



Reformation Christian Ministries

News & Prayer Letter

November 2007

...Jesus stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them [his] hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [my] Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on [them], and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: [John 20:19-22]



When Jesus spoke to His disciples and said, "as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you", He was functioning as the Head of His body and sending a signal to motivate every true part thereof. Christ lives in His people—not figuratively, philosophically or allegorically, but really. Christianity is not a system of philosophy to be taught so much as it is a life that must be lived. The incarnation distinguishes Christianity from all other religions and must be a reality to every true Christian because Christ is in us. His is the power of the Divine Personality and when He truly lives in us, His motives become our motives. His motive is this: in the same way that His life and word through others brought the living Gospel to us, so our lives should function likewise with others.

While the command given by Jesus in John 20:21 "so send I you" is first and foremost to the ministers of the Gospel as represented by the disciples gathered with Him; nevertheless, the same Holy Spirit that resides in His ministers, also resides in those who are truly His people. They support, help, encourage and supplement the ministers in their task of the mission of the church (His body). As a result, Christianity is propagated by ministers preaching the true Gospel, and by everyone else living and talking about it with personal contacts. Christ gives His life to us not so we can sit on it and enjoy it all by ourselves, but so that through our lives, His life touches others. Christ's motive is to reach the world. What is yours? It should be the same if He lives in you.

In 1895, the Canadian Presbyterian missionary minister, Rev. Dr. George McKay said about this what is equally true today: "This primary truth needs heavy emphasis, for there is everywhere the perpetual danger of its being neglected. The far-sweeping purpose of the election of grace is being ignored,

...the churches are crowded with people whose largest thought of salvation is that their own souls shall be cared for.

- Dr. George McKay -

and the churches are crowded with people whose largest thought of salvation is that their own souls shall be cared for. Not until Christianity is not only believed, but lived, will the churches either at home or in the heathen lands, become the power the Master meant them to be." (From *Far Formosa*, p. 153, to be published by RCM in 2008.)

If we are truly "born again", i.e. if we have been indwelt by the Holy Spirit and love Christ with all our heart, strength, soul and mind (Luke 10:27); then the pulse of Christ's life within our hearts will have as its motive that the living Christ within us will touch dead souls through the Gospel that we live out and so bring newness of life. (*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30*) If He lives in you, this must be your motive.

If our largest concern is for our own souls, what impetus is there for missions? Works? Arminians and cults give heavily to missions, as do Muslims. What is their motivation? **Works.** Their giving to missions is like the giving of alms, a meritorious work through which God will love us more and bless us more. That is not the true Gospel! If you have freely received and know it, you cannot do anything less but to freely give (Matthew 10:8). It is possible to be very selfish in our motive in missions. We may simply be doing it to assuage our feelings of guilt or under duress from someone who is pressing us. Thus, when our motive is to appease our conscience or to get someone off our back, it is still primarily about us. Christ can be quite incidental. The Spirit of Christ calls all His people to have the heart of Christ figuratively pump His purifying blood through our veins. When that happens, His motives become ours and missions and the outreach both at home and abroad are things we seek to do because of Christ in us, and not just so I/WE can feel better.

When we do it because of Christ in us, the gospel that is preached and taught both at home and abroad will be of pre-eminent importance to us because only the true Gospel saves. Every false gospel makes people temporarily feel good like morphine does to someone in pain, since it depends upon something they can do. It is not the real solution to the pain! If your primary concern and focus has been looking after the souls of you and yours, you might want to reread the parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21) and be reminded of Christ's exhortation afterwards to His disciples when he said, *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. (Luke 20:21)*. What is your motive in missions? Where does it come from? What is its focus? Remember: the God who is always with His true missionaries is likewise always with you, if you are His. **Even so, send I you.**

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 Geoffrey Donnan

HELP NEEDED FOR NEW MISSION PUBLISHING VENTURE

Over the past year, we have become impressed with the incredible lack of missionary emphasis books from a true Gospel perspective available in print. Even most of the old books that God used in the past to raise up several generations of people to train for missionary service at home and abroad are relatively unavailable. Consequently, another long-term goal of RCM is to secure and reprint missionary emphasis books. Furthermore, facsimile reprints with their archaic fonts and poor pictures are not going to do the job because only the most persevering will wade through them. We intend, wherever possible, to put them all in digital form so that we can have them all typeset with new, more readable fonts. We seek to put photos and graphics in as close to original quality as possible. In the final analysis, we expect to eventually become one of the leading resources for good missionary related writings (biographies, autobiographies, histories, theology, etc.) at affordable prices that will be of great use to families, schools, and churches and particularly to emphasize the importance of the right gospel.

We do not expect a huge market for these initially and thus this will be more a labor of love for God's people than a money-making venture. Consequently, to accomplish this, we are seeking to develop a cadre of volunteers who would like to help make this possible by contributing their skills and time. Below are some of the various types of help we can use.

HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER TO HELP:

1. **LOCATORS** of missionary related books worthy of reprint (from libraries, churches, used book sources, internet, etc.).
2. **SCANNING AND OCR (OPTICAL CHARACTER RESOLUTION)** of books. (Requires scanning equipment and OCR software.)
3. **PHOTO RETOUCHING AND RESTORATION** of old photos from old books. (We will provide the best photos we can of pictures from these books. Some will need retouching and a few, for use on covers, will need to be colorized, as most are black and white.
4. **PROOF-READERS** and **EDITORS**. This will involve taking a Microsoft Word® version of these books after scanning and reading them through critically against the original source to verify that they are accurate and then make the edits using the "track changes" feature.
5. **LAYOUT**. Those with skills in Adobe's InDesign® or Microsoft Word® who can layout the books and help make them print ready. (Will require the software and knowledge to use it.)
6. **COVER DESIGN**: someone who can create a cover design, ideally based on the original (if worth replicating) or making a new one for both hardcover and paperback.
7. **BOOK OVERSEERS**: We will need a few people who have a general knowledge of what needs to be done to coordinate the efforts to see one book through to a final edition ready for final print layout.
8. **PUBLISHING GURU/CZAR**: We would like to

have someone really familiar with publishing who might be able to give us some tips about this whole process to keep our learning curve down as much as possible.

COMPENSATION: You won't be doing this for the compensation, but we will reward everyone who plays a significant part in bringing a book to its final print form with a free copy of the book, and the knowledge that you are playing a part in restoring the resources by which God may create a new emphasis on missions within our homes and churches.

"LORD GANÉSA" AND LITTLE RÁMASWÁMI

The following is an excerpt from *The Cobra's Den* by Dr. Jacob Chamberlain (missionary from the Reformed Church of America) to India from 1860 to 1908. RCM is in the process republishing it as part of the series mentioned above. However, we cannot resist sharing one of the stories from it which underscores how much the mission fields can teach us at home. Our work among the Hindus of Suriname reminds us of such stories.



More clear picture of "Ganesh" statue in front of tree.



Ganesh in temple covered with ghee butter and sienna offerings similar to the story.

"I saw a sight one day that made my heart ache, ache for the boys and girls of India, and which I desire to picture to the boys and girls of the dear home lands, to see if they will not lend a vigorous hand in soon making such things impossible in all of idol-ridden India.

"I was walking down the main street of the great heathen city of Madras toward the temple of the god Ganésa. It stood right on the street, and was not larger inside than a hall bedroom, for the Hindus do not assemble in these wayside temples for worship, but go in, one or two at a time, to present their offerings to the god of the temple.

"At the farther end of the temple, on a stone platform as high as a table, and facing the wide open front doors, was the god Ganésa. He has an elephant's head and trunk, and a huge belly, and was chiselled out of stone, sitting on a large stone rat, and as tall as a man. He was very black and shiny from the ghee, or melted butter, poured over his head by the worshippers, to make him feel good-natured and so grant their requests, and had garlands of white flowers

around his neck, placed there by some worshipper.

“As I neared the temple I came upon a Hindu mother taking her little son Rámaswámi, to make his first offering to the god Ganésa in that temple. On his arms were hanging garlands of flowers and in his hands was incense to offer. He was chatting merrily, in Tamil, with his mother, who had hold of his hand and was telling him how he must go into the temple, making his salaams and showing his offerings, and then place them in the god’s lap with his own hands, so that the god would always be his friend and not harm him.

“As they came in front of the wide-open door, little Rámaswámi saw the huge black idol, with his eyes painted to look fierce, his tusks white and sticking out toward him, his tongue fiery red, and his black trunk raised up to one side as if to strike. With a scream he pulled his hand away from his mother’s and sprang to one side, out of sight of the monster, and stood trembling with fright. His mother, laughing at his terror, reassured him, saying, “The god won’t strike you; he is a good god and likes to have little boys worship him. Come and lay your offerings in his lap, Rámaswámi, don’t be afraid;” and led him again up to the side of the door.

“As soon as he came in front of the horrid idol he screamed again, and tearing away from his mother, ran down the street toward his home. The mother, with a hard laugh, overtook him half a block away, seized him and half

dragged him back to the temple, and said, “You little fool! Is your father’s son going to be a coward? The god won’t strike you. He won’t harm you. Don’t you see, he is made of stone and can’t move; he can’t hurt you. Come along, you little imp, and lay your flowers and incense in his lap;” and pushing the screaming child before her, with one hand firmly grasping each shoulder, she forced him, in terror as he was, up onto the steps before the idol and made him lay the offerings in the lap of the god.

“Immediately he had done this, he twisted himself from her grasp, and, without making any salaams to the god, dashed past me down the street for his home, still screaming with fright, while his mother, laughing, slowly followed him.

“I lingered after they had gone, thinking of the mothers and children in my native land, and I said, “O, if all the mothers of Christendom would be as zealous in bringing* their children to the blessed Jesus as are these heathen mothers in making their children worship their repellant idols, how many more strong, living Christian characters there would be, and what an added force would they constitute in bringing on speedily that day when “the idols shall be utterly abolished” and when “Jesus shall reign from sea to sea.”

*The obvious intent of the author is that parents should be zealous in educating, loving, and living the Gospel before their children so as to be used of the Lord to bring them to Christ.

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Please add this/these person(s) on your newsletter/e-mail list:

RCM COMMITMENT TO MISSIONS

A church's commitment to the Great Commission is almost in direct proportion to their understanding and commitment to the true Gospel. (Sadly, we must qualify Gospel with the word "true" because there is so much today that uses the name of "gospel" which is what the Apostle Paul would call "another gospel which is no gospel." (Galatians 1:6-8)) Much of what is called missions today is more religious philanthropy which is often a way of doing meritorious works. Too often the true Gospel is not set forth to satisfy the greatest need of the assisted person: someone to take their punishment for sin and give them a new life in Christ. Everything that is done must focus on that ultimate need or it loses its ultimate moorings.

While there are still a number of churches which propositionally hold to the true Gospel, practically, what has happened is that many have become more concerned about the "business of missions" (how it looks, how it sells, whether enough success on the field will generate enough income to justify), and in the process missions has become a "business." Some missions literally do market research on their fields and the marketability of their personnel. To be sure, missions involves finances, but finances like philanthropy, must keep its focus on the ultimate objective: the preaching and teaching of the Gospel. Our God has called us to be faithful servants, not necessarily successful servants when it comes to the Great Commission.

Our purpose is Gospel-centered outreach and education aimed at Reformation. We are looking for a few good missionaries who agree with our objectives. We are also seeking those who wish to support such a Gospel-centered ministry that works under the authority of the church.

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For the first time in RCM's memory, the Canadian dollar is equal to or slightly more than the U.S. dollar. Please take advantage of this in your year-end giving.

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