

Douglas, secretary; Dean Alfange, treasurer; and Dr. Voss, chairman of the executive council. In 1947, the Rev. Karl Baehr became executive secretary; and Dean LeSourd, returning to his post at Boston University, continued to serve the committee in the capacity of chairman of the Children's Memorial Forest.*

The Original ACPC Program

In these eventful post-war years the ACPC, with an ever-growing membership, has centered attention on world Jewry's overwhelming tragedy growing out of the war and has focused on Palestine, now the land of Israel. It interpreted to America the Jewish people's ancient quest for nationhood and described the achievements of Palestinian Jewry in these recent decades since the first settlements were established by the People of the Book in the Land of the Book. It noted with understanding and sympathy the desperate needs of European Jews who found only homelessness and hopelessness to be their lot in years to come. Its first interest was to aid in the rescue of the quarter-million displaced Jews of Europe, then still living as outcasts of society in the DP camps or in virtual imprisonment under British rule on the island of Cyprus. The ACPC called upon the conscience of the world to recognize the plight of these hapless men, women and children who had become the victims of an incredible bestiality at the hands of a world that assumed itself to be Christian. For them, the ACPC pointed out by every means at its command, a Jewish homeland in Palestine was not only a refuge and a home of freedom, but the only possible answer to their Calvary, the sole available place where they might rebuild their lives even as they were eventually to rebuild a forgotten wasteland which held a unique place in their collective memory.

Today these detention camps are no more. The Jewish displaced persons of Europe, and their brethren by the hundreds of thousands from other places of persecution and death, have poured into Palestine, now the land of Israel, to begin new lives. They have come from North Africa, Morocco, Algiers, Tripoli, Yemen, Iraq, Turkey and half a hundred other lands—a tremendous migration in a brief span of time. Dedicated and single-minded people on flight from bondage to freedom. Such a hegira has never been known before. This is truly an "ingathering of the exiles" akin to the prophecy of Isaiah who had said, "Behold I will bring them from the north country and from the coasts of the earth. A great company shall return thither. The Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnants of His people. And He shall set up an ensign for the nations and shall assemble the outcast of Israel and gather together the depressed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

To those of the ACPC who participated in this tremendous chapter of the Zionist story, the creation of Israel was a heartwarming and profoundly moving experience. Not only did it represent the triumph of a dedication to an ideal, held unwaveringly through nearly 20 centuries of dispersal; it symbolized, in however small measure, an atonement for the cruelty and indifference of Christians who, through that long span of time, by sins of omission and commission, of selfishness, prejudice and intolerance, created anti-Semitism and visited grievous disabilities upon the Jewish people.

*Christian children in American Sunday schools in the planting of this forest (\$1.50 per tree) thus commemorate the 1,200,000 Jewish children killed by the Nazis. The forest is located at Ein Hashofet, an Israeli settlement near Nazareth which is named for the late U. S. Supreme Court Justice, Louis Brandeis, a distinguished Zionist in his lifetime.

The ACPC Today

Today the ACPC's humanitarian interests have broadened as the problems with which the ACPC has had to deal have broadened. Since Israel's establishment, the ACPC has taken up the task of interpreting developments in that new democracy so that Christians may have a sympathetic understanding of the creative forces at work. The ACPC has concerned itself with the needs of the Arab peoples of the Near East. Before the establishment of Israel, the ACPC was conscious of the problems of the depressed peoples in that backward area of the world, particularly the underprivileged Arab masses dwelling in poverty, disease and squalor. Indeed, aside from the long-due justice which the establishment of the Jewish homeland would render a persecuted people, one of the factors stimulating ACPC interest in Zionism was the undeniable benefit which had accrued to the Arabs in those areas in Palestine where Jews had already settled. It was obvious that the Jewish community in the Middle East was in the nature of a pilot plant, bringing from the West the benefits of modern civilization and proving their practicality in what generally was considered a rather exotic, though bleak, corner of the world.

Its Objectives

The ACPC is concerned not only with the fulfillment of Zionist aspirations, but also with the spread of democracy and democratic living throughout the Middle East. It believes Israel has importance, in part, because she can show the way for less advanced countries to a fuller life for all their citizens. Israel's proclamation of statehood, her defense against aggression from without, her development of democratic institutions, her rescue of homeless Jewry—all these are a testament to the power of spirit over matter, of dedication over resignation, of progress over retrogression. The young Republic of Israel is a new, wholesome factor in a blighted area of the world: its creative influence and example cannot be underestimated.

ACPC activities today, carried on by city and state chapters from coast to coast, are many and varied. They include seminars and regional conferences addressed by experts on the Middle East; publication of educational and informational literature; a speaker's bureau which offers some 400 Christian lecturers on such subjects as the Middle East, Israel, Arab and Jewish refugee problems and associated subjects to church forums, service clubs, university groups, and community organizations.

The ACPC Study Tours

Chief among its special activities are the ACPC study tours to Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, and Egypt, organized to enable Americans of all shades of opinion to see at first hand the problems faced by the various peoples in the Middle East whether Arab or Jew, Moslem or Druse, Copt or Maronite, Armenian or Baihai. In every instance members of the tour are under no obligation to any person or group and are absolutely free to study and investigate the situation to be found in any of the countries visited. Upon their return, the travelers report the facts as they see them to the American Christian community with which they are associated. In these study tours the prime objective is an understanding of the problems, special needs and achievements of the various