MANUAL
OF THE
BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

The Synod of
The Reformed Presbyterian Church
of North America
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Under the Direction of

The Synod of

THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF NORTH AMERICA

1951

Copies of this Manual may be obtained by writing to the Board at

209 Ninth Street
Pittsburgh 22, Penna.
FOREWORD

This manual was prepared by the Board of Foreign Missions for a twofold purpose:

For those who are already in the field, this manual sets forth the relationship between the Board and the missionaries to help to prevent misunderstandings.

For those of high school and college age the manual sets forth, for your consideration, the possibility of serving your Master in the foreign field. The Gospel of Christ is to be propagated by teaching, preaching and healing. He is calling qualified and consecrated persons to serve Him in the foreign field as well as at home.

Are you one of those whom He is calling? Will you prepare to go?

"Go ye" - "Let the whole earth be filled with His Glory."
THE MANUAL

The Church's Great Commission

The purpose of this Board, as an organ of that branch of the Visible Church of Jesus Christ known as the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, is to carry on foreign missionary work which shall be truly Biblical in its objectives, its motives and its methods. While the entire Bible of the Old and New Testaments is the infallible rule of faith and practice for the missionary enterprise as for all phases of the life and activity of the Church, a brief statement of the Church's missionary task is found in The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). From this Commission we learn that the task of world-wide missionary activity is enjoined upon the Visible Church by the authority of the Risen and Glorified Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. The task involves three elements of missionary work, namely:

1. Evangelism ("Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations"). This involves the public and private proclamation and inoculation of these truths of the Scriptures which are essential to salvation, especially (a) the knowledge of the true God; (b) the moral law of God and the sinful and lost condition of mankind; and (c) the only way of salvation through personal faith in Jesus Christ and Him crucified as the sinner's Substitute.

2. The second element in the Great Commission in the establishment of the Visible Church with its ordinances of government, discipline and worship ("baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"). As Baptism is the initiatory rite of membership in the Visible Church, this command of our Lord is rightly understood as implying the divine requirement (later explicitly revealed in the New Testament Epistles) that converts won through evangelism be gathered into visible congregations of the Church, not only as a mark of their separation from the world, but for the glory of God and the spiritual benefit of the believers themselves, by social worship of God, instruction and exhortation in divine truth, mutual encouragement and sympathy, and other blessings of the communion of saints.

Any type of missionary work which tends to disregard or minimize the Scriptural emphasis on the importance of the Visible Church is, to that extent, un-Biblical, and to be avoided. Merely to win souls for Christ is not an adequate missionary aim; it is only the first element of the task. Those won to the Lord are to be gathered into Scripturally constituted Church congregations. The product of missionary work should be a Church which is Scriptural in its doctrine, worship, government and discipline.

The view that the Church may have a different or lower or less comprehensive ideal of Scriptural purity for the Church on the foreign mission fields than that held by the home Church is a false and
harmful notion. Truth is not affected by geographical, racial or national distinctions. The same Bible which is the supreme standard of the home Church is also the supreme standard for all Churches, wherever located, throughout the world.

This Board therefore expressly rejects the idea of a double standard or aim, as if the Church's task in the foreign fields were only to win men to be Christians, while in the home field we are also to seek to win men to be Calvinists and Covenanters. We believe that to be a Calvinist and a Covenanter is no more than to be a consistently Biblical Christian, and we regard it as our duty to seek to win men to this position, whether at home or abroad.

(3) The third element in the Great Commission is systematic instruction of the truth revealed in the Scriptures ("teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"). This command is of course not to be limited to the teachings of Christ during the days of His earthly ministry; arbitrarily to limit it to such a narrow compass would be to disregard the organic character of the Bible as divine revelation. The whole Bible is rightly regarded as the Word of Jesus Christ: the Old Testament is His Word given through Moses, the Prophets and the Psalmists; the New Testament is His Word given through the Apostles and Evangelists. The Great Commission, therefore, requires that the Churches established by missionary effort be further instructed in the entire system and fabric of truth revealed in the Scriptures.

In order that this may be done without confusion arising from human proneness to error, it is necessary that the Church have a definite standard of truth, subordinate to the Scriptures, as the norm of its faith and life, including its missionary activity. There must be mutual agreement in interpretation of the Scriptures, at least as concerns the main doctrines, principles and applications of the Christian Faith (absolute agreement as to every detail of truth is of course impossible on earth). Lacking such a mutually accepted standard, the Church's missionary work must inevitably lack Scriptural unity and be adversely affected by individualistic and divisive tendencies.

This Board, therefore, in common with the Church to which it is responsible, accepts that interpretation of the Scriptures commonly called Calvinism, or the Reformed Faith, as the purest and most consistent form of the Christian Religion; and the principle of worship and church government, according to which every element of worship and government must have definite Scriptural warrant, as of divine authority and to be adhered to in all our missionary work.

Subordinate to the Bible, which is the Word of God, our doctrinal standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Reformed Presbyterian Testimony; and our practical and administrative standards are the Form of Government, the Book of Discipline and the Directory for the Worship
of God, together with the Covenant of 1871. All missionaries appointed by this Board are required to signify their approval of these standards by a personal acceptance of the Terms of Communion of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Churches which are established on foreign mission fields should eventually become wholly self-supporting, self-propagating and self-governing, being responsible directly to Christ, the Head of the Church. We do not regard it as proper that Churches established by missionaries on foreign fields be permanently under the jurisdiction of an ecclesiastical court in America, though such a status may be inevitable and even desirable in the early or formative stages of the work.

Eventually the Churches on the mission fields should cease to be daughters and should become sisters of the Church in the home field. When this point is reached, it will be the duty of the Church on each foreign field to determine its own standards of doctrine, worship, government and discipline, according to its own interpretation of the Scriptures, being responsible directly to Christ.*

Prior to the attainment of such ecclesiastical autonomy, the missionaries should instruct and counsel the Churches along lines in harmony with the accepted standards of the Church which has appointed and sent them out as missionaries.

*For suggested guides in achieving autonomy see Minutes of Synod, 1943, pages 64, 43

Until ecclesiastical autonomy is attained, all ordained officers of mission Churches (and members also, as far as their understanding makes possible) are to be required to signify their acceptance of the Terms of Communion, and are to be examined as to their knowledge of the documents to which the Terms refer. In order that the officers and members of mission Churches may profess their faith conscientiously and intelligently, the missionaries in each field should endeavor that the complete Standards of the Church, subordinate to the Scriptures, be translated and published, as soon as possible, in the language of the people of that field.

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS

Organization and Officers

The Board consists of an indefinite number of ministers and laity of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, the appointees of the Synod, and has authority to choose from among its members a President and two Vice- Presidents, one of whom shall occupy the chair in the absence of the President, or at his request when he may wish to address the Board; a Recording Secretary whose business it is to keep accurate minutes of the proceedings, and after they have been approved to transcribe them into a book for preservation; and a Corresponding Secretary who is the Executive of the Board acting under its instructions.
in official correspondence with the missions and in the preparation of an Annual Report of the work to Synod, as well as in preparing and sending out circulars, appeals for special funds, calls for laborers, and any other matters which need attention. The Treasurer, who holds his office by special appointment of Synod and makes a formal report to the Court at its yearly meeting, has charge of all moneys except funds contributed for permanent investment, and is required to present to the Board at its stated meetings a statement of all receipts and expenditures during the previous three months, and, as occasion requires, a statement as to the condition of temporarily invested funds under his control.

The members of the Board hold appointment during the pleasure of Synod, and serve without remuneration. The clerical expenses incident to the work of the Corresponding Secretary are paid by the Board. No grant is made from the General Treasury for purchase of land, erection of buildings, furnishing of rooms or kindred objects, but for money for these purposes direct appeals are made to churches and individuals.

Meetings

The Board meets the third Tuesday of March, May, September, and December, with such meetings at Synod as may be required, and is opened and closed with prayer. After the reading and approval of the minutes, the Treasurer presents his financial statements, which on vote of the Board are embodied in the Records. Then follow unfinished business, reading official letters, the transaction of any business the correspondence may bring up, and the discussion of questions relating to the Missions.

OUR FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

Qualifications

The primary imperative of the gospel is that it shall be accepted and carried to all the world. Jesus Christ thus presents a challenge of supreme devotion and surrender to Him: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). In the call to become a Christian as well as in the missionary call He asks for candidates who are ready for self-sacrifice, privation, suffering, if need be, thus showing a spirit of heroism and willingness to endure hardships as good soldiers of their Lord and Master. Even as "The Son of Man came...to give His life a ransom for many." (Matt. 20:28).

Every missionary, whether an ordained minister or layman, must be in full communion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church and must feel a personal call to the missionary field and show an aptness and love for evangelistic work. All candidates must present to the Board not only diplomas and certificates of training, but also
as soon as practicable, with a description of their condition, to the Treasurer of the Board.

Allowances shall be made for medical supplies on the application of the medical missionary, and all fees that he receives for professional services shall be reported in his quarterly statement to the Treasurer of the Board and paid into the Mission Treasury, and can not be used for any other than medical and surgical purposes without the express sanction of the Board.

Travel Expenses

The travel expenses of all missionaries, including railroad, bus, steamship and air tickets, pullman berths, hotel and other road expenses and baggage express, shall be paid from their home to the field by the most economical route compatible with safety and comfort. The Board will pay for clergy books and the missionaries will be expected to travel "clerical" when possible.

Freight, but not custom dues, shall be paid on three tons of goods for a married couple, one and one half tons for a child, and one and one half tons for a single missionary on going out for the first time or returning at the close of service. (This applies to those who go out for lifetime service. The Board will not pay for excess baggage for short term workers.) On coming home on furlough and returning, freight shall be allowed on one ton for a married couple and half a ton for each child, and for a single missionary half a ton. This shall not include the baggage allowance that is permitted with each ticket.

Missionary societies and individuals, in sending goods of any kind through the Board's Transportation Director, to their friends in the field, should remember to repay all charges.

Terms and Furloughs

After a missionary has served for a certain term of years, the Board makes provision for a furlough of one working year. As the usual summer vacation season is also included in this, it makes a period of fourteen months, exclusive of the time needed for reaching home and returning. The term of service is as follows:

Life Term Missionaries
Married Missionaries - 6% years
Single Missionaries - 5% years

Short Term Workers
Men and Women - 3 school years
With $150.00 bonus for those who choose to stay the 4th year.

These rules are for general guidance and particular cases may require modification. Serious illness may make it necessary for one to be invalided home earlier. In other cases the exigencies of the work or providence may make it necessary that the term be lengthened or shortened. One year before his regular furlough is due the missionary will be notified by the Board, so that plans can be made in advance for return to the home land.
Upon return home the missionary should seek competent medical examination and advice with a view to making the furlough as beneficial as possible. We advise that for a minimum of three months he be relieved of all responsibilities relating to his missionary labors. Preferably this should be early in the furlough period. During this time he should not accept speaking engagements or undertake any exhausting activities. Before returning to the field each missionary shall be examined by a physician to be designated by the Board.

In every case the missionary shall practice economy, meeting personally the cost of all side trips and taxing the Treasury only with the expense that would have been incurred by taking the most direct route. The purchase of tickets and the transportation of goods, to and from the field, shall be conducted through the Transportation Director of the Board.

While on furlough the missionary shall receive his salary in full, unless he stays unnecessarily over the limit agreed upon, when payment of salary shall be adjusted. He will be expected, as opportunity offers, to tell the churches the story of the work. When at all possible the travel expenses should be met by the churches and societies inviting him to such services.

On the Field

Soon after arrival on the field, newly appointed lifetime missionaries should make it their special work to learn the language of the people among whom they are to labor. At the close of the first year of study, and again after the second year, they shall be examined by a competent committee appointed by the Mission, and the Mission shall report to the Board.

Missionaries are not at liberty to employ special teachers at the expense of the Board for a longer period than three years, unless on the report of the Examining Committee they should require special instructions for another year.

Commissions of Synod

Until a Presbytery is organized, in each of our fields there should be a Commission of Synod which is made up of the designated ministers and elders. The missionaries are not subject to this Commission, being accountable only to the Sessions and Presbyteries with which they may be identified in America. Under the authority of Synod this commission should meet at regular intervals for consultation and action in regard to any matters that concern the spiritual welfare of the native congregations and native workers, sending the minutes of the meetings through the Board to the Synod in America for preservation in its Records.

The Organization

There should be at each central station a regularly organized Association, composed of all the missionaries, men and women alike, who meet...
Distribution of Forces and Work

It should be the ultimate aim to reach men for Christ and the membership of the Covenant Church. In the beginning this will likely be under the direct oversight of the American missionaries; but progress should be made toward the spread of the Gospel by native workers and agencies. With this in view it is expected that a minister in each field will conduct a class for the instruction and training of a native ministry, and shall devote his time and energy to this department of service. As far as practicable, with the forces at command, there shall be preaching of the Gospel every Sabbath at stations and substations.

The medical missionary shall regard the hospital, or wherever he holds his clinics, as a center for his evangelistic work. He should open his clinics with a reading of Scripture, a brief gospel address and prayer. The medical missionary's ministry is for the healing of the soul as well as the body.

The school work, under the Mission's direction, should be conducted by competent missionaries. Under their supervision native teachers will conduct classes, in all of which instruction the knowledge of Christ and His Gospel must be the outstanding feature. The boarding departments are, as far as possible, in form and spirit, Christian homes. No pupil, whose parents are resident in the town or city where the schools are located, shall be admitted to boarding privileges without meeting all expenses in full, and day pupils must
pay tuition fees. Only in exceptional cases, which must be left to the judgment of the Missions, shall boys or girls from outlying villages be enrolled as boarders without payment in full or in part. Their actual circumstances shall be a determining factor.

In addition to the religious features, which are to take precedence, the curriculum is not ordinarily to include studies in languages foreign to the people, but such common branches as shall fit pupils for intelligent usefulness and work in their various communities.

Prayerful effort is to be made to inspire in pupils the desire to make their homes and villages benefit by their education. One of the great aims of the educational work should be to seek to awaken in gifted young men a desire to make preparation for preaching the gospel of Christ and in gifted young women for teaching in the schools, or other evangelistic work.

“And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.”

Mark 16:20

Changes in the Manual

This manual shall be subject to revision at any time without notice by action of the Board.