

# Christian Aid Overseas

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## FAMINE RELIEF IN INDIA CLAIMS CHURCH ATTENTION

A "terrible earnestness" among American Church people is necessary to meet food famine now challenging the existence of millions throughout the world and especially those in India, Fred Atkins Moore, Director of the Church Committee for Relief in Asia, declared in commenting upon a recent CCRA appeal to President Truman concerning the relief situation in India.

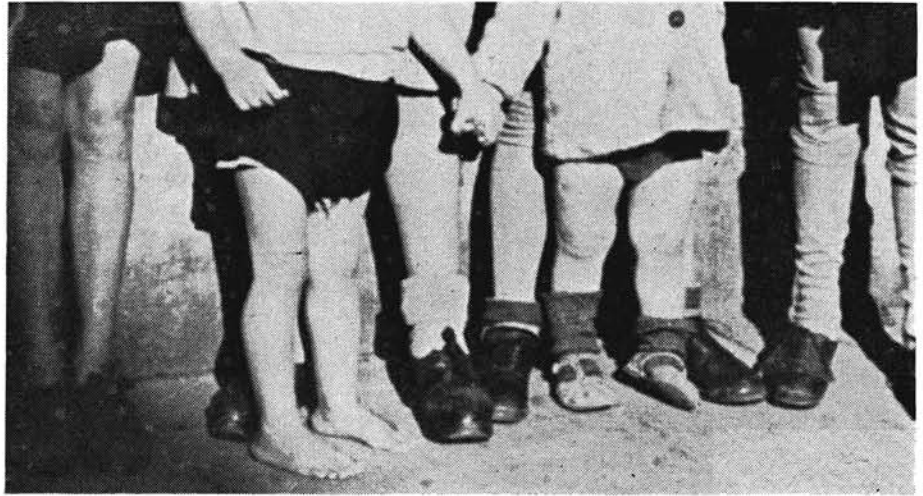
Mr. Moore warned that unless "new" and "radical" measures were taken immediately, India, "restless and desperate", faced "the worst famine in modern history."

An additional \$200,000 must be raised by CCRA to purchase supplementary supplies, Mr. Moore said. The Committee does not expect to buy foods in bulk, but rather vitamins, food concentrates and medical supplies to help alleviate the suffering which is bound to come in India.

"If Church people will join hands and ask for rationing in a larger measure than already proposed and the preemption of railroad cars, if necessary, to move grain and fats, the two most desperately needed food bases, to U. S. shipping ports, I am sure they can be successful," he stated.

The appeal, which was sent to the President, Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, and Dr. D. A. Fitzgerald, Director of Production and Marketing Administration of the Agriculture Department, expressed appreciation for the President's "high statesmanship" in his recent relief messages to the American people calling for sacrifices to save food for export.

At least 4,000,000 tons of grain must be sent to India in the current crisis, Mr. Moore estimated. He also quoted Indian officials to the effect that for every million tons India fails to receive, at least five million people will surely die.



"Do send lots and lots of shoes for the children of Europe. You would if you could see their poor little feet—red and raw with the cold these winter days."

## TRUMAN FOOD PLAN SUPPORTED; COUNCIL ASKS SELF-RATIONING

Support of President Truman's actions to meet the worldwide food crisis, actions long urged by Church relief leaders and including the provisions of international credits, set-aside orders, the opening of bottlenecks in inland transport and an appeal to the conscience of the country in saving food by voluntary rationing, was given by the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America in its plenary session held in Columbus, Ohio, in March.

Opinion expressed during discussions, however, indicated that relief leaders would have given approval to measures much more severe than the President's plans.

Dr. Leslie B. Moss, Director of the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction, said, "The Churches have long urged that world conditions dictated the resumption of American rationing. We have continually pressed this point of view with government representatives."

"Our official endorsement of the voluntary program by no means precludes our support of full rationing if this seems advisable," Dr. Moss added.

Other Council actions were:

**1** It recommended an increase in American Protestant Church budgets for use in overseas relief and reconstruction of \$50,000,000. Under the present program about \$75,000,000 has been approved by the denominations for overseas work. The program would now include \$125,000,000.

**2** The Council outlined the responsibility of American Churches to Europe and Asia, which was defined as including leadership training, provision

of Christian literature, repair of church and other service buildings, support of pastors and workers, purchase of medical supplies, dried foods and piece goods, the meeting of costs of processing and shipping; bedding, clothing and shoes in addition to money gifts was requested.

**3** It was voted to stand behind all governmental and U.N.O. actions concerning displaced persons in "their efforts to assure that further movements of population be in accordance with maximum humane procedures." The opportunity of assisting in the transportation and local assimilation of such immigrants through united relief agencies was indicated.

**4** A Christian University in Japan expressing "our confidence in Japanese Christian scholarship" was approved in principle and an ad hoc committee formed to define the objective, prepare a financial appeal and arrange for the necessary administration.

**5** Integration of the three major church relief agencies was endorsed. The three are the Church Committee for Relief in Asia, the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction and the Commission for World Council Service.

**6** The Council commended the special Lenten appeal issued by the three agencies and urged Christians to make an over-and-above contribution to their denominational postwar funds.

**7** Finally, it requested the President to send a special mission to Asia, similar to that sent to Europe under Mr. Hoover, "with special reference to India to investigate famine conditions in that country."



**THIS LITTLE BOY** in a children's home in Holland has just finished eating his noonday meal—a dish of musty smelling gruel. His regret seems to be only that there was not more of it. He was only slightly ill, but since there was no heat in the home (November) and he had no shoes, he had to stay in bed to keep warm.



**A LITTLE CRIPPLED BABY** from the Masaryc home at Prague. Thousands of children all over Europe will need not only medical aid but the patient retraining and loving care which Christian workers can give if we strengthen their hands for the task. Denominational homes are eager to use their facilities for child revitalization programs, but they need supplies.

The lives of children around the world are at stake in this postwar period. In his study of *The Problem of Food and Maintenance in the European Continent*, based on reports and summaries from each country on the continent, Dr. Robert Boehringer of the International Red Cross has surveyed the melancholy facts that Central and Eastern Europeans have to face as relief and reconstruction progresses.

**ITALY:** The condition of the children is critical. It is extremely difficult even to estimate the number of waifs and strays who constitute regular bands and live by theft and begging. Attempts of the government to place these children in proper homes have been only moderately successful. It is reported that one-fifth of the children are tubercular; in Pisa, half the children are undernourished.

**ALBANIA:** Clothing and footwear is lacking for a third of the population.

**GREECE:** The situation of the children is still tragic in some parts. Large numbers of orphans are undernourished

and homeless, especially in Epirus. This province is difficult to reach. Malaria and tuberculosis are common in this province which includes 5,000 orphans. In Macedonia, the orphans total over 10,000, and in the whole of Greece more than 30,000. In many cases parents have been killed, leaving families of five or six children. The eldest boy or girl, often not more than fourteen years of age, is saddled with the task of looking after the younger ones.

**RUMANIA:** The number of orphans

## PHOTOS

One of the first women to enter Europe engaged in church relief and reconstruction work was Mrs. Elsie Thomas Culver, Editorial Secretary of the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction. Her photos, appearing on this page and the front page, graphically illustrate what she saw among the children of Europe.

These photos and many others are available now for relief purposes.

# CHILD OF CENTRAL AND

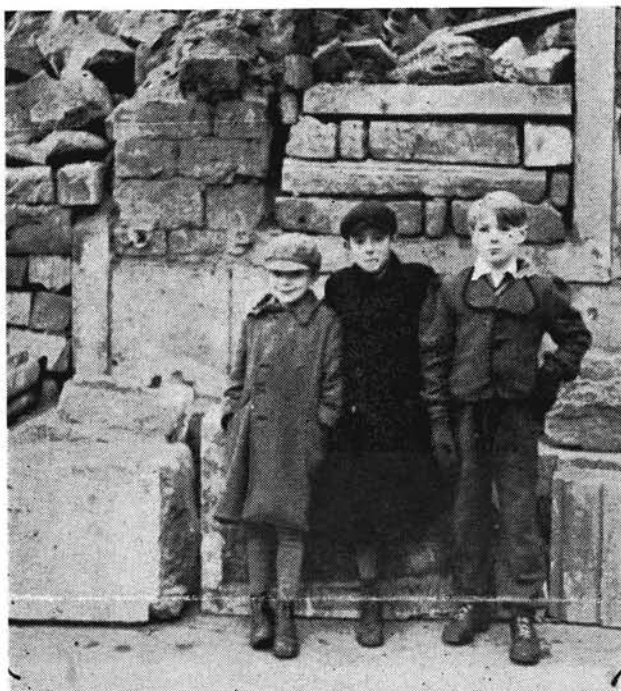
and vagrant children is put at about 250,000. Refugee children of various nationalities total about 5,000.

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA:** Shortages of every kind have struck hard at children—they lack clothing, bedding and shoes.

**HUNGARY:** Babies and children in Budapest are in terrible condition. During the siege, when half the population lived in the cellars, no child under one year appears to have survived. Since that time, the death rate among babies has been reduced to 23 per cent, a figure which is still twice that of the year 1942. There is still a great dearth of milk and children's foods. Were it possible to find conveyances to bring the milk available in country districts, the position would be much improved.

For the whole of Hungary, the number of babies is estimated at about 150,000, of whom 100,000 are in need of layettes. The number of children between one and 14 years is put at two million, half of whom require clothing and footwear.





**REEDUCATION OF GERMAN YOUTH** is a number one problem. Only Nazi teachers have been trained in recent years, and children feel pre-Nazi teachers are "too far away from what's been going on in the world." Younger children admire American soldiers, boast of P.O.W. relatives in American camps.



**RECONSTRUCTION MATERIAL.** This little girl was on hand when a box of clothing arrived from America. This bit of board from the packing case will be useful at home, to reinforce the makeshift lean-to between tottering walls and piles of rubble where her family now lives.

# D R E N

## EASTERN EUROPE

The number of orphans is estimated at 200,000, of whom 40,000 only are accommodated in houses. It is reported that 17,000 children are tubercular. Children's homes have neither milk, foot wear nor soap.

**AUSTRIA:** Infant mortality in 1943 was 6.2 per cent, whereas before the war it had sunk as low as 3 per cent. Today, according to an official report, it must be estimated at 20 per cent. In some areas it has been put at 27 per cent. More than half of the school children are regarded as undernourished.

A considerable proportion of the needy children could not be examined in the schools because they were absent at the time for various reasons, for example, the lack of clothing and boots.

**POLAND:** There are large numbers of alien fathers and more than a million orphans; 400,000 orphans have lost both parents and about 700,000 have lost one. Of these, 40,000 have found refuge in apartment houses, 30,000 have been placed with adoptive parents and 10,000 have been placed with more or

less distant relatives. 1,000 still wander through towns and the country. Warsaw municipal authorities have 70,000 children to care for.

Out of six million children under 14, a third are said to be under-nourished. 150,000 children are living underground, chiefly in Warsaw, where the entire population has taken refuge in the cellars. The children fetch wood and carry water. Probably half of them are infested with vermin and suffer from

### DIAPERS

When a lady in New Jersey remembered her window drapes had white outing-flannel interlining, she knew she had the makings of several diapers for the United Council of Church Women's current drive to ease Europe's diaper shortage.

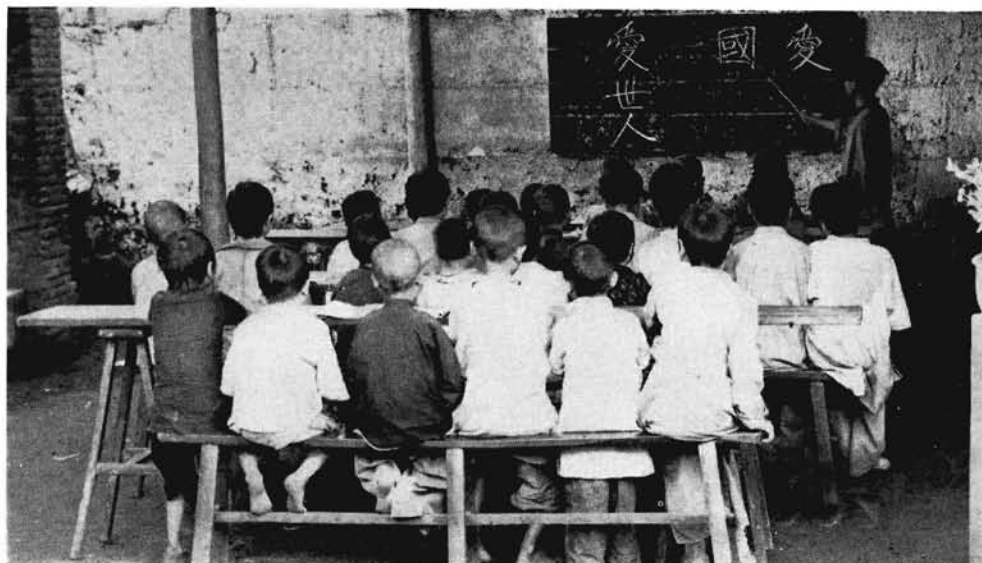
Mrs. Ruth Worrell, secretary of UCCW, says this spirit will halt the present necessity for European mothers to wrap their babies in newspapers.

scabies and exanthematic typhus. There is a complete lack of linen, clothing, household articles, soap and medications.

**GERMANY:** The most likely place for pestilence and famine to enjoy full sway among children is Germany. The vast movements of people, uncertain food supplies, and lack of proper housing may effect deeply the lives of the children living through this period.

Infant mortality has risen from 8 per cent in 1938 to 38 per cent in 1945, children are suffering from digestive troubles and rickets. Children suffer particularly from the distress amongst refugees and from the consequent overcrowding and scarcity of underwear and food. Children under six are receiving half a litre of milk a day. Mothers frequently give up their own food for their children, many of whom suffer from an inflammation of the intestines.

Hospitals are unable to receive any more sick children. They will not last long without medical care and clothing.



United China Relief

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION for these little refugee children, even though they will soon take to the road again with their parents. This is one of a number of refugee camps provided by the Church Committee for Relief in Asia.

## FUNDS FOR HANDLING MATERIAL AID NEEDED

To help defray costs of preparing and shipping material aid overseas the Church Committee on Overseas Relief and Reconstruction in New York has asked contributors of gifts in kind to send 10 cents per pound to the warehouse to which they address their bundles.

Each donor should continue to prepay transportation expense to the nearest center. The additional 10 cents per pound will only partially meet costs of processing.

At present seven United Church Service Centers are operating. They are located at 7110 Compton Ave., Los Angeles 1, Calif.; Modesto, Calif.; 2247 East Marginal Way, Seattle, Wash.; 101 Pine St., Dayton 2, Ohio; New Windsor, Md.; 236 Beacon St., Boston 16, Mass.; and 20 Warren St., New York 7, N. Y.

## G. ERNEST BOTT

### LEAVES FOR JAPAN

### AND RELIEF WORK

"The worst casualty for Christianity in Japan was not property but leadership," Fred Atkins Moore, Director of the Church Committee for Relief in

Asia, said recently in announcing the departure for Japan of a representative of the American Protestant Churches who will head up the general plans for relief of that country through Christian agencies.



G. Ernest Bott

The representative is Dr. G. Ernest Bott of the

United Church of Canada who was repatriated from Japan during the war following 20 years as a missionary and organizer of three Christian Social Service Centers in the slum sections of East Tokyo.

"We are fully aware now of the need for a closely integrated program of Christian relief," Mr. Moore said. "We are happy that we are able to have so competent and resourceful a leader as Dr. Bott in Japan. His long experience and exceptional knowledge of Christian affairs in Japan qualify him eminently to help in the relief work there."

## GUIDE FOR VOLUNTARY RATIONING

The following is one widely-publicized proposal for voluntary rationing which would support President Truman's plea that American food be conserved to meet world need:

### Plan Meals to Use Less:

1. Wheat flour or wheat products such as macaroni; cake or cake flour (which requires almost twice as much wheat as ordinary flour).
2. Rice, dried beans, peas or lentils.
3. Canned meat, canned poultry, or canned fish.
4. Canned milk.
5. Heavy cream and ice cream.
6. Fats and oils (next to wheat the most desperately needed food item abroad).

### Plan Meals to Use More:

1. Potatoes, potato flour or meal; oat-meal or other non-wheat cereal.
2. Fresh vegetables and fruits.
3. Fresh meat, poultry or fish.
4. Fresh milk.
5. Fresh eggs.
6. Use fat drippings for cooking.

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