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Christ in His Church

(No. 3)

The Straight Testimony

A. W. CORMACK

IN "Early Writings," page 270, we read: "I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by *the straight testimony*."

The shaking brought to view here, and in other places, is a solemn subject. We cannot think of church members being shaken out, separated from the Body, without sorrow of heart. To think of men and women who have walked in the light of the Truth of God, who have rejoiced in the fellowship that belongs to the Remnant People, being separated from Israel and that, just before the "Great Consummation," is, surely, to consider the saddest picture portrayed by the pen of inspiration. Yet because it is thus presented, it is true, and we do well to give it due and careful consideration.

First, let us know that the shaking is not something sent of God to drive members out of the Church; then we shall better understand the meaning of what is written concerning the straight testimony that produces the shaking. This 'shaking' is permitted in order that the Church might be cleansed and prepared for translation. The church is still HIS Church, "The object of His supreme regard." Not one need be shaken out of the Church. Christ brought salvation within the reach of every sinner. Not one need have been lost. All who will, may turn from the world and become members of the Church of the True and the Living God. So, every soul who has already come out from the world and joined the church may, if he will, remain in the church and go through to the Kingdom.

But the warning is that some, yea many, will be shaken out. And the cause that will produce this shaking, we are informed, is the straight testimony. Note that the straight testimony is not to gather out

the "good" from the church, but to shake out, to separate sin and sinners from the Church. What is the straight testimony? The answer is simple, and yet on this point, as well as others, Satan would gladly mislead God's people. For the *straight testimony* as well as for other things relating to the Last Message, we may be sure he will have a counterfeit.

In seeking the answer, let us notice four quotations from the Spirit of Prophecy:

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause the shaking among God's people"—*Early Writings*, p. 270.

"The straight testimony must be revived, and it will separate those from Israel who have ever been at war with the means that God has ordained to keep corruptions out of the Church."—*Vol. 3, p. 324*.

"There must be a revival of the straight testimony. The path to heaven is no smoother now than in the days of our Saviour. All our sins must be put away. Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off."—*Vol. 5, p. 222*.

"The Lord call for a renewal of the straight testimony borne in years past. He calls for a renewal of spiritual life. The spiritual energies of His people have long been torpid, but there is to be a resurrection from apparent death. . . . We need the pentecostal energy. This will come; for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power"—*Vol. 8, p. 297*.

The straight testimony, is not something new that is to be brought into the Church near the close of time. It has been with the Movement from the beginning, and "has been borne in years past." But it is to be "renewed" and "revived." It is not something from without the Church. The Head of the Church placed it *in the Church*, and we are told that it is to "live in the

Church." It is called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. Jesus is the True Witness. (Rev. 3: 14.)

The clear, pointed definition of the Church's condition and need as given in the "Testimonies for the Church," together with the counsels and warnings contained therein, as called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans, constitute the straight testimony. These messages of warning and entreaty are to live in the Church. The old-time standards of the Message are to be exalted in the lives and in the work of God's people. The pentecostal energy that the Church so much needs "*will come*" upon it; "for the Lord has promised to send His Spirit as the all-conquering power." Yet, because some will "*rise up against*" the straight testimony there will be a shaking among God's people. Continually we are being reminded of God's high ideal for His Church. From the pages of our Church papers; through sermons to which we listen; out of the Word and the Testimonies themselves; and by the "*Still small voice*" of His Spirit, God calls to His people that they might experience a renewal of spiritual life.

"In ancient times God spoke to men by the mouth of Prophets and Apostles. In these days He speaks to them by the Testimonies of His Spirit. There was never a time when God instructed His people more earnestly than He instructs them now concerning His will, and the course He would have them pursue.—*Vol. 5, p. 661.*

How graciously the Lord has wrought in order to safeguard His Church in these last days. How thankful should His people be for the reproofs, warnings, and instruction He has given. Yet while "He has instructed His people concerning His will and the course He would have them pursue." Many are unacquainted with the instruction given, or are disregarding it. Now, while God is preparing His people to finish His work in all the world, "The enemy is preparing for his last campaign against the Church".—*Vol. 5, p. 294.* By false doctrine as well as through the deceitfulness of sin he will seek to overthrow souls. He knows that the Church is in need of cleansing and revival and he would take advantage of this to discourage and dishearten many. The assurances that God has given that He will sanctify and cleanse the Church "with the washing of water by the word, that He

might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing." Satan would cover over with doubt and unbelief that thereby he might bring discouragement upon the Church.

"By his deceptions he is seeking to allure souls from Christ, and those who are not established upon the Truth will be taken in his snare. . . . Satan hopes to involve the remnant people of God in the general ruin that is coming upon the earth. . . . Men and women will arise professing to have some new light or some new revelation whose tendency is to unsettle faith in the old landmarks. Their doctrines will not bear the test of God's word, yet souls will be deceived. False reports will be circulated, and some will be taken in this snare."—*Vol. 5, p. 295.*

Then shall we not give earnest heed to the straight testimony, Brethren, as the Lord shall present it to us from time to time? Yea, rather, shall we not search it out by a diligent study of the Testimonies, that sin may be put away from our lives, and our hearts prepared for the spiritual revival and spiritual reformation that God has promised.

On the other hand, we are not to expect that all in the Church will respond to God's call for a renewal of spiritual life. "Are we hoping to see the whole Church revived?"

That times will never come. . . . We must enter upon the work individually."—*Review and Herald, March 22, 1887.*

"Before the final visitation of God's judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times."—*Great Controversy, p. 464.*

To every Church member as well as to every minister and worker it is given to act a part in the work of preparing the Church for the final conflict, and for translation. We may enquire as to what is our responsibility in this important connection, that, in seeking to do our part faithfully, we may follow only the course He would have us pursue, yet the principal thing is that as members of the Church we are ourselves, walking in the light that God has given. As Christ is permitted to dwell in the heart, His Truth will permeate the life, and His purpose concerning the Church will be made plain to the believer, for Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

"BEHOLD I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with Me."—Rev. 3: 20.



Around the Division



SOUTH INDIA UNION

G. G. LOWRY Superintendent
C. W. TINWORTH Sec'y-Treas

Office Address:

7, CUNNINGHAM ROAD, BANGALORE

Progress in the Telugu Country

ALL will be glad to know that work on the Nusvid Hospital has begun in earnest. The bungalow should be ready for occupancy by the middle of November at the latest. When the work on the bungalow is well in hand, the hospital buildings will also be started. The more we see of the possibilities of the work in this place, the plainer it becomes that the Lord has kept this territory open to us in spite of the efforts of others to get possession of it.

Doctor Coyne arrived in Bombay September 26th, so we now look for the expectations of the last two years to be a reality soon in the operation of a good Seventh-day Adventist hospital in South India.

The Nanddigama work, which closely joins the Nuzvid *taluk*, is developing very well. The present quarter shows marked advancement, and we hope before the end of the year to be able to baptize a good company in that place.

The colporteur work is also becoming very encouraging in this field. We have three men on "Health and Longevity," and they are of good courage. There is also prospect of other workers starting in this line before the first of the year.

The girl's dormitory at the Narsapur school is now ready for them, and the boy's dormitory is well begun. The compound, with the newly acquired land, gives us more than a quarter mile frontage on the main road, and when the main school building is put up in the center of the new compound, the whole will present a very neat appearance.

The interest in and about Narsapur is better than at any time since our arrival. We hope to see a good company developed here at the headquarters station.

T. R. FLAIZ.

Tamil Annual Meeting

THE North and the South Tamil Missions held their annual meeting this year at Prakasapuram, September 15 to 23. All the Indian workers were present. Several believers also came with their families from many stations at their own cost.

Pastor Lowry and family, Brethren Tinworth and Skau from the South India Union Mission; Pastor Williams and Brother Shepard from the Southern Asia Division were also present to give us all needed help.

A report of progress of the work done during the year was read in order by the workers of the different

stations. On the whole forty-seven souls have been newly baptized during the year. The present Sabbath school membership is 339, of which 194 are baptized believers.

Much precious instruction was given by the Departmental secretaries. The Bible readings given by Pastors Williams and Lowry were very valuable and helpful. Two special meetings were also conducted by Mrs. Lowry for our sisters. Children's meetings were daily conducted by Sister Koilpillai and Brother Henry by turn. Every evening, a sermon on Present Truth was delivered. Many outsiders attended the evening meetings very regularly and paid close attention to the messages presented night after night. Brethren Santhanam and Raju conducted *Bajana* meetings (sermons with Indian lyrics composed by them) on two nights.

Brother Hansen of Ceylon and Pastor Woodward of Malayalam were also here, as they were to attend our Union Executive Committee meetings which were held during the last two days of our meeting. We never before had as many as eight European missionaries together in this station. We had the privilege of hearing Brother Hansen also one night, and on the last night Pastor Woodward showed us the life of Christ by magic lantern pictures, which he had brought with him.

One hundred and seventy-nine were present at the Sabbath school held during the meeting. Following the Sabbath school, a revival service was conducted by Pastor Asirvatham, when the spirit of the Lord was abundantly showered upon all present. Many began to search their hearts, and made themselves right with God and their brethren.

On the last day of the meeting a social treat was given by the local church. All the workers have gone back to their stations with renewed courage in the Lord. We believe that a good harvest will be gathered in the near future. E. D. THOMAS.

Malayalam Meeting

JUST as the quiet Sabbath evening came with its blessing of rest and peace, a group of happy people gathered in front of the new church building at Pulikottikonum. They had been busy all week putting on the finishing touches so the new church would be ready for the annual meeting.

There was something deep and genuine about the joy in their hearts; for they were experiencing the truth of Christ's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Half the expense of the building was paid by the Indian believers and workers, and the balance was raised by individual contributions from Europeans. The Indian believers did most of the work also. By liberal gifts and faithful work, they had built the church without expense to the Mission. The building is 26 x 56 feet in size, strongly built, with tiled roof, plastered walls, and neatly finished doors and windows.

The dedication of the church was the first service of the annual meeting in the Malayalam Mission, which was held September 5 to 14. Pastor G. G. Lowry and Brother C. W. Tinworth were present to

represent the Union Mission; Sister Lowry, the Sabbath school work; Prof. C. A. Skau, the Educational and Missionary Volunteer Departments; and Brother L. C. Shepard, the colporteur work.

Special meetings were held for the women every afternoon. In these meetings practical instruction on home problems was given.

Sabbath afternoon Pastor H. G. Woodward baptized thirty-seven converts, making a total of forty-seven baptized in the Malayalam Mission since the annual meeting of 1923. One of those receiving baptism has been studying the truth for seven years. He has fully counted the cost, which for him was not light, as he was a man of some wealth and influence.

The attendance at the night meetings increased from the first, until finally the house would not contain all who came. Those not of our faith attending showed a deep interest in the truth presented.

The meeting closed the night after the Sabbath with a lantern lecture on Bible characters. It was necessary to hold this meeting outside, as there were no fewer than one thousand present.

R. L. WILSON.

N. W. INDIA UNION

I. F. BLUE. Superintendent.

M. H. BALCHAMBERS. Sec'y-Treas.

Office Address:

17, ABBOTT ROAD, LUCKNOW, U. P.

The Work in the Punjab

WE do not get a report in from the Punjab very often but we are nevertheless at work. Our work in the villages has expanded somewhat beyond our strength as far as efficient supervising is concerned; but we are glad to report that our workers are doing good work in the villages and even during the hottest weather, while we were obliged to be absent in the hills for a time, they were still faithfully carrying on. What we need badly, however, are one or two more European missionaries who will not be afraid to get out into the villages and live with the people and help them to a better understanding of the Gospel and the higher Christian standard.

Our village Christians are responsive, and we are glad to be able to report that the tithe we have just received from the village Christian members of our mission at the end of the half yearly harvest amounts to nearly Rs. 600. It should be remembered that this is from the village Christians alone, and does not include any tithe whatsoever from any paid workers. This is encouraging, and is not the first substantial amount received from our village people. We are confident that if we get more help and the village work is properly supervised, not only will the spiritual standard of the people rise higher, which is the aim we have in mind, but the tithes and offerings from our Punjab village Christians can be made four or five times the amount which we now receive.

F. H. LOASBY.

NEWS NOTES

The little company at Cawnpore is growing and is very enthusiastic in good works. The light of Truth is penetrating many of the homes and hearts of the people of that city, and we rejoice to see the progress that is being made. Just at present the church school is small, as many of the children have gone to the hills; but they will be returning this month. Sister Nolda has a very interesting school.

The work in the Union office is interrupted somewhat at present, as workmen are at work re-wiring the building. It was found necessary to have the work all gone over, as the roof had leaked in places and spoiled the wiring.

The industries in our schools are proving to be an important factor in making the schools a success. So far we have not realized a great deal of profit financially, but the benefit to the students is above that, and can not be measured in that way. The Punjab School is giving special attention to a farm of twenty-five acres. They have a good crop of cotton this season. It is about twice the size of the cotton in the next field. When the land was being prepared, the Punjabi farmers predicted that the land would be entirely spoiled because an iron plow was used, and they said that only a wooden plow could be used there. Since seeing what has been the result of scientific methods in farming, they have asked the school management to plant all their cotton next year.

VINCENT HILL SCHOOL

NEWS NOTES

SISTER WELLMAN gave a very interesting chapel talk on September 18th, on a school that is conducted in Kashmir, showing how this school is developing real manhood among the native people there.

On the same day, Mr. Norton Roe, of Quetta, after twenty-seven weeks of school, or about three-fourths of the school year, passed his speed test in shorthand. He wrote one hundred and twenty words of new material in one minute and transcribed it on the typewriter at the rate of thirty-one word per minute. This not only speaks well for the Gregg system of shorthand, but also for the instruction given by Miss A. M. Wilkinson. It might be added that on the same day, while copying from new material, Norton typed accurately forty-eight words in one minute.

A consecration service was held in connection with the Sabbath school on September 20th. The special items that Sister Clark and her helpers had prepared were very helpful, and a number of the children and older ones declared their intention to consecrate or reconsecrate themselves to the Lord by signing the little pledges that were passed around at that time.

(Concluded on page 6)

BIG WEEK, November 2 to 8

Suggested Methods of Meeting the Busy Man

DURING the coming BIG WEEK a number will be working in the cities and it is in such places that large business transactions are enacted. Time with such men means money, so they regard time as a precious thing. This being the case it is essential for us to study the best way possible to meet this class successfully. It is futile to think of giving a lengthy canvass of your book. One ought to be thoroughly acquainted with the book they are soliciting orders for, it is possible to give a brief outline of any of our books touching just upon those points that appeal to people. The busy men will sometimes say, Well, you can have a minute. It is important that we abide within the limits of that minute, cover the outline of your book swiftly, yet distinctly, and clench the order all within the specified time. A busy man thinks quickly. First impressions go a long way with him. Endeavour to secure his confidence immediately on meeting him. I have found such a remark as this fruitful,—"Good morning sir, I see you are very busy, I am busy too. May I be allowed to take just a minute of your time. Immediately take out your prospectus and go ahead. In the Book of books we read "The King's business requires haste." Friends, if ever this be true, it is now. May the Lord waken us to realise the nearness of the end. Our publications are the best on the market. Do you believe it? They contain very valuable information, such as no others can give apart from the Bible. Elder N. Z. Town used a chart at the Poona Publishing Convention which I thought was very good. These words were on it. "As we think, so we are; As we believe, So We Do." If we really believe we have the real article to present to the public, I feel sure we shall get busy and push that article to a successful issue. We need to be tactful, courteous, persevering and above all we must have the Spirit of Jesus in our own hearts. Our business is a sound business and we need to convince others that it is. May the Lord give us grace and

give us power day by day to "Convince men." Let us all remember the time of the BIG WEEK November 2-8.

Yours for a BIG WEEK.

J. C. DEAN.

Watchman Sellers Wanted

G. F. ENOCH

THE first number of the *Oriental Watchman and Herald of Health* will be in the field by the time this notice reaches you. We hope that our people will be pleased with its appearance and subject-matter. If not please write and tell us why. We plan to conduct this Magazine as we would a series of meetings and hope to cover the main points of present truth this first year. But unless there is a strong effort put forth to cover the field quickly, and as far as possible with this first number, the readers will not have a good start. You know how difficult it is for people who begin in the middle or latter end of a series of meetings. We are anxious that as many as possible shall attend these monthly meetings from the first.

We suggest that in every large center, such as the large cities, that some one take up the work of selling single copies, of course at the same time securing as many annual subscriptions as possible. At least when the *Watchman* is new people will be willing to spend six annas just to sample it. And the seller is given 50 per cent commission for his trouble.

Anyone desiring territory should write to the Field Secretary of your Union without delay. Calcutta, Madras, Colombo, Rangoon and Lahore, to mention only a few places, should be able to dispose of 500 copies of each issue in this way, with almost 100 rupees commission to the party who will undertake the job. It is all the more necessary for us to urge this phase of the task, at least until our permanent subscription list can be worked up. Let all work together to make this our latest effort to finish the work in India a success.

The Value of One Book

WE feel it a privilege to pass on the following experience to the readers of EASTERN TIDINGS and to all who are interested in the circulation of the "Silent Messengers." While Brother S. J. Johnson was canvassing among the many Jute Mills along the banks of the River Hooghly he came across an American Mill: in this mill he met a gentleman who appeared to be very interested in the book that was being exhibited, namely "Great Controversy." Our Brother took his order, and was very much impressed with his demeanour as he seemed different from some he had met along the Hooghly. Quite recently Brother Johnson had the pleasure of meeting him again in Calcutta. However, the gentleman was not so easily recognisable inasmuch as he had dispensed with his moustache. He was very anxious to have a

Eastern Tidings

Organ of the
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Division Officers:

A. W. CORMACK Chairman
A. H. WILLIAMS Sec'y-Treas.

Office Address: P. O. Box No. 15, Poona

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S. A. WELLMAN, Editor.

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chat about the book he had bought. In so transpires that by the reading of "Great Controversy" he has made up his mind to alter the whole course of his life. He is now going to America to study theology. Further, he has asked to have some of our books forwarded to him especially those along the line of prophecy. This is the happy sequence to our good Brother Johnson having left him a copy of one of our many good books. As suggested to our faithful missionary colporteur he may return to India as a missionary. The addresses of two of our institutions have been sent him. It is such experiences as these that encourage us to press forward. May this experience encourage others engaged in similar work. "My word shall return unto Me void."

J. C. DEAN.

Publishing House Notes

Morning Watch Calendar

WE have just received a copy of the cover for the Morning Watch Calendar for 1925. The picture shows Christ extending the helping hand to Peter when he attempted to walk on the sea. The Publishers assure us that this year's calendar will be one of the best ever produced. This little booklet makes a fine gift for an unbelieving friend or loved one.

We would suggest that you order early to avoid disappointment. Prices the same as last year. Regular edition three annas. DeLuxe eight annas. Postage extra.

Home Missionary Calendar

From all indications this year's calendar will surpass any published before. Some were disappointed last year. We hope to be able to supply all this year. We have ordered 150 copies. Send in your order early. All orders will be filled in strict rotation. Price Rs. 1/0/0.

Year Book 1925

While it is early yet for the 1925 Year Book, yet we would like to know your needs so as to be sure of having enough stock to fill the same.

Send all orders through your Union Depot.

Vincent Hill School News Notes

(Concluded from Page 4.)

Following the Sabbath school those present had the privilege of hearing a message from Pastor S. A. Wellman. The burden of his message was to show that the fields are indeed ready for harvest. Among other things he dwelt on some of the openings that are now to be seen in the Indian Empire, calling upon the young people to prepare to answer the calls of God as they came. Pastor Wellman also led the prayer-meeting on the following Wednesday evening. On Thursday evening, September 25th, he gave an interesting stereopticon lecture on his recent visit to Kashmir. The slides used were made by the speaker from pictures taken by him during the visit.

On the evening of September 20th under the direction of Sister Olson an interesting debate was held in the chapel. Principal Olson presided. In the opinion of the judges (Dr. A. E. Clark, Brethren G. E. Jones, Jr., and I. V. Counsell) Messrs. Norton Roe, of Quetta and Vincent Steward-Jacks, of Bombay, won the debate over Messrs. C. A. Ritchie of Bangalore and D. E. Ali-Bakhsh of Lahore.

As soon as a break in the rains came the boys, under the direction of Mr. C. A. Ritchie, began work preparing a garden plot for next year.

Miss Tuckey and her cooking class can now rejoice that the partitions have been removed from the former bath-rooms on the lower floor of the school building and the room re-decorated for a domestic science purposes. It is at present equipped with a hot case, some tables, a sink, and a wall-cupboard for cooking utensils.

Pastor L. G. Mookerjee led out in the quarterly communion service on Sabbath, September 27th. He strongly held up the sacredness of this service.

In order that it might be interesting and profitable to the older and younger ones alike, the thirteenth Sabbath programme of the Sabbath school contained a number of special features. At the close the donations taken amounted to Rs. 93/12/0. The donations for the past quarter have been more than have been received in any previous quarter, totalling more than Rs. 700. Sister Clark and her assistants have rendered very faithful service indeed, and the Sabbath school has been an excellent one. It is to be regretted that the superintendent found it necessary to leave for Calcutta a few days before her term of office expired.

In harmony with the Division recommendation, a liberal donation was taken up on Sabbath, September 6th, for the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Any one desiring extra copies of the Anniversary number of the *Review* can get them from the Publishing House.