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News and Notes

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Members of the Missionaries to Muslims League

Series X

No. 4

April, 1922.

1st April = 2nd Sha'ban (8th. mo.), 1340, A.H.

The Survey of Christian Literature for Moslems.

PRAYER was asked last month in connection with the work of the committee recently appointed in India to make a survey of existing Christian literature for Moslems in this land. Similar committees are however at work at this important task in nearly a dozen other fields. It should be borne in mind therefore, that during the next few weeks and months, a most exhaustive survey is to be made throughout the entire Moslem world, with a view to plans for improving and supplementing the supply of Christian literature.

The survey is being made along precisely the same lines in all the great areas where missionaries are at work among Moslems, so that the following notes, fresh from the Committee in India which has recently concluded a two days' conference in Lahore, will be read with interest, we are sure, by all League members in every Moslem field.

It is gratifying to note that the individuals constituting the India Committee are all of them members of our League, viz.:

Rev. H. D. Griswold, D.D., Lahore, (Chairman); Rev. M. T. Titus, Moradabad, (Convener); Rev. Ahmad Shah, Cawnpore; Professor R. Siraj-ud-Din, Lahore; Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Dacca.

A GENERAL STATEMENT ON THE SURVEY.

Following the World Missionary Conference at Edinburgh in 1910, increasing emphasis has been laid upon the importance of Christian Literature in the missionary enterprise. In 1915, there appeared the very comprehensive although general discussion of this subject in a report issued by a sub-committee of the Edinburgh Contin-

uation Committee of which Dr. J. H. Ritson was Chairman. In different mission fields, during the past decade, the subject has been taken up for study or for organized co-operative action. The result has been a definite effort at the Home Base, both in America and Great Britain, *to secure funds for the needs of Christian Literature in China, India, Japan and Latin America*, inasmuch as through study, organization and agitation, the needs of these fields had become more clearly formulated. Many interested in Moslem mission fields, felt that the time had fully come for a comprehensive study of Christian Literature in relation to work among Moslems. This feeling found expression in many distinct groups, such as the Committee on Christian Literature representing the American Missionary Societies, the Executive Committee of the Lucknow Continuation Committee, and many individual missionaries. Definite steps were finally taken to provide for the proposed inquiry. A limited financial grant was made by the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys for this purpose, and a special Committee was appointed jointly by the Committee of Reference and Counsel and the Committee on Social and Religious Surveys, to take charge of the proposed survey of Christian Literature for Moslems.

Recognizing that the major responsibility in carrying through this investigation must rest with those who are closest to the problem in the foreign field, the Committee has proposed the formation of a Field Committee of approximately three persons in each geographical area to be surveyed. These Field Committees are being selected after conference with one or more of the official representatives of the missionary agencies operating in their respective areas.

The Chairmen of the several Field Committees will constitute a General Field Committee, whose Chairman is the Rev. F. W. MacCallum, missionary of the American Board, Constantinople.

The geographical areas selected, to date, for which Field Committees are being organized, are as follows:—

1. Turkey (including the Balkans, Kurdistan and Russia).
2. Syria (including Palestine).
3. Egypt (including the Egyptian Sudan and Abyssinia).
4. North Africa, excluding Egypt.
5. West Africa.
6. East Africa.
7. Arabia and Mesopotamia.
8. Persia (including Afghanistan and Turkestan).
9. India.
10. Malaysia and the Philippines.
11. China.
12. Isolated Moslem Areas.

Following the instructions of the American Committee, the Field Committee met in Cairo in December last to prepare the final directions for the Area Survey Committees. The minutes of the meeting have been forwarded to all the areas with definite instructions

for the Survey to be made in each area during February, March and April, 1922.

The Area Committees all over the Moslem World are now in the midst of their work. When the area reports are completed they will be sent to the Chairman of the General Field Committee who will draft the General Report out of the material sent in from the several fields.

The General Field Committee will then meet once again in January 1923; will review all the field reports; and will determine the final form of the General Report.

The Committee in America will receive and review the General Report and the several Field Reports and will endeavour to secure their presentation to the agencies and groups that are or that must be related to the solution of the problem.

* * * * *

DR. GRISWOLD WRITES :

The plans on foot for an immediate Survey of the Muhammadan world from the point of view of the need and opportunity of Christian Literature fill one with fresh hope. It looks as if at last something adequate might be attempted.

At its meeting in Lahore of the India Committee on the Survey of Literature for Moslems, two outstanding impressions were made on my mind; (1) the need of building positively and constructively on all truth that Islam contains; and (2) the need of simple commentaries on the New Testament prepared especially for Moslem readers.

Up to the present time there has been no real programme of literary production to meet the needs of Muhammadans. Whatever has been done has been done on an individualistic basis, with frequent overlapping and much mis-spent energy. A well-considered programme of advance under the direction of a Central Committee or organizing Secretary ought to be able to remedy this.

The plan of Survey has emanated from the West. It shows that there has been thought and prayer on the subject. It should stir up thought and prayer in India among all who are interested in the conversion of the millions of Islam.

* * * * *

MR. AHMAD SHAH WRITES :

In my opinion it would be very wise if, in this matter of specially prepared literature, there were basic manuscripts, but not necessarily in English. At the same time, while uniformity should be encouraged it should not be obtained at the sacrifice of originality and of such modifications as arise naturally out of the differing circumstances found in different areas.

The establishing of a kind of syndicate seems indispensable for the purpose of carefully scrutinizing all the MSS. and passing them after general approval. Extreme care should be taken in the selection

of those who are to constitute such a body, preference being given to persons who can claim Islamic ancestry. The members of this syndicate should, I think, be paid for their labours as an encouragement to conscientious work.

Obviously therefore, this syndicate should be composed of persons of genuine and sterling ability, well-versed in Islamic doctrines and perfectly capable of distinguishing between the various sects of Islam.

Such a syndicate will remove all fear of overlapping in our production.

The main branches of literature must receive proper emphasis --the one for Shias, the other for Sunnis. Some literature will be peculiarly needful for one, some for the other, though again there will be some kinds suitable for both.

When once a particular work has been unanimously passed by this syndicate it will be available for translation into other languages.

If books have proved useful in one particular field they may be recommended for translation and publication in other fields also.



THE NATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL, INDIA, SUB-COMMITTEE ON WORK AMONG MOSLEMS, REPORT FOR 1921.

The Convener of this Committee, Professor Siraj-ud-Din of Lahore, in the course of his third annual report, records progress as follows:—

1. The following steps have been taken since the last meeting along the line of the Resolutions passed during the last two years:—

(1) In response to Resolution 17 (2) of 1920, on the subject of establishing Provincial Committees, a Committee on Work among Moslems was appointed last year by the Punjab Representative Council of Missions. Thus we have now two such Provincial Committees, the one appointed by the United Provinces Representative Council of Missions having been reported at our last meeting. (Since drawing up this report another has been established in Bengal. The Mahommedan population of East Bengal is larger than that of any other Province in India.) The N. M. C. will have rendered useful service in having brought into existence these Provincial Committees and such Committees will be all the more necessary since according to the new constitution of the N. M. C. there will be very few All-India Committees of the National Council for some years to come.

(2) Towards carrying into effect Resolution 17 (2) of 1919 on the subject of Inter-Provincial Evangelism among Moslems, some progress has been made. The newly-appointed Committee of the Punjab R. C. M. is raising funds locally for an evangelistic tour of about 6 weeks' duration in the large Presidency Towns in the various Provinces. Two evangelists, viz., Canon Ali Bakhsh from the Punjab and Rev. Sultan Muhammad Paul from the United Provinces, have been asked to undertake the work during this Winter. The members of the N. M. C. Committee in different provinces have been consulted as to the necessary arrangements with regard to the

times, places and programme. The Committee is fully alive to the fact that the evangelists must be most tactful and that they should aim at presenting Christ in a friendly way to the Moslems and absolutely avoid giving any offence.

(3) Regarding Resolution 17 (3) of 1920, inviting the attention of Missionary Workers among Moslems to 'The Missionaries to Moslems League,' some effort was made through personal letters to enlist new members in the Punjab and elsewhere, and during the year, 38 additions have been made in the membership.

(4) Resolution 17 (4) of 1919. As regards the more difficult problem of Literature for Moslems in India, the initiative has come from America, viz., the Literature Committee in connection with the Committee of Reference and Counsel of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, have, through the Literature Committee of the N. M. C., asked for the appointment of a Committee of three persons, two Americans and one Britisher to make a survey of Moslem Literature in India. We learn that funds for this purpose are already in the hands of the Survey Committee of the N. M. C. (As noted above, the Literature Committee has, in consultation with the Committee on Work among Moslems, finally selected 5 persons, viz., Messrs. Griswold, Ahmad Shah, Titus, Bevan Jones and Siraj-ud-Din.) This will prepare the way for the production of further Literature for Moslems along lines of most effective help for evangelising Moslems.

II. Among those problems that have not yet been considered, we would mention the following:—

(1) Resolution 17 (1) of 1919 and Resolution 17 (1) of 1920:

Both these Resolutions express the great desirability in this new Era, of setting aside workers, both Indian and foreign, to do direct evangelistic work among educated Moslems. This at present is far from being actually realised. We know of only two or three cases throughout the country where such work is being done in large cities. The present day conditions in India make the need of evangelistic work among Moslem leaders most urgent. There is among Missions a natural inertia due to a long-standing habit of disregard for this phase of Christian work. We believe that with the Indianising of the Church in India, the problem of city-evangelism—through personal and social work, bazaar preaching, converts' homes, and in other ways,—will be given much more prominent consideration than it is at present receiving from Missions. In fact there are already signs in some places which point in that direction. We hope that when the N. M. C. is re-organised, steps will be taken by its new Secretariate to bring important resolutions passed by various Committees during recent years, (like the two resolutions quoted at the commencement of this paragraph), to the attention of Churches and Missions by being personally present at their meetings. Experience shows that personal presentation of a problem at a meeting proves far more effective than doing the same work by correspondence. In the meantime the New Committee is asked to do what they can to attain to this end through correspondence and indirect persuasion.

One other problem which was mentioned in the former Reports is found in Resolution 17 (4) of 1919, regarding the need of a Union Institution for training workers among Moslems. This, as well as the other problems mentioned above, should engage the attention of the New Committee.

Lahore,

R. SIRAJ-UD-DIN.

13-3-22.

To the Help of 'The Moslem World' !!

Dear Mr. Bevan Jones,

Can you do anything in India toward helping forward the circulation of *The Moslem World*? On account of the war and the continued increase in the cost of publication the Publication Committee in New York faces difficulties which can only be met by greatly increasing the circulation of our Magazine, increasing its price, or by discontinuance.

The term of the life of our Quarterly, eleven years, has seen the death of more papers and journals than any other period of modern times. Literally, war has slain its ten thousand.

'The Moslem World' has lived on, but it can live no longer without more capital or more readers. If our friends want it to continue they must come to its aid before next January.

We have not lost hope, but we need help. Enclosed two letters from Professor Arthur Jeffery of the American University at Cairo and from the Rev. Ralph Harlow of Smyrna speak for themselves. You are at liberty to quote either or both letters.

Prayer and faith have been back of the Quarterly all these years, and we ask the members of the League not to fail us.

Cairo,
10th Feb. 1922.

Very cordially yours,
S. M. ZWEMER.

My Dear Dr. Zwemer,

What is this news I hear about "*The Moslem World*" ceasing publication? Surely your Committee in connection will not permit such a thing. The suggestion is perfectly ridiculous. While Germany can produce two excellent magazines devoted exclusively to Islamics, and France, even in her present distress, continues the publication of her Islamic Quarterly, it is unthinkable that the only English periodical we have on this most important phase of Oriental studies and most pressing question of Christian Missions, should leap out of existence. Continental scholars have been liberal in their jibes at the English-speaking world for its meagre interest in Islamics in spite of the fact of its enormous political, economical and missionary interests in Moslem lands, and we shall be positively held up to universal ridicule if we now drop our only journal.

Just think for yourself. German missions are almost at zero, and their political interests in Moslem lands practically at an end and yet its journal of Islamics, still appears, and maintains the same high standard of scholarship. To us the results of the war have brought greater political responsibilities and greater need than ever for mission expression among Moslem peoples, and is our answer to the call of their greater privilege and opportunity to be that we cease to publish the one Journal which keeps us informed of the events of the whole Moslem world, of the needs and successes and discoveries of our fellow-workers, and provides us a means of exchanging ideas on the progress of Islamic scholarship or the problems we are meeting in our work?

Surely, if it comes to the worst, we can do something here in Cairo, to carry it on for our own sakes if not for the sake of the wider world interested in these matters which are so close to our hearts.

Cairo,
7th February, 1922.

Sincerely yours,
ARTHUR JEFFERY.

Dear Dr. Zwemer,

To discontinue 'The Moslem World' is an admission of lack of interest and of faith on the part of the Christian forces at the home base in the face of the most challenging need of Christ which the Church faces to-day on its missionary line.

It is a blow to every worker for Moslems, men and women, who more than any other group of missionaries need to be supported by the home base. Imagine apathy to the "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne!

Yet these workers constitute almost a "Lost Battalion" in the ranks of Christ's army—hemmed in on all sides by foes, inadequately supported by the home base, too few in numbers.

'The Moslem World' is the foremost, practically the only, magazine seeking to awaken and renew in the home ranks an interest in this strategic problem—and to encourage on the field those giving their lives to it.

To discontinue it now because of lack of financial support on the part of those at home, is to inform every worker in Moslem lands that their vision and experience of barriers broken down, of new doors wide open to the Moslem fields is NOT shared or understood, or cared about by the people at home. It is a step down and back, it is a bugle note but it sounds retreat in the cause of One whose only order to His disciples was "Forward"! Do they still sing at home "Forward into battle, see His banners go!"?

Smyrna,

3rd February, 1922.

RALPH HARLOW.

(We ourselves wrote to Dr. Zwemer in January on the subject of the difficulty felt in India by European missionaries in the matter of sending in the subscription for this magazine. It would greatly facilitate matters if some uniform plan were followed. We hope this may yet be effected. Ed)

Notes

Nabidur Kechchha.—We omitted last month to add in our note on these 'stories of the prophets' in Musalman-Bengali, that it is to be had on application to the Superintendent of the Baptist Mission Press, 41, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta.

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Lectures on Islam to Divinity Students.—During the latter part of January Messrs. Goldsack and Bevan Jones once again lectured to the Divinity Students of Serampore College, Bengal, taking respectively as their subjects—'Muhammadan Objections to Christianity;' and 'The Christian Approach to Islam.' Each delivered four lectures. The subdivisions of the set on the Christian Approach were: (1) Appreciation of Islam; (2) The Inadequacy of Islam; (3) Reorganization on the Christian side, and (4) The Mission of Friendship to Muslims.

The students followed the lectures as usual with keen interest.

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Back numbers of News and Notes.—We printed too few copies of the January and February issues to meet the needs of our growing membership! The Hon. Sec. will be glad to receive some copies of each if members can spare them.

We shall be glad to supply 1921 and earlier issues, so far as we have copies, at one anna each.

For Praise and Prayer.

PRaise for the fact that all the members of the Survey Committee on Literature for Moslems in India were able to meet together recently in Lahore to plan and discuss the important task now occupying their attention.

PRAY for God's guidance and blessing to rest upon the labours of all the survey committees in the several areas of the Moslem World.

PRAY that God may soon, if it be His will, raise up, especially in India, a holy and gifted man of Moslem antecedents and Paul-like character, to lead us in the advance for the evangelization of Moslems.



New Members.

58	Miss L. Edwards,	B.M.S.	Calcutta (6th Day)
282	Rev. W. Paton,	Y.M.C.A.,	Calcutta (8th Day)
283	Rev. H. H. Weak,	M.E.M.,	Pauri, Garhwal (24th Day)
284	Rev. C. Phillips Cape,	Wes. Miss.,	Lucknow (21st Day)
285	Rev. H. Dyche,	B.M.S.,	Dinapore (21st Day)
286	Mr. F. D. Warris,	P.R. Book Society,	Lahore (19th Day)
287	Rev. H. D. Salik,	C.M.S.,	Bhera, Panjab (18th Day)
288	Miss J. H. Rowlands,	W. C. Meth.	Sylhet, Assam (4th Day)
289	Dr. W. Norman Leak,	Amer. Miss.	Kuwait, Persian Gulf (25th Day)
290	Rev. C. H. Williams,	B.M.S.	Kasauli, N. India (24th Day)
291	Rev. E. E. Tuck,	M.E.M.	Meerut (24th Day)

The last figure shown indicates the number now in membership.

Miss Beach, Cawnpore (21st Day) has been obliged to resign through ill-health.

Names of new members may be inserted in the Prayer List at the appropriate places.

The name of the Miss G. Harry, Aust. B.M.S. Mymensingh, a new member notified last year, should be inserted in the list at the 7th Day.

Our printer reports that recent repeated intimidation of his workmen has caused the delay in the issue of this number.

The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0. The Secretary will be glad to send spare copies of this issue to addresses mentioned by members with a view to securing new subscribers. News and requests for prayer will always be welcome and should be sent early in the month to the Hon. Secretary:—

Rev. L. Bevan Jones,
Baptist Mission,
Dacca, Bengal, India.



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