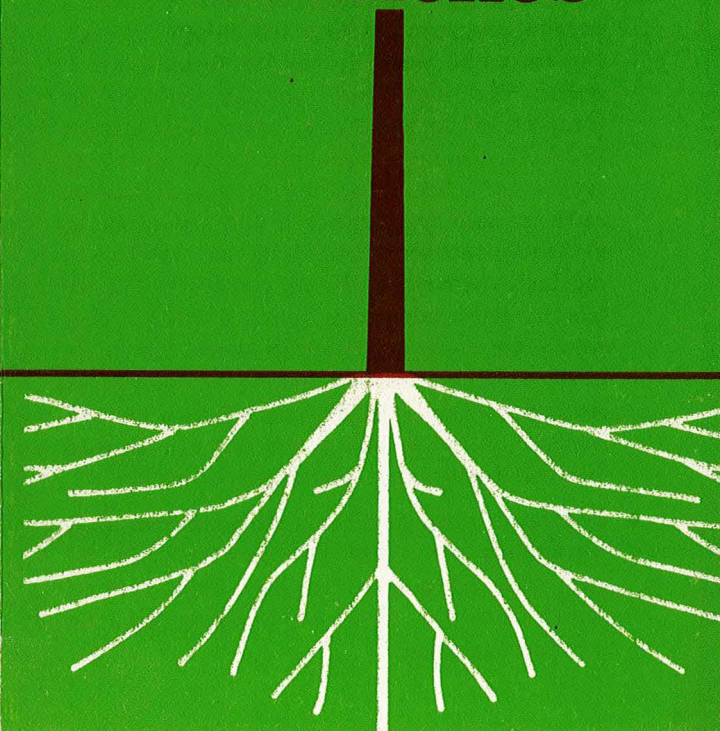


*Roots
and
Branches*



Why does the Christian and Missionary Alliance plant its own churches in the missionary sending countries, such as Australia, Canada and the U.S.A.?

WHY NOT ?

- In doing so, the Alliance is merely being consistent with itself. The basic objective of the C&MA is to evangelise, and to ensure that this evangelism culminates in the establishment of New Testament-patterned local churches. It consistently adheres to this policy in every national and cultural context, and can see no reason to be one thing in one country and something else in another.
- In planting home-base churches, the C&MA is following the "Antioch" principle of the Book of Acts. Paul established this missionary-sending church from which the Gospel sounded out into all the surrounding region. He realised that you must drive a stake before you can extend a cord from it.
- By establishing its own roots, the Alliance ensures a oneness of spiritual vitality and purpose throughout the entire work, from roots to branches. It realises that life flows from the roots to the branches, and not the reverse. If something happens to the branches there is yet hope for the tree whose roots are still alive, but if the roots die nothing on earth can save the branches. If slow dry rot sets in at the roots, sooner or later death makes its way to the limb extremities. We are convinced that the most effective missionary outreach will and does emerge out of the embryo of an aflame church. By establishing churches and training facilities at the sending-base level, the Alliance ensures a uniform standard, doctrine, policy, practice and spiritual dynamic throughout its world-wide work.
- By failing to plant churches at the home base, as an organisation we would put ourselves into the unenviable position of teaching other national churches to do what we ourselves have no experience in doing.

Does all this mean that the Christian and Missionary Alliance is exclusive and does not seek fellowship with other evangelical churches and groups?

The facts prove quite to the contrary!

- Many other missionary societies are fed with graduates from Alliance churches and colleges.
- Approximately 50 per cent of our missionary force of over 900 come from non-C&MA church backgrounds. So does half of the student body of our four home-base Bible Colleges and one affiliated college.
- Various non-C&MA churches, groups and individuals channel their missionary support into the Alliance because of their confidence in its spiritual and Biblical standards and its sound missionary policies.
- Alliance pastors and people welcome cross-denominational-lines ministries and fellowship with those of like precious faith — this is what made it an alliance. Therefore, within the true household of faith, we desire to enjoy the broadest and warmest possible fellowship.

The C&MA recognises that the Lord leads other missionary agencies and denominations to conduct their missionary outreach according to different methods and patterns. In this article we simply set forth the pattern which the Lord has taught our Society to follow in 33 countries around the earth.

The amazing record of Alliance Missions speaks for itself. Our overseas constituency now totals in excess of half a million. Baptisms in the decade of the Sixties totalled 107, 083. There are 34 Bible Institutions in operation, training 1500 students annually. Missionaries and mission workers use a total of 208 languages and dialects. Every week 300 broadcasts beam forth the World of Life in 28 different languages and 125 million pages of literature were printed in 1970 alone. Through the ministries of six doctors and

96 registered nurses, medical work contributes to the spread of the Evangel through 96 clinics and four hospitals.

By inter-mission comity arrangement, the Alliance has been made solely responsible to reach 80, 446, 500 people with the message of Life in Christ.

And where might you fit into all of this?

Further enquiries are welcomed

The Director

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