolution was offered.

Conference closed with the Benediction by the President at 5 p.m.

## TUESDAY, 25th JUNE

Conference assembled at 9 a.m. Devotions were conducted by Brigadier A. Pallant, who took as his text: "And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel . . . and He led them out into the wilderness." Israel's history is a story of failure. They did not enter the promised land in spite of all God had done for them. Will this world of ours enter into the promised land after the terrible war we have gone through? Not unless we return to God. The world needs men of vision.

The Minutes of the previous day were now presented by the Secretary, confirmed, and signed.

Arising from the Minutes, Conference now proceeded to consider the redrafted resolutions in connection with Miss Scovill's paper on Women's Work. After some discussion, during which great concern was expressed by various speakers at the deplorable state of morality among African youth entrusted to us, the Conference passed unanimously the following resolutions, which it wished to submit to all Missions in membership with the Conference for their very earnest consideration and action:—

"This Conference deeply deplores the prevalence of immorality in sexual matters amongst our African youth, and we urge:

"That definite teaching on purity of life be given in all Institutions and Missions to adolescent boys and girls, and to the wives and mothers in our women's meetings, so that they may be able to teach their sons and daughters along right lines.

"To accomplish this we suggest that suitable pamphlets on the subject be obtained and circulated among the Missions of the Colony and that extracts from these be translated into the two vernaculars (Shona and Sindebele) and distributed among adolescents of both sexes in Mission centres, town locations and mining compounds.

"The Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference has noted with great interest the discussion on 'lobolo' by the Native Missionary Conference, and urges the Executive of that Conference to take steps to investigate the present practices and try to find ways of guiding the African people along Christian lines in this matter."

Proposed: Miss I. M. Scovill. Seconded: Miss M. Pratten.

## GOVERNMENT GRANTS FOR SALARIES AND THE GRADING OF TEACHERS.

Conference listened with interest to a paper on the above subject read by the Rev. H. Carter. Dealing with African teachers Mr. Carter contended that the time had come for the Government to declare the wage scale and to pay it in full. This alone will bring a period of peace and contented service and enable the Missions to reduce to a new minimum the charges paid by or for the pupils. In addition to this he suggested that a system of grading teachers should be begun, in which qualifications, experience and record are taken into account, and teachers' appointments and wages should then correspond with their grading. With regard to European teachers the grants paid for married teachers did not cover the allowances paid to them, while in the case of unmarried teachers the grant was in some cases more than the allowances of the teacher. It therefore appeared very desirable that the grants should approximate much more nearly than they do to the real costs of the appointments. A conservative

estimate would be £600-£700 p.m. for married, and £350-£400 p.a. for unmarried, male or female teachers. Further Mr. Carter urged that grants be paid for administrative and boarding house appointment, that the system of payment of grants for equipment now obtaining be scrapped, and a more equitable graded scale be introduced. Further mention was made of the different forms of responsibility of the Government and Missions with regard to Native Education, and of the desirability of the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry on Native Education.

In conclusion Mr. Carter proposed the following resolution, which was adopted by the Conference unanimously:—

“The Conference earnestly requests the Government to review the grants payable to Missions for African Schools, and in consultation with representative Missionaries to do the following (which are placed in order of priority):

- (a) decide upon, and thereafter pay in full, the salaries of African teachers in accordance with the grades in which they may be placed;
- (b) increase the grants for equipment;
- (c) reconsider the grants payable in respect of European teaching staffs;
- (d) provide for grants for administrative and boarding department appointments;
- (e) increase the grant for co-ordinating and supervising educationists and redraft the requirements.”

Conference further resolved that the above resolutions, together with the resolutions previously passed by the Conference with regard to grants-in-aid, be forwarded to the Joint Conference of Missionary representatives and representatives of the Native Education Department for their consideration and action.

#### **GOVERNMENT AND AFRICAN EDUCATION.**

With regard to the dual responsibility of the Missions and the Government in the matter of Native Education, Conference resolved to forward the following statement to the Government:—

“This Conference desires to make it clear that it has never in the past approved, nor does it do so now, of the policy of the Government taking over African Education, nor have we any reason for thinking that the Conference would approve of such a policy in the near future.”

#### **MARRIAGE AND THE ENABLING CERTIFICATE.**

By leave of the Conference the Rev. H. Carter proposed the following motion, which was seconded by the Rev. Father Baker:—

“This Conference is convinced by long and varied experience that it is expedient to secure alterations in the present regulations under which Africans desiring Church marriage are required to present themselves to the Native Commissioner’s Office, and secure an enabling certificate before the marriage is solemnised by a Marriage Officer. It has been found that this requirement is troublesome, involving long journeys and much delay; there is great variation in the interpretation placed by officers of the Native Department on the questions and information deemed to be expedient, and not infrequently the non-Christian parents or guardians are insufficiently interested in the proposal to make the journey to the office.

“The Conference therefore recommends to the Government to abrogate the existing regulations, and to substitute a procedure along the following lines:—

1. To require the explicit consent of the woman’s parent or guardian or their authorised deputy such consent to be in writing or declared and recorded before witnesses.
2. To state in concise terms the legal implications of Christian marriage, which statement could be integrated into the Christian marriage ceremony, and certified accordingly by the marriage officer.

“This Conference also urges the Churches and Missionary Societies to take every care to give adequate instruction to those proposing to marry, so that there may

be no grounds for misapprehension on the part of Africans." Proposer: Rev. H. Carter. Seconder: Rev. Father R. H. Baker.

Upon being put to the vote the motion was lost, 16 voting for it and 17 against. Conference now proceeded to deal with the business of the Conference.

#### NEW MEMBER.

An application was entertained from the Dutch Reformed Church of the Orange Free State for membership with the Conference. As the Conference was satisfied that this was an accredited Mission, operating as a branch of the Dutch Reformed Church, the application was accepted with a unanimous vote.

#### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP—SECRETARY, BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

In response to a desire on the part of Mr. Bevan, Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society for the Rhodesias, to be more closely connected with the Missionary Conference, Conference was glad to place on record its appreciation of the work Mr. Bevan was doing, and his keen interest in all the activities of the Missionary Conference, and wished to invite the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in future to attend the Conference in the capacity of an honorary member.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Financial Statement, showing a credit balance of £77 11s. 2d., was submitted by the Secretary, and adopted by the Conference.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Conference now proceeded to elect its Officers for the ensuing period as follows:—

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Rev. H. H. Brubaker.

Vice-President: Rev. A. E. Walden.

Secretary and Treasurer: Rev. A. A. Louw, Jr.

Assistant Secretary: Mr. C. J. Brand.

Additional Members: Mr. Garfield Todd, Rev. E. Sundgren, Rev. H. Carter, Rev. T. A. O'Farrell, Rev. H. W. Murray, Rev. R. H. Clark, Col. George Grattan, Rev. J. S. Marsh, Mrs. C. F. Eshelman.

Alternates: Rev. E. L. Sells, Rev. W. W. Anderson, Rev. D. F. Stowell, Miss I. M. Scovill.

#### JOINT CONFERENCE.

In accordance with the new regulations the Missionary representatives on the Joint Conference would be the following:—

	Official	Unofficial
Anglican Church .....	The Bishop of S.R.	Rev. D. F. Stowell
Dutch Reformed Church .....	Dr. W. J. van der Merwe	Mr. C. J. Brand
Methodist Missionary Society	Rev. H. Carter	Rev. G. E. Hay Pluke, alt. Rev. T. D. Sam- kange
Methodist Church (U.S.A.) .	Rev. T. A. O'Farrell	Rev. M. J. Murphree
Brethren in Christ .....	Rev. H. H. Brubaker	
Church of Sweden .....	Rev. E. Sundgren	
Church of Christ .....		Mr. G. Todd

It was agreed that the following Societies shall send in to the Secretary as soon as possible the name of one representative each: Salvation Army, American Board, London Missionary Society, and that the following Societies indicate their choice among the member societies: Presbyterian Church, South African General Mission.

**LAND BOARD.**

The Rev. H. Carter was re-appointed as the representative of the Missionary Conference on the Land Board.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL FOR GOROMONZI SECONDARY SCHOOL.**

The following members were re-elected to act on the School Council for the Goromonzi Secondary School: the Rev. H. Carter, Rev. T. A. O'Farrell, and Mr. T. H. Barnard.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.**

American Board: Rev. J. S. Marsh, Mount Silinda.

Anglican Church: The Bishop of Southern Rhodesia, P.O. Box 7, Salisbury.

Brethren in Christ: Rev. H. H. Brubaker, P.O. Box 711, Bulawayo.

Church of Christ: Mr. G. Todd, Dadaya Mission, P.O. Shabani.

Church of Sweden: Rev. A. Albrektsen, Gwanda.

Dutch Reformed Church: Rev. A. A. Louw, Pamushana Mission, P.O. Fort Victoria.

Dutch Reformed Church (O.F.S.): Rev. J. A. H. Pieters, 23 Lobengula Street, Bulawayo.

London Missionary Society: Rev. A. J. Haile, Hope Fountain, Bulawayo.

Presbyterian Church: Adv. J. M. Greenfield, York Chambers, Bulawayo.

Salvation Army: Col. Geo. Grattan, P.O. Box 14, Salisbury.

South Africa General Mission: Rev. C. L. Dotson, Rusitu Mission, P.O. Melsetter.

**NEXT CONFERENCE.**

Conference accepted the kind invitation of the Rev. E. L. Sells to have the next Conference in 1948 at Umtali. The date to be fixed by the Executive.

**VOTE OF THANKS.**

In conclusion the Conference passed the following general vote of thanks:—

“This Conference accords a hearty vote of thanks to all who contributed to the success of the meetings—to the President for his tactful and genial guidance of the Conference, to the Secretary for his faithful and efficient service, to all those who have given time and thought to the preparation of papers, to the Methodist Church for the use of the hall, to the ladies of the various Churches at Bulawayo who have so generously provided tea and refreshments, to the Bulawayo Ministers' Fraternal for kindly undertaking to arrange for hospitality for the delegates and to all the hosts and hostesses who have opened their homes for delegates, to the Railway Administration for generously providing concession rates, to the Press for giving the proceedings of the Conference such excellent publicity, to the Honourable Mr. Justice Tredgold for giving his valuable time and deep interest in consenting to open the Conference, to the Director and the local Inspector of Native Education for their presence and help throughout the meetings, and to all others who in any way have contributed to the success of our Conference.”

Conference closed with a prayer and the Benediction by the President at 1 p.m.

**President:** H. H. BRUBAKER.

**Secretary:** A. A. LOUW, Jr.

# MINUTES

## OF THE

### SOUTHERN RHODESIA MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

SALISBURY, 24th-27th SEPTEMBER, 1948

FRIDAY, 24th SEPTEMBER

The Conference met in the Methodist Church Hall at 10 a.m. in Joint Session with the African Missionary Conference, the Rev. H. H. Brubaker presiding. About ninety members and visitors were present.

Devotions were conducted by the Rev. R. Forshaw, who read from Ephesians, Chapter 4, and spoke briefly on, "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." St. Paul assumes that there is that unity and urges that it be maintained in the body of the Church of Christ by evincing a spirit of lowliness, meekness, long-suffering and forbearance. We have to reassure ourselves of the fact that there is that unity, that this Conference will experience it in its deliberations and act in the spirit of this unity in the Cross of Christ.

The President thereupon extended a welcome to all delegates and visitors present. A special word of welcome was accorded to the Rev. A. A. Louw, Snr., who attended the morning session, and to Messrs. Stark and Farquhar of the Native Education Department. (And may we here be permitted to add a word of hearty welcome in our meetings to the representatives of the Home Church of the Brethren in Christ, Rev. H. N. Hostetter and Rev. G. Wolgemuth, who are honouring us with their presence.)

The **ROLL CALL OF VOTING DELEGATES** was now taken:—

American Board of Missions: Rev. F. T. Meacham and Mrs. Meacham, Rev. J. Marsh, Dr. Masters.  
 Anglican Church: The Ven. E. D. K. Wood, Rev. H. St. John Evans, Miss B. Tredgold, Miss M. Wilson.  
 Brethren in Christ: Rev. D. B. Hall, Rev. E. S. Eyer, Rev. A. Brenaman, Rev. A. M. Climenhaga.  
 Church of Sweden: Rev. H. von Sicard, Dr. L. Hallstrom, Rev. H. Thonell, Sister Aina Holmedahl.  
 D.R. Church (Cape): Dr. van der Merwe, Rev. J. Jackson, Rev. S. K. Jackson, Dr. M. H. Steyn.  
 D.R. Church (O.F.S.): Rev. J. A. H. Pieters.  
 Methodist Church: Rev. R. Forshaw, Rev. F. B. Rae, Sister Dorothy Teare.  
 Methodist Church of America: Rev. and Mrs. M. J. Murphree, Rev. C. W. Hewey, Rev. M. E. Culver.  
 L.M.S.: Rev. W. W. Anderson, Rev. P. S. King.  
 Presbyterian Church: Miss Robinson.

The Salvation Army, Church of Christ and S.A.G.M. were not represented.

**OPENING CEREMONY** by His Excellency the Governor, Sir John Kennedy, K.C.V.O., K.B.E.

The President, in welcoming His Excellency, expressed the warm appreciation of the Missionaries present for the recognition of our task, often done in obscurity, as evidenced by His Excellency's presence.

His Excellency, opening Conference, expressed his pleasure at addressing a meeting representative of such a number of Christian Missions. He sees herein the promise that Missions have a significant contribution to make towards the unity of the Christian Church.

His Excellency then touched upon a few matters that had forced themselves upon his mind in his tours round the country, in which Missions, by virtue of their singular position, play a vital part, namely, African Family Life, Medical Work and Education.

The fundamental importance of African home and family life in the upliftment and civilising of the people can hardly be over-emphasised. We shall see true progress and advance in the measure to train African women to make happy, healthy, Christian homes for their husbands.

Though medical facilities have been greatly increased, the increase has not been commensurate with the increased incidence of disease. Missions have done magnificent medical work, but His Excellency hoped that they will do everything in their power to extend their services in this sphere of their labour, to meet the ever-increasing demands.

Education may be thought of on two lines: Education for literacy to meet the danger of an illiterate proletariat falling an easy prey to unscrupulous minds; and education for leadership, which is our obvious task if they would be led to come into their own.

His Excellency closed by saying that we can accomplish this only if we draw our inspiration, patience and hope from God Almighty, that the pioneer Missionaries of this Colony have left us a great tradition, a tradition which it is our duty and honour to carry forward.

His Excellency's address was listened to and received with deep appreciation. The Rev. St. John Evans expressed the gratitude of the Conference for His Excellency's genuine personal interest in Mission work, as shown in visiting not only Central Stations but also small schools far out in the country.

Conference then adjourned for tea.

## **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.**

The President, Rev. H. H. Brubaker, in the presidential address, centred his thoughts round the injunction of our Lord that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

After pointing to the divine example of Christ in his evaluation of material issues, reference was made to the besetting materialistic complex that governs modern life and thought. We have come to ignore the claims of our souls. The failure of materialism to satisfy man's deeper needs is witnessed in the nameless sufferings of our generation. Field-Marshal Smuts was quoted as saying that "the world has no need of a new order or new plan, but only of an honest and courageous application of the historic Christian idea. Our Christian civilisation is based on an eternal order, an endless plan, in the message of Christ. The Man of Galilee is and remains our one and only Leader."

While admitting the material needs of our African people and fully appreciating and supporting every effort made for their betterment, we can not but see that the needs of humanity cry out for a Redeemer's message and power, and that it is our supreme privilege to bring this message.

The educational work of Missions is often criticised and Missionaries themselves are prone to complain about the disproportionate part of their time they have to devote to secular work, but we feel that participation in this field is still a part of our God-given task and in the best interests of the African Community.

If the entire European population would by precept and example bring to bear upon African life the Christian virtues of honesty, truthfulness, reliability, industry, honour, meekness and temperance which we so freely extol, it would do much to improve their tone of life. It cannot be left to a few professional religionists.

However stern the struggle, it remains our declared intention to devote our lives to bringing the people of this land to a knowledge of the Son of God, the Redeemer of mankind.

### **ADULT LITERACY: THE LAUBACH SYSTEM.**

The Rev. M. E. Culver read a paper on this subject, reporting on the Conference held at Old Umtali Mission with Dr. Laubach in June of this year. Four Missions were represented there and the main Shona language areas. A full set of lessons was worked out and demonstrated with a group of adults. The lessons have been printed and are now obtainable from the Old Umtali Mission Press.

The ensuing discussion showed considerable interest in the matter and revealed the need of the lessons also in Sindebele, Shangaan and English.

The following resolution was adopted by Conference:—

“That the Missions which are undertaking experiments in the use of the Laubach system be requested to give reports on their experience in such experiments to the Executive of the S.R.M.C., for transmission to the constituent bodies.” Proposed: Rev. St. John Evans. Seconded: Miss B. Tredgold.

### **VOTE OF APPRECIATION AND THANKS—REV. A. A. LOUW, Jnr.**

It was with a sense of deep regret that the Executive learned in October, 1947, that the Rev. A. A. Louw, Jnr., our efficient secretary, had accepted a call to European Church work in the Union and would, therefore, be leaving the Colony and missionary work.

This Missionary Conference, at its first meeting after the departure of Mr. Louw, wishes to express its great appreciation of the services rendered to the cause of Christian Missions in this Colony by Mr. Louw.

He served the Conference as secretary from 1930 to 1947. The efficient manner in which he dealt with the business of the Conference both during its sessions and the intervals between sessions, gave satisfaction to all. His unfailing courtesy and tact set a worthy example.

The Africans of the Shona-speaking section of Southern Rhodesia, as well as the Missionaries, are deeply indebted to Mr. Louw for his translation of the Bible into Shona. This will remain as a memorial to his linguistic ability and a source of blessing to the generations to come.

We shall miss him, not only because of his service to us, but also for the loss of his fellowship. We wish him the richest blessing of God in his present field of service.

### **MOTION OF CONDOLENCE: REV. H. W. MURRAY.**

The following motion of condolence in the passing of the Rev. H. W. Murray, late general superintendent of the D.R.C. Mission, Morgenster, was then proposed:—

“This General Missionary Conference of Southern Rhodesia records with deep regret the death of Rev. H. W. Murray of Morgenster, who for many years has been the Superintendent of the D.R.C. Mission in this country and a keen collaborator in the work of this Conference. The missionary cause in Southern Rhodesia has lost in him a friend and this Conference a valued member.”

Conference adopted this resolution standing.

### **NOTICE OF MOTION.**

The following notice of motion was tabled:—

“That this Conference endeavour to obtain the services of a full-time Secretary, and that if the S.R. Christian Council be willing to co-operate, the services of such a secretary might be divided between both organisations.” Proposed: Rev. F. B. Rae.

### **PUBLICATION OF MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the 1946 Conference not having been made available to members of the Conference yet, it was moved and accepted “that the Minutes of the 1946 Conference be published with those of this Conference.”

It was further moved (Rev. T. D. Samkange) that the Minutes of the African Section of the Conference be incorporated in the printed Minutes of the European section. This was adopted by Conference.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

### THE SHONA AND SINDEBELE ORTHOGRAPHIES.

Two well-thought-out papers were prepared on the use of the "new" Shona and Sindebele orthographies, by Messrs. Stanlake Samkange and Tennyson Hlabangana, and read.

Conference listened with interest to arguments for the retention or rejection of symbols and the introduction of simpler combinations or single consonants.

After a lively discussion, in which a number of African and European members of Conference expressed divergent views, the following resolution was passed:—

"That a committee of European missionaries and Africans be appointed by the Executive of the Conference to investigate how the new orthography for Shona and Ndebele could be modified so as to facilitate their use. This committee will report to the Executive." Proposed: Dr. van der Merwe. Seconded: Rev. S. K. Jackson.

Conference now adjourned for tea at Government House, at the invitation of Her Excellency, Lady Kennedy.

## SATURDAY, 25th SEPTEMBER

### DEVOTIONS.

Conference was led in devotions by the Rev. D. B. Hall, who read a portion from Phil. 4 and directed our thoughts to verse 7: "Kept by the peace of God." There is no greater peace and security than His. It enables us to meet every issue successfully in Christ.

### MINUTES.

The minutes were then read, amended, and confirmed.

### NOTICE OF MOTION.

The motion (Rev. F. B. Rae) on the appointment of a full-time secretary was then brought under discussion, elucidated by a proposer, and after some exchange of views referred to a committee consisting of the Revs. F. B. Rae, St. John Evans and W. van der Merwe, to be redrafted and introduced at a later stage.

### THE DISINTEGRATION OF AFRICAN FAMILY LIFE IN TOWNS.

In the absence of the Rev. R. H. Clark, who kindly prepared a paper on this vital subject, it was read by the Rev. St. John Evans.

African society is essentially based on the family, on its unity and integrity, and this "instinct" is in accordance with Christian doctrine.

The disintegration of family life in towns can be ascribed to lack of housing, the insufficient wage level, a disregard of the African's kinship to the soil, and overcrowding in living quarters with resultant breaking down of moral restraints.

To remedy this deplorable state of affairs, there is firstly necessary a determination with all those concerned to provide decent quarters for married people; secondly that a wage be paid on which a family can be supported and that the African be taught to see his responsibility of rendering service which would justify such a wage; and thirdly that it be made possible for African families to acquire freeholds in urban areas.

### THE DISINTEGRATION OF AFRICAN FAMILY LIFE IN THE COUNTRY.

The Rev. W. W. Anderson presented a very much appreciated paper on the second phase of this important matter.

He emphasised the high standard of the family tradition and parental authority that obtained in primitive African life. The impact of our economic system upon this idyllic setting was disruptive in the extreme. Edwin Smith was quoted saying: "You cannot remove fifty or seventy per cent. of the adult males from a community for prolonged periods without domestic disaster. It is bad for the men; it is worse for the

women who are left behind; it is worst of all for the children who are deprived of their father's discipline." To arrest the process of disintegration the Church must endeavour to restore the integrity and security of the African home by the assiduous inculcation of respect for parents and the nobler moral concepts. The Church and the parent must join hands in an endeavour to save the child for the family and for the future of his people.

The real interest evoked by the two papers was shown in the discussion. The imperative need for some stabilising measures and agencies in African family life was deeply felt. In these times of unrest the security of family life could and should provide that contentment which is so much lacking in the disintegrating African society.

Conference unanimously passed the following resolution proposed by Miss B. Tredgold and seconded by the Rev. R. Forshaw:—

"That this S.R.M.C. urges the Government to amend the Urban Areas Act in such a manner as to enable Africans to obtain freehold plots on which to establish their own homes."

### **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

The report was read and accepted.

The following resolution of the Executive was endorsed by Conference:—

"In view of many disciplined teachers being re-employed without sufficient reference to their previous employers, this Executive of the S.R.M.C. would urge it upon all missionary superintendents not to appoint any teacher applying from another Mission without previous reference to or recommendations from that Mission."

It was further moved by the Revs. P. S. King and W. J. van der Merwe and adopted by Conference that "this resolution be circulated to all "missionary superintendents," together with the earnest request that "superintendents will reply, without delay, to correspondence asking for information about teaching matters."

### **ADAPTATION OF THE CHURCH TO AFRICAN CONDITIONS.**

Conference listened with profound interest to an excellent paper read on this subject by the Rev. H. von Sicard.

It is our task, Rev. von Sicard said, to establish an indigenous church of which the African will feel it is his own, without compromising the full Gospel message. He affirmed that we can adapt the church to African conditions, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, without deviating from the Divine Plan.

This African church will not of necessity emulate the pattern of the Western Church with its close associations with Western ideals and forms, but may more appropriately adopt the spirit of the Eastern Church. Now that Western life is no longer essentially religious, it will be easier to dissociate the African church from what is purely Westernism.

The Eastern churches that have better preserved Christ's principle of a new life (not a new way of life or doctrine, and more than the Cross) mainly stress the "joy and life in the risen and living Lord, the mystical life in fellowship with God in Christ. Life is, also, the foundation of all African conception of religion; not doctrine, but the reality of communion with the Living Christ. This is eminently African and indicates the line to follow towards an African Church.

The Church must make use of essentially African forms and values. It will be a rural church in the first place; better use can be made of African music; in the absence of an African model in architecture the Russian and Indian church architecture may be studied. The structure of African social life would indicate that a presbytero-episcopal church order will be the best.

Conference adjourned after the Benediction by the President.

## AFTERNOON SESSION

Opened with a prayer by the Rev. J. S. Marsh.

The President welcomed in the meeting Dr. Ross, Director of Medical Services and Health.

### MEDICAL SERVICES IN NATIVE RESERVES.

The Rev. P. S. King, reading this paper, pointed out that it was occasioned by the inadequate provision for medical facilities made in some reserves. He enlarged on the grave disabilities the African population in some reserves have to live under in regard to health services.

The Medical Director pointed out that health services in reserves have been very considerably implemented by the erection of Government clinics, and that ten more such clinics were under construction.

He explained that his department was fully aware of the situation and is far from being complacent. There are serious obstacles in the way of extension of medical facilities in reserves, of which lack of proper roads and buildings is the chief.

The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

“That this Conference, having made a survey of the present state of medical services in the reserves, is concerned at the large areas still outside the reach of a doctor or clinic. Therefore, it urges the Government to use all possible speed in the development of its plans, and that in particular attention be given to the development of the necessary road services.”

Two further resolutions offered and passed were the following:—

1. “That the Government should be requested to undertake a survey of medical facilities amongst the Native population, not forgetting the more remote reserves, and in the light of that survey to plan for the immediate development of medical facilities so that no large population is far from medical aid. In the larger reserves this would probably necessitate a central hospital or clinic with a doctor in attendance and small clinics run by Native orderlies and nurses in the district attached to this central hospital.”

2. “That in the meantime we request the Government—

- (a) To provide motor ambulances where the distance of the reserve from the nearest hospital or doctor makes this necessary;
- (b) And to supply, free of charge, simple drugs, dressings, etc., to missionaries who undertake medical work. This is to be done in consultation with the G.M.O. of the district concerned.

### THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL MISSIONS IN SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Dr. M. H. Steyn presented a paper on this subject and stated that the ministry of healing belongs to the essence of the Gospel and must remain an integral part of Mission work.

The Government making such generous financial provision for medical Mission work, it is incumbent on us to avail ourselves of this. There is yet ample scope for medical Mission work.

The question is whether Missions can find the staff to man their hospitals. As long as the Christian church remains faithful to her calling in proclaiming the Gospel there will be young men and women who will be willing to dedicate their lives to this work.

The future of medical Missions in this Colony will be just what we make of the opportunities proffered.

The discussion brought forward the serious indictment that African orderlies and nurses often abuse the authority of their position in exploitation of those who come for medical aid, and that it is our responsibility to co-operate with the Government in correcting this deplorable attitude.

The following resolutions were then adopted by the Conference:—

1. "That this Conference wishes to express its gratitude to the Government for the generous provision that has been made in Government Notice 142 of 1947 for the financial support of Medical Missions. This provision will not only stimulate Missions to greater activity and make for more effective service in the existing hospitals, but also do we read in it that the Government wishes to fit in the medical work undertaken by Missions into their wider programme of health services for white and black in Southern Rhodesia."

This motion was proposed by Dr. M. H. Steyn and seconded by Rev. D. B. Hall, and unanimously carried.

2. "In view of the fact that Medical Missions have to keep big funds for their current expenses, this Conference requests the Government—

(a) That grants towards the maintenance of Native hospitals, the training of medical staff, and the salaries of the staff, be made available by January of the following year;

(b) And that the grants towards the cost of medicines be paid quarterly, as soon as the receipted accounts for the expenditure have been submitted."

3. "This Conference requests the Government that there be no difference made in grants given to African Nurses' Training Schools per pupil, whether such training be as nurse, nursing orderly, or nursing assistant; the grant to be £20 per pupil as laid down in Government Notice 142, section 10 (a)."

## AFRICAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

### 1. Higher Classes in Primary Schools:

In view of the fact that: (a) There is an increasing demand for education among the Africans in the Colony; (b) that the existing Central Primary Schools can absorb a very small number of pupils above Standard II, leaving hundreds unable to find place anywhere, this meeting of the Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference strongly recommends that the time has come for primary schools to go as far as Standard IV or higher wherever there is a post-six second year teacher. Further, we recommend that in order to relieve the congestion in the Training Schools so that such schools can accommodate and train more teachers, Standards III and IV should now be catered for by Kraal Schools.

This resolution to be forwarded without comment.

### 2. Training of Home Demonstrators:

This African Missionary Conference requests the Government that in view of the usefulness of home demonstrators to the African community, the course be resumed and that the Secretary for Native Affairs be approached regarding this matter.

This resolution to be forwarded with approval of the Conference.

### 3. Railway Accommodation for African Students:

This Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference requests the Native Education Department to approach the Railway Administration to provide special trains for African scholars when African Boarding Schools open and close.

This resolution is forwarded with our approval.

### 4. Equipment Grant:

This Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference requests the Native Education Department to double the Equipment Grant for primary schools per capita, so that it will be possible for Missionary Superintendents to issue a free limited number of exercise books, pencils, and rubbers to African scholars.

This resolution is forwarded without comment.

#### 5. **Railway Reserved Accommodation:**

This Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference requests the Railway Administration to reserve Third Class compartments on all trains for people who buy third class tickets. If there are any difficulties in arranging this, those who have third class tickets should get first preference in accommodation and be protected by Guards against disturbances.

This resolution is forwarded with our recommendation.

#### 6. **Centralisation of African Villages:**

This Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference, while appreciating centralisation in all its aspects, yet feels that the system of long line villages is a new innovation into the African village system and retards formation of a community spirit among the people, and it, therefore, requests the Native Affairs Department to endeavour to provide plans which would allow the development of small villages.

This resolution is forwarded with our approval.

#### 7. **Consorting of European Men with Native Women and Care for Coloured Children:**

This Conference of African Missionaries requests the Government (a) to provide for equality of punishment before Criminal Law of European and African men who cohabit with women of another race; (b) that Coloured children be cared for by their parents.

This resolution is forwarded with our approval.

#### 8. **Youth Movements:**

This Conference requests the Missionary Conference to form a joint committee of both Europeans and Africans of different churches to discuss ways and means of protecting young African people, whose life is being deprived of the Church activities, against all social evils in urban areas and that when this is approved, pamphlets be written and circulated to different church leaders as a guide.

This resolution is noted and referred to the Executive for further consideration and action.

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE S.R.M.C. AND THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

The suggestions embodied in the Rev. Carter's statement on this matter were adopted by Conference:—

1. That the S.R.M.C. be represented on the Christian Council by its principal officers;
2. That Conference refer to the Council matters in which it may consider the Council's co-operation desirable; and
3. Receive from the Council matters in which the Council may desire the active co-operation of the Conference.

Proposed: Rev. A. M. Climenhaga. Seconded: Rev. R. Forshaw.

### **AFRICAN CHRISTIANS AND DIVORCE.**

The Rev. Climenhaga, who prepared this paper at very short notice, reviewed the problem as dealt with by this Conference in the past as far back as 1926, requesting a tightening up of the granting of divorce and a revision of the procedure in the hearing of these cases, and concluded that a fresh study of the subject was needed both as to the legal position of African Christians in divorce and as to the religio-moral and ethical aspects.

The following resolution was moved and adopted by Conference:—

“Whereas, the need is apparent for a restudy of the legal aspects of divorce of African Christians, and

“Whereas, such research could profitably incorporate study into the moral and disciplinary problems of divorce of Christian Africans,

“Be it resolved that three members of this Conference be appointed to investigate present laws relative to divorce as it affects African Christians and to study the ethical and church policy approach to this question;

“And that the committee report their findings and resulting recommendations to the next S.R. Missionary Conference.”

As members of the committee to do research in this question, were appointed the Revs. A. M. Climenhaga (convener), J. S. Marsh and W. J. van der Merwe.

#### **GREETINGS.**

A telegraphic message from Rev. A. A. Louw, Jnr., former secretary to the Conference, wishing Conference God's richest blessings on its deliberations, was received and read with appreciation.

The session closed with the Benediction by the President and adjourned.

### **MONDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER**

#### **DEVOTIONS.**

Reading from Matthew 5 the Rev. M. J. Murphree, who conducted devotions, directed our thoughts to the words of our Lord: “Ye are the light of the world . . . . Let your light shine . . . .” Christ said: “I am the light of the world.” He is the source and power of the light and we the channels He uses to spread His light and power abroad. The world is in desperate need of this power and light. Whatever our church loyalties may be will be immaterial to Him, just as the light from the power station is spread abroad through various makes of bulbs, as long as we are loyal to Him.

#### **MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the previous day were then read and confirmed.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF A FULL-TIME SECRETARY.**

The Rev. F. B. Rae, having set out the impelling need and the duties visualised for such a full-time officer, also in a closer inter-relationship with the Christian Council, Conference adopted the following motion unanimously:—

“That this Conference agrees that it is desirable to appoint a full-time paid secretary, and it authorises the Executive to explore ways and means;

“That Churches and Missions be circularised with a view to discussing their readiness to provide financial support;

“That the co-operation of the S.R. Christian Council be invited.”

#### **THE MISSIONARY SUPERINTENDENT—EDUCATIONIST OR EVANGELIST: a paper by the Rev. R. Forshaw.**

This able exposition of the Missionary Superintendent's dilemma in his dual responsibility was highly appreciated by Conference.

Rev. Forshaw pointed out that the Missionary Superintendent can no longer fill this double roll adequately, but has to be either Missionary or Superintendent due to the increased demands rightly made on him by the expanding and advancing educational programme as by his pastoral duties.

He reviewed the hardships under which Missionary Superintendents endeavour to meet the complications and worries of educational administrative work, while their pastoral duties which would more largely contribute to the shaping of the future of the people must be neglected, and concluded that the Missionaries can be effective as spiritual guides and leaders only if they could give their undivided attention to their charge as pastors and shepherds.

As the following paper had a direct bearing on this subject it was ruled that it be read and discussed in conjunction with the first.

**MISSIONARY PLANNING IN RELATION TO THE GOVERNMENT:** Rev. F. B. Rae.

Unfolding the problem of the relationship of the Government and the Mission in the educational field, the speaker declared that for various reasons he considered education as much the province of the Mission as of the Government.

While the Government assumes the responsibility of financing education, he holds that it should not proportionately control it to the exclusion of Mission interests. He is in favour of joint control and prescription of policy by the Government and Missions. There should be a minimum of centralising of the control of the educational efforts of the various Missions.

Considerable interest was evinced in these papers, and in the lively discussion which ensued the Director of Native Education and the Chief Inspector (besides other officials of the Department), who attended the session by special invitation, were asked several questions on educational policy, and inter alia, stated that they welcomed closer co-operation between the Department and Missions.

Conference then resolved:—

“That in view of the impending development in African education and the likelihood of a Government Commission being appointed, it is agreed that it is necessary for Missions to give active consideration to future policy.

“The Southern Rhodesia Missionary Conference therefore requests all Missionary Societies to prepare memoranda on their educational policy and to forward these to the Executive.”

**A BOARD OF AFRICAN EDUCATION.**

The Rev. R. Forshaw opened the discussion on this matter and read correspondence relevant to this between the Methodist Church Synod and the Director of Native Education.

It was felt that the Department did not always give sufficient recognition to the joint partnership of the Missions in the control and administration of Native Education and that the setting up of an Advisory Board as consultative body will mitigate the disabilities under which Missions have to do their work.

From correspondence of the Department it appeared that the Government is favourably disposed to closer co-operation and to the establishment of a body that would more effectively serve this purpose.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. “This S.R. Missionary Conference urges Government to set up a Commission on African Education at the earliest possible moment.”

2. “It is further proposed that the meetings of the Joint Conference be held at least once a year and that a Standing Committee of the Joint Conference be set up which should consider all regulations affecting African Education before they are published, and any other matters which might come within the province of such a Standing Committee.”

**LANGUAGE COMMITTEES FOR SHONA AND SINDEBELE.**

Resultant on the previous discussion of the Sindebele and Shona orthographies the following further resolution was adopted:—

“This Conference wishes to express its appreciation for the interest in African literature taken by the Native Education Department. Where we learn that this Department intends appointing a committee to deal with African literature and relevant matters, we wish to suggest that the Committee on Orthography represent the Missionary bodies.”

### **MEMBERSHIP OF CONFERENCE.**

Applications for membership have been entertained by the Executive from the **Free Methodist Church** operating in the Nuanetsi Shangaan area, and from the **Scandinavian Alliance Mission** working in the Zambesi Valley.

The application of the Free Methodist Church was recommended to Conference and accepted, while that of the Scandinavian Alliance is still under consideration.

The representatives of both societies were welcomed as observers throughout our session.

### **REPRESENTATIVES ON THE LAND BOARD.**

The Rev. H. Carter was re-elected to this office with a common vote.

### **REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GOROMONZI SCHOOL COUNCIL.**

The following gentlemen were elected to represent Conference on this Council: Rev. H. Carter, the Rev. St. John Evans and Mr. T. H. Barnard. The Rev. R. Forshaw was appointed as alternate to the Rev. Carter in the latter's absence.

### **REPRESENTATION ON THE JOINT CONFERENCE.**

The various constituent bodies are requested to inform the secretary of their official and unofficial representatives.

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT.**

The financial statement presented to the Conference showed a credit balance of £68 7s. 1d. at the date of the meeting. It was examined, found correct, and adopted by Conference.

### **OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

The following office-bearers for the ensuing two years were then elected by ballot:—

President: Rev. St. John Evans.

Vice-President: Rev. J. S. Marsh.

Secretary: Rev. A. M. Climenhaga.

Members: Miss B. Tredgold (Anglican Church, Salisbury), Rev. H. H. Brubaker (Brethren in Christ), Dr. W. J. van der Merwe (D.R.C.), Rev. E. Sundgren (Church of Sweden), Rev. M. J. Murphree (American Methodist, Old Umtali), Rev. H. Carter (Methodist), Mr. C. Brand (D.R.C.), Rev. W. W. Anderson (L.M.S.), Rev. Garfield Todd (Church of Christ).

### **VOTE OF THANKS.**

The following vote of thanks was then motioned and accepted with acclamation:

“This Conference accords a hearty vote of thanks to all those who have helped to make our gathering so successful—to the President for his able guidance of the Conference, to the acting secretary for his valuable services under considerable difficulties, to all who prepared and read such thought-provoking papers, to the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches for their halls, to the bodies who so kindly provided refreshment, to our hosts and hostesses, to the Director of Native Education, the Director of Medical Services, and other Government officials who found the time to attend our meetings, to the Rhodesia Railways for concessions provided, to the Press for the publicity given to our proceedings, and to all who have in any way contributed to the success of our Conference.”

### **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE.**

The time for our next Conference will be during the September school holidays, 1950; the place of the meeting to be left in the hands of the Executive.

**OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENTS.**

American Board: Rev. F. T. Meacham, Chikore Mission, P.O. Craigmore.  
 Church of Sweden: Rev. E. Sundgren, Mnene Mission, P.O. Mnene.  
 D.R.C. (Cape): Mr. T. Barnard, Gutu Mission, P.O. Gutu.  
 L.M.S.: Rev. A. J. Haile, Hope Fountain.  
 American Methodist: Rev. M. J. Murphree, Old Umtali Mission, P.O. Umtali.  
 Methodist Church: Rev. F. B. Rae, 111 Main Street, Bulawayo.  
 Anglican Church: The Bishop of Southern Rhodesia, P.O. Box 7, Salisbury.  
 Brethren in Christ: Rev. H. H. Brubaker, P.O. Box 711, Bulawayo.  
 Church of Christ: Mr. Garfield Todd, Dadaya Mission, P.O. Shabani.  
 Salvation Army: Col. George Grattan, P.O. Box 14, Salisbury  
 S.A.G.M.: Rev. C. L. Dotson, Rusitu Mission, P.O. Melsetter.  
 Presbyterian Church: Adv. J. M. Greenfield, York Chambers, Bulawayo.  
 Free Methodist Church: Rev. Sayre, Lundi Mission, P.B. 30, Fort Victoria.  
 D.R.C. (O.F.S.): Rev. J. A. H. Pieters, 23 Lobengula Street, Bulawayo.

Conference closed with prayer and the Benediction by the President.

**President: H. H. BRUBAKER.**

**Secretary: C. BRAND.**

# MINUTES

## OF THE

### SOUTHERN RHODESIA AFRICAN MISSIONARY

### CONFERENCE

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**BULAWAYO, 18th to 20th JUNE, 1946**

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Through the courtesy of the African Welfare Society the Conference met in the Stanley Hall, Bulawayo Location. Sessions were held each day, morning and afternoon, and the days' proceedings were opened by devotions, led respectively by Revs. E. K. Chipunza, E. M. Mapondera and N. Ngara.

During the Conference greetings were received from the Northern Rhodesia African Ministers' Conference, Mr. J. B. Mnyanda, Rev. G. L. Malusalela and Rev. P. Ibbotson, Organising Secretary, Federation of African Welfare Societies in Southern Rhodesia.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT.**

President: Rev. H. H. Brubaker. Secretary: Rev. T. D. Samkange.  
 Church of Christ: Rev. J. N. Hlambelo, Messrs. D. Mkwanzani, D. Ndoda, D. Ndhlovu.  
 Church of Sweden: Rev. J. S. Hove, Messrs. E. Zhou, F. Hove, A. Zhou.  
 Salvation Army: Major Achulu, Capt. M. M. Chinake, Mr. Mwuzha, Mr. Maposa.  
 Methodist Church: Revs. J. C. Mashingaidze, E. M. Mapondera, A. M. Ndhlela, C. G. Kawondza.  
 Brethren in Christ: Revs. N. Dube, N. Dhlohlhlo, M. Kumalo, Mr. N. Ncube.  
 Church of England: Revs. L. Sagonda, E. K. Chipunza, Mr. O. Somkence.  
 London Missionary Society: Revs. M. Kumalo, S. Mkandhla, Messrs. D. Nyoni, E. Gwebu.  
 Dutch Reformed Church: Rev. N. Ngara, Mr. E. M. Ngara.

## OPENING CEREMONY AND ADDRESS.

Advocate Greenfield opened the Conference.

Advocate Greenfield expressed his appreciation for the honour given him by being asked to open the Conference. He stated among other things that he believed that this honour was given him because of his late father, who had had long connection with Mission Work in the Colony, and that he himself was connected with the Presbyterian Church as a convener of its Governing Committee. He went on to say that the local churches will receive inspiration from such a gathering of Christian Leaders.

He gave advice as to how the Conference should conduct its meetings, and pointed out that the younger men would learn from the experienced older men and the old from the enthusiasm of the young. He advised the meeting that when you speak and pass resolutions do not exaggerate facts, but understate them. He furthermore stated that looking at the Agenda, it appears that it was more political than spiritual. Political questions can be approached from a Christian point of view. There is a great tendency of secularising everything in the world. Christian influence should dominate everything. He then declared the Conference open. The President thanked Mr. Greenfield for his words of advice.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The President, Rev. H. H. Brubaker, after welcoming the delegates, delivered his address.

He recalled the pleasure of meeting in Stanley Hall just eight years ago and the large number of those present. He said, inter alia: I wish to place before you what I feel to be your task as leaders of the African Community, that the leadership of the African people in this Colony must be, and must continue to be, Christian. I believe that by the help of God you will keep it Christian. Christian leaders are the only safe leaders for your people. Christianity alone can provide the correct balance and perspective development for your aspirations. Your task is to find ways and means which will enable the African to emerge safely from his past, and fit him for the privileges and responsibilities for Christian citizenship in the Community of which he forms a part.

We must make sure that all our efforts arise from the firm foundation of things eternal and that we are building for the eye of God. As church leaders, it is well that we remember the lives and experiences of the founders of the church. He concluded by saying: Let us give ourselves to prayer and let the Holy Spirit guide us and that may the greatness of our opportunity be the measure of our achievements.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS.

In presenting the report of the Executive Meeting held since the 1944 Conference, the Secretary, Rev. T. D. Samkange, stated that copies of the report were to be printed at Waddilove by the Assistant Secretary and copies were to be posted to the Secretary by a friend, but these have strayed in the post. The copies presented were not the best. After these were circulated, the report was accepted as satisfactory.

## THREE TERM CALENDAR.

In introducing the subject, Mr. K. J. Tsolo stressed the point that African children were not properly clothed; to expect them to school during the coldest months of the year was inhuman and added expenses to those parents who were able to provide their children with clothes at boarding and training schools. Children will have to come home three times a year, travelling six times to and from schools.

The following resolution was passed: "That in view of the fact that the three-term calendar doubles the expenses, and that climatical conditions in some parts of the Colony are unfavourable, this African Missionary Conference requests the European Missionary Conference to request the Missionary Societies in this country to keep the two-term calendar."

## RECOGNITION OF AFRICAN SERVICE BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

The Rev. T. D. Samkange, in his paper on the subject, pointed out that those who read papers are aware of the fact that each holiday a number of Europeans were honoured by the King, but among them there were no Africans. Chiefs and other Africans who render service for the good of the Community should be recognised. During the war chiefs and other Africans rendered a great service in helping to win the war. It is surprising to see that only Europeans were honoured and Africans who rendered similar service in the African Community were not recognised. Even among ex-service men, whose service ought to be recognised. As Christian leaders it is our duty to put this forward to the Government as loyal subjects of His Majesty.

After a lengthy discussion, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "This native Missionary Conference humbly requests the Government to ask the British Government to devise means whereby some form of recognition of distinguished services rendered by Chiefs and ex-service men, etc., be accorded, other than the King's Medal."

## AFRICANS AND FRANCHISE.

Rev. T. D. Samkange said that there had been a lot of agitation in the Press and also that some remarks were made by the Prime Minister at the Congress of the United Party held at Gwelo last year, which made Africans feel that the Government was going to pass a law and create a separate Roll for Africans. Such remarks are taken by irresponsible Africans and used to create ill-feeling between the races, and also some irresponsible Europeans make remarks which endanger the relationship. As loyal subjects of the British Empire, we should not be denied the most valued badge of citizenship. After a lengthy discussion the following resolution was passed: "That this Conference of Christian Natives feels very strongly that the privileges Africans now enjoy on being on the Common Voters' Roll be retained, and deplore the feeling among some Europeans that Africans should be removed from the Voters' Roll."

## NATIVE EDUCATION.

The following is a resume of an address given by Mr. G. Stark, Director of Native Education.

The Director said among other things that it is a great pleasure to be here with you. "When the Secretary asked me to speak at this Conference about the future of Native Education and higher teacher training, I did not know what to say, I am not a prophet. I am a Government Servant and it is my duty to carry out Government's policy."

The Director emphasised the need for higher education in this country and that the Government was planning for some Secondary Schools for Africans. Sites were being sought in Umtali, Fort Victoria, Matabeleland and Gwelo. Schools like Mzingwane and Domboshawa will be increased. In future there will be technical schools parallel to Goromonzi. The shortage of teachers is a serious matter. The Government was planning for a higher teacher training course when the present students at Goromonzi are in their third year, because the present teachers we have got in the country are not able to teach higher classes in primary schools, that is from Standard IV to VI. He appealed to the Conference to back and inspire teachers in their calling. If teachers do their work steadily and efficiently, African education will go ahead. "The Government and Missionaries will help you. Give the best to your people and assure that the Government will support you," concluded the director.

## STATUS OF PRIMARY BOARDING SCHOOLS.

The Rev. M. J. Rusike, in introducing the subject, said that the Government is not prepared to raise a primary boarding school to that of a central primary if there is no European resident. It appears that qualification is not considered, but the colour of the skin.

The Director, in reply, said there was nothing in law to prevent any primary school under an African Principal to become a Central Primary School, provided conditions are fulfilled; that is sanitation, boarding facilities, buildings, teachers and many other things. He further stated that the Government has appointed a committee to draft the conditions contained in the section governing C.P.S. on request. The Director promised that these when completed will be made available.

#### **RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.**

In introducing the subject, Mr. K. J. Tsolo made a plea that the African people as British subjects should benefit from Rhodes Scholarships. The Director replied that he was not in a position to give correct information at present, but the Conference can pass a resolution which he believed would be sympathetically considered. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

“That this Missionary Conference of Christian Natives resolves that in view of the fact that the late Hon. J. C. Rhodes's will directed his Trustees to establish scholarships for male students in the Empire to enable such students to secure the best education in Oxford University, provided such are: (1) Have literary and scholarship attainments; (2) Are fond of manly outdoor sports; (3) Show qualities of manhood, truth, courage and devotion to duties and kindred qualities; (4) Show moral character and leadership at school;

“We humbly request the Rhodes Trustees to consider the extension of the benefits of the will to suitable young Africans of this Colony who fulfil the above qualifications, because Africans have especially, even very lately, proved their loyalty and devotion to the Empire by willingly sacrificing their lives and money in the defence of the Empire for which the late Mr. Rhodes strove to build and keep intact.”

#### **SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION IN BOARDING SCHOOLS.**

(a) Resolved that this Conference requests Missionary bodies to expedite the establishment of Primary Schools for Standard II and above in order to fill the gap between Standards V and VI, now chiefly catered for by boarding schools.

(b) This Missionary Conference requests the Government to raise the present primary boarding schools to central primary status and thus create more central primary schools in order to meet the present great demand for classes above Standard II.

(c) Further, this Conference requests the Government to take over the payment of teachers in order to make the teaching profession attractive and retain in it the best men, especially in the primary schools.

#### **INDUSTRIAL TEACHER TRAINING.**

This Missionary Conference of Christian Natives humbly requests the Government, in consultation with the various Missionary Societies, to re-establish training of industrial teachers with as little delay as possible as it is an urgent necessity.

#### **SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION ON TRAINS FOR AFRICAN PASSENGERS.**

The Rev. H. M. Kachidza read an important, interesting paper on this subject, in which he pointed out the inadequacy of accommodation on the Rhodesia Railways as follows: (1) Overcrowding in Native coaches; (2) Lack of Third Class compartments for Third Class passengers; (3) Need for improvements of the present Native waiting rooms and also need for establishment of waiting rooms for Second and Third Class African passengers; (4) The extension of the present platforms in big centres; (5) Better consideration for African passengers by railway servants; (6) Better conditions for Africans travelling by Railway Motor Road Service.

After a lengthy discussion the following resolution was unanimously passed:

“That this Missionary Conference of Christian Leaders requests the Rhodesian Company to—

- (a) Increase the number of coaches (passenger) for Africans;
- (b) Attach more Third Class coaches for use of African passengers with Third Class tickets;
- (c) Improve the present African waiting rooms and to provide means of keeping them clean. Further, to establish Third Class waiting rooms for African passengers at all main stations;
- (d) Extend present platforms so as to avoid the undesirable crowding of people when getting down and going on to trains at main centres;
- (e) That the Railway Administration be requested to instruct its workers to be more civil to African passengers in their dealings with them;
- (f) That the Railway Administration be requested to make travelling conditions more comfortable on Railway buses by providing more accommodation for African passengers.”

### ILLEGAL UNIONS.

Rev. J. N. Hlambelo, in introducing the subject, stated that the practice of couples living together as man and wife without having been married either by Christian Rites or by Native Customary Law was a hindrance to Christianity and a great danger to African progress. He suggested that the Government be requested to enforce the law which prohibits the cohabitation of man and woman before being properly registered.

The following resolution was passed:

“That this Missionary Conference of Christian Leaders is strongly against illegal unions among some of the African people and requests the Government to see that all Africans living as couples are registered either by Christian Rites or by Native Customary Law.”

### LOBOLA.

Miss A. D. Nyembezi read a well-thought paper, in which she pointed out the great disadvantage caused by this custom and the abuse being made by parents by demanding excessive lobola for their daughters, with the result that some young couples start their new home being in debt and some fall in moral character. After some discussion, there was a strong feeling on both sides on the question. Miss A. J. Ntuli read the resolution prepared by Miss A. D. Nyembezi, which read as follows:

“That in view of the fact that lobola delays marriage and leads to immorality, elopement and similar iniquities and reduces the woman to a chattel, this Conference of Christian Leaders appeals to all Missionary Societies working in the Colony to induce their Church members to cease demanding lobola for their daughters, or at least to reduce it to a very small minimum.”

After a further discussion Mr. O. Somkence proposed the following resolution as an amendment:

“That this Conference appoint a committee of eight to investigate the whole lobola question thoroughly in the Colony and report its findings to the next Missionary Conference.”

The amendment was unanimously adopted. The following were appointed: Mr. O. Somkence (convener), Rev. M. Kumalo, Mr. S. M. Mlotshwa, Miss A. J. Ntuli, Rev. M. J. Rusike, Rev. N. Ngara, Rev. E. K. Chipunza, Miss A. D. Nyembezi.

## CENTRALISATION OF VILLAGES IN NATIVE RESERVES.

The Rev. J. B. Hove, in introducing the subject, outlined the system and pointed out that some villages were placed in low-lands and vleis, which are unhealthy, particularly during the wet season. The Community Demonstrators do not observe common rules of health sites, peg villages even in vleis, disregarding requests made by those for whom villages are pegged. The Department of Native Affairs be asked to instruct Community Demonstrators to be more careful in planning villages. The following resolution was unanimously passed:

"That this Native Missionary Conference of Christian Leaders requests the Chief Native Commissioner to instruct Community Demonstrators to consider suitable and healthy sites in allocation of village sites and to avoid low-land sites, which are unhealthy, when pegging building stands in Native Reserves."

## CHURCH SITES IN NATIVE RESERVES.

Rev. N. Ngara expressed the view that church sites in the Reserves should be given to the Missions as their property rather than rented as at present, and made the following resolution:

"That this Southern Rhodesia Native Missionary Conference requests the Government to recognise the present church sites in Native Reserves as church property."

After some discussion the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for action.

## WOMEN POLICE.

Miss A. D. Nyembezi presented a well-prepared paper in which she pointed out the undesirability and degradation of African womenfolk when arrested or escorted by male police. She thought the time had come for female police to be employed in order to arrest and escort women offenders. It is undesirable for a male policeman to escort a woman or girl for several miles or days. This leads to temptation or abuse. Any misbehaviour taking place will never be reported to the authorities by the girl or her parents. The police are always regarded by the African as the Law, and only in rare cases were such cases brought before the authorities. After some discussion the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"That this Native Missionary Conference of Christian Leaders feels that the time to employ African women as police has come, as we feel that to send a male policeman to arrest a female leads to temptation and abuse of office. While this Conference cannot make any specific charge against any member of the police force, yet there is a strong feeling abroad that African policemen tend to misuse their authority over their female accused or witnesses. In view of the above statement, we strongly recommend to the Government the desirability of employing African females in the District and Town police force."

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Secretary: Rev. T. D. Samkange was re-elected.

Assistant Secretary: Rev. H. M. Kachidza was elected.

Executive Committee: Rev. M. J. Rusike, J. B. Hove, R. J. Danisa, N. Hlambelo, H. M. Kachidza, Messrs. K. J. Tsolo, S. M. Mlotshwa, Misses A. J. Ntuli and A. D. Nyembezi.

## VOTES OF THANKS.

The Secretary proposed that the Conference pass a resolution of appreciation for the services rendered by the retiring Chief Native Commissioner. The President suggested that this be relegated to the Executive Committee. This was agreed to.

The Secretary again proposed a vote of thanks:

- (a) To the President for the wise manner in which he directed the discussions and his inspiring Presidential address;
- (b) To The Bulawayo Chronicle management for publicity given to the proceedings of the Conference;

- (c) To the Bulawayo African organisations for providing everything which made our stay in Bulawayo a happy one, and also the Manager of the African Hotel, which provided the delegates with first class foodstuff.
- (d) Last, but not least, to the City Social Service Department for arranging facilities for hospitality during lunch hours, and others who helped in many ways.

The President closed the meeting by saying: "Go home inspired for the work of the Kingdom of God for which you were called." All who attended the meetings went away with a new vision and hope once again to carry on the work to which as Christian leaders they were called by the Master.

# MINUTES

## OF THE

# SOUTHERN RHODESIA AFRICAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Held in the **METHODIST HALL, 5 CENTRAL AVENUE, SALISBURY,**

from **21st to 23rd September, 1948**

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### SEPTEMBER 21st—FIRST DAY SESSION

#### **DEVOTIONS.**

Captain Makoni of the Salvation Army conducted the devotion.

The President spoke some words of welcome to delegates and pointed out the usefulness of these conferences and the fact that while we belong to different demoninations, yet our problems and difficulties are the same.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT.**

President: Rev. H. H. Brubaker. Secretary: Rev. T. D. Samkange.

Church of England: Rev. L. S. Machiha and Mr. O. Somkance.

Methodist Church: Rev. A. M. Ndhlela, Mr. T. Gorerokufa, Mr. K. J. Tsolo.

Brethren in Christ: Rev. N. Dhlodhlo, Messrs. M. Moyo, H. Mlilo, K. Sibanda.

Church of Christ: Rev. J. N. Nhlambelo, Messrs. S. Nyoni, J. M. Ndhlovu, P. J. M. Ndebele.

Salvation Army: Captain Makoni.

Church of Sweden: Rev. J. B. Hove.

Representatives of S.R.M.C.: Rev. R. Forshaw and Rev. H. St. John Evans.

Mr. P. J. Ndebele was appointed Assistant Secretary.

The President announced that members were invited to a garden party at the Government House on Friday afternoon and that those wishing to attend should indicate by raising of hands. It was decided to wait till to-morrow when probably other delegates may be present.

#### **OPENING OF CONFERENCE.**

The President then introduced the Chief Native Commissioner, Mr. Beck, who opened the Conference.

In his address Mr. Beck said that it was only fifty years since Missionaries came to this country, bringing the white man's culture. Africans had proved very apt pupils in a short time. In fact, the African has adapted himself so quickly that here to-day we have the African section of the Missionary Conference. This Conference is eager to discuss items on an agenda which is so wide.

After referring to matters on the agenda, the Chief Native Commissioner said that, as this Conference was a Christian Conference, Christian principles and the Christian spirit would be apparent in the approach to the problems to be discussed. The Chief Native Commissioner then declared the Conference opened.

### **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.**

The Rev. H. H. Brubaker spoke on building the Church of God. He quoted St. Paul, who said he was building a foundation upon which others were to build. He said that Paul knew that he was building for God. The speaker felt that African leaders should give more thought to spiritual problems. After touching on the questions of lobola and witchcraft, the speaker spoke on the building of Christian character. Family life was breaking down and we must do something to remedy it. Concluding, the speaker said leaders should have vision, for where there is no vision, the people perish.

### **EXECUTIVE REPORT.**

This was given by the Rev. T. D. Samkange. The executive had passed resolutions on (a) Lady teachers' salaries; (b) Equipment grant; (c) African teachers as Supervisors of Schools. Questions were asked and answered. The President announced that the Constitution would be amended.

The meeting resumed at 2.30 p.m. with prayer by the Rev. R. Forshaw. The Director of Native Education addressed the Conference on Higher Teacher Training. He said we already have the P.T.C. and the Department is thinking of opening more schools for Higher Teacher Training. He said, however, higher teacher training does not in itself turn out good teachers. Basic knowledge is necessary, good character, and an ideal for service. Many questions were asked relative to the difference between Government and Mission teachers in pay.

### **RESOLUTIONS.**

#### **Desirability of Higher Classes in Primary Schools:**

Mr. Tsolo introduced the subject and the following resolution ensued:—

"In view of the fact that (a) there is an increasing demand for education of Africans in this Colony; (b) the existing Central Primary Schools can absorb a very small number of pupils above Standard II, leaving hundreds unable to find places anywhere, this meeting of the S.R.A.M. Conference strongly recommends that the time has come for Kraal schools to go as far as Standard IV or higher wherever there is a Post 6 second year teacher; and further recommends that in order to relieve the congestion in the training schools so that such schools could accommodate and train more teachers, Standards III and IV should now be catered for by the Kraal schools." Seconded by Rev. T. Kanyowa.

#### **Training of Home Demonstrators:**

"In view of the usefulness of Home Demonstrators to the African community, this Conference strongly recommends that the course be resumed and that the Secretary for Native Affairs be approached regarding this matter." Moved: Rev. T. D. Samkange. Seconded: Mr. K. J. Tsolo.

#### **The Three Term Calendar:**

"This S.R. African Missionary Conference requests the Native Education Department to approach the Railway administration to provide special trains for scholars when African boarding schools open and close." Moved: Rev. T. D. Samkange. Seconded: Captain Makoni.

Revs. Brubaker and Forshaw deplored the relation between African teachers and Missionaries and said the relation should be based on mutual confidence.

The meeting closed with the Benediction pronounced by the President.

**SEPTEMBER 22nd—SECOND DAY SESSION****DEVOTION.**

In the absence of the L.M.S. delegate, Rev. T. D. Samkange conducted the devotions.

**MINUTES.**

These were read and after minor alterations were confirmed.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND AFRICAN CHILDREN.**

The following resolution was unanimously passed:—

“That this Southern Rhodesia African Missionary Conference requests the Native Education Department to double the Equipment Grant for Primary Schools per capita, so that it will be possible for Missionary Superintendents to issue a free limited number of exercise books, pencils and rubbers to African scholars.” Proposed Rev. T. D. Samkange. Seconded Mr. K. J. Tsolo.

**RAILWAY THIRD CLASS ACCOMMODATION.**

This was introduced by Mr. P. J. M. Ndebele, who stated that third class accommodation was not quite up to date, and that it was now the practice of train guards to accommodate those with Native tickets in the third class and people holding third class tickets are put together in the same compartment; the result being that although you have a third class ticket, hoping to sleep, it is not possible to sleep because of the number of people in one compartment.

The President was asked to see some Members of Parliament and to have the matter brought before Parliament, since the Railways are the property of the State. The following resolution was passed:—

“This Conference requests the Railway Administration to reserve the Third Class compartments for people who buy Third Class tickets. If there are any difficulties in arranging this, those who have Third Class tickets should get first preference in accommodation and be protected by the guards against disturbances.”

**CENTRALISATION OF AFRICAN VILLAGES.**

“This Conference, while appreciating centralisation in all its aspects, feels that the system of long lines is a new innovation into the African village system and retards formation of a community spirit among the people, and it therefore requests the Native Affairs Department to endeavour to provide plans which would allow the development of small villages.” Proposed: Rev. J. B. Hove. Seconded: Rev. T. D. Samkange.

**REPORT OF THE LOBOLA COMMITTEE.**

This was given by the Convener, Mr. O. Somkence, and after a long discussion Conference agreed on the recommendations of the Committee that Christians should not demand lobola and that where there was lobola the two parties should benefit from it, and the matter was referred to the European Conference.

**UNIFORMITY OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE.**

In the absence of the Rev. M. J. Rusike, Rev. Samkange introduced the subject and pointed out that different Missions had different ways of disciplining teachers. The meeting felt that where a teacher was disciplined for immorality the next Mission he goes to should first consult the Superintendent of the Mission where the teacher has come from. Other speakers pointed out that wholesome arrangements should be made for teachers.

## CONSORTING OF EUROPEAN MEN AND NATIVE WOMEN.

The following resolution was passed:—

“ This Conference requests Government to provide for equality of punishment before criminal law of European and African men who cohabit with women of other race.” Proposed: Miss Nyembezi. Seconded: Rev. Machiha.

## THE NEW AFRICAN ORTHOGRAPHY.

This was presented by Mr. S. J. T. Samkange, who said that Shona was a phonetic language and the new orthography was not quite up to date, and he suggested some changes to make suitable sounds. The unification of Shona dialects was necessary because this would make a written language which would be understood by many people. It was agreed that the paper be read at the European Conference.

The meeting was closed by a short prayer by the President.

## SEPTEMBER 23rd—THIRD DAY SESSION

The meeting started at 9.30 a.m.

## DEVOTIONS.

Rev. T. Kanyowa conducted the devotions.

## MINUTES.

These were read and confirmed.

## YOUTH MOVEMENTS.

This was introduced by Rev. T. Kanyowa, who said that the Church should help the youth against many evils in urban areas by erecting Christian Social Centres. Rev. T. D. Samkange seconded Mr. Kanyowa and added that when young men come to town from schools they fall into many temptations.

Mr. Somkence thought the existing organisations should be made strong and not start a different organisation. Other speakers thought this youth movement would help the young Africans. Miss Nyembezi said Wayfarers were doing good work.

The following resolution was passed:—

“ This Conference requests the Missionary Conference to form a joint committee of both Europeans and Africans of different Churches to discuss ways and means for the young African people whose life is being deprived of Church activities by all social evils in urban areas and that when this is approved pamphlets could be made and circulated to different Church leaders as a guide.” Proposed: Rev. T. Kanyowa. Seconded: Rev. Samkange.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS.

This resulted as follows:—

Secretary: P. J. M. Ndebele.

Executive: Revs. T. D. Samkange, N. Dhlodhlo, J. B. Hove, E. Chipunza, Misses A. D. Nyembezi, A. Ntuli, Messrs. O. Somkence, M. M. Moyo, K. J. Tsolo.

At the close of the meeting, the Rev. H. H. Brubaker said that we, as servants of God, should be constant in our efforts to serve in His Church. The meeting was then closed by prayer, led by the President.

# CONSTITUTION OF CONFERENCE

## AIM AND OBJECTS

1. To promote Christian Missions in Southern Rhodesia.
2. To encourage fraternal intercourse and co-operation among ministers, missionaries, and others interested in Mission Work, and to excite a deeper sympathy with missionary operations among the Colonists generally.
3. To further the education and general advancement of the Native people.
4. To collect missionary information and to consider all questions that may bear, through legislation or otherwise, upon the religious, educational, or economic interests of the Natives.
5. To consult and advise on methods of missionary work, with a view to securing, as far as possible, uniformity of action by the various Societies in dealing with Native customs; and in order unitedly to represent the missionary viewpoint to the Government and its officials.

## MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

1. The Conference shall consist of ministers and other missionary workers in connection with any Society or Denomination operating in Southern Rhodesia which has been admitted to the Conference by a two-thirds majority vote.
2. Each Society which is in membership with the Conference shall pay an annual subscription of £4 4s. Any Society which fails to pay its subscription for two consecutive years shall forfeit its right to membership with the Conference.
3. The voting membership of the Conference shall be proportionate to the number of workers of each denomination, and shall be computed as follows:
  - 2 voting members for any number of workers up to 10 or part of 10;
  - 1 additional voting member for the next 10 workers or part of 10;
  - 1 additional voting member for the next 10 workers or part of 10;
  - 1 additional voting member for any number of workers exceeding 30.

Members of the Executive do not have a vote ex officio.

4. All members shall be entitled to speak, but only the accredited voting members of each Society shall be entitled to vote. The voting members shall be elected by their own Society, and their names handed to the Secretary at the beginning of each Conference.
5. No new resolutions of the Conference shall be regarded as binding on its members unless the vote is unanimous. Where the resolution has not been passed unanimously the number of votes for and against shall be recorded, and made known in any communication on the subject sent to other bodies; and where the votes of any one denomination are unanimously in the minority that fact shall be recorded and stated in any communication on the subject to other bodies.
6. Where the vote of the Executive Committee is not unanimous, the procedure outlined in (5) above shall be followed. Resolutions of the Executive Committee shall only be binding after ratification by the authorities of the various denominations.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. At the close of every meeting of the General Conference an Executive Council shall be chosen, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and nine other members, one of whom shall be a lady member.
2. Each denomination shall be invited to nominate one member for election on the Executive which, however, does not preclude further nominations from the open Conference. Election shall be restricted to voting members only.
3. In order to secure the vital principle of continuity on the Executive, four members shall retire by rotation at each Conference, but shall be eligible for re-election.
4. As far as funds allow, the travelling expenses of the members of the Executive shall be paid to the Executive meetings.
5. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Executive Council by death, removal, resignation or inability to attend, the Executive Council is empowered to fill the vacancy of vacancies from members of the Missionary Conference.

## ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION.

Every proposed alteration in the Constitution of the Conference shall be proposed at one Conference and submitted at the following Conference, and shall then be carried only by a majority of two-thirds of the voting members of the Conference.

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

## OPENING OF CONFERENCE

1. Opening Prayers.
2. Roll Call of Members entitled to vote.
3. Declared duly constituted by President. Hours of session announced.
4. Presidential Address.
5. Order of Agenda announced.
6. Election of Assistant Secretaries for the Conference.

## DAILY ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Prayer.
2. Routine:
  1. Reading, correcting and confirming of minutes.
  2. Presenting reports of Committees, etc.
  3. Asking questions of which notice has been given (to be presented in writing).
  4. Notice of motions (presented in writing).
  5. Giving notice of questions to be asked.
  6. Unopposed motions (to be put in writing).
3. Order of the Day. Any orders of the day not disposed of previous to the adjournment of the Conference shall be set down on the order paper for the next day of session, next after the order for that day.

## GENERAL CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

1. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of not less than half the number of members entitled to vote.
2. Meetings open to the public. Exceptions. It shall be in the power of the President, by request of the Conference, to order proceedings to be conducted with closed doors.
3. Absence of the President. In the absence of the President the Vice-President shall preside, and in the absence of the Vice-President any available member of the Executive.
4. Voting. Every member of the Conference shall be entitled to speak, but only elected members may vote.
5. Order of the Agenda. This shall be arranged by the Executive.

## RULES OF DEBATE.

1. Members about to speak shall rise and address the Chair.
2. Rising to order. A member may rise at any time to call attention to a point of order. All questions of order shall be decided by the President.
3. The President shall confine each speaker to the subject matter of the debate, and for continual irrelevancy may call upon him to discontinue his speech.
4. Address from the President. An address from the President shall be in order at all times.
5. Voting. The manner of voting to be at the discretion of the Chairman, who has a casting vote.
6. Time limit of speeches. The President may, at his discretion, declare a time limit on speeches delivered by members of the Conference other than the proposer and seconder of any motion.
7. No member to speak twice except by leave of the Conference. The proposer of an original motion shall have the right to reply, the seconder having the right to reserve his speech to any period of the debate.
8. Going into Committee. It shall be competent for the Conference to go into Committee on a majority vote at any time for the free discussion of any subject.
9. Motions in writing. All motions to be seconded, and considered to be before the Conference when reduced to writing.
10. Motion to divide and adjournment of debate. A motion "that the Conference do now divide," or "that the debate be now adjourned," shall be always in order, if made by any member of the Conference, and, on being moved and seconded, it shall be immediately determined without discussion.
11. Previous motion. When debate on a motion has been concluded and the President is about to put the question to the vote, any member who considers that it is not desirable for the Conference to record a vote on the question in the form now before it may move: "That the Conference now pass to the next order of the day." If seconded, this shall be put from the Chair without discussion. If the vote of the Conference be in the affirmative, the question which was about to be put shall be dropped and no vote recorded; but such subject may again be entertained upon due notice being given. If the vote of the Conference be in the negative, then the motion under discussion shall be put to the vote immediately.

## CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

Election of Officers and Committees.  
 Votes of Thanks.  
 Prayer.

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