MINUTES OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council was held at 8 o'clock on Saturday morning, October 24th 1925 at the British and Foreign Bible Society rooms.

The following were present:—Rev. J. E. Cummings, D. D., in the chair, Rev. B. M. Jones, Rev. W. C. B. Purser, W. B. Hilton, Esq., Mrs. B. M. Jones, Rev. A. C. Hanna, Miss E. I. Stouffer, Saya U Ba, Saya U Tun Pe, Saya U Tha Din (Mandalay), Saya U Po Mya, and the Rev. C. E. Chaney, Hon'y Secretary.

The meeting opened with reading by the Chairman of the 13th Chapter of First Corinthians, followed by some helpful comments and prayer.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting were read and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE.

In reading the correspondence it came to light that the Secretary had misunderstood the instructions of the Committee concerning the rates to be charged for advertising space in the printed minutes, offered to three journals, and he offered the space at rates to cover the printing of the Minutes instead of for the one extra page required. Therefore he was instructed to return the money paid by the N. C. C. Review, and to insert advertisements gratis for all three of the aforesaid papers.

With regard to the letter of suggestions from Rev. W. Paton, dated August 8th, growing out of his recent visit to Burma, the Secretary was instructed to print the same and circulate with the minutes for our information and consideration at the next meeting. (See Page 4.)

The other correspondence was read or referred to for general information, but required no action.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Resolved: That the report of the sub-committee on the Constitution be accepted and that the Constitution as brought up to date be printed in the Minutes.
The report of the sub-committee on the Constitution relative to the complete number composing the Executive committee, made it necessary to elect four new members.

Resolved: That the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Rangoon, Rev. A. W. Sheldon of Kalaw, Saya U Tha Din (Mandalay) and Saya U Tun Pe of Judson College, be declared elected as members of the Executive Committee.

Resolved: That Dr. Alan Murray be a co-opted member of the Council.

Resolved: That Dr. Alan Murray be elected to fill the place made vacant on the Executive Committee by the departure of W. L. Barretto, Esq. for England.

The Education Committee was not prepared to report concerning the plan of Government to take over all Normal Schools, but it is rumoured that the Clerk Scheme is being dropped.

Resolved: That Mr. W. B. Hilton, assisted by Mr. Loo Nee, take up the work on the question of gambling which was left incomplete by Mr. Barretto.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

1. The Report of the Education Committee was read. (See Page 5.)

Resolved: That we accept the Report of the Education Committee concerning the Conscience Clause in connection with building grants from Government for Boarding Departments. No further action was considered necessary.

2. The Report of the Literature Committee was read. (See Page 6.)

Resolved: That the Report be accepted and approved and that a sub-committee of three be appointed to deal with the replies to be received from the various Missions concerning Mr. Jones' successor. (See Page 6.)

The Chair appointed Mr. Jones, Mr. Purser and Mr. Chaney to act as the sub-committee.

It was moved by Mr. Purser that we heartily approve and place on record our approval of the work Mr. Jones has done, and that we thank the Methodist Mission for the loan of Mr. Jones for this work.

3. The Report of the Committee on Missionary training was read. (See Page 8.)

Resolved: That the report as read be approved and accepted.

4. Regarding the report on Rural Education by the sub-committee of the Education Committee, Mr. Purser said there
was nothing to report. He referred to the possibility of our merely duplicating Government’s Vernacular Educational Journal, and suggested that we co-operate with that paper by sending to it selected articles. Discussion followed.

**Resolved:** That the Committee on Rural Education be asked to provide two pages of material each month for the various denominational vernacular papers.

This was considered a step toward the goal of securing a Vernacular paper modeled after the Moga Journal.

5. Survey Committee. Mr. Olmstead sent notice that there is nothing further at present to report on the Survey.

**Other Business.**

Mr. Hilton made a brief verbal report concerning the problem of labour conditions.

Mr. Jones called attention to the organization in Rangoon of the Christian Temperance Association.

Mr. Chaney presented the following Resolutions.

(1) Feeling sure that if the people of Burma were given a chance to express their views concerning the liquor traffic, public opinion would be overwhelmingly against it, we believe that the time has come when Government should consider the wishes of the people in this matter and grant the privilege of Local Option to the country; and that copies of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Excise and the daily papers.

**Resolved:** That this resolution be referred through Mr. Hilton to the Temperance organizations for comment and advice, and then referred back to this Committee.

(2) That this Council should communicate with the Editors of the Rangoon Times and Rangoon calling their attention to their responsibility as journalists to publish the truth concerning both sides of a great social and political question such as the Prohibition movement in America or Local option in Scotland; and that in printing only unreliable reports of the failure of prohibition, they are being unfair to the public and becoming propagandists for the liquor traffic organizations.

**Resolved:** That Mr. Hilton, Dr. Murray and Mr. Sydney Loo Nee be appointed an *ad hoc* committee to deal with Public questions such as this one.

Mr. Jones called for the Treasurer’s report but none had been received. (However the Secretary received it in the afternoon mail and it is printed on page 9.) It is noted for approval at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** That the next meeting of the Executive Committee be held on the 30th January 1926 at 8 a.m. at the British and Foreign Bible Society room.
Saya U Tun Pe expressed for the Christian Literature Society their hearty appreciation of the work which Mr. Jones has been doing.

The meeting closed with prayer by Saya U Tun Pe.

C. E. Chaney, Hon’ly Secretary.

DIGEST FROM LETTER OF AUGUST 8, 1925
FROM REV. W. PATON, SEC., N. C. C.

I promised to put down on paper for you some of my reflections about the Burma Council. The first point that occurs to me is that the attendance of Burmese and Karen members is still very poor in spite of the new constitution. I suppose that this is mainly due to lack of interest in and knowledge of the Council. I should like however to suggest that it may be partly due to financial considerations and you might, I think, ask the Executive to discuss the question of expenses of members attending the meetings. At present I understand that this is left to members themselves, and I suppose that, as in other Councils, some are able to draw their expenses from their missions while others pay from their own pockets. I think it is clear that where this plan is followed there is bound to be a sparse attendance from the country districts. Some other Councils e.g. Madras, Bombay, Bengal, Punjab, etc., pay the expenses of all members of the Council at an agreed basis. This plan means that the subsidy given by the constituent missions and churches to the Council has to be larger, but it comes to much the same thing in most of the Indian Councils, as already the bulk of the members draw their expenses from the bodies which they represent. The Madras Council pays expenses on the basis of one and half times third class fare plus four annas per mile when off the rail.

I hope that Mr. Walters’ suggestion about social questions taking a more prominent place in the Council may be carried out. Before I left Rangoon, I met with a group of people who discussed together industrial conditions and housing in Rangoon. Mr. Hilton of the Y. M. C. A. is prepared to put in some work on this matter and it seems to me that both on these questions and on the questions of drink, gambling, and other social evils, the Council should endeavour to create and stimulate public opinion, not merely by passing resolutions but by making known the facts.

I do most earnestly hope that the newly formed committee on Rural Education may succeed in keeping alive the interest already aroused in the modern methods of primary teaching
and the rural school. In this connection I may add that I am collecting information as to how the vernacular editions of the "Village Teachers' Journal" are being financed, and will send the information to you. May I suggest that it ought to be possible to find some educationalist (perhaps a lady, for they are much better than men at this sort of thing) to take up the work of selecting and editing the Burmese edition of the "Journal".

I was very much interested in what was said about your proposed survey of the Christian Occupation of Burma and I look to the results of that with some eagerness and expectation. It seems to me that we want to know the main facts as to where the Christians are and from what religions or other groups they have come, and to know also in what sections of the community the most conspicuous progress is being made in evangelism and what methods are found most efficacious.

My only other suggestion is that I think the Council ought to meet for two days rather than for one day. Once people are collected together from a considerable area, you want their meeting to be as profitable as possible and I doubt very much whether it is really possible to go thoroughly into two or three big questions and at the same time do your necessary formal business within a single day’s meeting. I know that it may be said that if a one day’s meeting is not successful, two days’ will be worse; but I am convinced that this is not true. A two days’ meeting can be planned on lines which will make it worth anybody’s time and trouble to attend. I may add that every Provincial Council in India and Ceylon meets for two days.

REPORT OF EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

This committee met and discussed the new rule of the Education Department that grants for buildings cannot be made to boarding departments unless the conscience clause is accepted in the boarding department.

It seemed to the committee that no action was called for as schools cannot expect help from public funds unless they accept the conscience clause. It was therefore decided not to make any representation to government on the matter.

The committee was quite of the opinion that we should not accept the conscience clause for our boarding departments and as the government is quite determined not to help with building grants unless this is done there did not seem to be any chance of getting anything done.

C. H. Riggs.
REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE TO THE FIRST QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE B. C. C.

The extent of our progress since the Annual Meeting is not such as to make us unduly elated, nevertheless we have got on somewhat and for what progress has been made we thank God and take courage.

It will be remembered that at the time of the annual meeting we had applied to the I. L. F. for grants or loans to enable us to print five MSS. which we had on hand. We were disappointed to learn soon after, that that Fund had no money with which to make any grants for publication at all and was barely able to promise the continued support of literature workers for another year on the same basis as this. The Sign of the Cross came from the press about that time and was found to have run seventy pages over the original estimate so that the bill was increased by over Rs. 400/-.

It seemed imperative, however, that some additional printing should be done in time for the autumn conferences and the MSS. of King Midas and The Greatest Thing in the World were sent to the press. Application was made to the C. L. S. in London for grants for these and for Ma Pan Shwe Wutthoo. The last mail brought word that these grants had been sanctioned. The Treasurer has been very successful also in the solicitation of funds; the sales have considerably increased the balance in the treasury and we have received Rs. 140 from advertisements. The financial prospects had therefore improved to such an extent that I felt justified at the beginning of this month in sending Ma Pan Shwe Wutthoo to the press and it is now all in type and will be out as soon as the blocks arrive for the cover.

The C. L. S. year closes at the end of this month. The past year will show five new publications, aggregating 16000 volumes of almost two million pages, and although three of these came from the press within a month of the end of the year, the sales of these five alone will amount to over 3000 volumes or very nearly half a million pages. It is gratifying also to note that with the exception of The Sign of the Cross, it is possible to sell these books for enough to cover the cost of printing and selling and in the case of some to have a slight profit over. The grants from the London Committee of the C. L. S. are only intended to be supplementary and do not in any instance pay the whole cost of publication. The total grants for the three books mentioned amount to Rs. 390 though the cost of printing them is over Rs. 1,200/-.
Again and yet again, I want to appeal for a little more enthusiastic interest in circulating our publications. The success of the few who have some enthusiasm for it indicates something of what could be accomplished if all the mission stations throughout the country had missionaries and other Christian Workers who were keen on this form of work. Our recent books are attractively gotten up so that they sell themselves when they are put into the hands of the people. In this connection I must acknowledge the great courtesy of the authorities of the Conference of St. Michael's Mission S. P. G. and also of the Wesleyan Convention in Upper Burma in both of which I was given an opportunity to represent our work and to dispose of our literature and in both cases the sales were very gratifying indeed.

Progress with manuscript has not been as rapid as formerly owing to a spell of illness of the translator and to the fact that reading of proof and preparation of illustrations has taken some time. MSS. of the King of the Golden River and Tales of Heroism have been completed and fair progress made on The Manhood of the Master and The Teaching of Reading.

The year for which I undertook to supervise this work is fast drawing to a close and owing the fact that our Mission will be short-handed during the coming year, it will not be possible for me to continue to serve the Council in this capacity. In view of the situation the Committee instructed me to draw up a statement of the facts for presentation to the several Missions, inquiring whether any of them could supply a man to work with our translator during the coming year. I have prepared the following statement but have not yet sent it. Perhaps it would be an advantage to have the appeal come from this committee.

B. M. Jones.

A STATEMENT OF THE SITUATION IN THE LITERATURE DEPARTMENT OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL.

A little more than a year ago application was made to the Indian Literature Fund for the support of a Burmese literature worker. The application was granted and Rs. 1,800 was appropriated on condition that the Missions provide missionary co-operation and supervision to the extent of half the time of a missionary. Appeal was made to the several Missions at work in Burma for a missionary who could give half time to this work and the Methodist Episcopal Mission agreed to contribute half the time of Mr. B. M. Jones for one year. It proved impossible to get the services of a competent Burman
assistant until the close of the school year but Saya Maung Yu was employed from May 1st. He has completed five manuscripts, three of which are already in print and selling rapidly. Three other manuscripts are well on the way. Two other MSS. prepared by others have also been printed and are in circulation, so while it may be true that "of the making of books there is no end" it is gratifying to know that in Burma there is at least a beginning.

The Indian Literature Fund Committee has given assurance of their willingness to continue the support of the Burmese translator for another year on the same condition, but owing to numerous furloughs among the missionaries of the Methodist Mission it will not be possible for Mr. Jones to continue the work of supervision. The Council therefore appeals to your Mission for the services of a missionary competent to carry on this work who can give half of his time to it for the coming year. It will be a very great pity indeed, if the work should have to stop at this stage and the appropriation for the support of the Burmese assistant be lost to Burma. It would be impossible to over-emphasize the importance of the provision of an adequate supply of literature of a desirable character for the Christian community in Burma. The Churches are spending many lakhs of rupees to teach young people to read but providing a very meagre supply of reading matter. It is an open question whether it would not be worth while to close a school if necessary in order to carry on this work, by means of which the entire population of the country can be greatly influenced.

QUARTERLY REPORT.

COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MISSIONARIES.

The half yearly examination was held for the first time on October 16th and 17th, under the new regulations. The date of the examinations was synchronised and the same papers were set for the candidates presenting themselves at both centres. There were twelve candidates of whom seven were examined at Mandalay and five at Rangoon.

In the Elementary examination four candidates were examined: Three passed (of whom one gained great credit and another credit) and one failed.

In the Intermediate examination five candidates were examined; one passed with great credit; another passed with credit and the other three obtained provisional passes.

In the Advanced examination three candidates were examined and all passed with credit.
On the Mandalay Committee the Rev. H. E. Dudley has taken the place of Miss Parrott as the representative of the A. B. M.

No action has been taken by the Committee with regard to the prescribed texts for the Intermediate examination.

W. C. B. Purser,
 Convener.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts.

Balance in the Bank on 18th July 1925 Rs. 990 6 7
Sept. 24, From A. B. Mission through Mr. Chaney Rs. 350 0 0
,, ,, From S. P. G. Mission Rs. 140 0 0
,, ,, From Y. M. C. A. Rs. 35 0 0
,, ,, From Y. W. C. A. Rs. 35 0 0
,, ,, From Wesleyan Mission Rs. 105 0 0
,, ,, From Methodist Mission Rs. 105 0 0
,, ,, From British Foreign Bible Society Rs. 35 0 0

Rs. 1795 6 7

Disbursements.

July 24, A. B. M. Press Rs. 27 8 0
,, ,, Mr. Chaney for postage Rs. 6 3 6
,, ,, Treasurer Indian Christian Council Rs. 400 0 0
Sept. ,, A. B. M. Press Rs. 6 8 0
,, ,, British Burma Press Rs. 2 4 0
Oct. ,, A. B. M. Press Rs. 80 0 0

Rs. 522 7 6

Balance in the Bank on 23rd October 1925, Rs. 1273 15 1

T. J. Cornelius,
Treasurer,
Burma Christian Council.

THE CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN BURMA CONSTITUTION.

Preamble.

United in belief in the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, as expressed in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, and in the conviction that Holy Scripture doth contain all things necessary to man's salvation, whilst frankly acknowledging the
denominational differences of principles between the various bodies, the Christian Council in Burma recognize that there are important spheres in which co-operation may be greatly extended.

For this purpose the following constitution is adopted:

I. **Name.**

The Christian Council in Burma.

II. **Basis.**

The Council is established on the basis that the only bodies entitled to determine missionary policy are the Churches and Missions. The functions of the Council are therefore consultative, and it will take action only when it is assured that such action is in accordance with the wishes of the bodies represented on the Council. Where there is a divergence of view, the Council, if it takes action at all, will do so only on behalf of, and in the name of those bodies that desire such action to be taken. In no circumstances will the Council commit the Churches or Missions to any attitude or course of action without their consent.

III. **Objects.**

1. To facilitate co-operation in missionary policy and activity.

2. To keep in touch with other Provincial Councils in India, with the National Christian Council of India, Burma and Ceylon, and with the International Missionary Council.

3. Through common consultation to help form Christian public opinion and bring it to bear on the moral problems of the day.

4. To make periodically a thorough survey of the whole field and to communicate the results of such survey to the various missions within the area.

5. To keep in touch with all missions and Christian organizations in its own area, and to take such action as may seem desirable with a view to correlate their activities and to promote their co-operation.

6. To consider and if advisable to undertake any other work which may be referred to it by the bodies which it represents.

7. To consider and adopt findings on any matter pertaining to Christian work which it deems to fall within its scope.
8. To keep in close touch (through affiliation wherever practicable) with existing interdenominational agencies which are dealing with matters coming within the aim of this Council.

9. To arrange from time to time such joint conferences of missionary bodies and Church organizations within its own area as may seem desirable and necessary to deal with special issues.

IV. Composition.

1. Subject to the general principle that half of the membership of the whole Council shall be composed of members of the Burma Christian community, the Council shall be composed of delegates from the several bodies represented, in the following proportion:

   American Baptists                      10
   Anglicans                              4
   Methodist Episcopal                    3
   Wesleyan Methodist                      3
   The Leipsiz Lutheran                   1
   The British and Foreign Bible Society  1
   The Young Men's Christian Association  1
   The Young Women's Christian Association 1
   The Women's Christian Temperance Union 1
   The Christian Literature Society       1

and such other Christian organizations as shall in the future be admitted by the Council.

2. Additional co-opted members, in the selection of whom special consideration should be given to the adequate representation of important interests. Co-opted members shall not exceed half the number of representative members.

V. Meetings.

The Council shall meet annually (in July) unless otherwise arranged by the Executive Committee and shall issue an annual report of its proceedings.

VI. Officers.

The regular officers of the Council shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary, to be elected yearly at the annual meetings.
VII. Executive Committee.

The Council shall appoint at each annual meeting an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Council, Conveners of Standing Committees and enough additional members to bring the total up to sixteen, to act for it in intervals between its meetings, with the right to fill vacancies in its own membership, care being taken in accordance with IV (1) to provide an adequate representation of members of the Burma Christian community. This Committee shall meet once a quarter. Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary if required by three members.

VIII. Amendments.

This constitution may be altered or amended only at an annual meeting of the Council by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting after one month's previous notice of the proposed change has been given to the members.

BYE-LAWS.

1. Standing Committees shall be appointed annually by the Council as follows: (1) Christian Education, (2) Christian Literature, (3) Training of Missionaries.

II. Special Committees may be appointed whenever necessary.

III. The Executive Committee shall be the Finance Committee.

IV. Conveners of both Standing and Special Committees shall be chosen from the members of the Council. This limitation shall not necessarily apply to other members.

V. Nominations for the Committees shall be made by the Executive Committee and circulated to the members with the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

VI. Committees shall have power to co-opt additional members, such members not to exceed in number one half of the original committee.

VII. Members of the committees, not members of the Council, may attend and may be invited to speak at the meetings of the Council, without however, the privilege of voting.

VIII. Committees shall endeavour to keep in touch with similar committees in other provinces and with those of the National Council.

IX. Each Standing and Special Committee shall have power to co-opt members to fill any vacancies that may occur within its own membership during the year.
X. The Standing Committees shall report to the Executive Committee as well as to the Council.

XI. Four representatives to the National Council shall be appointed by this Council at its annual meeting, not less than two of whom shall be members of the Burma Christian community. Of the four first appointed two shall hold office for two years and two for four years. All subsequent appointments shall be four years. The Secretary shall indicate in the Proceedings, for what meetings of the National Council as well as for what years, the representatives are appointed.

XII. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy occurring during the interval between the meetings of the Council.

XIII. Members of Committees who reside at a distance from Rangoon may be considered corresponding members.

XIV. These bye-laws shall not be altered or amended except at a meeting of the Council by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

**Note.** Resolution regarding constitution of the Education Committee as shown on page 4 of the Tenth Annual Report (1924) reads as follows:—

**Resolved:**—That the Education Committee of the Council consist of a Convener elected by the Council and representatives of the constituent bodies engaged in Educational work, in the same proportion as the Council membership, with power to co-opt and act in emergencies. According to this, in future the Committee will be made up as follows:—Anglicans 2, Wesleyans 2, Methodists 2 and Baptists 5.
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