



THE PROTESTANT COUNCIL of the City of New York

the delegated agent of

Protestant Churches within Greater New York

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THE PROTESTANT AND ORTHODOX CENTER
NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965

(Dedication -- April 26, 1964, 3:45 p.m. in the Court of Christian Pioneers)

The Protestant and Orthodox Center occupies one of the larger sites at the New York World's Fair -- 75,000 square feet on the Avenue of the Americas, midway between the main entrance gate and the Unisphere at the center of the Fair grounds.

Soaring 80 feet into the air, the Main Tower with its lighted cross suspended within a stylized version of the world will be visible from many parts of the grounds to proclaim the overall theme of the Center -- "Jesus Christ, the Light of the World."

The Protestant Council of the City of New York built the Center believing that it is imperative to take the Faith where the people are. More than 70 million people from every continent are expected to visit the Fair over the two year period. Amidst all the splendid monuments to science, commerce, industry, and governments, the Protestant and Orthodox Center will serve as an inspiring reminder of the grandeur of God's love and Christ's sacrifice.

Because of the size of the site, which represents a ^{*}\$600,000 voluntary contribution from the World's Fair Corporation, The Protestant Council and its architect, Henry Stone, decided to give the Center an unusually distinctive air of serenity. This was accomplished by confining the exhibit area to 8,500 square feet and devoting the remainder of the vast space to such features as an outdoor Music Garden, an indoor-outdoor Children's Center, a Lounge, and a Theater. In addition to providing inspiration and rest for Protestant visitors, these areas create a warm and inviting atmosphere for persons of other faiths. Visitors of all faiths will also be welcome in the Chapel, both for the regularly scheduled services and at other times for private meditation.

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Entrance to the trapezoid-shaped, air conditioned building is through the Court of Christian Pioneers, a 160 foot ellipse formed by 30 foot columns enclosing the Main Tower and Fountain. The columns honor the great leaders whose names have echoed through history: St. Andrew, Luther, Calvin, Bishop Asbury and thirty others.

Once inside, the visitor's gaze is drawn to a 43 foot stained glass wall brilliantly lighted from behind and depicting the entire range of Christian belief from the Creation and Fall through the Resurrection and the New Heaven and Earth. Valued at \$25,000, the stained glass was completed following a nation-wide design competition and is scheduled for installation in St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Granada Hills, California, after the Fair closes in 1965.

The stained glass facade forms a backdrop for the Reception Center staffed by volunteers representing the Host Churches. Here the visitor can get directions to the various denominational exhibits and information about the locations and services of the 1,700 New York City churches represented by The Protestant Council.

Host Churches are those which have contributed to the costs of maintaining the Center. In addition to acting as hosts in the pavilion, their members and clergy will conduct Chapel services.

The Exhibit Hall offers a view of the history, faith and witness of each of the twenty-one denominations and church related organizations participating. Ninety percent of America's 65 million Protestants will be represented in the most comprehensive presentation of Protestantism and Greek Orthodoxy ever assembled.

To the rear of the Exhibit Hall is the 372-seat Theater where The Protestant Council's recently completed 35mm sound and color film, "Parable", will be screened on a regular schedule each day, along with other religious films and slide programs.

The spacious indoor Lounge looks out on a beautifully landscaped Music Garden, the setting for the famed Coventry Cross, the most precious

possession of the Cathedral Church of St. Michael in Coventry, England. The cross was made from charred beams shortly after 14th century Coventry Cathedral was destroyed, along with most of the city, during an all-night air raid early in World War II. For this cross the church members fashioned an altar of rubble and inscribed on it the words "Father Forgive." The loan of the cross was arranged by the U.S. Conference for the World Council of Churches to symbolize "the over-arching unity of the churches and the basic doctrine of resurrection and reconciliation." Soft carillon music, a terraced patio landscaped with trees and flowering shrubs, and a sparkling fountain provide an ideal setting for visitors who wish to rest and contemplate the lesson of Coventry.

Far from the main traffic stream, a Chapel, dramatically simple and uncluttered, will beckon to those who long for a few moments of quiet reflection. An electronic organ has been installed for use when services conducted by Host Churches are in progress.

The Children's Center will be of surpassing interest to parents who want to cover more ground than their offspring can manage. Here, in a kindergarten-like atmosphere, professionals will supervise a happy oasis for the small fry. The Children's Center will be completely equipped with a wide range of new and specially designed apparatus donated by Creative Playthings, Inc., of Princeton, New Jersey, America's leading producer of nursery equipment. Here the child will be introduced to an exciting new world of ideas which will challenge his imagination and instill a desire for curious discovery of some of the wonders of creation and of nature. The Children's Center will provide a wholesome, constructive, and rewarding experience which should be the delight of both children and parents. A moderate charge covers the services of the trained supervisors.

The Protestant Council of the City of New York built the Center so that Protestantism and Orthodoxy may be powerfully represented in this major opportunity of the century to show church members and non-church members alike the supreme relevance of Christianity to modern life.

The Protestant Council is the agency through which 1,700 churches in Greater New York consult, plan, experiment and act together in serving the

people of the city. In addition to presenting the Protestant view on public issues and cooperating with other organizations to strengthen the social, moral and spiritual life of New York, the Council annually serves some 250,000 persons and families which have special needs.

*The Protestant and Orthodox Center at the World's Fair represents a \$3 million investment, including the gifts of land and some equipment.

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