

Great Change in Christian Unity Seen in Last Two Decades

By LOUIS CASSELS
UPI Correspondent

Christians of every communion - Protestants, Catholics, Anglicans and Orthodox - joined this past week in a period of prayer for Christian unity.

This has become an annual observance. When it began on a small scale in 1940, it seemed like a very far-fetched idea for Christians of different confessions to pray for unity. Their relations were so strained by centuries of mutual distrust and animosity that was hard to see how they could even achieve a truce, let alone reunion.

But a tremendous change has taken place during the past two decades. How far and fast events have moved is witnessed by the fact that in 1983, it does not seem particularly remarkable - perhaps not even newsworthy - that all of the branches of Christianity will be praying during the next seven days for God to lead them into that "oneness" which is the expressed will of Christ.

"In our lifetime," says the Rev. Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, secretary general of the World Council of Churches, "we have witnessed developments that one would have considered almost impossible only a few years ago."

Council Gains Strength

The World Council of Churches itself is one of those developments. Prior to its establishment 15 years ago,

there was little cooperation, and still less understanding, among the non-Roman Catholic churches of the world. Today more than 200 Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox denominations are working together amicably in the World Council.

Although they have found practical cooperation easier to achieve than doctrinal unity, they are working on the latter, too. Next July, more than 500 of the world's leading theologians will meet in Montreal to spend two weeks exploring the differences in "faith and order" which exist between member churches of the World Council.

Long after non-Catholic Christians began to draw together, in what ecologists call the "ecumenical movement," the Church of Rome remained aloof. It did not even formally recognize the existence of the World Council of Churches.

Then, four years ago, Pope John XXIII ascended to the chair of St. Peter.

Pope Changes Pattern

Almost immediately, unprecedented things began to happen. Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians became "separated brethren" rather than "schismatics and heretics." The Vatican established formal liaison with the World Council of Churches, and sent official observers to its 1961 assembly in New Delhi. The Archbishop of Canterbury called on the

Pope - blazing a trail which many Protestant leaders were to follow - and was very warmly received. Protestant bodies were invited to send observers to the Vatican Council. They accepted, and their delegates were treated with a cordial hospitality which made a profound impression on all of Protestantism.

It is no exaggeration to say that more barriers between Catholics and Protestants have fallen during the four years of Pope John's reign than in all of the preceding four centuries since the Reformation.

Reunion Far Off

Despite the swift movement of events, nearly all leaders of the ecumenical movement agree that full reunion of the Christian family is still a very long way off. In fact, it may be said to be so far off as to be presently out of sight, since no human eye can discern solutions for the deep and sincere theological differences which divide Catholics and Protestants.

Realism also requires the acknowledgment that there remain many practical causes of friction between Christian groups - for example, the divisive dispute over aid to parochial schools in the United States, or the issue of religious liberty for Protestants in predominantly Catholic countries such as Spain.

But Christians distressed about these things should remember the adage about the man who couldn't see the forest for the trees.

Planets Bearing Intelligent Life Claimed Possible

New York - (UPI) - There may be 600 million planets bearing intelligent life in the Milky Way alone, the institute of Aerospace Science was told Wednesday.

Prof. Lloyd Motz of Columbia university explained to an audience of scientists and engineers his theory that each of 200 million stars in our galaxy is similar to our sun and may be the center of a planetary system as great or greater than ours.

Motz said that while the Earth is the only planet in our own system proven to have a highly developed form of life, both Venus and Mars could support intelligent life under slightly altered conditions.

He said most scientists now take it for granted that life exists beyond our solar system even though we have no direct evidence of it.

Dr. Bernard M. Oliver of Hewlett - Parkard Co., Palo Alto, Calif., discussed ways of using radio codes to probe deep into space seeking intelligent life on other planets.

He said such probes might have to be kept up for centuries before a response could be hoped for.

That's because some planets are hundreds of light years away.

Rhode Island is the smallest of the 50 states. Its area is about three times greater than that of New York City.

Sex Offender Hearings Stated

Clackamas - (UPI) - A large group of Parent-Teacher association members from the Clackamas Grade school district will attend committee hearings in Salem when legislative measures to crack down on sex offenders are discussed.

Mrs. Joseph F. Butler, PTA legislative spokesman, said her group was urging parents all over the state to write letters to lawmakers in support of such bills.

Rep. Juanita Orr is scheduled to talk to the local group Jan. 28 to explain proposed changes in sex offender laws.

Mona Rae Minyard, 3, recently was attacked and killed in the Clackamas school district. Her killer has not been found.



CONTEST ENTRANTS-Three more Chinese lovelies to enter the sixth annual "Miss-China USA" pageant are, from left, Dolly Georgianna Lee, 23, San Francisco; Jennie Yep, 21, San Francisco, and Jeanie Wang 21, a beauty school student at Washington, D. C. The Chinese New Year festivities will be Feb. 1-10 with the winner of the contest to be crowned queen for the Year of Hare. (UPI)

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 1963

Success of Doctors In Rejoining Limbs Still Undetermined

Boston - (UPI) - Twice within eight months two separate teams of surgeons have accomplished what once would have been called the impossible - rejoining severed limbs.

The two cases involved ultimately may prove to be unsuccessful. But the very least these surgeons have proved is that rejoining severed limbs for an extended period of time, perhaps indefinitely, is no longer an impossibility.

Their initial efforts someday may lead to a reduction in the number of persons who lose limbs because of accidents.

Last May, Everett Knowles, 13, of Somerville, Mass., had his right arm completely severed by a train. Last week, William Hunt, 37, a husky ex-Marine, had his left leg 90 per cent severed about halfway up his thigh in an automobile accident.

Today, both the youngster and the man have these limbs still attached to their bodies though the final results may not be known for many months.

More Difficult

The Knowles surgery, done at Massachusetts General hospital where a team of surgeons were waiting for just

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