

Missionaries

Protest Vietnam War

An interdenomination group of 23 American missionaries in the Philippines, of whom nine are Methodists and two are Evangelical United Brethren, have addressed to the U.S. government a strong protest and appeal on American policy in Vietnam. Copies of their statement were received by the Methodist Board of Missions in New York.

Calling for the U. S. to take bold initiatives to stop hostilities with a cessation of bombing North Vietnam as a first step, the missionaries said America "must make repeated attempts to demonstrate its credibility, its good faith and its genuinely peaceful intentions." They urged the U. S. to continue its efforts to place Vietnam on the agenda of the United Nations and asked the Government to "declare its readiness to accept and recognize a freely chosen broadly representative government in South Vietnam, without rejudging its political character and alignment."

The missionaries entitled their statement "An Appeal to the United States Government from 23 Missionaries in the Philippines Concerning Vietnam." They said they also wanted to address the American people. They declared that "we recognize that risks are involved in what we call for, but these risks are not as great as the present course of steady escalation and widening war."

The statement was sharply critical of U. S. war policy in Vietnam. It said: "We are appalled by the gross evils being perpetrated daily by both sides in the conflict...our nation professes a vibrant Judeo-Christian heritage. Our nation holds a vision of liberty before the world as an ideal for all people. And our nation has unprecedented power and wealth which placed it in a unique position of leadership among the nations

of mankind. "But what we witness in Vietnam belies these things. Our support of vested interests and unrepresentative regimes has made a mockery of the freedom we exalt. The socio-economic efforts we have undertaken are overshadowed by our vast military power that is destroying the very land and people we would help. Our destruction of crops is depriving innocent children, women and the elderly of the food they must have to survive. Our unilateral policies in Vietnam, in the face of widespread protests from such highly responsible sources as Pope Paul, the World Council of Churches and U. Thant, have weakened America's potential for creative leadership."

The cost of the war was another target for the missionaries' criticism: "So deeply involved in waging war, our country neglects an adequate program for peace. These revolutionary times demand an all-out offensive against poverty, hunger, illness, ignorance and oppression....To spend millions for peace while pouring almost two billion dollars a month into a war whose end is nowhere in sight and whose real purposes are questionable is the height of folly. Although we recognize that our nation...with its superior weaponry, vast resources and great influence...may eventually achieve some sort of military victory in Vietnam, it would be a 'victory' achieved at a human cost far beyond what ever temporary value it might have."

The 23 missionaries represent eight denomination backgrounds -- United Presbyterian USA, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Evangelical United Brethren, American Baptist, Methodist and Lutheran, Missouri Synod.

RELIGION And RACE

By Negro Press International
WEEK'S QUOTE

"The painful, but inevitable broadening of each man's allegiance from his own ethnic, racial, religious, national, cultural and economic group to the wider embrace of all mankind constitutes the central revolution of our time. Every human person is affected by this revolution, which calls for changes in the provincial attitudes and behavior of all the people in the world. Human rights...are not intended to be the exclusive prerogative of a few...rather, human rights are God-given and hence inviolable." -Statement issued by the Baha'i Community of North America during its centenary celebration in Chicago, Oct. 5-6.

TRUE METHODISM
WASHINGTON - When the Methodist general and jurisdictional conferences convene next year, they will be distinguished by the numbers of Negro colleges selected to represent the annual conferences. Twenty four Negroes will be representing integrated annual conferences at the General conference, and 41 at jurisdictional conferences. These delegates will join in making final recommendation to the General conference for the complete desegregation of the annual conferences by 1972.

STUDENT AID
NEW ORLEANS - More than 300 "unqualified" Negro students will be beneficiaries of educational assistance from the United Church of Christ at the denomination's 32 colleges and universities, according to an announcement made last week by the Rev. Charles E. Cobb, executive coordinator, Committee for Racial Justice Now, a denominational unit. Under the plan, students selected would be those unable to enter college because of poor grades in high school, poor counseling, lack of money, low motivation and indifference of parents.

Baha'i To Celebrate U. N. Day

To mark the occasion of United Nations Day, the Baha'i Community of Raleigh will hold a picnic at 12 noon at Reedy Creek Park on October 22, it was announced by Mrs. Margaret Quance, chairman of the local group.

She said this year's event will have the theme of "A United World - An Emerging Reality." The speaker will be Mr. Ken Mays from Woodbridge, Va.

According to Mrs. Quance, Baha'is feel the United Nations is an important step toward an inevitable world society based on the brotherhood of all men. She added that Baha'i communities throughout the nation are sponsoring U. N. Day programs as a means of gaining deeper understanding of the United Nations' good and accomplishments.

She said, "We feel it is important to know about what the United Nations is doing in both humanitarian and peace-building areas, as civilization struggles toward world unity." The public is invited to attend.

stance. A person who has the ability to adapt himself does not experience the clashes with personalities or the frustrations of life encountered by one who has never learned how to adapt himself.

Of course, everyone adapts himself more or less--some better and more easily than others--because they are more loving and more understanding or less fearful about their rights. But everyone who wants to have peace in his human relationship, who desires to make progress in his work, who yearns to have life yield up more of its happiness, should develop the quality of adaptability.

How do we develop adaptability? Just by learning to think of others as children of God, with aspirations, rights, and needs like your own. We can readily see how much another person's ability to adapt himself eases our way--so we should be willing to adapt ourselves enough to ease the way of another person. All the fretting, fussing, and grumbling in the world won't solve a particular problem or make your way easier. But cheerfulness and adaptability do make your path smoother and more enjoyable. Remember always that God is constantly at work, that He is in control of you and your world, and although appearances may seem to be slow in changing, you could keep your faith in God high, and you should keep calm and patient in the realization that "He works in wondrous ways His miracles to perform."

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."
--Isa. 30:13.

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ATTEND CHURCH

A THIRSTY LAND

Men have a thirst and a longing for goodness and righteousness. Even the most parched soul is touched by acts of kindness, forgiveness, and love. Jesus said, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

May all who are thirsty for a oneness with man and with God find satisfaction and fulfillment by attending church

The Church is God's appointed agency in this world for spreading the knowledge of His love for man and of His demand for man to respond to that love by loving his neighbor. Without this grounding in the love of God, no government or society or way of life will long persevere and the freedoms which we hold so dear will inevitably perish. Therefore, even from a selfish point of view, one should support the Church for the sake of the welfare of himself and his family. Beyond that, however, every person should uphold and participate in the Church because it tells the truth about men's life, death and destiny; the truth which alone will set him free to live as a child of God.

Coleman Adv. Ser.

TWO MINUTES WITH THE BIBLE

BY CORNELIUS E. STAM, PRES.
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THE BLESSING OF CRISIS
The Apostle Paul, who had been through one desperate crisis after another, wrote the following:

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are called according to His purpose." (Rom. 8:28).

How many people have found life going along smoothly for years when, all of a sudden, they have found themselves in the middle of serious crises!

Perhaps the sudden death of a loved one changed life completely and presented serious problems wholly unanticipated. Perhaps it was the sudden loss of wealth, so that life had to be completely re-adjusted. There are hundreds of unexpected incidents that can suddenly bring one face to face with stark and stern reality.

For believers in the Lord Jesus Christ such crises can prove great spiritual blessings. They show us the insecurity of all that is temporal and give us a greater appreciation of our eternal security in Christ. They give deeper meaning to the Scriptures we study and even to the hymns we sing. They sanctify and enrich our fellowships.

to those--and only those--who truly love God and are "the called according to His purpose," all things do indeed "work together for good"--or, to render this passage more correctly, they "are wrought together for good"--by God.

This is why God's Word to the Christian is:

"Be careful (full of care) for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4: 6,7).

MEDITATION

A SERMONETTE

BY COLIN DOUGLAS

"Let us consider one another." --Heb. 10:24.

One of the most comfortable qualities a person can possess or develop is the one of adapt-

One of the most comfortable qualities a person can possess or develop is the one of adaptability, for no one ever lives a day of his life without meeting the need for adapting himself to someone or to some circum-

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