

World Council of Churches Archives:  
*Christian Medical Commission  
Relations with the Roman Catholic Church  
Archives of the General Secretaries*



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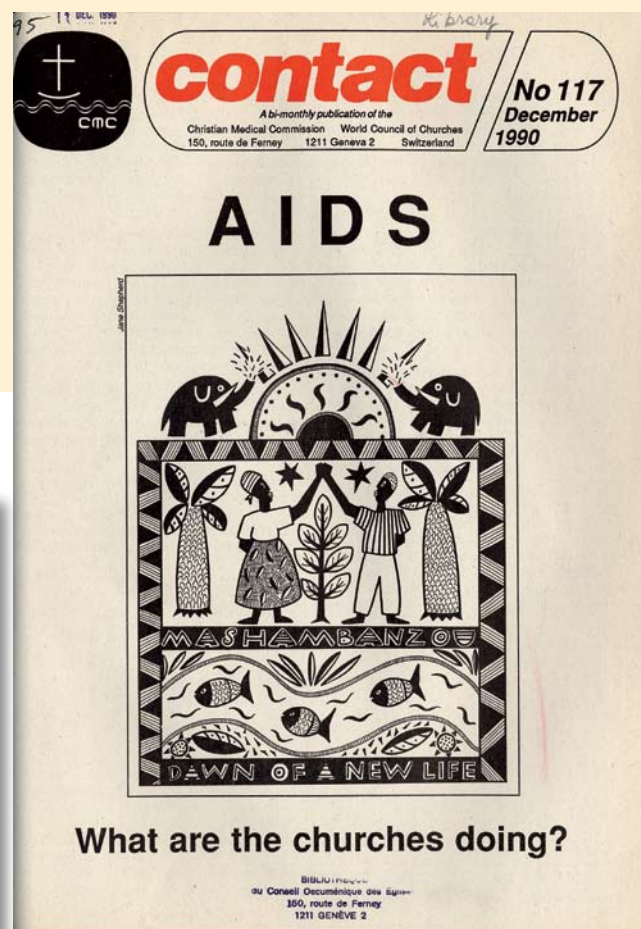
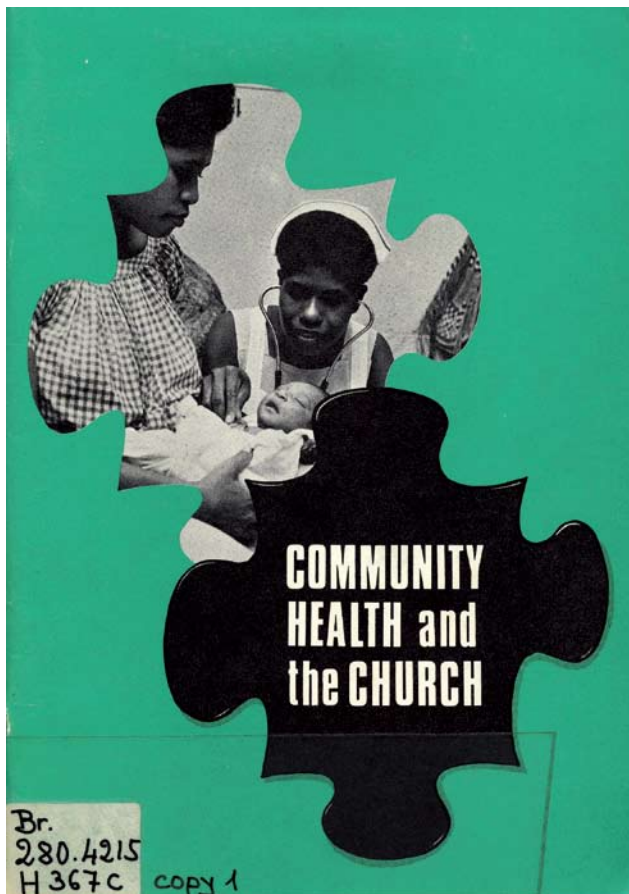
## World Council of Churches Archives: *Christian Medical Commission*

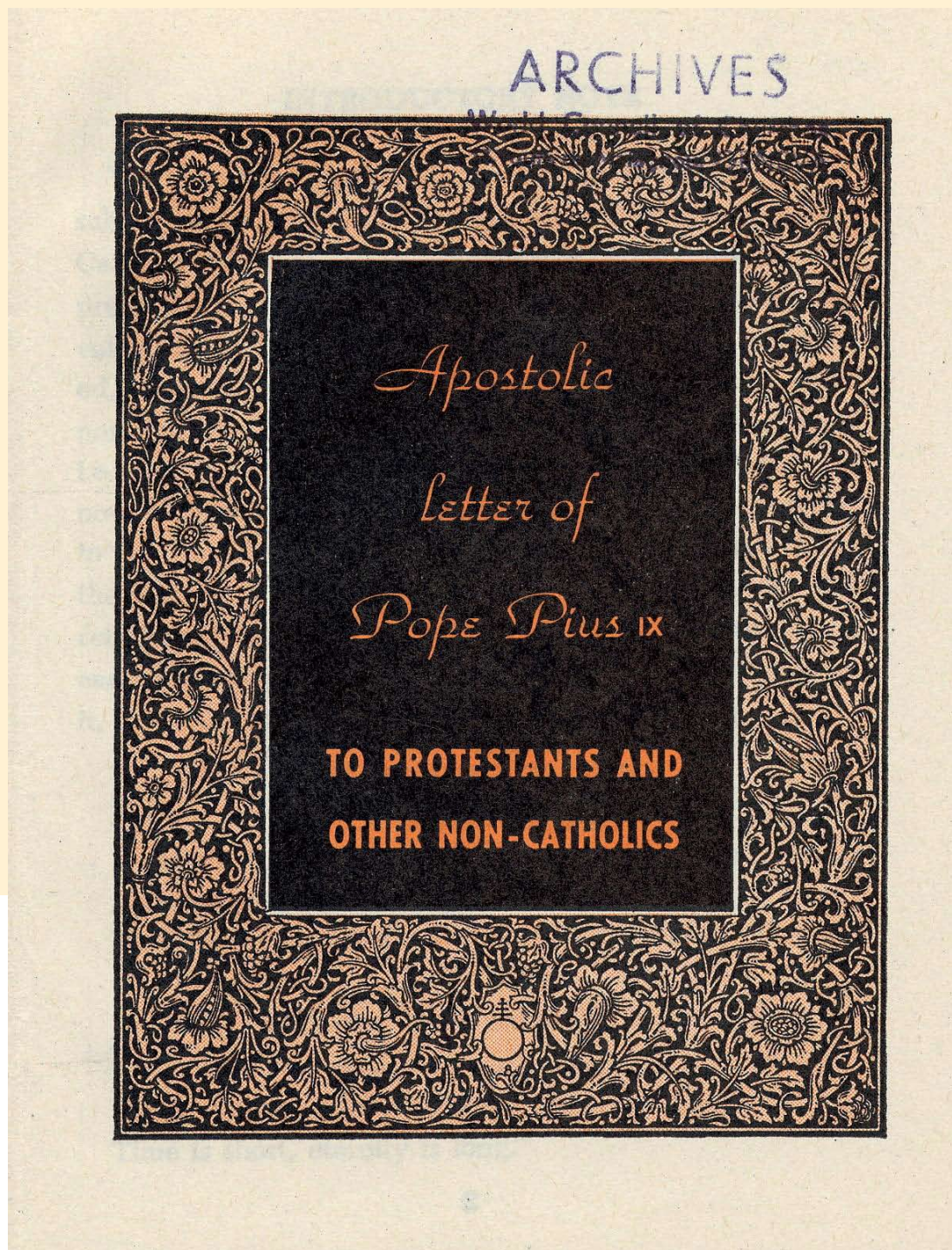
The Christian Medical Commission was founded in June 1968 under the auspices of the World Council of Churches. Born out of a long history of Christian involvement in health care, as one of the main focuses of Christian missionary work, there were more than 1,200 hospitals operated by member churches of the WCC worldwide. This new body was charged with the responsibility of promoting the coordination of national church-related medical programmes and with studying the most appropriate ways in which the churches could become involved in total health care.

The present collection of microform documents includes correspondence, minutes, personal notes, press cuttings, publications, reports and speeches. It includes correspondence with the World Health Organization (WHO), the League of the Red Cross, the World Bank, and Christian Medical Associations, as well as contributions from Nita Barrow, Stuart Kingma, Eric Ram, James McGilvray, and Nicole Fischer.

### RECORDS ARE DIVIDED INTO EIGHT SECTIONS:

- History of the CMC
- Meetings, workshops and reports
- Programmes and projects: AIDS, Pharmaceutical programmes, CMC programmes
- Country files
- Travel reports
- Collaborations: coordinating agencies, other organisations
- Staff and Finances
- Publications and film production





## World Council of Churches Archives: *Relations with the Roman Catholic Church*

Collaboration between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches began in 1961 with the exchange of officially delegated observers. In November 1964, Pope Paul VI's Vatican II Decree on Ecumenism was an impetus for closer collaboration between the Catholic Church and the WCC, leading to the creation of a joint working group with a five-year experimental mandate.

The collection, on microform, gives access to the ecumenical archives which record the WCC's relations with the Roman Catholic Church in the period 1948-1992. The documents in the archives consist of correspondence, personal notes, press cuttings, reports and unpublished material. The collection

includes correspondence with Pope Paul VI, Pope John Paul II, Cardinal Bea and the Community of Taizé.

### **RECORDS ARE DIVIDED INTO FIVE SECTIONS:**

- General documentation
- Roman Catholic Church
- Council Vatican II
- Joint Working Group
- Sodepax

# World Council of Churches archives: *Archives of the General Secretaries Archives*

The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches is elected by the Central Committee and is the Chief Executive Officer of the WCC. The General Secretary organizes Governing Body meetings and directs the activities of the Council, as well as analysing trends affecting the ecumenical movement and initiating debate on emerging issues. The General Secretary projects and promotes the image of the Council to member churches, ecumenical partners, secular bodies and authorities.



Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft (General Secretary 1948-1966)

Finally, he defines the long-range strategic directions of the WCC. There have been six General Secretaries: Dr. Willem Adolf Visser 't Hooft (1948-1966), Eugene Carson Blake (1966-1972), Philip Alford Potter (1972-1984), Emilio Castro (1985-1992), Konrad Raiser (1993-2003), and Samuel Kobia (since 2004).

The present collection makes available on microform the ecumenical archives of the first four WCC General Secretaries, in the period 1920-1992. The documents in the archives consist of articles, manuscripts, personal notes, speeches and works.

The archives of the World Council of Churches are frequently consulted by researchers working on the history of the ecumenical movement. These three collections are now available on microform.

## PRODUCT INFORMATION

*World Council of Churches: Christian Medical Commission*

WCC- 10: 83 Reels

*World Council of Churches: Relations with the Roman Catholic Church*

WCC-11: 51 Reels

*World Council of Churches: Archives of the General Secretaries*

WCC-12: 53 Reels



EAD finding aid accessible through [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl).

Languages: The collections are mostly in English, with some French texts.

## Related Titles:

World Council of Churches: Correspondence of the General Secretariat

World Council of Churches: General Correspondence

Dialogue with People of Living Faiths

International Missionary Council Archives, 1910-1961

WCC Programme to Combat Racism

For more information please visit [www.idc.nl](http://www.idc.nl) or contact [info@idc.nl](mailto:info@idc.nl)

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