

A Jungle Lad's First Work for Christ

By J. L. Phillips, M.D.

A bright lad of fourteen, fresh from the jungles, came into Midnapore and entered our Santal training school. Quick to learn, he soon caught the spirit of the school and made rapid progress in study. A deep feeling of truly intelligent concern for their soul's welfare was increasing among these Santal lads, and this one began to share it. His clear and pointed questions, his honest and humbling confessions, his very hearty and touchingly earnest prayers, all drew my attention to him, and impressed me that he was to become a chosen vessel for the Master's use. He was one of the first boys to be converted. His heart was filled with light and flooded with love. His joy was calm and deep and constant.

One morning, just a few days after his conversion, he came to me and asked for leave to go home. Fancying it was but a fickle notion, a mere whim or a fit of homesickness, such as jungle lads often have, I answered that I could not think of letting him off now, for the term had just begun, and that when vacation came he should go home like all the other boys.

He quickly stepped out of my room, and I thought he was gone, but presently I found him standing on the veranda. Coming up to me again, his voice tremulous with emotion, he said, "Do let me go home now." The reason for his request occurred to me at once, but to test him I said, "Why do you wish to go home now? Tell me freely and I'll think of it."

The big tears began to fall, and for full five minutes he could not speak. Recovering his calmness, he said so heartily, "Jesus has pardoned me; my heart is so happy I want to tell my friends about Jesus. My father and mother have never heard His name. Let me go home to tell them now." It was impossible to refuse him this earnest request, so I said, "Go home, and we shall pray for you and for your friends."

He went, and was gone several days. The journey to his jungle home occupied two days, it being forty miles away. This Santal lad came back to us with such a happy heart, having told his friends what Jesus had done for him. And the ripe, rich fruit of his seed-sowing came as one by one—first the mother, then the father, then three brothers and two sisters all came into the light and into the Church of Christ.

My story teaches a plain lesson and one that every young convert should take to heart. Begin working for Christ at once, when you know the peace that pardon brings. In the freshness and fervor of your first love tell your friends of the Savior you have found, and invite your worldly and careless associates to come to Him.

In some places I have known much good done by the early and earnest efforts of young disciples. What a safeguard, too, is such work for Christ! I believe it has held many a soul back from danger and defection. And I believe also that neglecting these early efforts has paved the path for poor wayward and wandering souls who have gone out from Father's house into the far country of want and woe.

WHAT PLACE HAVE I GIVEN GOD?

Am I giving to God the second place?

As my crowded years sweep on apace,
Hurrying to work, do I fail to pray

And seek His guidance at dawn of day?
Have worldly companions made more dim

My sense of His presence, my love for Him?
Have I neglected to do His will?

That my own small plans I might fulfill?
Have I let my cares and worries increase

'Til they crowd out from my life His peace?
Pardon me, Father of infinite grace,

If I have given Thee second place!

Henceforth be Thou first, all others above—
First in my thought, and my work and my

love. —Effie Smith Ely

If I GO NOT . . . to those who have not heard;
If I withhold from them God's precious Word;
If sin cursed heathen go to Christless graves
And never, never know that Jesus saves;

If by my negligence some souls are lost
Despite God's mercy and Calvary's untold
cost;

If I care not for those in distant lands,
Shall not their blood guilt be upon my hands?

IF I PRAY NOT . . . for those who witness
bear;

If I no intercessory burden share;
If God's dear servants ne'er are on my heart,
And in their labours, I have no part;

If by my prayerlessness there comes an hour,
When they lack wisdom, or grace, or strength,
or power

And captive souls escape not sin's strong
bands,

Shall not their blood-guilt be upon my hands?

IF I GIVE NOT . . . and by all selfishness
I cause God's work and workers sore distress;
If my poor stingy heart will hardened be
To needs of others, their necessity;

If by my failure some shall never hear
The message of salvation, then I fear
Mine is the sin, and justice fair demands

That I accept the guilt of bloody hands.
—Sel.

A CHRISTLIKE CONSECRATION

I will place no value on anything I have or may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance the interests of that Kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I may promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity.—David Livingstone.

WHAT WE CHOOSE TO DO WHEN WE ARE FREE TO CHOOSE WHAT WE PLEASE IS AN UNFAILING TEST OF CHARACTER.

Let all converts keep in mind Jesus' words to the cruel demoniac: "Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee."

—The British Evangelist.

Heart Talks to Young Men

If you cannot find the right company, then glory in the thought of being in a class by yourself. Better be isolated than contaminated. Better be twitted now than unfitted later to fill a place God has called you to.

The boy who is careful in choosing his companions from among boys will not be likely to make a serious mistake when later he chooses a life long companion from among the girls. Oh the sad and wretched homes all over the world, because of hasty and wrong choices in this respect. My boy! you are going through life only once, and you cannot afford to make a fatal mistake. But how shall one choose?? Let me offer a few suggestions.

i. Do not choose a girl because her family have money, lest her riches take wings, and you have nothing left. Better marry a poor girl with a Godly heritage, than one well off, from a worldly home.

ii. Do not choose because of beauty. A little burn, or a scald, or a siege of sickness can soon mar a pretty face or beautiful form. Besides this it requires more than beauty to cook a good meal, and keep the home happy.

iii. Do not choose because of accomplishments such as good education, or musical talents. These are nice, but, diplomas, pianos, and nice singing, do not mend clothes, iron shirts, or keep patient in times of affliction.

iv. You should look for piety. This is worth more than all natural gifts.

v. Look for good sense, and an agreeable manner. Adam Clarke says: "Good natural tempers are of great consequence. Get a wife who possessed these before she was brought to God; and should she at any time lose ground in religion, her good natural disposition will still remain and your comfort will not be materially affected. But when a woman who has had bad natural tempers loses that life of God by which they were controlled or kept at bay, she becomes intolerable. Avoid a person of this character though as rich as Croesus and as beautiful to look upon as an Angel.

vi. Look for true affection. Where this exists, domestic bliss is sure to follow; where this exists it will be almost impossible for a third party to get between. Choose a girl who has proven herself loyal, rather than one that flirts with every boy that comes along.

—Rev. T. T. Shelhamer.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS FOR THE MINISTRY

"Do get on with your studies. Remember you are now forming the character of your future ministry in great measure, if God spare you. If you acquire slovenly or sleepy habits of study now, you will never get the better of it. Do everything in its own time. Do every thing in earnest; if it is worth doing then do it with all your might. Above all keep much in the presence of God. Never see the face of man until you have seen His face who is our light, our all. Pray for others; pray for your teachers and fellow students.

—McCheyne.