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Hamilton



# MISSION TO THE WORLD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA P.O. BOX 1744 Decatur, GA. 30031 Tel: (404) 292-8345 (404) 292-8301

July 22, 1975

Dr. Ralph Winter  
1021 East Walnut  
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Pasadena, California 91106

Dear Ralph,

It was good to talk with you the other day when I was in Norman, Oklahoma visiting the Summer Institute of Linguistics on the University of Oklahoma campus.

I appreciated your checking in with me concerning the APMC National Conference. After receiving a few of the pieces of literature from Don Hamilton, I had shared with a few individuals the opportunity that this conference would be for several of them. However, I had not made a general distribution throughout the whole denomination. I have, however, contacted personally First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, Mississippi, First Presbyterian Church in Macon, Georgia, West End Presbyterian in Hopewell, Virginia, and the Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. I have spoken to the people involved in the mission program or passed the word on to them through reliable people and have urged them to attend the conference if at all humanly possible. I trust that a few of our people will be present beside Pete Austin of the First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

After the conference is over I would be interested to hear from someone if by chance you folks who are helping at the top level have noted that there are possibly regional differences in approach to mission programs. One missionary representative has shared with me that as he has worked in the Southeast for many years he feels that there is a decided difference in the approach that we need to take in working with mission committees and pastors here in the Southeastern part of the United States and in other sections of the United States possibly. I would rather imagine that a lot of this has to do with a great tendency to hang into the denominational structures by local churches and the missions committees of course.

I have noted in talking to those who have tried to present programs such as sharing openings in various interdenominational missions with denominational churches that there has been a tendency by the boards not to let this information get into the hands of the local pastor or the local situation. I don't think this is particularly regional either, but it shows a problem that one does have in getting to the local church through denominational structures that have been erected. Of course we have known this for a long time. It does, however, indicate that there is a great necessity to get down to the grass roots level to each individual church as you're seeking to do.

Dr. Ralph Winter

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In going over the above information I guess what I am picking at is that in talking to Don Hamilton about his desire to have seminars set up throughout different regions one has to take into account the fact that it is difficult to get any great number out say in Atlanta for a meeting of missionary committee people because number one there are probably not very many committees in this region that are formed in a knowledgeable way and most of them are tied into the denominational structure. These are things that we are thinking about as we seek to relate to the things A.C.M.C. is doing and seeking to do for the local church.

I'm trusting that the Lord will continue to be blessing and guiding you all and give our greeting to Don Hamilton.

Sincerely in Christ,



John E. Kyle  
Coordinator

JEK/mlp