

# Churches are bridging the world's difference

Christmas hampers, used clothing and dinners for the underprivileged are commonplace among church congregations at this time of year. But, important as these community activities are, the really massive aid from Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox Churches of the world comes through the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the World Council of Churches, based in Geneva.

This rather cumbersome name—usually shortened to DICARWS—brings together in an ecumenical effort 400 million Christians from churches in 90 countries and territories. Total budget is about \$18,000,000 for refugee and development aid, but additional funds are raised whenever and wherever a disaster occurs. For instance, tremors were still shaking the ground last August when representatives of the World Council of Churches reached a remote region in Iran to offer emergency aid.

Before they left the site of one of the worst earthquakes in recorded history, tents and other relief supplies were on their way in a massive airlift from churches in Germany, Great Britain and from ecumenical supply depots in the area and 800,000 units of penicillin were being flown from Finland.

As soon as the church's mobile and multilingual team could assess long-term needs in the area where 11,588 people were killed and 25,000 were left homeless, word went out from the Geneva headquarters to churches around the world letting them know what they could do to help. Overnight, funds were made available for the effort by Christians in Denmark, Norway, India and in hard-hit Iran itself. Churches in other countries, including Canada, have contributed cash to build three fully-equipped clinics as part of the long-range rehabilitation of the area.

Although the Council's division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service seeks to meet such emergency needs whenever and wherever they arise, the Division is not a church-supported Red Cross. More typical of its multi-million dollar program are thousands of development projects underway in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Islands of the Pacific, Europe, North America and the Middle East.

The Council views these self-help projects as "socio-economic preventive medicine" and recognizes that in many parts of the under-developed world the village pastor is also a primary community leader. As a result, several governments—including Canada—have decided to channel development funds through the churches.

In Thailand, for example, where 80 per cent of the Christians live in rural areas, a revolving loan fund was established to help individuals and small communities raise their standard of living. The Rev. Graeme Jackson, who heads the Division's Asia desk, tells how one tiny village of a dozen families overcame community rejection. Their reputation in the region was bad because their poor land could not support them adequately. Eighteen months after they received a small loan from a church agency they had cleared and cultivated more productive land and had begun to win acceptance in the area. The result of their newly-revealed industry was a net profit of \$100 per family per year. From

this they returned \$40 per year to pay off their loan.

Such projects, though minuscule when compared with the world's needs, are considered highly strategic by development experts. People in relatively primitive surroundings cannot be expected to hurdle the centuries between the age of the ox-drawn plow and the cybernetic age without massive dislocations in social and personal mores. Some of the projects of the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service therefore emphasize the development of simple, indigenous tools. The Africa secretary, Canon Burgess Carr, displays photos showing feeding troughs at an agricultural development station which were rather simply made by splitting bamboo lengthwise.

The effects of urbanization are not overlooked, however. In many parts of the world the churches have helped farmers and craftsmen develop marketing channels, sometimes building roads so that isolated villages can send their produce to markets in the larger cities.

The churches' field staff has learned to anticipate human problems, too. When oil was discovered in Nigeria, for example, an influx of workers was expected in Port Harcourt. The local Christian council, with the encouragement of the World Council, provided secretarial training for young women in evening classes as a positive alternative to prostitution.

The courageous men and women at work in such projects around the world must be blessed with a special measure of patience and with unusual resilience. Sometimes it takes years for a project to bear fruit; not infrequently one must accept apparent failure.

In East Pakistan, for example, an agricultural demonstration farm was established by Canadian Baptists to train men to return to the villages and improve local production. Most of the men who came for training liked the city and found urban employment rather than return to the isolated communities from which they had come. One Pakistani who did return, however, was Paul Munshi. He had to reach Chukhuri in the Bramaputra delta only by boat and when he told the local farmers they should use better seed, begin to fertilize, and take advantage of pesticides he was greeted with doubting stares. They could not afford to risk money on crops that sometimes are washed away by salt-water tides.

With a small World Council grant he purchased the seed and supplies he needed and after a failure or two, convinced the farmers to try. With surplus commodities supplied by the churches in the United States he established a food-for-work project in which a dike was built around the crop lands during the dry season. Within three years the yield had been increased three times and the community was able to get two crops annually rather than one. Now the farmers are ready to purchase a tractor for co-operative use with a loan made through the East Pakistan Christian Council with funds supplied by the Division of Inter-Church Aid.

The Division also provides the channel through which the churches of the world come to the aid of innocent victims of war. Minutes after the news of the recent Czech crisis reached Geneva, the wheels were

turning to help any Czechs in need. Without encouraging Czech nationals to migrate, to return home or to remain abroad, the Council stood ready to help the nearly 20,000 who were in Vienna and other Austrian areas. By mid-September it appeared that most Czechs outside their homeland preferred to keep their passports and nationality and so technically was not considered refugees. There was a possibility, however, that the Austrian churches would need help in furnishing food and shelter to several thousand Czechs for up to 10 months.

Sometimes the Division must provide its assistance with utmost delicacy, as in the case of relief shipments to starving masses in the Nigerian secessionist province of Biafra. Co-operating with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the churches had contributed a substantial part of the 3,000 tons of relief supplies which were flown into Biafra at night to supply 320 stations where 160,000 mothers and children were being fed daily.

The Division maintained what its director, Mrs. Charlotte Browne-Mayers, called "a non-partisan umbrella" in order to be able to help meet the post-war needs in the African area. Among the three teams serving in Nigeria/Biafra one included a nurse and two supply officers from Canada. An estimated \$3,800,000 is expected to be given by the churches of the world through the Division to aid war victims and to help restore damaged hospitals, schools, farms and the social life of Nigeria and Biafra.

The far-flung services of the Division are administered by a refugee staff of five, eight area secretaries and eight functional specialists.

Many of the member churches of the Canadian Council of Churches are also members of the World Council and therefore, have a direct involvement in the DICARWS projects. The United Church of Canada, for example, at its biennial General Council at Kingston in August, voted an amount of \$1,750,000 for overseas development and relief "in the next 28 months"; \$750,000 of that amount to be spent in 1968.

The result of this resolution was an appeal for "one day's pay" from all church members, beginning with the Moderator, Dr. Robert B. McClure, and the personnel of United Church offices in Toronto. As of Dec. 12, \$50,000 had been received, with contributions coming in daily. Church officials point out that since most congregations only made the appeal on Dec. 8, it will probably be mid-January before the final total is known. In any case, the amount of \$750,000 was guaranteed by General Council and any shortage in the campaign dubbed RSVP - "Respond by Sharing in a Variety of Projects around the world" - will be made up out of the church's reserve funds.

It is hoped that next year, a number of Canadian denominations will be working together to raise funds for overseas development and relief. Meanwhile, the instrument forged by the world wide church family will continue to bridge the world's most hurtful differences.

## Maintenance deficit is \$30,000

A deficit of \$30,000 in the maintenance budget of the Halton Region Conservation Authority will require transfer of funds from the capital allowance budget, members were advised at the final meeting of the year.

Secretary-treasurer Max Hatherley reported revenue from Kelso had exceeded the budget but this was not sufficient to maintain the eight areas under the Conservation Authority.

The maintenance section of the budget provided for expenditures of \$70,000, the treasurer noted, while the previous year's expenditures had exceeded that.

Chairman Barry Humphries stressed the next year's budget would have to be considered more realistically in its relationship between maintenance and capital expenditures.

Mrs. A. MacArthur recalled she had been assured at the Crawford Lake site, during discussions on that purchase, that the levy to municipalities would not be increased by the purchase.

"No one said the levy would be increased. It's been suggested every year for the last five years," the chairman countered.

Mrs. MacArthur suggested the

authority should investigate revenue from sites other than Kelso.

Heated words were exchanged when W. Sargent suggested the authority had spent its capital funds for the next three years—"if we don't spend five cents as of the first of the year."

"If you call building Hilton Falls and Scotch Block dams and purchasing Crawford Lake doing nothing, I don't understand you," the chairman retorted.

The chairman emphasized the Authority had not overspent its levy, but agreed members would have a meeting early in the year to consider the 1969 budget.

The Authority currently operates on a per capita levy of \$1.45 from the municipalities in the watershed.

Dealing with other matters on the agenda, the chairman reported court action on the expropriation for Hilton Falls project was expected in January. Advisers had recommended the Authority take no action on the project until this was settled.

A further meeting with representatives of Milton Council was approved, in an effort to have them withdraw the requirement that Hilton Falls project be proceeded with before Scotch Block.

A report from the Conservation Education Advisory Board recommended that existing conservation areas be made available for teaching purposes. A committee was authorized to meet representatives of the County Board of Education to discuss the necessary terms of such an arrangement.

Committee chairman Clare Sweetman presented the detailed report on this use of conservation areas and suggested that to handle authority area students for three trips during their school career, would require programming for 75 students daily.

"Among the properties of the Authority are at least three lakes, several streams, ponds and woods, including one substantial and healthy block of trees 140 years old, quarries, caves, lime kilns, a number of old houses and barns, a saw-mill and a game farm. Here, besides the natural sciences, can be taught bits of chemistry, mathematics, biology, history, geology, physiography, art; in fact, almost anything within the educational system."

The Authority members endorsed the report and authorized the representations to the County Board.

Members also approved an up-dated priority list of projects setting the Hilton Falls and Scotch Block dams in 1969; two dams on 14 Mile Creek in 1970; Agerton dam in 1971; Drumquinn dam in 1972; Grindstone Creek dam in 1973; mansewood dam in 1974 and Rattlesnake dam in 1975.

### Muu muus and Halakahiki salad

## 4-H party goes Hawaiian

Girls in muu muus and leis, a feast of Hawaiian foods and a slide presentation on the beautiful scenery of Hawaii made for an interesting evening Thursday, as Halton's 4-H Homemaking Club girls staged their first Christmas dinner party in the auditorium of Halton Centennial Manor at Milton.

Girls from the county's 4-H clubs prepared the buffet dinner

using authentic Hawaiian recipes, and the feast made a big hit with the parents and special guests attending. The menu featured Poi Kau Kau, Guava Compot, Polynesian Mingle, Halakahiki Salad, Teriyakis Hawaiian, Asuki and Nui Aha Salad, plus a Hawaiian punch.

Following dinner chairman Anne Ruhl of the Hornby South

club introduced special guests Mr. and Mrs. George Readhead, the president and secretary of Halton Agricultural Society, and CBC farm broadcast reporter George Atkins and Mrs. Atkins of Bronte. Both gentlemen extended congratulations to the girls on the sumptuous dinner and wished them continued success in their homemaking programs. Mr. and Mrs. Walter

Norrington of Milton, who were largely responsible for organizing the dinner and the program, were introduced by Laura Maxwell. Mrs. Norrington's two brothers are missionary priests working in Hawaii, one a doctor and the other a school teacher, and they showed a series of colorful slide pictures they took on a recent visit to the island. Mrs. Norrington told the island's history from its discovery by Capt. James Cook in 1778 to annexation by United States and commented in great detail on the pictures her husband showed. She wore a muu muu purchased in Hawaii on the trip.

The Norringtons were presented with a gift for their contribution to the evening.

Several merchandise prizes were contributed to the evening by merchants from around Halton, and Nancy Mahon drew out the winners' names. They included Mrs. Bruce Frame, Mrs. A. Seelen, Mrs. L. Coulter, Mrs. F. Ruhl, Mrs. E. Hyatt, Mrs. Muriel Nurse, Heather Hyatt, Cathy Lasby and Donna Spence.

Many of the 4-Hers attending wore Hawaiian muu muus and all the guests were presented with leis to wear around their necks. One brave girl, from the Dublin club, wore a grass skirt.

### Planner urges county continue its support

Halton Planning Association chairman Maurice Newton urged County Council to continue its support of the group, drawing members from all county municipalities, when he reported to the county council's December meeting.

Mr. Newton, chairman of the Nassagaweya Planning Board, described the County group as a forum for open discussion aimed at improving the environment through planning. He recounted association action on the 10 acre lot problem and noted that now

every municipality was involved in planning. Esqueuing township this year named its first planning board.

It was reviewed that association meetings now included films on planning as well as presentations by planning experts which proved of assistance.

Members of County Council praised Mr. Newton's report and the work of the association.

### Three years

Already committed to prison to serve a life sentence for murder, Ted Woods of Burlington was given an extra three-year term in magistrate's court in Milton last week, for his part in a jailbreak from the Halton Jail last September.

Woods was returned to the local court from Kingston Penitentiary and pleaded guilty to the charge of escaping custody. He and three others fled the jail in Milton September 15 in a stolen car after two guards were beaten. Woods and two others were recaptured that same night and the fourth man surrendered in Utah a month ago. The others are to be sentenced Dec. 23.

### Seeking to join employees union

Office workers and inspectors of the Halton County Health Unit are the subject of an application for certification by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, members of County Council were advised at their year-end meeting.

The application is scheduled in Toronto for the end of this month.

SERVED FROM 12 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

## Holiday Dinners

For Christmas and New Year's

- Iced Celery Hearts
- Sweet Mixed Pickles
- Fruit Cocktail
- Cream of Tomato Soup or Tomato Juice
- Chef Salad
- Fish, Tartar Sauce
- Queen Olives

Choice of:

- Roast Young Turkey, Cranberry Sauce
- Roast Chicken with Apple Jelly
- Roast Goose, Apple Sauce
- Roast Duckling with Dressing
- Roast Prime Ribs of Beef, Horse Radish
- Cream Whipped or French Fried Potatoes
- Garden Fresh Green Peas
- English Plum Pudding, Hot Mince Pie or Ice Cream
- Fruit Cake, Lichee Nuts, Fortune Cookies
- Tea, Coffee or Milk

\$3.50

### MANDARIN DINNER DELUXE

Combination of

- Won Ton Soup
- Sweet and Sour Chicken Balls, Breaded Shrimp
- Sliced Barbecued Pork, Chicken Fried Rice
- Chinese Jasmine Tea or Coffee
- Lichee Nuts
- Fortune Cookies
- Egg Roll

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## FACTS OF LIFE



Nearly one out of every ten motor vehicle deaths last year occurred during the month of December. Over half of the December fatalities involved drinking drivers, and one out of four December traffic accidents involved drinking pedestrians. During the last six hours of Christmas Eve the hourly rate of fatal accidents was about five times greater than for the remainder of the holiday.

While inclement weather and increased downtown traffic can bear a portion of the blame, alcohol with its impairment of critical judgment and ability must be a major contributor in the three out of four fatal Christmas accidents involving speed excessive for

existing conditions or visibility.

If you take an occasional drink, and if you drink a little more than usual during the December holidays, the grim statistics of DANGEROUS DECEMBER should spell out a clear warning. A warning that the odds favoring a fatal holiday accident on the highway or on the crosswalk rise in proportion to the number of drinks you have had.

To take at least some of the danger out of December you should keep your holiday drinking at a realistic minimum. Or better yet, avoid it completely. The true spirit of Christmas doesn't come in a bottle.

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**OPEN ALL DAY**

**CHRISTMAS**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25**

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Poms

Carnations

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Mums

Cyclamen

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- ★ GREEN PLANTS
- ★ ARTIFICIAL PLANTS AND TABLE CENTRES
- ★ CORSAGES
- ★ FRESH HOLLY AND MISTLETOE