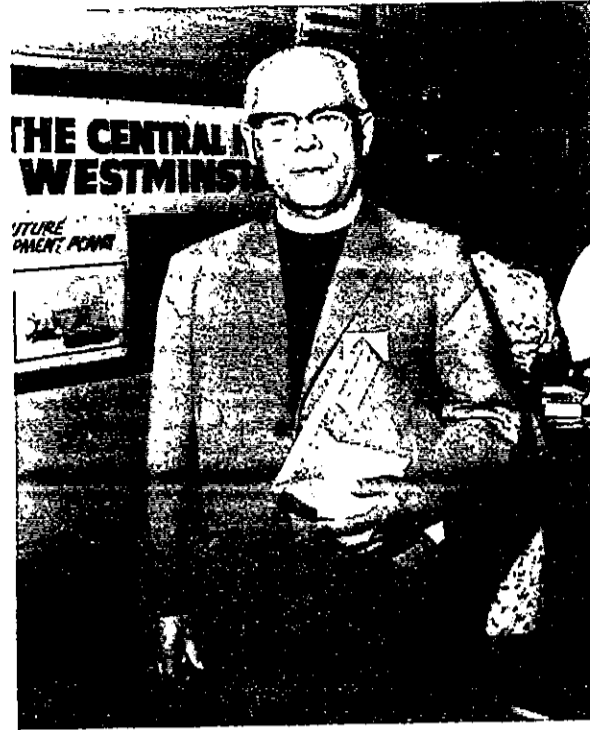


HAGEN, BISHOP ODD



RNS Photo

Bishop Odd Hagen, president of the World Methodist Council since 1966, died at the age of 64 after a short illness. Bishop Hagen, whose term was to have expired in 1971, headed the federation of 33 Methodist Churches which have 20 million members in 90 countries.

BISHOP ODD HAGEN DIES

Bishop Odd Hagen, 64, episcopal leader of 37,937 United Methodists in five European countries (including Russia) and president of the World Methodist Council, died January 28 in Stockholm, Sweden, after a brief illness.

Since 1966 Bishop Hagen had been head of the World Methodist Council, which is a federation of 33 independent Methodist Church bodies in some 90 countries. The churches have a combined membership estimated at 20,000,000 and a constituency estimated at 40,000,000.

Since 1953 Bishop Hagen had been episcopal leader of the Stockholm Area of the United Methodist Church. It comprises six annual conferences in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Soviet Union (in what was formerly Estonia, where there are an estimated 4,000 Methodists). He was elected bishop by the Northern Europe Central Conference of the Methodist Church and has served the Stockholm Area during all of his episcopacy.

Born in Trondheim, Norway, December 16, 1905, Bishop Hagen spent his early life there and attended the Union Methodist Scandinavian School of Theology at Gothenburg, Sweden, where he received the bachelor of theology degree. He contin-

ued his education at Oslo University, Oslo, Norway, where he received the master of arts degree, and at Gothenburg University in Sweden, where he received the licentiate in philosophy.

Ordained in 1928, Bishop Hagen was pastor of Methodist churches at Sandsvaer, Bodo, Kolbotn and Rjukan, all in Norway, from 1927 to 1935. He was appointed a professor at the Union Methodist Scandinavian School of Theology in 1935 and served in that post until 1947 when he was elected president (principal) of the school.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ruth Marthine Larsen Hagen, and three daughters, Mrs. Lars Collin, Mrs. Kjell Forsting and Mrs. Arvid Rundberg, all of Sweden. The funeral and burial were to be in Stockholm.

Dr. Megill said that the single remaining United Methodist missionary in Algiers, Sister Ruth Lang, a Swiss nurse, has returned to her country on regular furlough; she was not expelled.

There are now no foreign missionary personnel in Algiers, but American, German, Swiss and other foreign missionaries are at their posts and at work in other centers included Fort National, Il-Maten, Les Ouadhias, Oran and Constantine, Dr. Megill said. The boys' home in Constantine, where the Williamses worked, remains open under the leadership of Algerian personnel. In Il-Maten, negotiations for turning a United Methodist hospital over to the community continue, she said, and word has been received that Algerian officials have released missionaries' personal possessions for return to them.

FORMER VIETNAM NURSE SPEAKS OUT ON THE WAR

Miss Tharon McConnell of near Mooresville, N.C., a young United Methodist nurse who served three years in Vietnam, said war as seen on television, in movies and through books "isn't like that—it has a more profound effect on life."



Miss McConnell, on a speaking tour of United Methodist churches in western North Carolina, said she went overseas as a naive idealist and has "come back with a concern for Vietnam, a new understanding of the United States and a real fear of war and of violence and of hatred, since for three years I have seen what these do to people."

Miss McConnell served on one of the Vietnam Christian Service teams, working with refugees and as a nursing instructor for student nurses. She said she had the opportunity to "minister to people who were caught on both sides of this conflict. They're people. And a lot of them are people who are interested in Vietnam and who want Vietnam to belong to the Vietnamese."

the triumph of a people with a cause and of technology. Now, she is beginning to be confronted by another people with a cause and she will need wisdom to match her courage. Perhaps the greatest kind of wisdom will be to admit that the Palestinian Arabs also have a cause.

I am reminded of two statements, both by Israelis. One was a Jew, a professor at the Hebrew University. He had been very defensive about criticism of Israel, but finally admitted that his emotions were mixed. In obvious distress, he said, "I sometimes fear that in the cause of correcting an injustice, we are letting another injustice take place." The other statement was from an Israeli Arab, a Christian minister. He had been very critical of Israeli discrimination as he saw it, but finished by saying, "Don't go away from here the enemy of either side. We both have enough enemies already." ■

In the May issue, I will discuss some aspects of the role and situation of religion (particularly Christianity) in the Middle East.

In The World

**Bishop Odd Hagen,
Methodist Leader**

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Bishop Odd Hagen, president of the World Methodist Council, died here yesterday after a brief illness. He was 64.

The bishop had a history of heart trouble and had been ill about two days. The exact cause of death was not given, however.

Bishop Hagen was elected in London in 1966 to head the

*More Obituaries
on Page D-10*

world federation of 33 independent Methodist church bodies which have 20 million members in 90 countries.

His term was to have expired in August 1971. A church official said a successor will be selected after consultation among church leaders.

Bishop Hagen in 1953 was elected bishop of the Stockholm Area of the United Methodist Church, which includes Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and the Estonian Republic of the Soviet Union, with 38,000 church members.

A native of Norway, Bishop Hagen was ordained in 1927 and served as pastor in a number of churches there.

In 1935, he became a professor at the Union Scandinavian Methodist School of Theology in Gothenberg, Sweden. He



BISHOP ODD HAGEN

was named president of the school in 1947, a post he held until elected bishop.

Bishop Hagen leaves his widow, the former Ruth Marthine Larsen, and three daughters.

*New York Times
Jan. 29 1970*

**BISHOP ODD HAGEN,
LED METHODIST UNIT**

Bishop Odd Hagen, president of the World Methodist Council since 1966, died yesterday after a short illness, according to word received from Stockholm. He was 64 years old.

Bishop Hagen, whose term was to have expired in 1971, headed the federation of 33 Methodist church bodies, with 20 million members in 90 countries. Since 1953, he had been bishop of the Stockholm area of the United Methodist Church—a district that includes Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Estonian Republic of the Soviet Union.

Bishop Hagen, who was born in Norway, was ordained in 1927. He became a professor of the Union Scandinavian Methodist School of Theology in Gothenberg, Sweden, in 1935 and president in 1947. He held that post until elected bishop.

Survivors include his widow, the former Ruth Marthine Larsen, and three daughters, Mrs. Lars Collin, Mrs. Kjell Forsting and Mrs. Arvid Rundberg.

THE RECORD, THURSDAY, JAN

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NEW YORK (UMI) -- Bishop Odd Hagen, 64, episcopal leader of 37,937 United Methodists in five European countries (including Russia) and president of the World Methodist Council, died January 28 in Stockholm, Sweden, after a brief illness.

Since 1966 Bishop Hagen had been head of the World Methodist Council, which is a federation of 33 independent Methodist Church bodies in some 90 countries. The churches have a combined membership estimated at 20,000,000 and a constituency estimated at 40,000,000.

Bishop Hagen was elected as Council president at the World Methodist Conference in London in 1966; his term would have expired in August, 1971. He had traveled extensively in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North and South America on work of the Council, and he presided at its Executive Committee meetings last September in Geneva, Switzerland.

Since 1953 Bishop Hagen had been episcopal leader of the Stockholm Area of the United Methodist Church. It comprises six annual conferences in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Soviet Union (in what was formerly Estonia, where there are an estimated 4,000 Methodists). He was elected bishop by the Northern Europe Central Conference of the Methodist Church and has served the Stockholm Area during all of his episcopacy.

Born in Trondheim, Norway, December 16, 1905, Bishop Hagen spent his early life there and attended the Union Methodist Scandinavian School of Theology at Gothenburg, Sweden, where he received the bachelor of theology degree. He continued

his education at Oslo University, Oslo, Norway, where he received the master of arts degree, and at Gothenburg University in Sweden, where he received the licentiate in philosophy. He received the honorary doctor of divinity degree from DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., in 1953 and the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash., in 1954, and the honorary doctor of laws degree from McMurry College, Abilene, Texas, in 1955.

Ordained in 1928, Bishop Hagen was pastor of Methodist churches at Sandsvaer, Bodo, Kolbotn and Rjukan, all in Norway, from 1927 to 1935. He was appointed a professor at the Union Methodist Scandinavian School of Theology in 1935 and served in that post until 1947 when he was elected president (principal) of the school.

Bishop Hagen was a delegate to Methodist General Conferences in 1940 and 1948, and was a delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in Evanston, Ill., in 1954. He received the St. Olav Medal from the King of Norway in 1950 for bettering international relations and service to religious life in Scandinavia. He had been president of the Swedish Free Church Council.

Bishop Hagen lectured on European theology at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., in 1949 and has spoken at numerous Methodist meetings in America. He was the author of four books and was a trustee of Bethany Hospital and St. Lukas Psychological Institute in Stockholm; for six years he was president of the Methodist Historical Society. He was one of a relatively few Methodists to visit the Methodists of Estonia since World War II.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Ruth Marthine Larsen Hagen, and three daughters, Mrs. Lars Collin, Mrs. Kjell Forsting and Mrs. Arvid Rundberg, all of Sweden. The funeral and burial were to be in Stockholm.

(January 29, 1970)