

THE MASTER
IS CALLING....

FOLLOW ME!



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THINGS TO COME MISSION

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FOLLOW ME!

by Peter Wiering

WHEN WE SPEAK of "following Christ", we are dealing with a different concept than salvation or justification or sanctification, although they are interrelated. With "following", perhaps the first thing that comes to our minds is a literal, geographical following. This aspect was obvious when our Lord walked on earth. When He said, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men," Peter and his companions left their nets and boats and followed the Master as He went from place to place. While they followed, they learned the deeper meaning of discipleship. Thus, when Peter rebuked the Lord for what He said about His coming suffering and death, Christ said to His disciples: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24)

These disciples had to learn that not in themselves, but only through the power of the Spirit of God, the call to follow could be fully realized in their life. They had to learn that it meant "not my will, but Thine be done" and that it included accepting the suffering that is involved in doing the will of God. Paul, who also became a true follower of the Lord, could testify: "... the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." (Acts 20:24)

THINGS TO COME

moves into a new (home based) ministry —

A Gospel Workers Training Program

THE LAST TEN, but especially the last five years, the Things to Come Mission is confronted by a lack of new workers. This situation calls for more prayer. This is foremost. Then it calls for more faith. We need to trust the Lord to raise up workers for the task of world-wide evangelism. We need a greater love for the Saviour and we need to have His love working through us in a greater way. We believe that we also need to start a program to train workers.

FOR WHICH PERSONS WILL THIS TRAINING PROGRAM BE ? It is especially for those who "mean business" with the Lord

and are looking forward to serving Him in the way and in the place He leads, but want to be better prepared. It is not meant to be exclusively a program to train missionaries, but missionary work will have the major emphasis. Nor is it meant to prepare workers exclusively for serving with Things to Come Mission, even if we pray that this program will help meet our need for new missionaries.

Anyone who is thinking about preparing him- or herself for the Lord's work is invited to ask us for further information.

WHEN WILL IT START ?

Right now, we can't give

a definite date. We do hope that we can begin this fall.

WHAT KIND OF TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN ? It will be based upon the knowledge of the Word of God, with consideration for God's progressive revelation and dispensational dealings. Also there will be an emphasis upon the spiritual understanding and the practical application in the life of the person. While there will be areas of similarity, it will not be the same as a Bible Institute or Bible College course. We intend to have "on the job" training in evangelism and church growth ministries. We plan to use some seminar type of instruction by qualified persons who are able to teach for a week or two. As the aim is to train "soldiers of the cross", we want to set forth principles of discipline, industry, courage, dependability, teamwork, kindness, etc. as well as living as a

servant of Christ in love to Him and in reliance upon Him.

WHO WILL BE HEADING IT UP ?

The Things to Come Mission has asked Peter and Etta Wiering to head up this program. It means that they can't continue their ministry in the Netherlands, but they have sensed God's hand in this and are willing to take up this task.

WHERE WILL IT BE ? We are praying for leading as to the place of God's choice. There have been invitations by persons in various places, to come and start the program in their locality. It may well be that others know of suitable locations where some living and classroom space is available for a reasonable (low) sum. One consideration is to locate the mission office in the same place as the training center. It could be that God will open us a temporary location at first, or

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We are praying for

A Few Good Men

WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING from the recruiting slogans of the Marines. The other day I saw this one: "If everybody could join the Marines, it wouldn't be the Marines anymore."

Things to Come Mission doesn't intend to adopt the Marines' recruiting methods, but we would surely thank the Lord if there were a few good men and women ready to join with us in the battle for truth.

We are not going to find a solution to the problem of shortage of good men and women for the missionary outreach through better promotional methods and more emotional pleas --- no, the great need is for more earnest prayer in homes and churches, and that calls for a deepening of the spiritual life of the saints.

And Women

Along with this we need the cooperation of individuals and churches, of missions and various other groups, in a way wherein each recognizes and has appreciation for the part of the other. That is the picture of the Body of Christ as we see it functioning in Ephesians. (Chapter 4) Thus can we serve our Lord and Saviour in making known His saving grace to the ends of the earth.

Therefore, let us all pray that the Lord will thrust forth labourers into the harvest fields. Let us pray earnestly that there will come forth more soldiers who are ready to endure for the sake of the Savior, and the saving of lost sinners.



HARVEST TIME

W H I L E we have been working to put this magazine together, t h e farmers all around Cope have been busy harvesting the wheat. As soon as the wheat was ready to harvest, the combines went into the fields to cut and thrash the golden grain. Then we saw fully loaded trucks bringing the wheat home to be stored in grain bins.

It takes a lot of land and machinery to be a farmer out here. Great big tractors pull big , expensive equipment to perform all sorts o f tasks. You can understand that it takes a lot of investment to be a farmer today. B u t that's how the work gets done and the crops are harvested. Of course it takes a real good man to make a go of a farming operation today.

In this there is a lesson for us in the gospel work. We know that no amount of equipment can in itself do the work of world-wide gospel ministry. There is no powerfull machinery that can pray, no computer that can exercise faith, no magic formula that can take away the need for loving, sacrificial service. But in the hands of able, devoted workers, the right kind of equipment can speed up the work tremendously. Should we just let the forces of ungodliness use the modern means of communication and transportation? Think of what is being done through the printed page, by means of radio and T.V., films and visual aids as well as recorders and how the travel time of missionaries has been cut through the use of the



automobile and the airplane. Sure, there is a big investment and it takes cooperation on the part of many. Also there needs to be wisdom under God's direction to invest in the right way in these various means, so that the Lord's work may be done speedily as well as properly.

In the work under Things to Come, various means are in use like typewriters, taperecorders, stencil machines, printing equipment, automobiles and even an airplane. We are thankful for all who have seen the opportunity and who have sacrificed to help obtain these things so that the harvest may be brought in while the day of reaping is here.

At this time we ask

your special prayer that HARVESTER III may get to the Far East and be put to work there. HARVESTER III was bought last winter to follow HARVESTER II which was sold after extensive service in the Far East.

HARVESTER III was put to use in a real way when Vernon Anderson, Eldred Sidebottom and Frank Valenza went to Brazil this May to help further the T.C.M. work there. (Ben Anderson went along also)

Pray that the best way will be found to get the plane to the Far East and that the costs will be met. We do not know how much time is left to work in these countries -- it surely seems that the time is short. Therefore let us redeem the time. 7

The WORK and The WORKERS

THE ANDERSONS AND THE WATKINS RETURN TO THEIR FIELDS

Joe and Pauline Watkins and their children left from Los Angeles for the Philippines on July 10th. Ben and Val Anderson travelled with them so that they could be ready for school in the Philippines. Joe has shipped an offset press and equipment from Mobile for use in the Philippines.

The Lord has answered prayer in regard to the visa for the Andersons. After months of waiting, the good news came that the "Grace Fellowship" which they organized was officially approved by the Indonesian government and that their visa application was accepted. Anyone who knows something of the opposition and obstacles that have to be faced, will realize that this is the Lord's doings. Praise Him! The Andersons left for the Far East on the 16th. Pray

that Indonesia will grant permission for the airplane to be used there for the glory of the Lord.

TRAINING PROGRAM ...

Continued from page 4

possibly we can combine with something that is already existing.

HOW CAN I HELP ?

Your prayer partnership will be of great value. Pray with us that the Lord will supply as we step out in faith. We pray for wisdom so that all unnecessary expense may be avoided. There will be opportunity for some to perform various tasks, once we are located. Please let us know of your intention to stand with us and we will keep you informed.



Too many of our prayers begin, "Now I lay me down to sleep." A more adult prayer runs more like this: "Now I get me up to wake; I pray the Lord my soul to shake."—*Selected.*

THE DUNCANS ARE LOOKING
TOWARD CANADA.

Seeing the need of a greater outreach in the missionary endeavor of the Things to Come Mission, Marvin and Marlene Duncan have made themselves available for a future ministry outside the mission headquarters.

In seeking the Lord's leading for their lives, they have agreed to spend some time in Nova Scotia, surveying that area and conducting Bible classes with some folks who have just recently seen the truth of the Mystery. September has been designated as the time to visit this province of Canada.

If the Lord would so lead, they want to be available to take up a missionary ministry in Nova Scotia or to enter a ministry of representing the mission to churches and groups.

Your prayers are requested in their behalf as they seek our Lord's leading. *



THE FUTURE OF BRAZIL.

We believe the Lord allowed us to accomplish much in regard to the future ministry in the great land of Brazil.

Vernon Anderson, pilot, Ben Anderson, Frank Valenza and I left Miami on May 20th and arrived in Curitiba the 26th.

We were allowed to see four new areas and also visit some of the older churches during our few days in Southern Brazil.

Souls are being saved and churches are being established through the prayers and gifts of the co-labourers. We want to reach out into new areas of Santa Catarina and Parana, and also to go into other states of Brazil. Pray for Warren and Shirley as they go forth into other States of Brazil to establish churches for the Lord.

Eldred Sidebottom

A Word From The Wierings

This year we have been faced anew by the claims of Christ and the need to do His work in this world. To some it may seem strange then to hear that we are not returning to the field where we have laboured the previous fourteen years. Such things are not easy to explain. We can honestly say that it is not because of discouragement or lack of love for the people of Holland. In fact we were looking forward with anticipation to resume our work there. I can also say that in the last years that we were there, I began to realize that the Lord allowed certain things to happen, which things indicated that the Lord was preparing us for some changes in our work .

When we were in the United States, a burden came upon our hearts to help the overall ministry of Things to Come Mission and that especially in the area of training future missionaries. (At the same time we felt inadequate for such a task). We were open to God's will, but the big question was: "What is God's will for us?" We thought, we prayed and we waited upon the Lord. It was not till at the end of our furlough time that it became settled that we should take upon us this new ministry of working in a training program. It has not been an easy change and there has been real heartsearching. But now there is peace and joy in our hearts about the matter. We will continue to help the work in Holland and England with our prayers and also in other ways as we are able. Let us add that we do not feel that our part in active missionary work abroad is ended. For time being we have taken upon us this new ministry and we ask you to stand by us in your prayers.

Paul said: "Be ye followers (imitators) of me, even as I also am of Christ." (1 Corinthians 11:1) The context shows what he was specially thinking about. "Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." (chapter 10, vers 33). Compare this with Romans 15:3, "...even Christ pleased not himself; but as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me." In this we see the "mind" of Christ, the "cross principle" in service: to be poured out for others, to be a grain of wheat that is going to die in the ground in order to bear much fruit.

When the essential of "following Christ" is realized in a person's life, the related aspects as to "how?", "what?", "where?" and "when?" will be obstacles no more. The Lord Himself will be sufficient for whatever the task may be and wherever the place, for the Master's desire has become the delight of the servant. In becoming a true follower, both deliberate choice as well as the process of spiritual growth do have a part.

Let us realize that such followers are comparatively few. Paul expressed this more than once as for example in Philippians 2:20 and 21 -- "For I have no man likeminded For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's." Friend, have you faced the call of Christ? Think of it: the call of C H R I S T. What is your estimation of Him? The rich young ruler esteemed Him, and called Him "good Master", but he couldn't give up his own life and possessions, and follow. We hear no more of him. Another young Hebrew said "yes" to the call of Christ and declared: "For me to live is Christ... I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus." How about you?

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Starting in September 1976 anyone using Business Reply Envelopes will have to pay fees of over \$100 per year plus the regular postage and handling fee required on Business Reply Envelopes. (25¢ each envelope)

Because of this we will no longer be using these envelopes except the ones on which you place the appropriate postage.

If you mail a Business Reply Envelope to the Mission after September 1st without a stamp on it, the envelope will not be delivered to the Mission but will be returned to the sender if a return address is given.

We are asking that starting September 1st you please place a stamp on the Business Reply Envelope so your letter will be delivered to us.

Starting July 19, 1976, the cost of Address Correction went up to 25¢ per piece. Please, if you move or plan to move, send us your NEW ADDRESS at least one month in advance.

Thank you for your understanding and helpful consideration of these requests.

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Cathedral Press Photo

