

THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY UNION

FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING

CLIFTON SPRINGS, N. Y.

Wednesday May 30th

to Sunday June 3rd,

1928

INVITATION

All Foreign Missionaries on furlough, retired, or under appointment, are cordially invited to attend this meeting as guests of the Sanitarium and Village of Clifton Springs, New York, with free entertainment from Wednesday afternoon, May 30th, to Monday morning, June 4th, 1928. Children cannot conveniently be entertained.

REGISTRATION

To secure entertainment guests will detach and forward the registration form (see p. 4) to the secretary, Rev. Herbert F. Laflamme, 71 West 23rd Street, New York City to reach there by Tuesday, May 29th. The fee is \$1.00, to be paid at the time the guests enroll after reporting to the Entertainment Committee immediately on arrival at the sanitarium.



If you have interesting curios, photos and slides, particularly for the children's and the Saturday evening meetings, please inform the Secretary that arrangements may be made for using them.

The afternoons will be devoted to recreation and good fellowship. Golf, tennis and croquet players will be satisfied with fine courts, links and lawns of the Sanitarium.

LOCATION—Clifton Springs is on the Auburn Branch of the New York Central south of the Main line, junctions at Rochester and Syracuse; Lehigh Valley, main line; Pennsylvania Junction Canadaigua. Ordained ministers and active missionaries can travel half fare by securing clergy permits. A bus meets all trains.

For further information, apply to the Secretary,

REV. H. F. LAFLAMME,

71 West 23rd Street, New York City.

Program



The theme of the meeting will be the same as that of the International Missionary Council which met at Jerusalem in April, 1928.

The Christian Life and Message in Relation to Non-Christian Systems

It is the purpose of the conference to gain other light on two main questions:

- (1) In countries where the minds of men have been moulded by other faiths than Christianity, what are the sources from which chiefly they draw strength and comfort? What are the chief insights which they have gained into the meaning and purpose of life? What are the principal obstacles in their minds which stand in the way of their acceptance of the Christian message?
- (2) What are the distinctive values of the revelation of God in Christ in contrast with other systems of thought and life?

Religious Education

- I. (a) What influences contribute most directly and fundamentally to the formation of Christian character?
(b) What are the contributions of educational efforts, deliberate and formal, and of the social environment through the home, the general life of the school, national tradition and social custom?
(c) Which activities in missionary practice, are most effective in developing Christlike character? How are these capable of improvement?
- II. (a) What influences awaken the sense of God, make communion with Him in prayer and worship a controlling habit and principle and the active fulfillment of His will the dominant motive in life?
- III. (a) In what ways and to what extent is the present teaching of the Bible and of Christian doctrine and ethics effectively related to the experience, the needs, the capacity and the social environment of the pupils? In what ways can the relation be made closer and more effective?
(b) What provision at present exists for curricula, courses and helps suited to different ages and conditions? How far are such courses and helps as already exist adequate? What steps are necessary for improvement?
- IV. Is it desirable that further help should be given in (1) the preparation of missionaries, and (2) the training of teachers and pastors, to enable them to carry out more effectively the task of religious education? What form should such training take, and how should it be related to existing systems of training?
- V. In the light of answers to the foregoing questions, what steps can be taken by Churches and missions, separately or in co-operation, to remedy such defects and shortcomings in present practice as inquiry may reveal?

The Relation Between the Younger and Older Churches

Indicate in what ways the older Churches can through their historic traditions, spiritual experience, personnel, service and thought render the largest and most effective help in meeting the physical, educational and spiritual needs that are most pressing in the countries concerned at this present time.

The Christian Mission in the Light of Race Conflict, Industrial Developments and Rural Needs.

The missionary task of the Church is not only to bear its Christian witness throughout the whole world but also to relate that witness to all that concerns the life of men. In (1) the problems arising out of the contacts of different races; (2) the problems created by new industrial conditions in Asia and Africa; and (3) the needs and claims of the vast multitudes living under rural conditions.

There are involved certain human dispositions and attitudes which are capable of change through education or conversion; and there are, secondly, a multitude of factors, such as climate, soil, resources, transport, native capacity, which are either unalterable by human volition or can be modified only by efforts extending over long periods of time.

First, what can the Christian Church do to develop its members and to make effective in practice the Christian attitudes of sympathy towards other points of view and of unselfish service; and secondly, how through a proper understanding of the economic and other factors involved such mastery can be gained over the total situation as to create conditions in which relations of good will become a practical possibility.

The second is a task far beyond the resources of the Christian Church by itself, and the practical question is not so much what the Christian Church can undertake in this field as how the weight of its influence can be brought to bear to encourage and support well-conceived plans for the impartial and disinterested study of the facts in any given industrial or racial situation in order that reason and judgment may not be overborne by selfish interests, partisanship, prejudice or fear. In what ways can the Christian forces make the largest possible contributions to the furtherance of racial understanding and good will? In what way is the Christian movement at the present time in the different mission fields touching the industrial situation and meeting the needs arising out of it? What is being thought and done at the present time by those who have given most attention to the conditions of agricultural and rural life as a world problem in order that the mission may have the opportunity of considering in what ways this experience can be used to vitalize, enrich and strengthen the work of the Church in rural communities?

International Cooperation

The time has come to evaluate the agencies and methods of cooperation, and to ascertain afresh services in this field most desired by the Boards, the Missions and the Churches and to evolve a plan by which the Missions in the years immediately before us can function most efficiently and helpfully.

Schedule of Meetings



Wednesday, May 30th, 7:30 P. M.

Welcome from the Sanitarium—Dr. John A. Lichty

The roll call of those present.

Reports of delegates from the International Missionary Conference at Jerusalem.

Thursday, May 31st, 9 A. M. Devotional period,

9:30 to 11:30 A. M. Open forum.

4 P. M. The reception to which the Board of Control, the Sanitarium staff, the members of the Union and their hosts and hostesses in the village are invited.

6:30 P. M. The annual photograph of the Union.

7:30 P. M. Popular Platform Meeting open to the public.

Friday, June 1st, 9 A. M. Devotional period.

9:30 to 11 A. M. Open forum.

11 A. M. Memorial Service.

3 P. M. Women's Meeting.

7:30 P. M. Popular Platform Meeting open to the public.

Saturday, June 2nd, 9 A. M. Devotional period.

9:30 to 11:30 A. M. Open forum

1 P. M. Annual Business Meeting

3 P. M. The Children's Session

7:30 P. M. Moving Picture presentation

Sunday, June 3rd, 10 A. M. The annual sermon, Bishop Birney of China.

7:30 P. M. Farewell to the outgoing forces.

MEALS—Breakfast, 7 A. M.—Dinner, 12 noon—Supper 5.30 P. M.

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INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY UNION. REGISTRATION FORM

FULL NAME. Rev. Mr. Mrs. Miss.

MISSION FIELD

ADDRESS:—AMERICA

ABROAD

BOARD

DENOMINATION

YEAR APPOINTED

YEAR RETIRED

DATE AND HOUR EXPECT TO ARRIVE AT MEETING
DATE AND HOUR EXPECT TO LEAVE MEETING

If you can attend the meeting please fill in, detach and forward this form without delay to Rev. Herbert F. Laflamme, 71 West 23rd Street, N. Y. City.