

REPORT OF THE WORLD METHODIST YOUTH CONVOCATION

During the past four years the Youth Committee has been functioning as an integral part of the Council and its Executive. We have had an equal voice and vote in all the affairs of the Council and Executive, and we have deeply appreciated this opportunity to make the voice of youth heard in the important discussions which have taken place in these meetings.

The major activity of the Youth Committee has been the planning of an international experience for Methodist youth to be held in conjunction with the World Methodist Conference at Denver, Colorado, U.S.A., in 1971. After much discussion it was determined that this experience should include an opportunity for the participants to become involved in various aspects of American life in order that they might become familiar with both the problems and potentialities in each situation as well as gaining an international perspective on these situations and indeed on their lives.

Six centers were established in the following areas:

Charlotte, North Carolina
Huntington, West Virginia
Washington, D. C.
The Red Bird Kentucky Mountain Mission
Madison, Wisconsin
Kansas City, Missouri

International groups of young people spent ten days in one of these centers involved in the life of the area and in the lives of each other.

The young people then convened for a one-day consultation in Denver, Colorado, on August 16, 1971. This consultation was opened with a presentation by Bishop James Thomas on "Major Issues Confronting Christian Youth Today." This presentation and the experiences of the participants during the preceding ten days caused us to examine our own concepts of and participation in these issues.

As with all experiences of this sort there have been a variety of responses reported to us. As we have not yet had our evaluation session it would not be fair to make specific comments. However, it would be fair to say that there were many positive things which happened, and for many of the participants the program has been a high point in the development of their understanding of how to make an effective Christian witness.

Members of the Youth Committee:

Mrs. Florence Baber, New Zealand
The Rev. Christopher Bacon, England (Chairman)
The Rev. Oystein Brinch, Norway
The Rev. Michael Casto, U.S.A. (Secretary)
The Rev. Maclean Kumi, Ghana
The Rev. Robin Mitchell, India
The Rev. Gabriel Setiloane, South Africa
Dr. Franklin Thompson, U.S.A.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Michael Casto
Secretary, The Youth Committee
The World Methodist Council