

AIMS

1. To promote the Missionary vision in the churches.
2. To form a national register of E.M.S.I. Missionaries.
3. To visit local churches, promoting conferences, discussions, etc. on the theme of "Mission".
4. To promote a deeper knowledge of scripture through reading, contemplation, preaching, and studying the Word of God, by putting men who are prepared for the ministry at the disposal of churches or groups of believers, by co-operating together in initiative to expand the Kingdom of God and to save the lost, to found local churches or to morally support those already in existence both nationally and abroad.
5. To support the family and/or the single person who, having a clear calling, will dedicate themselves to missionary activity, in Italy and abroad.
6. To publish books, magazines, newspaper, audio tapes, video tapes and all types of teaching material necessary for the fulfilment of social aims.
7. To set up and run nurseries, schools, colleges, courses, conferences, conventions, discussion groups, lectures, study groups, missions, study tours and anything else which can be useful to promote and to run non-profit social institutions.
8. To run activities of social relief and relevant services (also working with other voluntary organisations) to assist with and for the recovery, rehabilitation and development of minors, the elderly, for the socially impaired and in general for morally and physically needy people, inspired by Christian principle through the Word of God.
9. To establish a course of study for the theological preparation of those whose are called to be ministers, missionaries, preachers and workers in other activities for the purpose of proclaiming the gospel.

INTRODUCTION TO E.M.S.I.

E.M.S.I. (Società Missionaria Evangelica Italiana) was conceived in March 1997. It was then founded officially in October 1997. One of the founding members received a strong inner conviction from the Lord to start this society with the purpose of sharing the missionary vision with His Church and to help us recognise that we ourselves are the answer to His challenge: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send (us) forth labourers ..." Matthew 9:37-38. There is therefore a need for information about mission and missionaries so that we may pray and support them. We desire to encourage people to get personally involved, prompted by the Lord, in expanding the Kingdom of God, so that we may catch a vision for the Lord's work and become sensitive towards the needs of others; keeping in mind that Christian service is born out of, and is the result of, a real reconciliation between Christ and ourselves. It is on the basis of reconciliation that service is rendered. 2 Corinthians 5:18, 20. Having a vision or being a missionary (i.e. being sent) does not just involve preaching a message. It has to do, above all, with personal living, following in Christ's footsteps in such a way as to reveal His character, His methods, and His aims. According to the teaching of the NT, serving means to "do service as deacons". This idea did not appeal to Greek society of the day, because the term 'deacon' described servants as those 'waiting on tables', belonging to the lowest social classes. The teaching of the NT, however, puts an emphasis on that kind of service which comes from off the Altar and reaches out to all men. Philippians 2:5-8. For this reason, E.M.S.I. would like, where possible, to help prepare those who have the 'calling' and the 'will' to serve the Lord, but lack the basic knowledge necessary to minister intelligently and profitably. As a Church we should always be looking to, or be prepared, to send out workers into the Mission Field, wherever God wants and to be more generous in giving both people and resources, so that others can be encouraged to do the same. It should be the job of the Elders to prepare others to have this vision. The local Church should not consider the departure of someone as a loss, but as a privilege given by God. A Church in which these things happen should feel blessed, because it is in giving that we receive and if we are generous in giving men to the Lord for Him to use, we will see God supplying every need.

'Proclaiming Christ until He returns': is the Christian mission and therefore an urgent commission, for we do not know how much time we have. We certainly have no time to waste. To make progress more quickly with our responsibilities we have to meet certain requirements, especially in unity and sacrifice. Many of us have seen the Great Commission as a free choice, to accept or to refuse, but we have no option. It is the message of the Church! We wish to dedicate this Missionary Society to Norman Meeten because he is a living example and a constant inspiration regarding Missionary work and it is with this kind of attitude which should be found in those wishing to serve in

E.M.S.I.

the Founding Members: **Vincenzo Paci & Davide Ciccio**

HOW TO JOIN THE E.M.S.I.

1. You must have a missionary vision, which means being available for others as "broken bread and poured out wine".
2. You need to identify with the aims of the E.M.S.I.
3. You should be able to identify yourself with the statement of faith of the society and with the introduction.
4. You should fill in the Application Form and send it to the official Head Quarters of E.M.S.I., accompanied by one photo (only for Missionary Members) and any Certificates of relevant to Theological study.
5. _____

PRE-ENROLMENT APPLICATION FORM (to be completed and sent to the official H.Q.)

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Age: _____

Address

Road/Street: _____

Town/City: _____

County: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Profession: _____

Church: _____

Office/Position: _____

Membership Type: Missionary/Supporter *

(* Delete one)

I would like to have a copy of the Rules.

I would like to join E.M.S.I. Please send me the Application Form and a copy of the Rules.

For correspondence send to:

E.M.S.I. - C.so Indipendenza, 29 sc/A

95122 Catania - Italy

Tel/Fax: +39 095 - 20 27 35 - Mobile: 347 - 371 45 09

Smeimission@inwind.it

www.smeimission.it

MEMBERSHIP

All evangelical believers may become members of the Association, who fulfil a ministry (elders, teachers, pastors, evangelists, deacons, Sunday school teachers, etc.) and agree to the Statement of Faith in this article.

Members are divided into:

Missionary Members, Honorary Members, Supporting Members.

- a) **Missionary Members** are those who are signatories to the constitution and all those who apply for membership according to article 8 of the constitution and pay an annual membership fee to the Association, including fees required in the future to support various activities. This title gives them the right to vote and to put themselves up as candidates for the Board of Directors, providing that they have reached the legal age and have the moral and spiritual qualification according to the Holy Scriptures to hold such an office. These, in contrast to the other members, will actively work on the mission field. They will be issued with a proper identifying documents stating their enrolment to the National Missionary Register of E.M.S.I. and their position within the Association. The Missionary Member will have to support himself, unless authorised otherwise, by the Board of Directors.
- b) **Honorary Member** is a title given by the Board of Directors to those who have done something relevant in the interest of the Association. They will be exempt from paying the annual membership fee, and they can enjoy the benefits provided for the Missionary Member, but they are bound to observe the rules and the internal regulations. Honorary Members can take part in the meetings of the Association but have no right to vote and cannot be voted onto the Board of Directors.
- c) **Supporting Members** are all those that cannot be involved in practical work for the Association, but wish to support it financially, and are joined to it because they identify with the aims of the Association. These members do not have the right to vote and are not compelled to pay the annual fee. Their position is not limited only to the voluntary financial support, it is also practical, as it includes praying for the Missionary Members.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- a) **We believe** that the Holy Scripture, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, are the Word of God, divinely inspired, infallible and the final authority on issues of faith, life and behaviour.
- b) **We believe** that there is one only true God, co-existing in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, the same in essence and substance and equal in knowledge, goodness, power and glory.
- c) **We believe** in the dual nature of Christ: perfect God, and perfect Man; born of a virgin; in His life without sin, in His teaching without error, in His vicarious life and His propitiatory death through which we have redemption through His blood and forgiveness of sins; in His bodily resurrection from death, in His ascension to heaven, in His present and constant intercession, in His personal return at the end of the present age to resurrect the dead, glorify the church and to judge the world and to reign as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
- d) **We believe** that man was created innocent in the image of God, that he was tempted by Satan, that he fell into sin and that as a consequence he and his descendants entered into physical and spiritual death which consist in separation from God.
- e) **We believe** that lost and sinful man can be saved only by the work of regeneration through the work of the Holy Spirit which comes about when man repents from sin and puts his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- f) **We believe** that the Holy Spirit is He who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgement and Who dwells in the believer from the moment in which he is regenerated, giving him the ability to live a holy life in this present age manifesting the fruit of the Spirit according to Galatians 5:22.
- g) **We believe** that the Gifts of the Spirit are for today, but we do not accept that 'speaking in other tongues' is a sign or evidence that must accompany the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believer.
- h) **We believe** that the church of Jesus Christ is formed by all those that have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, that gather in local churches where the Word of God is faithfully preached.
- i) **We believe** in the physical resurrection of all men and that those who have been saved will go to a living and blessed Eternity, while the disobedient will go to eternal perdition.

E.M.S.I. *THE EVANGELICAL* *MISSIONARY SOCIETY* *OF ITALY* *“Norman Meeten”*



“Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:13-14