

May 8, 1969 – 50th Anniversary of League of Red Cross Societies

From the official Ethiopian post office folder:

The League of Red Cross Societies – Most Active in Peace Times – 1919 -1969

The League of the Red Cross Societies is a Federation of 111 National Societies, bound together by the doctrine of Red Cross to work out and propose to the individual Red Cross Societies a program of action on behalf of the general welfare of humanity. Thus on May 5, 1919, the League of Red Cross Societies was founded to perpetuate the following duties:

1. To encourage and facilitate the establishment and development in every country of a national, independent and duly authorized Red Cross Society working in accordance with the principles of the Geneva Conventions and of its International Red Cross Conference and the Board of Governors;
2. To act as a permanent liaison between national Red Cross Societies, for such coordination and study as may help them in organizing and carrying out their national and international activities;
3. To cooperate with the Red Cross Societies in all spheres of their work, in particular for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering;
4. To represent the national Red Cross Societies on the international level and to be the exclusive spokesman to express opinions of its members as a whole on questions which have been the subject of resolutions by the Board of Governors;
5. To be the guardian of the integrity of its members and the protector of their interests;
6. To cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in matters affecting the work of either institution.

The LRCS receives no Government grants and is an institution free of any political, racial and religious ties. Over the years the League of Red Cross Societies has proved itself worthy of its objectives. Through its constant encouragement and technical assistance the number of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun National Societies grew from only 65 in 1947 to 111 in 1968. Through its encouragement, assistance and advices National Societies developed from organizations for relief work only to organizations of more permanent services, such as training and education in First-Aid, professional nursing, accident prevention, civil defense, blood transfusion etc. Through the liaison and coordination of the LRCS, national Societies now work more closely and communicate more purposefully.

Sun members pay homage to the 50th Anniversary of the League of Red Cross Societies. On May 8, 1969 the Red Cross bell tolls “In a changing world, Red Cross Stands for tomorrow.”

In a rapidly changing world, the Red Cross is not a thing of the past, but definitely of the present, endeavoring to anticipate the future by bringing improved techniques and realism to its tasks and its concern for a better and more peaceful World. The League of Red Cross Societies, armed with its principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality, remains to be the vanguard of this humane idealism.