

CONSEIL PROTESTANT DU CONGO

MINUTES - WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

LEOPOLDVILLE, AUGUST 28,29,30, 1934.

1. MEETING. Acting on a Recommendation of the General Consultation held at Léopoldville under the leadership of Dr. John R. Mott, June 1934, (Christian Education, II Policy, a Women's Conference was convened at Léopoldville, August 28-30.

2. PRESENT. The following were present;

ABFMS Dr. C.L. Mable, Mrs. Atkins, Miss Mary Bonar, Miss Agnes Anderson,
Miss Emily Satterberg.
EMS Mrs. Pugh, Miss Coppin, Mrs. Austin, Mrs. MacBeath, Mrs. Guthrie,
Mrs. Cholerton.
SMF Mrs. Hook, Miss Lager, Miss Lindstrom.
CPC Mrs. Coxill.

3. OFFICERS. Mrs. Coxill was elected Chairman. Miss Bonar was elected Recording Secretary for the meeting.

4. PROCEDURE. The first day was spent in open forum, the second in committees, and on the third the four reports which follow were presented and approved for adoption.

5. REPORTS.

I. BOARDING-SCHOOLS. It was resolved that there be a six year course for girls in general and that it go up to and include the third year of the second degree and that the station course be at least three years. The 1933 course of study should follow the syllabus out-lined by the Kimpese Educational Report, which is based on the official programme with the addition of;

1. Domestic Training.

a. Cooking. Food values, balanced meals, preparation, local supply. Extraction of palm, kernel and peanut oil; Sugar-cane and banana-syrup. Preservation of meat and fish. Making starch and soap.

b. Home-making. Care of pots and all utensils. Furniture and decoration etc.

c. Home-Nursing. i. Personal hygiene, ii. First aid, bandaging, dressing of simple wounds, treating burns, bone-setting etc, iii. Mother-craft, pre-natal care, infant and mother, use of native materials. iv. Invalid cookery, v. Practical nursing, theory and practise in hospital.

d. Hand-craft. Use of matombe and pineapple fibre for bags; pottery; basket-work.

e. Sewing. Graduated hand-sewing, dress-making (including cutting of patterns), simple tailoring, embroidery, knitting and crochet (using native cotton).

11. Vocational Training.

a. Nursing. If possible every senior boarding-school girl should have practical training and experience in maternity and baby-welfare work. This course should be quite apart from the specialized training given to girl nurses.

b. Teaching. It is advisable that boarding-school girls should have practice both in day-school and Sunday-school teaching and be encouraged to take up definite work in their villages on leaving the station. It should be envisaged that girls might be prepared for the monitress' course.

II. TRAINING OF TEACHERS' AND EVANGELISTS' WIVES.

1. Refresher Course. One month or six weeks in duration.

Two sessions daily of two hours each with an additional twenty minutes for Roll-call and devotional service.

Hours per
week.

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| 5. | 1 hour daily Reading and Writing. |
| 5. | 1 hour daily Religion. (Bible story telling, memorising etc). |
| 1/2 | 1/2 hour per week Singing. |
| 5. | 1 hour daily Health education;- Foods; personal, home and village hygiene. Mothercraft, including marriage and native customs. Baby care. |
| | (See Health Education Kimpese Conference Report) |
| 4 1/2 | 1 period daily Causerie;- Peoples of other lands, Simple science. Civil obligations etc |
| | (See Kimpese Report) |

21hrs 40 minutes

11. Station Training Schools for Teacher-Evangelists' Wives. 6-8 months duration.

Four hours daily so arranged as to allow for gardening, fishing and other necessary duties. It is probable that not much in the way of gardening will be required in these short courses.

Hours per
week.

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| 5 | 1 hour daily Reading and Writing |
| 1 | 1 hour per week Arithmetic. |
| 1 | 1 hour per week Composition. |
| 6 | 1 hour per day. Religion. Bible story telling, memorizing. |
| | 1 hour per week Religion. Christian woman's responsibility in home, community and Church, such as personal and family devotions, religious instruction of own children, conducting instruction classes for girls preparatory to baptism, etc. |
| 1/2 | 1/2 hour per week Singing. |
| 1/2 | 1/2 hour per week Drawing. |
| 1 | 1 hour per week Sewing. |
| 1 1/2 | 3 half hour periods per week Demonstration lessons and Teaching practice. |
| 1 | 1 hour per week Health Instruction, 40 lessons Kimpese Report Mothercraft as above. |
| 2 | 6 twenty minute periods Causerie;- People of Other Lands. Simple Science. Civil obligations with some French salutations etc. |
| | See General Knowledge section and Agricultural in Kimpese Report. |

1/2 1/2 Instruction in supervising recreation for girls, teaching suitable games, songs, drill for young children etc.
 1 2/3 20 minute period daily for roll-call and devotional service.
 2 2/3 per week.

111. Higher Schools of which E.P.I. is Representative. 3-4 years duration.

About 3 to 3 1/2 hours per day as more gardening, fishing and time for other necessary work will probably need to be provided for.

The following list of subjects is suggested for inclusion in the syllabus. No actual proportioning of time is attempted because of widely differing standards of attainment in wives of students entered even in a single district.

At least an hour daily for Reading and Writing for backward women

Arithmetic	one hour	a week	throughout	course
Composition	"	"	"	"
Drawing	"	"	"	"
Sewing	"	"	"	"

The women should be able to cut, make and keep in repair their own and children's clothing. Artistry as well as utility should have some consideration and place in the course.

Causerie. At least an hour a week throughout course. See General Knowledge, etc, Section Kimpese Report, also 20 lessons Agricultural Section Kimpese Report.

Religion.

- a. Able students should acquire a fair knowledge of the life of Jesus and Paul and should glean from the Pauline letters material applicable and valuable for Christian growth and, preferably through linking up O.T. characters and their times and environment, gain an adequate conception of the development of the Christian Religion. (See Kimpese Report Religious Instruction).
- b. Instruction in the cultivation of personal and family devotional life with emphasis on mother's responsibility for instructing her own children in religion. Instruction in conducting inquirers' classes and story telling hours for village women and children. Instruction in S.S. work suitable for young children. Privileges and duties of deaconesses, etc.
- c. How we got our Bible, its make-up, use and authority. Roman Catholic attitude to same.
- d. Some knowledge of Church History and the differences between R.C. and Protestant church polity affecting Congo Christians.
- e. Include Pilgrim's Progress, Christiana's and her children's progress in the Christian life. Other Wise Man and other stories.
- f. Much practice in story telling both Bible and other stories, with practice teaching therein. Simple dramatization of stories allowing considerable native interpolations and interpretations.

Classes. Demonstration and practice teaching, especially preparing women to conduct day and Sunday-schools for children of kindergarten and primary grade.

Health Education. Cover 40 lessons Kimpese Educational Report (It is hoped that a teachers hand-book for this course may be available soon). The more able women should complete most of the first and second years syllabi for 2nd degree schools. A simple course in Biology introducing reproduction through vegetable and animal kingdom concluding with scientific instruction concerning human reproduction.

Mothercraft, including native customs and taboos. Infant welfare, (Women could attend and assist in "Baby Welfare" clinics) Sex instruction suitable for helping adolescent girls etc. Instruction in cause and prevention of common diseases and home-care of patients suffering from same, Home and village hygiene.

Health songs and plays. (Kimpese Report).

Cooking. Cook-book recommended to be compiled for native use. Instruction in supervision of girls' recreation hours, singing, suitable games, drills especially for children of pre-school years. Simple dramatization of fables, native, and of other peoples etc.

III. WORK AMONG VILLAGE WOMEN AND GIRLS. It being understood that the girls are already attending the village school we further recommend that:-

1. Each station staff appoint a woman (missionary) to interest herself particularly with the work among the women and girls in the villages and that she form a council of the leading christian women with a view to the systematic organisation of this work.

11. That they should, in consultation with their itinerant evangelists, select women in the villages to assume responsibility for the spiritual, moral and social development of the women and girls. This could be promoted by

- a. Regular meetings for worship and also for instruction in christian conduct, hygiene and mother-craft.
- b. The supervision and wise counselling of girls in their recreations.
- c. Periodic gatherings at the Communion centre.
- d. A yearly gathering of four to five days duration. This could be an enlarged gathering and could be more in the nature of a convention.

111. There should also be appointed, wherever possible, specially qualified native women to visit the villages, encourage and teach the women and report to the station.

IV. WORK IN URBAN CENTRES. We feel that in most, if not all, of the urban centres in Congo the present missionary force is inadequate for the work that needs to be done among women and girls.

Most women and girls in urban centres having more time on their hands than is usual in ordinary village life are more susceptible to the temptations of town life.

In order the better to help them we suggest that, in addition to the educational and evangelistic work already being done by the missions, the following work should be attempted.

- a. A school for girls with a curriculum that provides for from 5-6 hours schooling daily and which is especially adapted to the conditions under which the girls are likely to live.
- b. Adequate schooling for adult women.
- c. Adequate provision for visitation and follow-up work.
- d. Provision of recreational facilities, these to include organized games, instruction in music and applied art.
- e. In view of this, and as a result of our observation, we recommend that to meet the local situation at Léopoldville the two societies (ABFMS and BMS) working in the centre explore the possibilities of developing a joint social and educational work.

6. GIRL WAYFARERS' ASSOCIATION. The work of this Association was discussed and the literature studied. It was felt that as there is already a company of Girl Guides formed and others are likely to follow we should continue to seek for affiliation with the Girl Guides de Belgique and not associate ourselves with a second movement. The secretary was instructed to keep au courant with the development of Youth movements in other parts of Africa and to continue in correspondence with the Girl Wayfarers' Association.

7. PERMANENT COMMITTEE. It was felt that it is not feasible to maintain a permanent committee on women's work. We recommend that each mission appoint one or more of its number to correspond on all questions relating to women's work and that the secretary of the CPC be notified of those so appointed. It was much regretted that Miss Schaffer, the present secretary for the women's work, was unable, owing to ill-health, to meet with us. Mrs. Coxill was asked to act for Miss Schaffer for the time being.

8. LETTERS. The Secretary was asked to write to the Field secretaries of the ABFMS and BMS with reference to the recommendation above (5. IV e. Work at Léopoldville). and to Miss Wrong, secretary of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa, asking her for information regarding books on the following subjects: Native Cookery and Recipes, Food Values and Agriculture, African Music, Health Charts, Nurses Hand-book, a Home-nursing Handbook for Teachers.

9. PUBLICATION. It was recommended that, subject to the approval of the Kimpese staff the reports submitted by this conference be incorporated in the Kimpese 1933 Educational Report and that an account of these meetings should appear in the January issue of the Congo Mission News.

10. ADJOURNMENT. The meeting was adjourned after prayer by Dr. Mabie.

Marjorie. H. Coxill.
Chairman.

Mary. A. Bonar.
Secretary.