

Taylor
C. Gavran

November 21, 1966

The Rev. John V. Taylor
Church Missionary Society
157 Waterloo Road
London, S.E. 1

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Dear Mr. Taylor:

I am setting up a Church Growth Research for East Africa and have considerable hopes of getting a grant from Lilly Endowment to carry it out. This will be the second large Church Growth research the School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth at Fuller has carried out. The first was the church growth research in Latin America to which the United Presbyterians, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, seconded the Rev. William R. Read, author of New Patterns of Church Growth in Brazil, for two years, to head the study.

The Church Missionary Society has the best man in all the world to carry out the East Africa study - namely Dr. David Barrett. I am enclosing herewith a first draft of the proposal which I have discussed three weeks ago with Lilly Foundation. The final draft will be changed in some details, but the main thrust remains the same.

I have sent a copy of the this first draft to Dr. Barrett and a couple of other leaders in East Africa to elicit their reaction. From previous correspondence I expect it to be favorable.

I am now writing to you asking, "If this proposal is agreeable to Dr. Barrett, will the Church Missionary Society second him, with salary and allowances to the project for two years?" As a means to assure that the great missionary societies are back of these researches, I seek men to lead them who have been thus seconded. The missionary society both gives and gains. It contributes a man to a most necessary and fruitful enterprise. It gets back a man who will be much more valuable to his Church and missionary society.

No doubt, Dr. Barrett will be writing you soon, but I wanted you to know about the project directly from me. The grant has not yet been made - but is likely to be. I shall know by January 1967. The dates for the study I would like to see observed are September 1967 to August 1969, but they will of course, be determined in consultation with the men who carry out the research, and their societies.

Very sincerely yours in discipling ta ethne,

Donald M cGavran

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THE AMERICAN MISSION
(UNITED PRESBYTERIAN)

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G.A.P.*

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BUSINESS OFFICE

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ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

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September 29, 1966

CABLE ፡
INCULCATE ADDISABABA

Dr. Donald McGavern
Fuller Seminary
104 North Oakland Avenue
Pasadena, California

Dear Dr. McGavern:

Guess who appeared at our Mission the other day? Dr. David Barrett, the Secretary for Research in East Africa. He was passing through here at the end of an extended tour through this part of Africa and came out to our Mission seeking some statistics. It wasn't until we had talked for a good long time that it dawned on me just who he was. The result of all this was a chance to have dinner together and a much longer talk about the need for more research in this area, and the need for some help from you folks there at Fuller Seminary.

Dr. Barrett told me of your proposed plan for research and the fact that it hadn't gotten off the ground because of financial problems. As we were talking about our need for help in making an analysis of our missions and of the tribes among whom we are working, we came up with a possible middle-of-the-road plan. Do you think it would be possible for your people to present us with a plan of research that we, meaning the missions and missionaries involved, could do in the next year or two and then certain people gather together with an expert who would help us with an analysis of our situation? We feel our need in two specific areas--an analysis of our approach and policies as missions and churches, and also help in understanding the tribal people among whom we are working and about whom we know so little. For this reason, I was suggesting to Dr. Barrett that we see if Dr. Tippett couldn't get some time off during the summer--one to three months--and we try to work through some of these things with him.

Budgetwise, this would be much less expensive than a program involving people working full time. On the other hand, we recognize that having missionaries gather the information may leave something to be desired. But everything considered, it seemed to us that this type of approach would be possible while the other seemed out of the question. We feel that we could probably get money through the missions for the travel of Dr. Tippett and also the expenses of the missionaries who would be involved in the final consultation which might be held in either Addis Ababa or Nairobi.

Dr. Donald McGavern

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September 29, 1966

Please let me know what your reaction to this is and we can proceed from there.

Give our greetings to the other people around there. But most especially to your wife. We appreciate all the details she took care of for us. We hope we may have an opportunity to repay these kind deeds in the future.

Sincerely in Christ,



Harold Kurtz
Secretary for Mission Program

dwm

cc: Dr. David Barrett
Dr. Glenn Reed

SCHOOL OF WORLD MISSION
AND
INSTITUTE OF CHURCH GROWTH
DONALD A. MCGAVRAN, Ph.D.
DEAN



File: E. Af. Research

FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, 135 NORTH OAKLAND AVENUE, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, 91101

Not sent

His Imperial Majesty, Haile Selassie I
Emperor of Ethiopia

May It Please Your Majesty:

Greetings in the name of Christian brotherhood.

May I bring to the attention of Your Majesty a matter of deep concern related to the Churches of Ethiopia - the spread of Christianity among all the peoples of Ethiopia before other religions - notably Islam - capture them. The Churches in Ethiopia need to work unitedly at this great task.

The School of World Mission at Pasadena has been studying the factors which turn large groups of people to Christianity. We are doing a large scale research in church growth in Latin America to learn the ways in which the peoples of Latin America are being won for Christ.

We now seek to launch a large scale research in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania) to discover the ways God is blessing to the increase of His Churches in each of these lands. The gathering of such information will require the cooperation of all Churches and whatever is discovered will be shared with all Churches, including, of course, the Orthodox Church of Ethiopia.

While we are both at Berlin, should it be possible for Your Majesty to allow us to speak together about this matter, I would be most grateful.

I remain, Your Majesty,

Obediently yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald McGavran". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Donald McGavran