

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

(Amos 5:24). Jesus confirms Isaiah's prophecy on the mission of God ". . . he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." Luke 4:18.

Is it possible that God is inviting us to win Armenia to the Lord through this open door for service, for the USSR has, in an unusual pronouncement, accepted U.S. assistance? It is a unique opportunity to show the love of God in Christ by our sharing, caring and by being fair by siding with the just cause of Armenians? God always speaks. Sometimes by a small still voice and other times through the storm and the shaking of the earth. Hearts are now receptive!

Text of the Resolution

WHEREAS, the Armenians have stood for Christ beginning in 301 A.D. through trials and tribulations;

WHEREAS, Armenians in Armenia proper have not been able to publicly propagate their Christian faith since 1920 due to USSR's arbitrary constitutional barriers;

WHEREAS, religion is making a comeback in USSR as a result of Mikhail Gorbachev's "glasnost" and "perestroika" principles;

WHEREAS, as a result of a devastating earthquake, the Armenians have suffered a great tragedy with the loss of 25,000 to 50,000 lives and 500,000 lives have been left homeless and disabled;

WHEREAS, a just and reasonable request by Armenia to have historical Armenian Karabagh (Artzakh) annexed to the Soviet Armenian Republic, has caused political strife and 50,000 to 200,000 Armenians have been forced to homelessness having to abandon home and assets to escape threats of all kinds;

WHEREAS, charitable and political assistance at this juncture of Armenian life in the homeland is a crucial one for human kindness and religious possibilities;

WHEREAS, while a great outpouring of help and sympathy by a large number of nations in goods and services has been overwhelming, there remains a great responsibility and challenge upon the Christian Church for generous response;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ, calls upon all of its churches for enhanced support of the Armenian victims of the earthquake through directed gifts and One Great Hour of Sharing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ urges the President of the United States, the State Department and Congress to use their influence upon the USSR to transfer historic Armenian Karabagh (Artzakh) to Armenia.

16. RESOLUTION "SUPPORT FOR THE REFORMED COLLEGIUM OF SAROSPATAK IN HUNGARY"

Mr. Riddoch moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Support For the Reformed Collegium of Sarospatak in Hungary."

89-GS-109 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Res-

olution "Support For the Reformed Collegium of Sarospatak in Hungary."

SUPPORT FOR THE REFORMED COLLEGIUM OF SAROSPATAK IN HUNGARY

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ claims the Reformed heritage as one of its essential theological roots;

WHEREAS, three million members of this Reformed heritage live as the children of God in Hungary and hundreds of thousands in Transcarpathia and in Czechoslovakia;

WHEREAS, the Reformed Collegium (high school and seminary) of Sarospatak from 1531 served the Reformed Church of the world over four centuries having close connections with Reformed institutions in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Scotland and the USA;

WHEREAS, this historic institution was taken away from the church in 1952, can be reestablished if there are financial means;

WHEREAS, the Hungarian Reformed Church cannot do this by its own strength, and

WHEREAS, our partner Reformed churches in the United States and Holland offered substantial financial support to this purpose.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 17th General Synod of the United Church of Christ prayerfully and respectfully affirms our Reformed heritage by joining our Reformed brothers and sisters in prayer, moral support and refers to the United Church Board for World Ministries, to explore in partnership with the Reformed Church of Hungary, the issues and needs involved in reestablishing the mission of the Reformed Collegium of Sarospatak in Hungary.

17. RESOLUTION "JOIN WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES AGAINST INHUMANITIES OF THE ROMANIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC IN THE REGION OF TRANSYLVANIA"

On behalf of Committee 16 Mr. Riddoch moved that the 17th General Synod adopt the Resolution "Join World Alliance of Reformed Churches Against Inhumanities of the Romanian People's Republic In The Region of Transylvania."

The Rev. Desmond Parrach (CA.SY.) moved to reword item 3 "to offer our prayers and seek ways to generate financial support for the 40,000 persecuted, dislocated and homeless Transylvania refugees, now in Hungary.

89-GS-110 VOTED: The 17th General Synod amends, "Join World Alliance of Reformed Churches Against Inhumanities of the Romanian People's Republic In The Region of Transylvania" to reword item #3 to read: "to offer our prayers and seek ways to generate financial support for the 40,000 persecuted, dislocated and homeless Transylvania refugees, now in Hungary."

89-GS-111 VOTED: The 17th General Synod adopts the Resolution "Join World Alliance of Reformed Churches Against Inhumanities of the Romanian People's Republic In The Region of Transylvania."