

Memorial presented by the
Reformed Catholic and Apostolic Lusitanian Church
To the Right Rev: Bishops and Fathers of the Church
of Christ, assembled in Council at Lambeth, in the
month of July in the year of our Lord 1908.

In the name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
AMEN.

Right Rev: Bishops and Fathers in the Church of Christ—
i.e. the Standing Committee of the Synod of the Reformed
Catholic and Apostolic Lusitanian Church, beg leave to
present to this Great Council of the Church of Christ,
the following memorial—

Though one of the youngest of the Sons of the Catholic
and Apostolic Communion, yet in the providence of God,
we have been called to possess that land, whose natural
geographical position in the world, will make it more and
more of vast and essential importance in the developing
and spiritual elevation of mankind.

After the close of the Peninsular, and Civil wars, and
abolition of the Inquisition, our fathers obtained a greater
degree of liberty, & several priests then left the State
Religion and began a Reform movement amongst our

and clergy to carry the gospel of Christ, in its primitive purity to the Continent of Europe, have as his successors performed for our Church all Episcopal functions, and ordained those of our priests, who had not Roman orders.

May the same blessings that followed the work of St Patrick, also follow their labours for Christ, and may their reward be great.

Fathers of the Church of Christ—after many years of struggling in the face of terrible persecutions, after many days of deep poverty, & privations of fighting against adverse circumstances, & untruthful criticisms, our most glorious Risen Saviour has seen our tears, & sorrows, and has bent His most merciful ear to our pleadings; for not only has He raised up for us many & most valued friends, who have poured into our wounds both oil, and wine, & kept us in the Inn of His Church, but He has enlarged & renewed our life, bestowing on us, possessions, both of modern & ancient Churches, as well as Schools in the North & South of our land.

In the midst of the corruption & superstition, which we see around us on every side, we have indeed cause to be greatly encouraged by the very many tributes of love, & consideration that we have received not only from our adherents, and outside friends, but from all members & classes of

Society: from the officials occupying exalted positions, to the simple wayside labourers. We are constrained to raise a great Stone to the Glory of God & with Samuel declare that "Hitherto the Lord hath helped us" & made even our enemies to dwell at peace with us. While we open wide the portals of our Mission Halls and Churches, to all who would kneel with us in prayer, we must bear witness to the truth that He who was found sitting at the feet of the doctors both learning & asking them questions, has greatly blessed the work of our Schools in the North as well as the South of our land, & while many thousands of children year after year have received their training at our hands, we have not accommodation for the hundreds that daily await admittance.

In truth Lusitania is one of the smallest of the nations of Europe, but she has played an important part in the past history of the nations of the earth.

The Primitive Lusitanian Church was for centuries independent, & governed by her own Bishops & priests in Council, until she was, together with the other Churches of the Peninsula brought under the foreign yoke of Rome but from the sepulchre & ashes of the past our Lord with His mighty word of power, called into being the present Catholic & Apostolic Lusitanian Church, governed by her own

Of this Church we, the most unworthy & least of God's ministers have been ordained to preach the word and administer the sacraments of Christ, holding firm the faith first delivered to the Saints & then by them to our fathers. And so we come to this great Conference of the Fathers of the Church of God & ask for your prayers, both for us and for the Flock of Christ committed to our care.

The more especially as missionary problems rise before us, in the right solving of which depends the future happiness & destiny of millions of Africa's children.

Portugal though small in Europe, has vast territories in the East & West of Africa, inhabited by millions of the black races, and our government has decreed, that our language alone shall be the official tongue, & from henceforth it must be taught in all the public & private Schools. The mysterious Finger of God has therefore placed in the hands of the Lusitanian Church, the Keys of the language in which, in years to come, the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, can be preached throughout the whole of those vast countries possessed by our nation.

The language of our Bible, our Book of Common Prayer our sacred Chants and Hymns, The Canons of our Church & the Rules of our Synod.

Together with the Christian literature, so necessary for the spreading of the Gospel, which has been accumulating year by year will soon be within ^{the} reach of the ears of the Black Races, who already are being taught our tongue.

This is in truth a matter of Praise and renewed prayer, and we perceive in this an invitation from our Lord and Master, that we should strengthen our Church in the Homeland, by especially training the most zealous and fitting of our sons and daughters, who, today are being educated in our Schools, to go forth in His Great Name to carry the Evangel of Peace to our greater Empire of Africa; but we stand on the threshold of a mighty battle, and the forces of Evil have gathered to resist at all costs the planting of the Cross of Christ in those dark parts of the earth.

Right Reverend Bishops and Fathers of the Church of God. The work is great and arduous our spirits truly.

But our country indirectly possesses even greater riches than the vast lands in Africa.

The immense nation of Brazil is colonised by millions of Lusitanian sons & daughters.

and these are daily crossing & recrossing the Atlantic, remaining in the Homeland of their birth for a time, and then returning again to the trades & business in the Empire of

Brazil: to reach these, & bring them under the influence & power of the Gospel of Christ is our daily prayer.

In this great work the Lusitanian Church endeavours to join hands with the Reformed American Episcopal Church of Brazil, our brothers in faith, in Catholic & Apostolic order, and as days & years roll on to eternity, the links in this chain of love, of oneness in faith, in language in Evangelical Truth, and primitive and Apostolic order, will unite the two churches closer and closer together. and this great union of forces speaking the same language, & descending from the same Homeland, will not only lead to

to our mutual advantage and strengthening
of our faith, but will enable us to advance
together to carry the Blessings of Jesus Christ
& Him crucified to the millions in the east &
west of Africa that speak our tongue & are governed
by our nation -

Truly though we are small & weak in worldly
possessions, and constantly have we struggled with
privations, for the work and needs of the Church,
yet in the Providence of Almighty God we have
been placed in one of the natural centres of the
earth, and to-day our Capital is fast becoming
a great commercial centre joining Europe with
South America, and Africa, and we pray that
this centre may be greatly used of God in
future years to join the Religious forces of
Primitive purity & order - and enlarge
the Kingdom of Christ.

We ask for your prayers most especially because
in the Providence of Almighty God we have
been constituted the mouth piece of Reformed
Catholic & Apostolic literature.

To write & distribute it in great lands
where our language is known, that our pen

may be guided by His most Blessed Spirit in all things.

Most truly do we thank God that we can today announce a mighty advance in Public opinion in our favour, our Schools are not only recognised but officially authorised and registered, and we are officially invited to take part in all patriotic & national festivals, and meetings - and our ministers in Lisbon have been officially requested by the Government to give the Sacraments & administer to persons not belonging to the State Church. The work is indeed great and we tremble, when looking into the beyond, at our weakness, but by the eye of faith we see the fields occupied, the work begun, and the harvest in view, but while we fear not the burden and heat of the day, yet we come to this great Council of the Fathers and Bishops of the Church of Christ.

And firstly do we most humbly pray.

That you will come over and help us in sowing the precious seed, and in gathering in the golden Harvest to the Kingdom of our Lord.

Secondly

That you will earnestly pray that we may be kept
steadfast unmovable always abounding in the Word
of the Lord.

Thirdly

That the established fact may be officially recognised
by the Council, that we belong to the Great
Catholic and Apostolic Reformed Churches, by right
and virtue of Apostolic Succession, and by the
laying on of hands of the Episcopacy.

And Lastly

We desire to announce thus publicly to this Great
Council of Fathers and Bishops of the Church
of Christ, our eternal gratitude to those Bishops
of God's Church who have ordained at many different
periods, our priests and deacons who did not
possess Roman orders, and who have so kindly
confirmed our children; and we beg moreover
to associate in thus our public manifestation of
gratitude also those Bishops of the Church of God
who have so kindly offered to administer Episcopal
rites to our Church!