

the **Way**

December, 1956

magazine



Final — The Dilemma of Foreign Missions in India

A Guide to Power for Abundant Living

THE WAY is more than a magazine—it is the heart-beat of the ministry of men and women of God, filled with the holy spirit the power from on high and operating the “gifts” of the Spirit. YOUR SUBSCRIPTION for extra copies of THE WAY gets this vital ministry of deliverance into action across the world.

THE COVER PICTURE

Luke 2:8, “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.” This is the cave and this is the place of the shepherds on the Judean hills just a short distance East of the City of Bethlehem the night the Christ Child was born. Into this cave the shepherds could retreat from the cold and blistering winds. At its entrance can be seen small open hearths where the shepherds could warm themselves and prepare their simple food rations.

Today this location is being well preserved under the watchful eye and care of the Y.M.C.A. of Jerusalem, whose property it is. Above the entrance are the words “Field of the Shepherds.” Just to the south a few rods, and down in the valley you can see the “Fields of Boaz” where Ruth gleaned grain according to the Bible. In the entrance to the cave are two of Dr. Wierwille’s children: Donnie and Karen.

As you look west from these Judean hills across the fields of Boaz and the open valley, the City of Bethlehem rises up so majestic and yet quiet in the distance, the City which must have laid so peacefully under the moon and stars that night so long ago when Jesus the Christ of God was born.

The Way, Inc.

DR. VICTOR PAUL WIERWILLE
President and Editor-in-Chief

Dorothea Wierwille . . . Managing Editor
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SPECIAL ADVISORS

Kathryn Perry and Rhoda Becker
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The Dilemma of Foreign Missions in India

By

Victor Paul Wierwille, Th.D.

(Continued from November Issue)

Chapter IV

THE INDIGENOUS LOCAL SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP OF PEOPLE'S OWN CHOICE

The only solution true to the
cultural heritage of Indians.

Indigenous local leadership without any foreign mission administration or control is the only solution to the building of the Christian Church in India. According to the Indian culture the leadership resides in and with the people who are the ac-

tual beneficiaries. The people rally around a leader who is spiritual and they follow him and raise him to a position of leadership. This is the culture of India and if the Church is to survive it must fall in line with the culture.

The real NATIONAL Church in India has for the most part not yet been born or established. It is struggling to be born and will be born in spite of the fact that foreign missions are well

established and endeavor to prohibit and thwart its birth.

To be national certainly does not mean to be anti-foreign. It simply means to be what you are. If Indian, Indian; if American, American.

WHAT IS AN INDIAN NATIONAL CHURCH?

It is one that is indigenous and ruled by its own elected "Panchayat," who represent the people and are responsible to the people, independent of ALL and ANY outside control, be it within the nation or from without the nation.

The true Indian National Church is SELF-SUPPORTING, SELF-GOVERNING, and SELF-PROPAGATING. It is native to the culture and soil where it lives.

The Indian National Church is striving for independence of ALL the foreign ecclesiastical administrative systems and controls and to govern itself by its own elected delegates, who are indigenous local church leaders, who form the ruling body. This is Indian culture and thus right and proper for the Indians. Any foreign system will not fit.

The foreign missionaries have among them political diplomats of the highest order, whose influence has been deeply ingrained in government circles throughout the years and they

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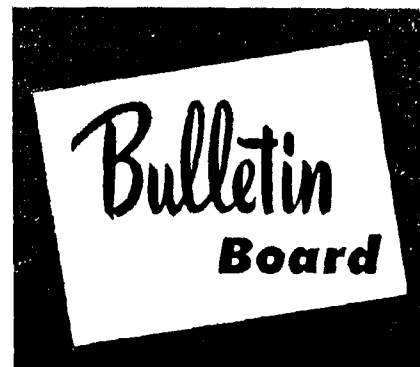
will reluctantly give up their foreign policy of administrative control and leadership. There are over 300 foreign missionary societies, churches or groups in India propounding their "own brands" of Christianity with about 5,000 foreign missionaries. They say that there are 8 million Christians in India of whom more than 59% are Roman Catholics.

Foreign missionaries ARE WELCOMED and NEEDED in India but they must come under the self directing and self governing INDIAN NATIONAL CHURCH if they are to continue in the land.

As we said before, INDIANIZATION of the Church is not the answer, NATIONALIZATION is:

The National Churches of India desire no foreign pampering. They must be treated as equals. They desire to win peoples to a loyalty to Jesus Christ which does not include the acquiring of land for them, or establishing them in good paid jobs, or getting them loans or a bride. They realize too well that the financial support from abroad means their foreign system of control. This the Indian National Christians will not countenance.

(Continued on page 6)



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THE WAY, INC.
Van Wert, Ohio

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WEEK OF PRAYER

January 6-11, 1957

with

Dr. Richard Rettig from Pittsburgh. Nightly 7:30 P.M. Home of THE WAY, Van Wert, Ohio. Prayer for healing and deliverance in every service.

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Do you SHARE your copy of
THE WAY with others?

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Mr. and Mrs. John Becker

Sunday, November 11, was a joyous occasion at the home of THE WAY. Our good friends and workers, Mr. and Mrs. Becker, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We had a special part in the worship service set aside for their honor. In the afternoon a reception for relatives, neighbors and friends was held in the reception room of the Church.

The Way extends its congratulations and best wishes to a couple so deserving. Their faithfulness to the Church and to Dr. Wierwille's ministry has no superiors. They have been members of the Van Wert Church for 48 years.

If others of our Way friends have golden wedding anniversaries we would like a picture and know about it.

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(Continued from page 4)

The Indian National Church will welcome foreign help if given in the form of a GIFT which is free and which will keep the recipient free and not enslave his personaity and make him a parasite.

The help thus far given by the foreign missionary system has not been one of a GIFT, but of SUPPORT, and all support means control. Since the foreign missions system in India has not developed indigenous leadership which can be trusted with huge sums, hundreds of thousands of dollars as a GIFT, therefore, the continued SUPPORT has been necessary which means the continuation of a foreign system of administrative control.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY IN THE INDIAN NATIONAL CHURCH:

Foreign missionaries are only guests in India. They were never invited by the actual nationals, but as missionaries came on their own or by direction of the foreign denominations. If they were invited by Indians it was those Indians whose salaries the missionaries were paying.

The call of Indians to foreign missionaries cannot be genuine at this time for the Indian mission church is not yet free and so it has no mind of its own.

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The mission policies determine the Indian thinking.

The foreign missionary may be better educated and informed, but if his presence denationalizes the Indian and makes him a slave of the system, the missionary must go. Missionaries should be permitted in India, but they **MUST FIT** into the indigenous system of the National Church and not work so that the Indians are to fit into the missionary system.

The independent, indigenous National Church of India will have a new system of government and control. It will develop a new form of worship in alignment with the ancient culture of India. It will also have a new Bible-approach which may recapture the greatness of the spiritual life and power originally brought to India by St. Thomas, the Apostle.

THE RIGHTS AND REMEDY:

How can Indian churches achieve strength? The only remedy is for Indian congregations to become national, put off the shackles of foreign missions and stand on their own feet, however weak they may be. Their own feet will give them better equilibrium at the needed hour than the artificial props of the foreign ecclesiastical systems. The National Indians can very

well develop their religious life without help from overseas unless that help is invited and solicited.

Except for the industrial, technical, mechanical and scientific "know-how" the "spiritual India as the spiritual East" feels that the West has little to offer.

Since true Christians believe and know that the Bible is the Word of God we should again study the activities of those who were originally ordained to propagate the Gospel at the inception of the Church. Paul's chief goal according to the Book of Acts and the Epistles was the conversion of men and women to an active believing faith in Christ. The newly founded and organized churches soon were self-supporting, self-propagating and self-governing. Paul never tried to establish and maintain the churches by paid workers from a foreign land. He disciplined peoples, instructed them in the basics of the Jesus Way and then moved on letting the churches develop themselves under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Certain errors that endeavoured to creep in he checked and corrected by writing or by making a personal appearance, for further instruction and teaching in the Word. He revisited the churches he had established for brief periods, but in

not one instance did he build schools, churches, hospitals or start chicken farms or support the church with foreign money or inflict a foreign system of control. We will come back to the Bible approach of the spreading of the Gospel of redemption and salvation in Jesus Christ or we will come home from all foreign fields of labor sooner or later.

The world and especially India has embarked on a period of changes which are cataclysmic. The sense of spiritual need is clamant and many strata of society in India are malleable far beyond what we in the West believe possible if only we again use the Power that is in the Name of Jesus Christ. This is an era of the rise of nationalism which tends to bring with it confusion. Men are groping for a sense of true purpose and direction. The threat of chaotic tyranny lies like an ominous thundercloud over many lands. Out of the widespread confusion and apparent disaster **JESUS CHRIST IS THE WAY.** India needs to hear the WAY. "Say ye not, there are yet four months and then cometh the harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already unto harvest."

As foreign ecclesiastical ad-

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ministrative and control systems of missions are rapidly terminating in all Eastern lands, we must of necessity thoroughly re-examine the entire conduct and practice of our system of missions and make drastic changes which will mean a manifold re-adjustment to new ideas which may be severely painful as the birth process is.

CONCLUSION: My decision for "foreign missions" is summed up in the following principles: Nothing but the supernatural, miraculous Bible deliverance ministry in the name and power of Jesus Christ will ever win nations of peoples to Christ, irrespective of their country, culture, customs or traditions.

Why should foreign Christians spend years learning a language when the nationals already know it? These nationals know how to reach their own people. Best of all they are citizens of their own country.

All foreign missionaries work under the National Church System of the particular nation to which they have been invited.

Train and equip the nationals to be their own missionaries under their own church system to go to every neglected area of their country including cities, towns, villages and hamlets.

Generally no financial help to national missionaries and ministers, unless the situation absolutely demands it and then only upon the recommendation of the national leaders themselves.

Financial gifts to national Christians in the training of national personnel to do the Christian job, including such things as radio, publicity, etc.

Each nation to work out its own Christian methods of evangelism in keeping with that nation's culture and traditions.

International cooperation and exchange on equal basis of Christians.

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Dr. Wierwille will be glad to minister to your need and to pray for your deliverance. Write him for help in your life.

MAIL BOX

Troy, Ohio

Dear Friends:

Enclosed find \$10.00 for the support of Joan Williams. I feel there is no better way to get this message to India than to train a native and send them back.

I am so happy the Lord gave me the privilege of taking your class on "Power for Abundant Living." I'm sure it was a hard class to teach, for most of us had to be un-taught before we could be taught, but I know for myself what I received is more than I can tell. When I read the 8th of Romans the other day it was like reading something I'd never read before, the understanding of it was so different.

Thanks for all the help you gave me. My heart rejoices.

In Christian Love,

R. W.

• • •

Troy, Ohio

Dear Mr. Wierwille:

I praise God continually day and night with joy, with a new tongue and new heart and a new glorious song, for the great deliverance that He has wrought for me from the power of Satan, through His precious Son, Jesus years, that from cover to cover of

Christ. And through you, His child and co-heir with Jesus.

As you read . . . you will see instantly what I have only now been shown after fifty-seven every book he drills this statement, "This is what the Bible says, but it doesn't mean this. Its real meaning is so and so." That is one of the main channels by which Satan is able to take over. In opposition to that, I hear your voice ring forth the mighty message of God, "The Bible means what it says and says what it means." The world suddenly changes from quick-sand to firm ground—or should I say, the Bible itself becomes a firm Rock on which a person can stand and never be moved.

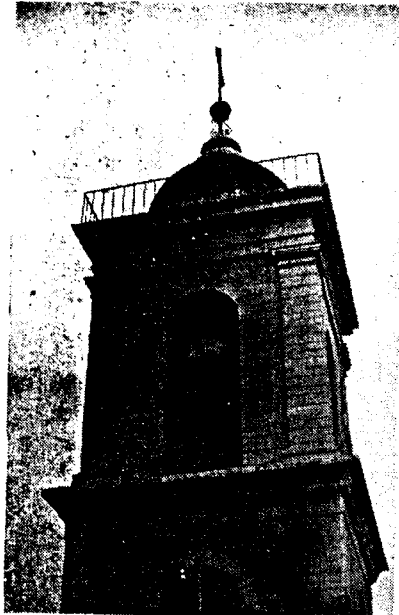
The above revelation is the central new truth that I received from your class in Troy. You hammered away at it in Van Wert, but it was way over my head then. In Van Wert I was too busy grasping the truth that God operates by making us into Sons of God, and understanding how He does that. But when you came to Troy, especially after my conference with you in your home, I was ready to receive enlightenment on how Satan operates to make us channels for his Satanic powers.

It was a wonderful, wonderful two weeks. Thank you.

Sincerely,

R. G.

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THE BELLS OF BETHLEHEM

From this tower next to the site where Jesus was born are housed the carillons which millions have heard each Christmas. May they again peal forth this December the 25th a message of "peace on earth, goodwill to men." We pray for our beloved Christian friends on the ARAB side in Jerusalem and Bethlehem.

• • •
The word of God is the will of God. He means what He says, and has a purpose for everything He says and the way He says it.

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ENTRANCE

The Church of the Nativity

One's heart simply thrills when you stop to enter through this pictured opening into the Church of Churches, where seemingly the Christ Child was born. Its sacredness is magnified by the multitudes who visit this spot. You cannot help but to know that you are at the same place, in the same city where that Little Child lived with His mother Mary and Joseph for a period of at least two years. Donnie Wierwille is pictured at the entrance.

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Front Row, left to right: Mrs. Marvin Arthur, Dorothea Wierwille, Dr. V. P. Wierwille, Donna Stratton, Rachel Wyan, Anne Shump. Back Row: Mrs. Herbert Long, Lawrence Dale, Lyda Dale, Rev. John Ewing, Margaret Ewing, Thomas Freshour, Betty Freshour, Charles Gossett, Mrs. George Walpole, E. G. Lewis.

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VACATION CLASS

Power for Abundant Living
Van Wert, Ohio
June 16-30

CONVENTION OF ALL GRADES

June 28, 29, 30

THE ADVANCED CLASS

July 1-12

Some people have written about the summer class so as to be able to make arrangements for their vacations. The dates are given so that you too may make your arrangements. Advance class open only to grads by advance registration. Full particulars for all classes available by writing THE WAY, VAN WERT, OHIO.

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JESUS, PRECIOUS JESUS

Verse: Jesus Christ the Baby lay,
Upon a bed of hay
No downy pillow for His head
A manger was His bed.
The shepherds in the silent night,
Did see a glorious light,
As angels down from heaven came
His birthday to proclaim.

Chorus: Jesus, Jesus, little Baby dear
Jesus, Jesus, angels always near
Careful watch they're keeping
As you lay asleeping
Jesus, precious Jesus,
Come within my heart.

Verse: Jesus Christ our Saviour gave
His Life for ours to save
Our guilty sins He washed away,
Oh, what a glorious day.
On God's right hand in heav'n above
He reigns forever more,
And pours upon us all His love
We, too, Him should adore.

Chorus: Jesus, Jesus, precious Saviour
Jesus, Jesus, Thou art always near
Careful watch art keeping,
When I'm wake or sleeping:
Jesus precious Jesus,
Thou art in my heart.

This Christmas Season all of us here at the Home of The Way International express to you, our faithful co-laborers, the beautiful thoughts as set forth by Kathryn Perry in the words and music of "Jesus, Precious Jesus."

We love you with the love of Christ and pray God's best for you for a Merry Christmas.

**In His Service,
The Way, Inc.
Victor Paul Wierwille**