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PRESBYTERIANS HEAR APPEAL FOR CHAPLAINS

Closing Some Churches 'Would Be Great Thing' for Younger Clerics

Hamilton, June 8 (CP).—An appeal for more Presbyterian army chaplains was made in a brief from Major J. Logan-Venata and Major G. D. Johnston, senior Presbyterian chaplains, read to the 69th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada today.

Dr. William Barclay, presenting the report for the chaplaincy committee, showed that 80 Presbyterian ministers are now serving as chaplains. In the army there are 45, of whom 28 are overseas. Twenty-three are in the R.C.A.F., of whom five are overseas. Four are in the Royal Canadian Navy and eight are giving part-time service in Canada.

The chaplains overseas said at least five Presbyterian chapains are required overseas at once and urged that the assembly maintain its chaplaincy service at full strength. They suggested that if necessary existing arrangements in the church at home be changed to allow men, particularly young men, to join the chaplaincy service.

The chaplaincy committee recommended that Presbyteries be again requested to survey the whole work within their bounds with a view to possible plans, including the readjusting of certain fields, for enabling suitable men to be freed.

Dr. Barclay warned the Assembly that many changes will have to be faced if the war lasts for any length of time. He quoted a Hamilton layman who had said: "You cannot justify having an evening service in each of the 12 Presbyterian churches in Hamilton next winter. If coal is needed for the poor you'll have to close up some of them."

Group Capt. John McNab, Command Chaplain of No. 1 Training Command, presented the work of the chaplains in the R.C.A.F., particularly in the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

"If we closed some of the churches in Canada it would be a great thing for some of the young men here," said Group Capt. McNab. "They would go out to a congregation of 1,000 men, and that is a grand opportunity, the opportunity of a lifetime."

The recommendation of the committee was approved and the brief from chaplains overseas was sent to the committee for study and possible action.

An expression of sympathy to the Jewish people in their trials and persecutions was passed by the General Assembly, and it was agreed to ask the Government of Canada to open the doors of the Dominion to a fair share of refugees as the opportunity presents itself.

The Assembly tonight agreed to ask the chaplaincy committee to assist in directing likely men into the ministry from the armed forces after the war.

It was agreed that each Presbytery should be asked to maintain a committee on recruits for the ministry, that every effort be made to bring the claims of the ministry more prominently before young people, especially those in high chools and universities.

Synods will be asked to raise from the congregations within their bounds a students' bursary fund for the purpose of giving financial assistance when required to students in arts in preparation for theology.

The Assembly approved the proposal of the Mission Board to undertake missionary work in Free China by affiliating with the North American Advisory Committee of the Church of Christ in China, particularly with a view to participating in the Yunnan Church Mission joint project.

The only Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in India, that of Vindhiya and Satpura Mountain Bhil, was given leave to join with the United Church of India (North) as a Presbytery within the Synod there. The Bhil field is still a field of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, although the missionaries will be members of Presbytery in the United Church of India. It was agreed that missionaries should retain their status in the Church at home.

The Assembly raised the salary of student missionaries on home mission fields from $12.50 to $15 per week, the salary paid until it was cut during the depression.

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