MINUTES OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

November 27, 1926.

The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Burma Christian Council was held at 8 o'clock on the morning of November 27, 1926, at Community Hall, Rangoon.

The following members of the Executive Committee were present:—Dr. J. E. Cummings (in the Chair), Rev. B. M. Jones, Thra San Ba, W. B. Hilton, Esq., Saya U Shwe Hla, Rev. Peter Kin Maung, and Rev. C. E. Chaney, Hon’y Secretary.

Other members of the Council present were as follows:—Dr. D. C. Gilmore, Miss A. O. Ragon, Saya U Ba, Rev. W C. B. Purser, Miss M. B. Ferguson, Mrs. B. M. Jones, Saya Po Mya, Saya On Kin, and Saya Kenneth Po San.

There were also a number of visitors present.

The meeting opened with reading by the Chairman of the 6th Chapter of Second Corinthians, followed by some helpful comments.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting were accepted as printed, with one correction—that the Secretary record the motion made by Mr. Jones that the Executive Committee formulate some plan for increasing the membership of the Council.

The Agenda, as printed, was accepted as the tentative program for the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Resolved: That we make an annual contribution of Rs. 200 to the National Christian Council.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A letter from the Health Department concerning the Commission on Hygiene was read, and it was

Resolved: That our Medical Officer, Dr. M. Kingsley, be asked to make the necessary arrangements for the Commission on Hygiene.
A letter was read from W. F. Grahame, Esq., who is now on furlough, raising the question as to whether a substitute for him should be elected.

Resolved: That we endorse the reply of the Secretary to Mr. Grahame, to the effect that any change in arrangements is undesirable because of the shortness of his furlough.

A letter from Mr. Gooch, concerning the Week of Prayer, was read, and it was

Resolved: That we approve Mr. Chaney's letter in reply to Mr. Gooch, concerning the Week of Prayer.

The Secretary's letter to Mr. Purser, requesting that he convene the Education Committee, was read, and it was

Resolved: That we approve Mr. Purser's acting as convener pro tem of the Education Committee until the election of a new convener.

The Secretary called attention to the fact that Dr. Riggs of the Methodist Mission has gone on furlough and that that Mission should appoint another member to take his place on the Education Committee.

Resolved: That we postpone the election of a convener for the Education Committee until a new member has been appointed by the Methodist Mission.

The Secretary raised the question as to how many Surveys the Council should order printed.

Resolved: That the Council print 1500 copies of the Survey at a cost of Rs. 550.

The Secretary reported that he had sent Dr. Cummings as his substitute to the National Christian Council.

Resolved: That Mr. Jones be appointed to the General Committee Indian Literature Fund.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

I. Committee on Literature.

Mr. Jones made a verbal report, which was accepted. He stressed the importance of distributing literature at this time of the year and urged that distribution be pushed during the dry season. He also called attention to the fact that it is essential to carry on some work in literature in order to hold the grant of Rs. 1500 for this purpose from the National Christian Council.
Mr. Chaney suggested that since no one man can give half of his time to the work, the Literature Committee might make a list of books for translation and divide the work, allotting certain books to a man in each mission for supervision. Mr. Jones indicated that this is the policy pursued by the Committee at present.

Dr. Cummings brought up the point that the grant from the National Christian Council has been given for the specific purpose of setting aside one man especially suited to the work. Mr. Jones agreed that this would be by far the most satisfactory and efficient arrangement, but called attention to the difficulty of securing a man on such conditions this year.

II. Committee on Training of Missionaries. See Page 5.

Mr. Purser's report was read and accepted.

Resolved: That the syllabus as emended be the syllabus of study for candidates in the Burmese language and that the suggested changes be incorporated in the new edition to be printed.

Resolved: That the rules for the Examination of Missionaries in Burmese be accepted as emended, and that they be printed separately and circulated as soon as practicable.

Resolved: That the Committee on the Training of Missionaries be authorized to get out a booklet, 250 copies, including rules and syllabus of the examination.

III. Education Committee.

Mr. Purser made a verbal report which was accepted.

Resolved: That we instruct the Education Committee to forward their statement concerning the Normal School situation to the Director of Public Instruction.


Thra San Ba had prepared no report, but stated that the Council had some six hundred rupees in hand. The report was accepted as given, and the Treasurer was asked to submit a typed report to be printed, subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council.

REPORTS OF AD HOC COMMITTEES.

I. Committee on Local Option.

Resolved: That the Report of the Committee on Local Option be deferred until the next Executive Committee meet-
ing, and that copies of the report be circulated to the members of the Executive Committee.

II. Committee on Gambling.

Mr. Hilton reported that no official meeting of the Committee had been held.

III. Committee on Rural Education.

Mrs. Chaney gave a verbal report and requested that someone be appointed in place of Miss Merrick, who has gone on furlough.

Resolved: That Miss Ebersole of the Methodist Mission be appointed to the Committee on Rural Education, in place of Miss Merrick, who has gone on furlough.

Resolved: That the report of the Committee on Rural Education be deferred until the next meeting.

IV. Committee on Public Questions. No report.

V. Committee on Survey. No report.

VI. Committee on Guide Book.

Mr. Chaney made a verbal report, which was accepted, and distributed copies of the Guide Book to the members of the Council.

Resolved: That we record in the Minutes our appreciation of the work done by the Committee and the A. B. M. Press in the preparation of the Guide Books.

VII. Committee of Arrangements for Dr. Stanley Jones Meetings.

This committee reported its own agenda, as follows:

1. Introduction of Dr. Jones. Mr. Baldwin.

Rev. B. M. Jones added a few supplementary remarks from his personal knowledge of Dr. Jones and his methods.

2. Notes as to what the Committee has done.

Mr. Hilton. Mr. Hilton reported the number of committee meetings held and the progress made, and sketched a tentative program for Dr. Jones' visit. He also announced a change in date, from January 14 to January 29, for Dr. Jones' arrival in Burma.
3. Reports of Sub-committees.
   (a) Finance. Mr. Chaney.
   (b) Publicity Mr. Jones.
   (c) Music. Johnson Kan Gyi.
   (d) Entertainment. Mr. Hilton.

4. The Need for Work and Prayer Mr. Chaney.
   Following Mr. Chaney's short talk, the Rev N. K.
   Anderson, Cathedral Chaplain, led in prayer

REPORT OF OUR DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL.

1. Saya On Kin.
2. Rev J. E. Cummings, D. D.

OTHER BUSINESS.

Resolved: That the next meeting of the Executive
Council be held on the 26th February, 1927.
It was moved to adjourn after prayer.
Mr. Purser led in the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
C. E. CHANEY,
Hon' y Secretary.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF
MISSIONARIES AND BOARD OF
EXAMINERS.

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BURMA
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL.

November 27, 1926.

At a meeting of the Board of Examiners at Rangoon on
November 29, 1926, the following modifications of the present
rules for the Examination of Missionaries in Burmese were
proposed:

Rule 3. To insert the words "at least" before the
words "two examinations annually."

These words are added with a view to
making it possible occasionally to provide for
a special case where it is impossible for the candidate to present himself at the ordinary time of examination. Such special examinations might be conducted with proxy examiners.

Rule 10. The rule is revised so as to read:—"In order to pass, a candidate must obtain half the maximum marks on each subject. If three quarters of the aggregate marks are obtained . etc. . No candidate may sit for more than one grade at the same examination."

This revision of wording does not indicate any change of procedure. It only makes explicit what has actually been the practice of the Board all along.

With regard to the syllabus for the Intermediate Examination, it is proposed to add, with regard to the Fifth Standard Reader, that the poetic passages are to be omitted, and with regard to the Newspaper, that a religious paper is indicated.

In accordance with suggestions made by the Mandalay Board, and with a view to simplifying the examination and making the syllabus more definite, the following proposals were made:—

In the Advanced Examination.

Subject 1. Omit the poetical passages in Standard VI Reader.

Subject 2. Read as follows:—"To write translation of a passage selected from any secular Burmese Newspaper, not being a technical dissertation."

Subject 3. To write a Burmese composition on a subject to be assigned at the Examination.

Subject 4. Conversation.

Subject 5. To give a ten minutes religious address in Burmese on a subject to be assigned at the Examination.

(The translation of a Burmese Manuscript is omitted from this Examination, as the candidate has already done this on two previous occasions.)
The following resolution was also passed:—

"In view of the statement made in Dr. Saunier’s letter printed on page 9 of the Burma Christian Council ‘Twelfth Annual Report,’ this Board recommends that the various co-operating Missions take steps for the establishment of a Language School in the near future."

W C B. PURSER,
Convener.

TREASURER’S REPORT.

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SAN BA,
Treasurer,

30th November, 1926.

Burma Christian Council.