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Title

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN A SECULARISED WORLD FOR EASTERN AFRICA

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- **Objectives_ Programme & Findings**

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

In keeping with the gracious will of God
and the purpose and teachings of our church,
our general objective of christian education is:

That under the guidance of The Holy Spirit,
people of all ages, through The Word and Sacraments
may

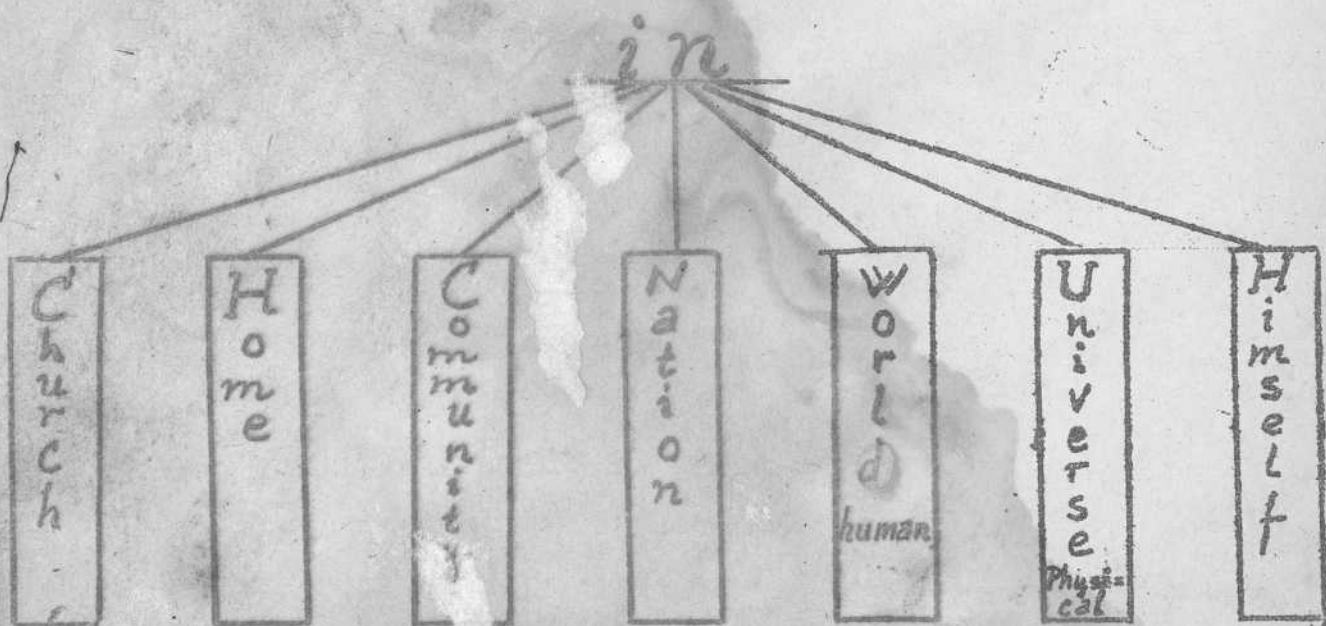
Learn to know

Be reconciled by to
And respond in faith to

The Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
who reveals that

Man, a sinner, may be brought by faith in Christ
into a right relationship with God
and his fellowmen
and

should be nurtured towards greater maturity
in his christian life, exercising his faithful
stewardship



the regional consultation on
"Christian Education in a Secularized world"
for Eastern Africa

28 April - 4 May, 1968
Moshi, Tanzania

Findings

In consideration of the content of the five major papers of this Consultation, of the reports submitted by the Discussion Groups of their deliberations in respect to each paper, of the Plenary reactions to these reports and the papers themselves, and of the responses made by the writers of the papers to these deliberations, the following Findings are recorded as a composite summary:

1.- Definition of Christian Education

The Consultation sees the involvement of the Church in education as a fulfillment of her mandate to be a serving and witnessing Church. Christian education is seen as

- a) Church sponsored teaching aimed at Christian commitment and nurture;
- b) the involvement of Christians in education through which involvement individuals are confronted, won, and nurtured in Christian faith.

The Consultation realizes that the definition and application of Christian education varies from time to time depending on local situations.

2.- Planning

The planning of educational objectives and programmes requires the serious attention of the Churches. When and where the independence of the Church in such planning is limited the Church should see to it that her share in the planning is effectively employed.

3.- Secularization

The Consultation recognizes the rapid trend towards secularization whereby the material, the scientific, and the worldly is taking predominance over the religious and spiritual. It becomes the responsibility of the Church to relate some aspects of this trend to the Divine Plan and to be seen as evidence of the abundant benevolence of God.

4.- Training Programmes

The Consultation recognizing the Christian teachers, pastors, and evangelists as front-line workers in the field of the Lord, strongly feels that continuous counselling, training and encouragement are necessary for the effective carrying out of their Christian calling.

5.- Individual and Community

The Consultation sees the need for individuals which is biblically based and for the community which is biblically based.

6.- Aspects of Ineffectiveness of the Church's Ministry

The attention of the Churches is drawn to the fact that the rise of pseudo-Christians and sects, the loss of interest in faith among the educated elite, Christians, etc., are often evidences of weaknesses in the total ministry and follow-up work of the Church rather than separate spontaneous phenomena.

7.- Relations to Non-Christians

The Consultation recognizes that the Church respects the freedom of conscience of non-Christians, but at the same time she should remember her basic calling of witness and love to all.

8.- Qualities of a Christian Teacher

The Christian teacher should realize the sense of calling in the performance of his duty and carry out such duties with the clear awareness of being an ambassador of Christ.

28 May 1968
Moshi, Tanzania

Resolutions

Whereas this conference has been sponsored by the Commission on Education/Lutheran World Federation and is representative of the Lutheran Churches in Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Jordan, the following recommendations and resolutions are referred to the Commission on Education/Lutheran World Federation and the Churches mentioned above for their consideration and implementation.

Resolved that:

1. We draw the attention of the Churches to the importance of developing general objectives for Christian education. Whereas the general objectives of the Church are constant and universal as they are based on God's Word, the general objectives for Christian education, while directed towards the purpose of the Church, may be different in various Churches since the educational ministry of the Churches needs to take into consideration the challenges, problems, and needs of the individual in society. They should include all of the individual's life from birth to death and take into consideration the differences that exist in various societies.
2. We call attention to the resolutions of the Third All Africa Lutheran Conference, which recommend "that the Churches seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to discover to what extent these (educational) institutions are actually serving the Church in the fulfilment of her mission of Christian witness and service," and "that the Churches should seek to determine whether in the Gospel proclamation - present institutions are best used as they are, or whether they need to be modified so as to cope with new challenges, or whether they should be disregarded in order that new institutions might take shape."
3. We affirm that Christian education is a continuing process throughout life whose purpose is to nurture the individual in God's Word in such a way that his faith is meaningful and relevant to life at all times, especially in times of rapid social change, and in a way that it results in the individual glorifying God through service to the Lord, man, and society. It is recognized, however, that to nurture there must also be a proclamation of the Gospel. To this end Churches should develop a broad program of education using all available agencies such as schools, Sunday Schools, work, vacation schools, released time programs, and all other agencies so long as they are usable for achieving the general objectives of the Churches in Christian education.

The Consultation recognizes that the secularized society is being experienced in Africa, but in the context of rapid social change and the pluralism of religious claims rather than in the rejection of ideology or religious commitment. It urges all Churches to be alert to the challenges secularized society presents and to develop their educational program to meet the same. To this end continual attention should be given to ascertaining what the consequences of rapid social change are for each community.

5. The Consultation believes that the challenges of secularized society and rapid social change requires counsellor cooperation in Christian education, and, therefore, encourages the Churches to develop such cooperation wherever and as much as possible.
6. There is urgent need for each Church to give consideration to the relationship between Church and State that should or may exist in education. To this end it should be borne in mind that the Christian's role in society should, as much as possible be conciliatory, and that loyalty to God does not mean neglect of nation building.
7. The Consultation strongly recommends that present training programs for pastors, evangelists and teachers be restructured so as to include more theological instruction for teachers and more instruction in education for pastors and evangelists.
8. The Churches should consider it an urgent need to expand present training programs for laity so as to make them more aware of their responsibilities in the teaching ministry of the Church. To this end theological colleges, Bible Schools, spiritual retreats, vacation and refresher courses, women's and men's organizations and all other agencies that may be advisable should be used to their utmost.
9. The importance of the family in Christian education is to be strongly emphasized. Churches are requested to give major attention to developing educational and devotional programs for the home, particularly the parents.
10. The Churches are reminded of the need of members for devotional and educational literature which will supplement the educational programs of the Church.
11. The Consultation urges all Churches to prepare adequate curricula and materials for Christian education for all the educational agencies and programs of the Church. These curricula and materials should take into consideration not only the faith of the Church but also the limitations and life involvements of all students and teachers. In this respect the conference recognizes the curriculum development consultations and workshops held or about to be held in cooperation with the EAP Consultant on Christian Education and encourages maximum cooperation and involvement in the same.

12. Each Church either individually or together with others is strongly urged to hold consultations, seminars, and workshops on Christian education for the implementation of the resolutions of this Consultation.

13. The Consultation feels that a Newsletter on Christian Education is advisable for the Churches in Eastern Africa and requests the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to take responsibility for publishing such a Newsletter if it should prove feasible. Each Church is requested to designate a contact person with whom this matter can be pursued.