

NEW ZEALAND AND DENMARK TAKE MORE HANDICAPPED REFUGEES

(Geneva) - Two countries have announced they will accept an additional number of handicapped refugees.

New Zealand will admit one hundred refugee families from Europe for permanent resettlement under the nation's fourth special migration programme. For handicapped refugees in less than two years. Thus far, 140 handicapped families, comprising nearly four hundred persons, have been accepted under these schemes.

Denmark has announced it will accept another fifty handicapped refugees and their families. A total of about 200 persons, drawn mostly from camps in Austria, and Italy, but also from Greece, are expected to be admitted under the new scheme. In the past five years Denmark has accepted 254 handicapped refugees and their families. The majority of the handicapped were tubercular or post-tubercular patients.

CROP AIDS ITALIAN FARMERS

(Villa San Sebastiano, Italy) - Farmers in this small (pop. 300) predominantly Methodist community in the Abruzzi Mountains in Italy share the same problems of survival faced by farmers everywhere.

But in this community the problem has been intensified by decades of landslides and floods which have eroded the earth and carried away fertile top soil and by the villagers' lack of up-to-date farm equipment and modern "know how".

Now, with the help of US farmers through CROP (Christian Rural Overseas Program) in cooperation with the Methodist Church of Italy, the village has a good chance of survival.

Working together they have helped set up an Evangelical Agricultural Co-operative to train villagers in more modern agricultural methods. Through CROP, the US farmers have provided a crawler-type tractor, a plough and other equipment and have plans to purchase a harvester.

In Kansas (USA) CROP supporters have pledged themselves to raise \$7,000 to underwrite the program.

The Italian Methodist church has purchased seeds and opened a machine shop, and has started a day nursery for children whose parents are now spending more time in the fields.

A report on the project says: "A new center of interest in the Church has arisen as a result of this self-help project. This parish in central Italy is now engaged in a practical program that is a community Christian witness."

AUSTRIANS INCREASE OVERSEAS GIFTS

(Vienna) - Austrian Lutherans, for whom 1960 marked a major post-war venture in contributing for human spiritual and material needs outside their own natural borders, have raised more than 250,000 shillings (about \$10,000) in a special campaign for needy people in other parts of the world.

conducted under the slogan "Bread for the Hungry" and patterned after the German Protestants' successful "Bread for the World" effort, the campaign was launched last March by evangelical women's and foreign missions organizations of this country.

Of Austria's "Bread for the Hungry" funds so far received, 65,000 shillings (\$2,500) have been turned over to the Lutheran World Federation toward the operation of milk distribution centers for Arab refugees in the Holy Land.

Announcement of the contribution was made by the Rev. Eugene Ries, senior representative in Vienna of the LWF Department of World Service, which operates the refugee aid program in the Near East. Maintenance of the milk centers and distribution of surplus agricultural commodities in Jordan is a \$15,000 item in the LWF/WS program budget.

WCC ASKS CONGO AID

(Geneva) - Member churches of the World Council of Churches have contributed or pledged funds in excess of US\$50,000 plus US\$451,723 worth of food and medicines for aid in the Congo.

The contributions are the first response to an appeal for one million dollars (\$1,000,000) issued by the international organization to underwrite a broad program of assistance ranging from immediate material relief to the establishment of secondary school training.

The funds and goods are being distributed through the Congo Protestant Relief Agency, an agency of the Congo churches and missionary bodies.

The WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees issued the appeal following an on-the-spot investigation of needs in the troubled new nation by the Rev. Hermann Witschi of the Evangelical Missionary Society, Basel, Switzerland, and the Rev. Heinrich Hellstern, director of Swiss HEKS, inter-church aid agency of the Swiss churches. The two made their survey in consultation with CPRA.

Of the total sought \$500,000 will go to underwrite a medical material aid programme and the remaining \$500,000 will go to establish secondary schools in Leopoldville and Matadi.

Plans for the medical programme which is called "Operation Doctor", calls for the recruitment of one hundred doctors for service in government and mission hospitals. The basic programme is expected to cost \$200,000 with an additional \$150,000 for drugs and \$150,000 for food.

The decision to allocate the second \$500,000 to the secondary schools was made after the two-man investigation team reported that education for leadership is a primary need in the Congo. The funds for this will be spent over a period of six years to recruit and pay teachers, to purchase equipment and for scholarships for needy students. Local Protestant churches will seek to provide the facilities for the school, teachers and boarding pupils.

Reports from Protestant relief officials indicate the shortage of medical personnel is acute. In the entire country there are estimated to be only about 225 doctors, of whom about 100 are Belgians who are in private practice. In the Province of Kasai, generally agreed to have the greatest medical needs, there are only three doctors and at least six hospitals are reported "unmanned". In the State of South Kasai there are four doctors and four hospitals are staffed only by medical assistants and nurses. Similar situations exist in other parts of the country.

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1960

INTER-CHURCH AID AND SERVICE TO REFUGEES



Displaced needy in war-torn Algeria are aided by CIMADE, ecumenical service agency of the French Protestant Churches.



WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES information



(Left) This starving child, a victim of the Algerian war, will be fed and cared for by CIMADE workers. (Right) In the town of Médéa, sixty miles from Algeria, 35 youngsters of displaced families who have been exposed to tuberculosis are given medical care in a CIMADE nursery-school centre.



Twenty-two refugee families of 177 persons in all, have moved into new farm houses in Efkarpia, eastern Macedonia, Greece. The new settlement was built by the World Council of Churches' Service to Refugees, with money donated by the Innere Mission and Hilfswerk of the Evangelical Churches in Germany (EKD). At the request of the new residents the community's main street has been named «Oikoumene».

(Pictures on this page and others can be ordered from WCC Information, 17 route de Malagnou, Geneva.)



December 1960

CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN ALGERIA
CIMADE Serves in the Midst of Conflict

(Author of the following article is the Rev. William J. Nottingham, associate director of CIMADE, ecumenical service agency of the French Protestant and Orthodox churches. Mr. Nottingham is a fraternal worker of the Disciples of Christ, USA.)

On November 1, 1960, the rebellion in Algeria dragged into its seventh year. The cost has been tragically high in lives and human suffering both in North Africa and in France. One hundred and fifty thousand persons have died in open combat and another 14,000 as the result of terrorist attacks.

Two million displaced persons have been crowded into "regroupment centers" or in the large cities, and are in urgent daily need of food, clothing and medical aid. But equally as important they require the signs of friendship and the love which shares another's sorrow. CIMADE attempts to witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by practical assistance and the fraternal presence of nearly twenty team members.

Algiers

Eight of the team members are working in the city of Algeria carrying on a variety of services for the needy here.

A team of three women has lived since 1957 in 2 tiny rooms in one of the Arab quarters of Algiers, getting to know families, teaching sewing and child-care to women and girls, and rendering the countless services of good neighbors.

One team member also works as part-time secretary of the Protestant Youth Council of Algeria and is able to bring together persons from widely varying backgrounds in spite of social barriers. Another is responsible for a program of adult education in the Casbah and the third has extended her work to include internment camps for Muslim women.

A team of two young men, one of whom is a Mennonite fraternal worker from South Dakota (USA), administer the distribution of more than 100 tons of goods each month with the cooperation of volunteers from the churches in Algeria. A young man from Switzerland uses a barrack, constructed this summer by a special work camp, for group work among North African children.

Two French social workers are helping Muslims from shanty-towns adjust to life in new apartment buildings, by furnishing model apartments and showing economical and practical ways of adapting to new surroundings. Like other CIMADE team-members, they are respectful of the customs of the Algerians and do not try merely to simplify their "westernization".

Cutlying Posts

At Médéa, some sixty miles from Algiers, in the mountains rife with guerilla warfare, CIMADE has two teams.

The first of these is devoted to the encouragement and sale of handwork, such as blankets and pottery. The uprooting of the nomadic and rural populations by military operations resulted in loss of livelihood on a massive scale. The team, which includes a technical expert on loan for six months by the German Swiss churches, makes employment possible for a large number of persons, many of whom have large families.

The second team conducts a permanent day-camp for children from families which have been exposed to tuberculosis. At a center built by CIMADE last spring on the outskirts of the town the team, consisting of a nurse, school teacher and social worker, conduct a daily program for 35 children. Helped by three Muslim women of the neighborhood, the team provides a balanced meal, recreation and pre-school instruction, keeping an eye on the children's health and personal development. Children are assigned by local public health authorities and attend for a minimum of three months or as long as imminent danger of TB is present.

At Sidi-Nahmane, isolated still further out towards the arid desert where all approach is cut off except for military escorts, is located one of the 1400 "regroupment centers". Here is working a team of two CIMADE nurses who live under the same rude conditions as the Muslim families. The only medical personnel in the area, they conduct a milk distribution program for children, and organize educational and handicraft activities.

Summer Work Camp

On July 15 and August 1, 1960, groups of young French Christians sailed from Marseille to take part in a work camp organized by CIMADE as part of its youth service program.

Nearly 25 young men and women - students for the most part, but including some young ministers, teachers, and employees - spent from four to six weeks in Algeria re-inforcing the CIMADE teams at Algiers, Médéa and Sidi-Nahmane, where they built additional facilities, did necessary landscaping, and supplemented educational and medical activities.

On August 15, both temporary and regular team-members gathered for four days in Algiers for a study-program on the economic, political and social problems of Algeria. Muslims, Catholic and Protestant missionaries, government officials, and others led the discussions. Worship services were marked by intercessory prayers for all who suffered around them and by prayers for peace. Christian unity was emphasized, as well, because of the different confessions represented in CIMADE teams and also because of the ecumenical outlook which marks its work. In Algeria, as elsewhere, CIMADE cooperates with Roman Catholic agencies.

Material Aid - and Needs

The "regroupment centers" gathering mostly women and children, attracted attention in 1959 when CIMADE and "Secours Catholique" made public reports concerning widespread hunger and infant mortality. An emergency campaign resulted in an international outpouring of aid from the churches of Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, Germany, USA, Canada, and New Zealand. CIMADE's team increased in a year's time from 3 to 20 as a result of this action, making possible greatly increased services to the people.

A large number of children have been aided directly by gifts of food and clothing. Many of the regroupment centers are in mountainous and windswept areas where winters are bitterly cold, and accommodations are such that the average family of eight must make its children spend the day out of doors. For the winter, layettes are needed, especially flannel or knitted baby blankets, woolen socks, for children to wear with rubber boots provided by a firm free of charge, and warm clothing, such as woolen underwear, rain-capes, sweaters and wind-breakers. The most useful foodstuffs are packaged cheese, rich in food value and easy to distribute, and chocolate bars. A great quantity of sugar cubes and condensed milk is on hand as a result of a constant purchasing program. With these supplies, CIMADE team-members and volunteers will help the Algerians this winter, as brothers who do not come to bring anonymous charity from outside but who live alongside and understand the heartache as friends in the name of Christ.

WORLD COUNCIL PLANS MIGRATION CONFERENCE

(Geneva) - The first World Council of Churches' conference on migration will be held June 11-16, 1961, near Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council and president of the United Lutheran Church in America, will be chairman of the conference. Member churches of the World Council will send 150 church experts in the field of migration to the conference. The exact site of the conference will be announced later.

The conference will explore the migration problem in the total context of world population pressures and social and economic needs. The churches in recent years have resettled thousands of refugees, but the migration conference will tackle the wide problem of the Church in regard to migrants other than homeless political refugees.

The meeting has a three-fold purpose. It will provide an opportunity for the churches to discuss their common concern in the field of migration and determine specific responsibilities. It will advise the World Council of Churches on its future role in this field. The third aim of the conference is to make recommendations concerning the World Council and migration to the WCC's Third Assembly when it meets in New Delhi, India, late in 1961.

Delegates from Europe, Asia, Latin America, North America, Australia, and Africa will attend the meeting. Preliminary study groups are preparing documents for the meeting. Mr. Baldwin Sjollem, WCC staff member who is in charge of preparations, has recently met with preparatory commissions in Canada and the United States.

Four working groups will deal with the Witness of the Church on Migration and the Reasons for the World Council's Concern; the Service of the Church to the Migrant; the Impact of Migration on the Life of the Church; and Migration Problems of Asians and Africans.

A number of sharp questions will be posed. They include: What have the churches to say about selective migration policies such as racial restrictions? What can the churches do to counteract the problems of cultural and spiritual uprootedness of migrants?

What of such special cases as those of Puerto Rican migrants in the United States, and Algerians in France, who are citizens of the countries to which they move?

Such problems as how to prevent failure of migrants in their new countries will be discussed. The delegates will discuss the effects that ethnic churches organized for the benefit of immigrants have upon the total Christian community.

The role of the churches toward non-Christian migrants from Asia and Africa will be discussed.

One of the questions to be raised is "How realistic is it at this point to aim for a multi-racial society in every country of the world?" The Conference will consider a statement made by the East Asia Christian Conference which says that the World Council has a responsibility beyond encouraging its member churches to minister to those people who are migrating. It is also the responsibility of the Council "to exert its maximum influence against the political, economic, and racial barriers to migration which Asian peoples ... frequently suffer."

The delegates will consider the implications of the East Asia Christian Conference's statement: "It is our conviction that the voice of the churches should be unmistakably clear that the objective for all parts of the world is the establishment of truly multi-racial fellowship. We believe that only against this clearly defined objective can the Church contribute effectively and consistently to particular problems."

A PENNY FOR YOUR FAITH - by Paul Carlson, WCC Information Staff.

It takes only a kyat from Burma.. a pice from India ... a yen from Japan ... and a copper penny from the United States.

But these humble coins from Asia and America have been transformed into a mighty wave of Christian love that encircles the impoverished and distressed all the way from Hong Kong to the East Harlem slums of New York City!

Christian women around the globe have united through "The Fellowship of the Least Coin" to make it possible for children in Columbia, South America, to attend school... for African and Asian students in France to receive helpful counsel from a friendly chaplain while away from home... for family training to be extended in Mindolo, Rhodesia, South Africa... for refugees from the Chinese mainland to receive life-giving assistance upon reaching Hong Kong... and for under-privileged Negro and Puerto Rican children in East Harlem to receive care that otherwise would be denied them.

And all this miraculously accomplished by a sense of Christian concern -- and the modern counterparts of the widow's mite!

It all began early in September, 1956, when a group of six women -- two Asians and four Americans -- left Seattle, Washington (USA), on a Pacific Fellowship tour to Alaska, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Thailand. The purpose of the visits was to strengthen the world-wide fellowship of Christian women and to reaffirm that they were all members of the one Household of God.

While the delegation was encouraged by the distinctive contribution women in each country were making to the life of the Church, members became convinced that their Christian sisters throughout Asia should combine efforts and resources and launch a united project of international scope. What they were aiming for was a stewardship program that would include women everywhere, regardless of their social or economic status.

The result was the creation of "The Fellowship of the Least Coin" -- a program inspired by one of the two Asian tour members, Mrs. Reuben N. Solomon of India.

Shanti Solomon, as she is known to millions of women across the world, conceived the idea that each woman would set aside the "least coin" of her country every month, at the same time praying for her Christian sisters around the globe. At the end of the year, each participant would deposit her contribution in a common fund.

"We say 'least coin' because we want to keep it so that every woman -- the simple villager in my country or the richest woman in yours -- would be participating on exactly the same level," Mrs. Solomon explains. "It (is) an international fund and nobody ... knows which nation gave the most."

Everywhere she went, Shanti Solomon sowed the seeds of interest. It wasn't long before the idea caught fire, and now women in India, Pakistan, Iran, Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Lebanon, Portugal, Brazil, Columbia, Guatemala and the United States hold special prayer services in September of each year to dedicate the "least coins" of their respective lands.

Mrs. Solomon had been especially hopeful that Christian women in the United States would join their sisters throughout Asia in this unique benevolence program which spans five continents. "There are too many things going to divide East and West in the next years," she once remarked. "Let us do this together as one body." Shanti's hopes were rewarded in February, 1957, when she received the following cable: "Presbyterian women here glad to participate in Fellowship of Least Coin. Thank you for inviting us."

At the same time, a group of Christian women in Lahore, Pakistan, were looking for a new project now that the annual church sale was over, the Thanksgiving offering had been collected, and the Christmas pageant had been successfully staged for that year.

It was then that the group's president opened the New Testament and began to read the familiar story of the widow who won the Master's approval by giving her two mites to God. "This poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury," the Master assured His disciples. "For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living."

Holding up an earthen jar known as a "kujja," the society president then remarked: "Sisters, if each of us put our least coin -- a pice monthly -- into this kujja, we can participate in this world-wide giving of church women and pray for them all as we do so."

Even the poorest responded to the suggestion, and the empty "kujja" was passed from woman to woman with an air of solemnity. "At the end of five months," one member recalled, "when the "kujja" was broken open and the bright stream of coins tumbled out, it brought home to all participants that 'from His fulness have we all received grace upon grace.'"

Today, in addition to maintaining projects on the five continents, the fellowship has also answered special requests to aid an orphanage in Korea and has assumed the cost of a bed in 12 tuberculosis sanatoria in India.

Shanti Solomon's vision and a poor woman's mite have been transformed into a mighty wave of Christian love and concern that encircles a divided world. "This love is not only a unique identification for us Christians," Mrs. Solomon once told the women of her native India. "But it also draws many from other faiths to His feet. This love should not be limited to our homes, towns, states, or country. The world needs to see it." Participants in "The Fellowship of the Least Coin" fully agree.

CWS REPORT SCORES US REFUGEE LEGISLATION

(Buck Hill Falls, Pa.) - "Piecemeal" legislation governing the entry of refugees in the United States, has been scored by Church World Service officials as inadequate in face of the existing international refugee situation.

The agency's Department of Immigration in its annual report charged that current legislation presented here involves a complicated system of assurances and limitation of stateless refugees to the "parolee system" and clearly shows "the need for Protestant initiative for practical refugee solutions".

The US churches have long criticized the parolee technique and the fact that eligibility of refugees is limited to those under the mandate of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The current law provides that one-fourth the number of refugees admitted to other countries may enter the U.S.

Other aspects of the laws governing refugees are brighter, however, the report said. One extending to June 30, 1961 the admission of orphans, "must be made permanent," it said. Another permits the entry of tubercular refugees who have families here or whose relatives hold U.S. visas. This "humanitarian and practical law" has permitted the reuniting of many families whose only homes might otherwise be refugee camps, the report declared.

A third section of current refugee legislation extends for two years the entry of Dutch Indonesian refugees, of whom Church World Service has brought in 5,972.

A summary of CWS work showed that since January 1, the agency recorded close to 3,500 new registrations. CWS personnel during the first nine months of the year met 215 ships, 295 air flights, welcomed 6,158 refugees, arranged 43 TB resettlement cases and handled 260 job placements.

The Department report was presented to the CWS Board of Managers at its recent semi-annual meeting. CWS is the refugee relief agency of the National Council of Churches.

Relief officers also report the food situation is extremely serious. In one section, Tsha Tsha Tsha, it is estimated more than 30 per cent of the children will die of hunger within the next six months unless more adequate supplies of food and medicine are made available.

Supplies distributed through the Congo Protestant Relief Agency are going into this area and several others of the most seriously affected, including Miabe, where between 800 and 1000 children are given a cup of milk twice daily and a vitamin pill. The food is being distributed on two Mercedes six-ton trucks provided the agency by the Congo Ministry of Health.

Contributions to the World Council's appeal to underwrite this work have come from Australia, \$560; New Zealand, \$1,395; the British Council of Churches, \$14,000; Canada, \$10,000; Church World Service (USA), \$18,000; and Sweden \$6,000. In addition the German churches also sent tents for from three to four thousand people and Church World Service in the United States has sent 209,700 pounds of food valued at \$4,723 and \$447,000 worth of medicines, most of which were contributed by US pharmaceutical companies. The World Council had earlier sent \$30,000 in cash for immediate emergency needs.

REFUGEE HUT REPLICA AT US CHURCH ASSEMBLY

(San Francisco) - It looks like a treehouse which boys built in a back yard, not really meant to live in but to play with. But it is a very realistic replica of a hut which stands in the Rennie Mills refugee camp in Hong Kong, as a shelter for some very real people.

The replica hut formed one of the most striking exhibits at the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches held in early December in San Francisco.

Ill-fitting, weatherbeaten driftwood planks, roughly nailed in some places and held together with twine or rope in others, formed the six-foot walls of the "structure". Sheets of tarpaper and cardboard served as the roof. Cardboard pieces, newspapers cover cracks in the wall, also sackcloth.

The hut was part of the Church World Service exhibit and called attention to the plight of refugees whom the churches of America are trying to help survive, through their relief programs. And an attention-getter it was, for hundreds of delegates to the Assembly filed past each day and inquired about it from CWS staff and local volunteers manning the exhibit.

Just as striking as the hut itself is the story behind it, explains Dr. Reginald H. Helfferich, chairman of the Central Department of Church World Service, National Council of Churches (US), and executive secretary, Commission on World Service, United Church of Christ (Congregational Christian - Evangelical & Reformed).

According to Dr. Helfferich, the original hut was built in Rennie Mills refugee camp, Hong Kong, by a Ph.D. from Yale University. He did not build the hut for others, he built it for himself and family of four, for he was a refugee from communism and had fled his native Kaifeng in Honan Province.

After a perilous journey, the doctor reached Hong Kong in the summer of 1950. His funds were exhausted and his health dangerously near a break-down. With thousands of others, the family sought shelter and found none. Someone suggested that he build a hut in the refugee camp at Rennie Mills, but material was scarce. So, while his wife and children huddled with their few belongings

on a sidewalk in Kowloon, he went and collected wood and other materials whenever he could find them. Wood is scarce in the Far East and the doctor had to go far afield to collect enough to build his shelter.

"Folks at Rennie Mills camp will tell you," Dr. Helfferich, who has been there, reminisced, "that this is one of the more desirable living quarters in their neighborhood. Most have no wood. Excepting for supporting planks, shelters are built of old tin cans, cardboard boxes, and abandoned flour sacks or gunnysacks."

Entering the hut, one wondered where the four people of the Kaifeng family slept. It is ten by twelve feet, the size of a livingroom rug. Dr. Helfferich shrugged this off by saying that other families followed the Honan family's occupancy and had numbered as many as seven members.

For furniture, the shelter boasted a bunk bed, a luxury in any refugee camp, and a typical charcoal or wood cooking stove.

The replica was built from a photograph sent from Hong Kong. Reconstruction was undertaken by students at the First Baptist Church in Oakland, California, under the supervision of Dr. Kenneth Hobart. Dr. Hobart, now business manager of the church, is a former missionary to China, and recently completed four years of service as the director of Church World Service in Hong Kong.

The charcoal stove inside the hut was constructed by members of the Chinese YMCA in San Francisco.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY has unanimously named Felix Schnyder, a Swiss lawyer and diplomat, as High Commissioner for Refugees. He will succeed Dr. August R. Lindt, whose term expires this year. Dr. Lindt has been appointed Switzerland's Ambassador to the United States. The new High Commissioner has served in his country's diplomatic service since 1947. Since February, 1948, he has been an observer for Switzerland at the United Nations.

BRAZIL HAS BECOME THE 26TH COUNTRY to ratify or accede to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the status of refugees. As such it is the second Latin American country to become party to the Convention. Ecuador ratified the Convention in 1955. The Convention establishes minimum rights for refugees under the mandate of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

CANADIAN LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF has aided the immigration of 20,485 refugees and shipped more than 7,250,000 pounds of relief supplies valued at over \$3,000,000 to needy overseas since its organization in 1946. A report of activities at the agency's recent annual meeting also showed that \$3,250,000 lent to refugees nearly \$3,000,000 has been repaid. The council is supported by the Canadian districts of six US Lutheran denominations, which together comprise about 259,000 Lutherans in 1,000 congregations.

SHIPMENTS IN NOVEMBER BY HEIFER PROJECT, Inc., included 1,100 chicks to Ecuador, 1,000 chicks to Haiti, 500 chicks to Ghana and 2 heifers and 30 goats to Mexico.