

Leadership for Nation Building

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Christian Mission for the United Nations Community



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Christian Mission for the United Nations Community

The Christian Mission for the United Nations Community is a non-denominational Christian organization based at the United Nations serving as a spiritual resource and encourager for government officials and others who are seeking solutions to the problems confronting our world.

The Christian Mission for the United Nations Community is motivated by a concern for mankind and a love and respect for those who are seeking to solve the problems facing the global community. It is convinced that there is a God who has created mankind out of love and that He is actively working out His plan for individuals and nations today. It is convinced that it is of paramount importance for individuals and nations to understand the mind and plans of the One who is working out their destiny. Otherwise, mankind could be fighting the very One trying to promote well-being and, as a result, bring unnecessary suffering.

The Christian Mission for the United Nations Community also believes that the spiritual dimension is important personally for those serving their nations. It agrees with the late Dr. Charles Malik, the former Lebanese Ambassador to the U.N., who served as President of the Thirteenth General Assembly, when he said,

The needs of the world are much deeper than political freedom and security, much deeper than social justice and economic development, much deeper than democracy and progress...The deeper needs of the world belong to the sphere of the mind, the heart and the spirit, a sphere to be penetrated with the light and grace of Jesus Christ.¹

The Christian Mission for the United Nations Community focuses a large part of its energy on government officials who are either posted at the United Nations or who visit the U.N. in the service of their nations. The members of this team research and write on Biblical principles for national development. They also make themselves available to serve those in national leadership.

The ideas that led to the establishment of the Christian Mission for the United Nations Community developed during the years following 1978, when Dr. Gary Allen and his wife, Elaine, began serving the U.N. community and travelling to serve those in leadership throughout the world. The Christian Mission for the United Nations Community is an independent organization, not affiliated with any denomination.

This effort receives all of its finances from the contributions of private individuals plus a few church congregations, who believe in what it is doing. No funds are received from government agencies. The strict standards of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability are adhered to.

1. Reference unknown.

The Building of Healthy Societies — The Challenge

This volume consists of statements I have made to non-official gatherings of United Nations diplomats and visiting government officials. I am motivated by a conviction that there is a God who, by design, created each individual out of love to enjoy a quality of life that we as a global community have largely missed. I am convinced we have missed this goal through turning our backs on our Creator. In a day when we are focused on development, democratization, quality of life and human rights, I am convinced that these noble drives originate from God and that God's aspirations for us in these areas far surpass our own. As such, we cannot achieve these apart from dependence upon Him.

The move toward democracy is one of the most exciting endeavours in which the human spirit can participate. At the same time, it is a journey filled with many obstacles and dangers. The pitfalls facing a society attempting democracy are so severe and so numerous that John Adams, one of the architects of the American democratic experiment, warned:

*Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy that did not commit suicide.*¹

Democracy does not arise by itself. Democracy does not sustain itself.

Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul E. Sigmund concluded their book *The Democratic Experience* with these words:

*Unstable democracy is the normal case because the democratic idea still has great appeal, and as the authoritarians fail, as they often do, the only legitimate alternative is to be found in democratic institutions...The prognosis for the future of democracy in the developing areas is a mixed one. Sometimes the circumstances will be such that a democratic leader and a particular combination of historical accidents will permit these forms to take root and grow. In many more cases, once the pattern of traditional rule is broken, a cycle of alternation of democracy and dictatorship ensues...The prospects then are for continued instability in a world in which stable, efficient democratic government is an ideal more often than it is an operative reality.*²

Let me repeat that last sentence:

The prospects then are for continued instability in a world in which stable, efficient democratic government is an ideal more often than it is an operative reality.

The harsh reality is that there are nations seeking to move from Marxism to democracy today that may fail and revert to a more human-degrading regime than the people experienced in the past.

Professor Alexander Fraser Tytler, writing at the end of the eighteenth century, said: