

Go Ye Into All the World and Preach the Gospel to Every Creature

WHERE ARE THE CALLED?

In the initial stages of my ministry in the homeland I was thrilled over and over because of the countless numbers of young men and women who stood up and offered their lives for God's great service. I felt that in one year alone I could conservatively say that at least 10,000 had stood to their feet in meetings, but as the months and years have gone by, one question has constantly come before me: "Where are these young people today?"

Then this thought gripped me: There have been many missionaries and others who have challenged countless thousands of lives. During some of the outstanding meetings when the Holy Spirit seemed to stir so many hearts, there was even a fear expressed that too many were getting interested in missions. But in the final analysis comparatively few were stepping out. What had happened to them?

I determined to find out and so night after night in meetings I asked for a show of hands of those who had at one time or another offered themselves to the Lord for missionary service. I was truly amazed as I found anywhere from 40 to 80 per cent of the audience would put up their hands. Yes, at one time they had expressed a willingness to follow Christ but they are still sitting in their seats. How many have come to us with tears and told of the sad experience of how once God had truly spoken to them but they had pushed this calling aside.

One old gentleman, fully 75, came up after one of the services with tears running down his cheeks. He told the story of how when a young man God had spoken to his heart. He talked it over with his pastor who thought he was rather foolish, pointing out that he was not qualified for such a job. Then he reminded the Lord he was doing all that he could in the church but the Lord continued to move on his heart showing He wanted more of his life. He told how he went home to his folks and told them the story of how God was dealing with him; they withstood him to his face. "Eventually," he said, "I listened to the advice of men and I have been a failure all my life." He wiped the tears from his eyes as he made his way out of the church.

The local pastor of his church had been listening over his shoulder. "I couldn't help but overhear," he said, "but this man has been one of the most faithful men in our church, and yet I can see how unhappy he has been." Certainly it is true that no service will take the place of the one God has chosen for our lives. Others have been broken hearted as they have sensed the precious opportunity of their lives has gone.

Is it that God did not want these lives? Or was it a case of the Lord's inability to get

them the way He wanted them? I have talked to many who have had visions and special callings, but the majority of those I have met are still in the United States. God's call is not based on a dream or on a vision, nor on some spectacular special phenomena. It is based very clearly on the Word of God and when we dare to act by faith, we will find that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct our lives. So, it is a combination of the love of Christ, the Word of God, faith in the Holy Spirit to guide us. The Lord does use visions and dreams, but I am glad that there is something more definite than this to show me my place in Him.

I think most people stumble at faith. They want a sure objective, a definite indication that they should obey God in this way and yet if we are so sure, if we are so certain, then where does it require faith? The Word says if it "is not of faith, it is of sin." This job is not made to order. It does not become a part of us whether we want it to or not. It is not true that we just wander through life and if God chooses to use us in a special way, He does something supernatural to let us know. It is quite obvious that giving our lives as a living sacrifice, wholly, acceptable to God is the reasonable expectation from every child of God.

The Holy Spirit does not start us, but we move by faith in obedience to God's word. Then the Holy Spirit leads. The Holy Spirit is faithful in stopping us; but still He cannot start us. "Without faith we cannot please God." So the materially-minded man who likes to think clearly, even in spiritual things, has to learn that God's possibilities only become realities as we dare to live for them by faith.

So it is a solemn step that a man takes when he says an all-out, yes, to Christ because it is true that the Holy Spirit has spoken to hearts and when He speaks there is an eternal purpose behind it. If we fail to find God's first place for our life, we have missed the biggest thing a man can live for. We can find some consolation in the fact that other lives haven't amounted to much, but he that compareth himself with another is not wise. Our excuse surely will not be acceptable in the day of judgment.—Selected.

THE BIBLE, A MISSIONARY BOOK

Every book in the New Testament was written by a foreign missionary.

Every epistle in the New Testament that was written to a church was written to a foreign-missionary church.

Every letter in the New Testament that was written to an individual was written to the convert of a foreign missionary.

The one book of prophecy in the New Testament was written to seven foreign-missionary churches in Asia.

The language of the books of the New Testament is the missionary's language.

The map of the early Christian world is the tracing of the missionary journeys of the apostles.

The problems which arose in the early church were largely questions of missionary procedure.

Of the twelve apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus, every apostle except one became a missionary.

—The King's Business.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Hartland Mission Station,
15th June, 1948.

Dear Friends:

Greetings in Jesus' name. We had been looking forward to meeting you at Beulah this year but God seems to have willed it otherwise. As yet the door is closed. But in His own time He will locate the right boat for us and open the door. In the intervening time we are finding plenty to do at home and many places to visit the people in their homes, (George especially!)

Last Friday I had the privilege of visiting Josephine Sukazi again. The time before she was "sitting in ashes" as it were. It was a pitiful sight. In the round spots where her 8 (I think) huts had stood, were simply black ashes. All those huts had been mysteriously burned! We had a really blessed service there that day, in the one remaining hut. A very short time later that hut was also consumed by the un-accounted-for-fire. They moved to a new site and built more buildings. Those also were set afire. So they went a little farther away and built again. But once more the grass hut went up in flames and smoke. So Josephine has given up thatching her huts. Two were erected. We gathered together; Charles and I shared a box, and the others sat on grass mats and goat-skins. It was not much of a shelter from the sun nor the cold wind, sweeping up the mountain-side, from the Pongolo River. But God met us there. That poor, tired woman's testimony to the saving and keeping and satisfying power of Jesus blessed and thrilled my soul! Through "fiery afflictions" and persecution, she stands forth as God's brave witness, alone, amongst an ungodly, heathen family. Her husband had caused her great grief by seeking the culprit at the hands of witches and wizards. But he is an unconverted, hard-hearted heathen. His five young sons all are following in their father's steps. One daughter has made a start.