

1966

134th Annual Report of the Board of World Missions

Reformed Church in America

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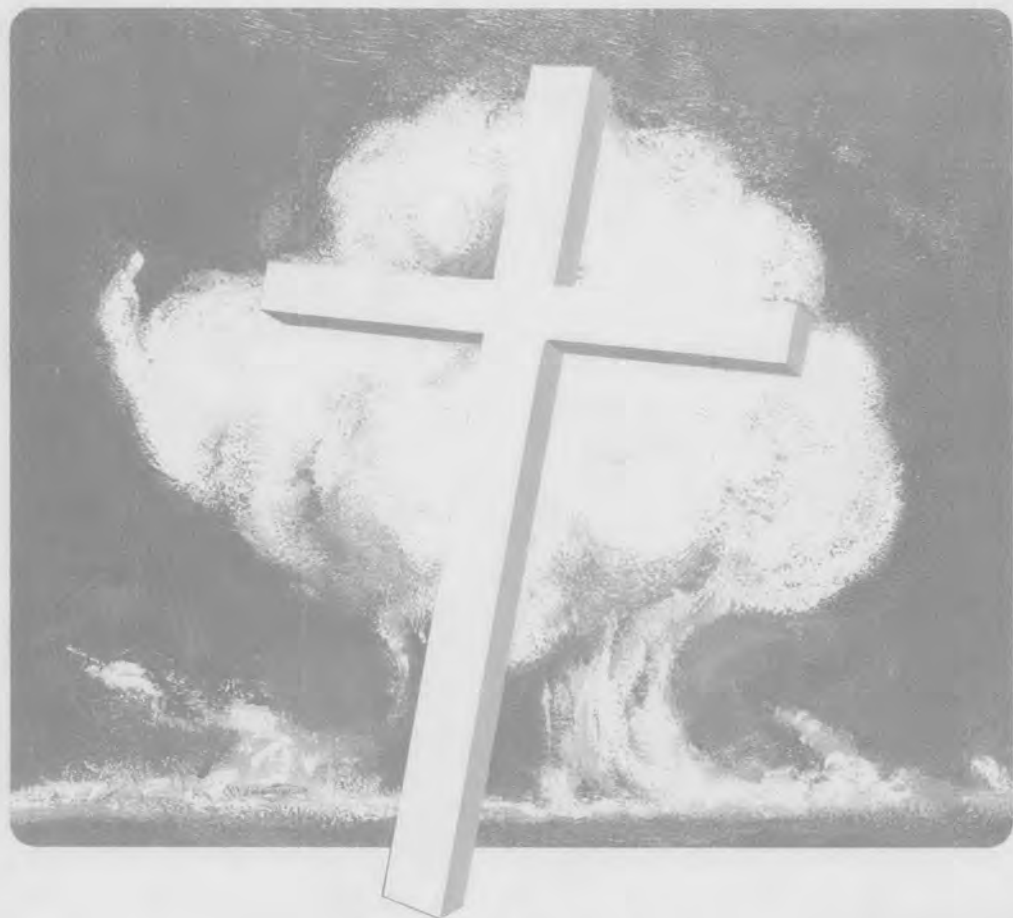
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Thine Is The Power

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*The Board
of World Missions
Serves the Church through*
**WITNESS
AND SERVICE**

THE BOARD OF WORLD MISSIONS

SERVES THE CHURCH THROUGH

WITNESS AND SERVICE

"When anyone is united to Christ, there is a new world; the old order has gone, and a new order has already begun."

II Corinthians 5:17 (NEB)

The task in Mission is two-fold.

It includes witness — to proclaim the new life in Christ to the world and to provide nurture for those who respond to the call of Christ.

It includes service — in gratitude to God to make the resources of the Christian Community available to all men in relation to their need and aspirations.

The Board of World Missions has been assigned this two-fold task outside of the North American continent. The Reformed Church in America directs it to work in cooperation with other churches, to assist in the development of new churches by maintaining missions where no church exists, and to initiate witness and service in new areas wherever and whenever feasible. The Board seeks to fulfill this responsibility in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in loyalty to the word of God.

THE BOARD OF WORLD MISSIONS

respectfully presents to the

General Synod of the Reformed Church in America its

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

1966



THE GOOD NEWS IS A RISEN CHRIST

“So he went in to stay with them. And when he had sat down with them at table, he took bread and said the blessing; he broke the bread and offered it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.”

Luke 24:29-31 (NEB)

In the resurrection, the whole of creation was given a new dimension. Christ's lordship was established. The hope of men for eternal life was confirmed. The community of believers received its instructions. The Commission, confirmed by Pentecost, was to share the Good News with all men and to follow the example of Christ's ministry until the close of the age.



*"The spirit of the Lord is upon me because he has anointed me;
He has sent me to announce good news to the poor,
To proclaim release for prisoners and recovery of sight for the
blind;
To let the broken victims go free,
To proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."* Luke 4:18-19 (NEB)



Christ proclaimed his message in vivid and descriptive language. He demonstrated his faith through sin-forgiving, health-restoring acts. The church of the twentieth century is charged with the same dynamic mission of witness and service. The Board of World Missions, as the arm of the Reformed Church beyond its home continent, carries forward the interrelated tasks through various ministries and methods.



WITNESS BEGINS WITH THE WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

"You are light for all the world. A town that stands on a hill cannot be hidden. When a lamp is lit, it is not put under the meal-tub, but on the lamp-stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellows, so that, when they see the good you do, they may give praise to your Father in heaven." Matt. 5:14-16 (NEB)

The growing edge of witness is the congregation. From the act of worship, which should itself be an act of witness, the laity move with renewed power to witness and service in their worlds. Challenged by shifting social patterns, political unrest, exploding knowledge and a drive for human dignity on the part of all men, the churches and the church members give daily witness with creative force to the values that will endure beyond the transitions.

A new era of the church in mission is just beginning. The vacuums created by nations in ferment must be filled with the meaning and direction of the Gospel. The Board seeks to strengthen local congregations through its interchurch relationships with the Church of South India, The United Church of Christ in Japan, The United Church of Christ in the Philippines, The Presbyterian Church in Formosa, The Hong Kong Council of the Churches of Christ in China, The Malaya Synod of the Chinese Church of Christ, as well as through The Arabian Mission and The American Mission in Ethiopia.



MODERN MASS MEDIA STRENGTHENS THE CONGREGATION AND EXTENDS THE WITNESS OF ITS FAITH

*"What I say to you in the dark you must repeat in broad daylight;
what you hear whispered you must shout from the house-tops."*
Matt. 10:27, 28 (NEB)

Modern technology has made it easy to figuratively "shout from the housetops." Radio and television stations strategically situated produce a barrier-leaping witness reaching thousands who could never be reached by other means, yet the word remains personal as it comes from one who has heard the still small voice within.

*"Happy is the man who reads, and happy those who listen to the
words of his prophecy and heed what is written in it. For the hour
of fulfillment is near."*
Revelation 1:3 (NEB)

Even the one who is struggling in the first stages of the alphabet is happy indeed. For he knows that beyond his initial struggle will be a new world of enlightenment and experience. The stories of Christ will come alive in print through the service ministries of the cooperative literacy program.

A NEW DAY, A NEW WORLD, A NEW MAN IN CHRIST





**CAMPUS MINISTRIES DEMAND
RELEVANT WITNESS AND SERVICE**

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your MIND. That is the greatest commandment."*

Matt. 22:37, 38 (NEB)

The student community in all parts of the world is an ambivalent mixture of rebelliousness and total commitment. The stubborn search for relevant truth is not satisfied with pious patter. Confronting tomorrow's leaders with the Living Christ is a challenging task of the church in mission.



THE RISEN CHRIST IS STILL THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

"He went round the whole of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and curing whatever illness or infirmity there was among the people." Matt. 4:23 (NEB)

The ministry to the church is a ministry to the whole man; the blind must see, the lame must walk, the victim of leprosy must be restored. The joy of new life comes to those who experience the miracle of modern medicine.

In the name of Christ the church must offer no less than its best. The interwoven ministries of witness and service provide the greatest challenge for our time, and the mission of the church is not complete unless there is the balance of one with the other.

How much money did the Board receive in 1965 and how did it spend the money?



Money received

From contributions of the members of the Reformed Church in America	- -	\$1,576,200
From investments and Legacies	- - - -	176,500
Total money received	- - - - -	<u>\$1,752,700</u>

Money spent

On missionary salaries and maintenance	- - - - -	\$ 919,100
To help missions and overseas churches with their work	- - - - -	447,100
To support and train new missionary candidates	- - - - -	<u>35,100</u>
For missionaries, missions and overseas churches in total	- - - - -	\$1,401,300
To tell the story about the work of missionaries and overseas churches	- -	69,500
To provide administration and services for the work of missionaries and overseas churches	- - - - -	<u>277,100</u>
Total money spent	- - - - -	<u>\$1,747,900</u>
Extra money received over money spent	- - \$	<u><u>4,800</u></u>



SOME INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS

- 90.0% of the money the Board receives is from contributions of the members of the Reformed Church in America. Missionaries and overseas churches NEED the support of the Reformed Church.
- 52.6% of the money spent is for missionary salaries and maintenance.
- 80.2% of the money spent is for missionaries and overseas churches in total.
- 19.8% of the money spent is for telling the story and for administration and services.

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