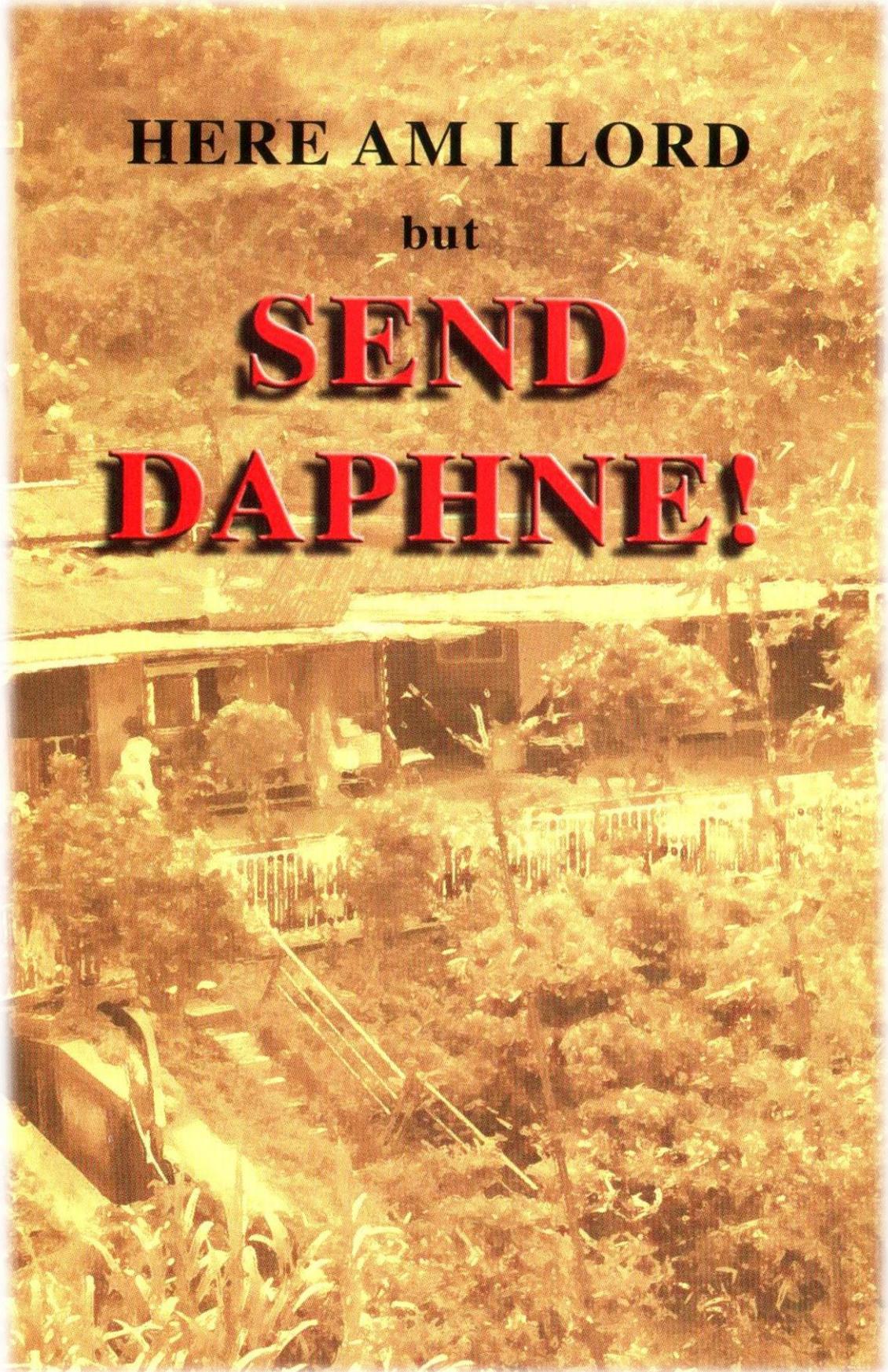


HERE AM I LORD

but

**SEND
DAPHNE!**



HERE AM I LORD but SEND DAPHNE

“ALSO I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD, SAYING, WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO
WILL GO FOR US? THEN SAID I, HERE AM I SEND ME”

* * *

Isaiah 6:8

INTRODUCTION

THE CALL OF GOD

What does it mean to you?

With spiritual perception and true insight, Oswald Chambers said:

*“It is easier to serve God **without a vision**, easier to work for God **without a call**, because then you are not bothered by what God requires; **common sense is your guide... You will be more leisure- hearted if you never realize the call of God. But if once you receive a commission from Jesus Christ**, the memory of what God wants will always come like a goad; **you will no longer be able to work** for Him on the common-sense basis.”*

(Emphasis added)

Here are some thoughts that we believe will be a help as you consider the importance of the call of God.

“Here am I...” is published in the hope that a new, fresh, keen, young generation will also know and experience the challenge, thrill and satisfied joy of answering the call of God. And in answering the call and challenge say, “Yes Lord, **wherever, whenever, however**, that some, even many may hear, know and believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and be saved.

- CHRISTIAN BOOK ROOM

- Background -

In the early '60s, upon arrival in Hong Kong, the writer worked in Peace Clinic, Chuk Yuen, Wong Tai Sin. There, he met many who had fled the harsh conditions that existed in the People's Republic of China for the freedom, the hope and the employment that was available in the British Colony of H.K..

There also, he met and worked with those who had answered the call of God. These were members of the great world-wide missionary family. These were real soldiers of the cross.

-The Author

HERE AM I LORD,..BUT... SEND DAPHNE!

I looked at the two figures working in most uncomfortable heat among the very poorest of refugees out of China. Here, among temporary tin and wooden squatter huts, amidst disease and squalor, were servants of Christ serving to bring the Light of the world to needy men and women.

SUCH AN UNWORTHY THING?

As I looked at those figures and thought upon the fact that these were women, not men, who trudged around hill-sides and who ministered in Christ's Name to sick and despondent men and women, I thought to myself, "What has happened that a work that should be done by men, was being done by women? Is the great commission and the carrying of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor, the displaced, the sick, and lost, to those so very much in darkness, such an unworthy task that it should be done by women only?"

I have since those days of refugee work in the 60's, had the privilege to meet many more of these soldiers of the cross, noble women, who have put their own personal comfort, private careers and ambitions aside and behind them, to live, labour and lay down their lives for the Lord and gospel.

"For My sake and the gospel's..." Mark 10:29

I have met many women, skilled nurses, doctors, teachers; trained and untrained women, some high-born from privilege society, others born into hard-working ordinary families, who have heard and answered the call of God to go forth and serve Him. Irrespective of social class or privilege, they have set themselves to answer spiritually and practically the call **to go** for the Lord, that some and often many should hear the gospel, believe Jesus as Lord, the only God and Saviour, and be saved.

It seems that many a man believes that he has more important things to do and so the call and work of the great commission – "Go ye into all the world..." - is so often left to women. The balance of truth bears this out.

You disagree? Please hear me out. It has long been known and accepted as scriptural principle that women should not hold pastoral leadership positions in the churches. Out of necessity, many certainly do on the mission fields of the world! Why? Because so often there are no men there to begin the work and to see to it that local men shepherd the lambs and feed the sheep.

By all means let us rejoice when our beloved sisters know the constraining love of Christ and the call of the Lord to go to the regions beyond. But brother, why do you not also go? The woman, the sister is an important part of the team but let us men get on with the work the Lord has called us to do. And if we **cannot** go, then we will need to go by proxy in our spiritual commitment financially and through sacrificial, earnest prayer.

Is it true that men have a higher calling to execute more important work filling pulpits and positions in local churches and assemblies which require them to feed and care for mostly overfed sheep anyway? Millions and millions in the meantime (I have seen so many of them myself) roam the earth and die having never had an opportunity to hear even once that glorious gospel of divine love and grace. That gospel which announces God our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who died for all sinners and that it is He alone Who can grant forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life.

THE “GOSPELLER”

I pre-suppose dear reader, that you are already a “gospeller.” That is, one whose life is consumed with the wonder and pre-eminence of Christ and the gospel of God. Is your life already thoroughly involved in gospel witness through public preaching, be it in the open-air, in local churches or by the printed page? Have you devoted yourself to read, digest and give priority to the importance of the gospel, that the gospel may be preserved in its power and simplicity, free from the traditions and legalities of men? If so, you are a “gospeller” who knows in reality that this “evangel” or “good news”, is the power of God unto salvation to as many as believe.

DIVERSIONS

We live in a world and age of distressful distraction. It is a day of mass communication and technology. That can be good for it can become a source of great opportunity and blessing for many. But so often that very technology becomes the means of diverting our attention from the essential to peripheral issues. So many of us are found wastefully doing with great efficiency that which doesn't need to be done at all! It is sadly true that over many of our lives must be written, **“busy but barren.”**

In the seminaries, Bible Schools and even local churches, men are brilliantly expounding on “the sovereignty of God” and on how God will “sovereignly” reach and save the nations, irrespective of the earnest sacrifice of gospel labours.

Shame on us that we so little experience the compassionate constraint, and urgency of God's love to go and reach the perishing. As previously stated, millions worldwide are perishing in their sins, having never once heard of God's salvation in Christ. They could have been reached but “the churches” were too comfortable to care.

TRADITIONALISM

One factor that has seriously impaired the health of our churches is the disease of traditionalism. “We have always done it this way” is the usual reply when practices are questioned about the scriptural basis of authorization.

Tradition is good and correct when and if it is squarely in accord with the teaching of the New Testament. So very often, however, the commandments of God are ploughed under by historical tradition and the theology of men.

Traditionally, elite corps of professional church leaders are paid to do what should be the united work done by the whole local church. Such a condition of things has become tradition and accepted but it is contrary to the Word of God as in 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11-18. These Scriptures teach clearly that ministry is a matter for the whole body of the local church. The outcome of the intrusion of human reasoning and practice has resulted in a weakening of the call to personal responsibility in the great gospel commission.

Why do we need multiplied numbers of preachers and teachers in our established local churches? Is it moral to care for the comfortable few while the millions of the world perish uncared for, untold, unreached and their numbers but an inferred unwanted burden upon national economies?

The answer is, we don't! The principle stands forever clear that in the local church of Antioch when God called, He said, *“Separate Me Barnabas and Said for the work whereunto I have called them.”*

Acts 13

We believe the Son of God and the Holy Spirit are speaking still today but unlike Saul and Barnabas, far too many are turning a deaf ear from the great commission call, to rest in the comfort, prestige and postured pomposity that have cushioned gifted men to rest upon couches of legalism and traditionalism.

THIS GENERATION

We should face squarely the fact that each generation will be held responsible for the effectiveness of outreach to, or the neglect of, their own contemporary world-wide generation.

We certainly *are* responsible for this our generation and the task is enormous. It is truly immense but it is not greater than the call and power of God! We are blessed

today with technology, facilities and the means to communicate and reach out with the gospel. May God enable us to face this great issue, for God **will** hold us fully responsible, collectively and individually. **We are** personally and collectively responsible in our churches to sacrificially preach, teach and stress the importance of the great gospel commission and our personal involvement in it.

As we do this, God the Holy Spirit will work marvelously and separate individuals to gospel work and send them forth.

ARE WE WITNESSES?

Do we proclaim what we believe to be true? Do we state clearly that our God in Whom we believe, is the One True God, that there is none other and that He is first in all things? Do we affirm that Jesus Christ is God our Saviour, The Way, The Truth and The Life and that no man comes to the Father but by Himself? Do we state clearly that there is a Higher Authority to Whom we all must answer, morally and spiritually?

THE TRUE WITNESS

The true witness accepts the consequences of faith in Christ even if it means a threat to personal safety. The grace and love of God presented in the Word of God rings on in the heart and soul and demands a response. Something now matters more than life itself! Amid the general drift into indifference, excuses, apathy and selfishness, the true witness freely chooses death over life, for that was the seal at the beginning of a life of testimony, when at baptism the believer was identified with Christ's death, burial and resurrection to thereafter walk in newness of life. The claims of Christ have become paramount to all other claims in the life of the believer - the call is to be a witness for Christ!

AND ME?

And me? Have I sunk deep roots down into the tenacious affirmation of that one great issue: Jesus Christ is Lord!? Do I submit to suffering, rejection and persecution at the hands of men or do I forfeit fellowship with Christ by ceasing to follow Him? "We lose our lives to find them."

The true witness proclaims clearly and without equivocation that he has stepped out with purpose of heart and with faith in God, in His Word and in God's "so great salvation", knowing that he or she is not a victim but an offered vessel and instrument, willing and yielded and available to God. The witness has lost his own will in the will of God and has found glorious freedom in submission to Christ as Lord in all things.

It is in this way that we make the constraining love of Christ and His words to be the living commandment of our risen Lord. This shall be so as I personally acknowledge by life and lip –

“Jesus Christ is Lord to me!”

Or, to the contrary, do we make the great commission “go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” of no effect through the traditions of men? Our traditions and theology can be the very real means to bless, or the basis of all excuses to avoid personal responsibility in this vital matter.

We often hear of the need and importance to be “a caring society.” Surely this very term has been derived from the actions of the Church of Jesus Christ, long known to have cared enough for the eternal well-being of the souls of men and women, because many have heeded the great commission call. It is well known that countless numbers have gone forth into the world in the Name of Jesus Christ to care for the salvation of the body, soul and spirit of men and women. But what about me? Do I care?

THE CALL

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” Isaiah 6:8

Have you ever heard the call of the risen Lord? This great commission call to every believer, has never been revoked. The call is still to “go” with the gospel. The Lord is ever looking for any willing to represent Him, to make known His love and grace and to preach the Word of Life to fallen, lost men and women. Lost, but precious individuals even though with darkened hearts they live lawlessly in daily ignorance of the only savior and Light of the world, Jesus our Lord.

The Lord is looking still for men and women who will “risk” and use their all, their very lives for His cause!

Will you heed His call? Will you go? Go to all and where He sends you, to be and say all that He commands.

The Lord is calling still today. *“The mighty God, even the Lord hath spoken and called the earth, from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof”* Psalm 50:1

From the east, from the west He is calling today!

Why then are so many not hearing Him and the call? Before Isaiah heard the voice and call of God, he had a revelation of the high and glorious holiness of God. Then, in the light of that known holiness and greatness of God, Isaiah became aware of his own personal uncleanness. After his iniquity was purged he was able to hear God calling

for someone to go with the message of the Lord. Isaiah was now in a position and state to respond to that call and his reply was instantaneous and unconditional.

“Here am I, send me.”

Dear exercised-before-God- friend, are you still unable to hear the call of God? Are you unable to understand His Word and mind. Unable to feel the burden and constraint of the heart of God for perishing souls? Perhaps you will first need to bow before God to have your vision renewed by the Lord of glory. Until we know Jesus Christ risen from the dead in all His glory, holiness, victory and righteousness, we too shall think that we are flawless, a generation that is pure in our own eyes but not washed from filthiness. Proverbs 30:12

Water cannot wash nor cleanse sins away. It is the blood alone, not the waters of baptism that washes us clean from our sins.

Job had what he thought was a clear conscience as did Saul of Tarsus as he persecuted disciples to death. They, especially Job, could not detect a single fault in their own lives **until** they were brought from peripheral living into nearness to the Lord of glory.

Lift up now your eyes and look on the fields of the world, at home and abroad, for they are white unto harvest. Be it in our own neighborhood, nation, or further afield, this harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.

What a deplorable state of affairs!

There was a time, and it is relevant to us today also, when the Lord sought for a man that should make up “a hedge” to stand in the gap before Him — but found none! Ezekiel 22:30

Do not disappoint Him today. Let us stop saying, “Here am I Lordbut.... **send Daphne!**”

Doors are still open. All around us there are places with staggering need having not one true witness for Christ and the gospel. Even if doors are officially not open and the gospel be not welcome, indwelling Divine Love will always seek to find a way to enter with the essential and only message of salvation for all mankind today.

Let us say, “ Here am I Lord, SEND ME”

- John A. Short H.K. S.A.R. of CHINA

P.S. If you care to write, we shall enjoy hearing from you and shall certainly reply.

THE GREAT COMMISSION

"And Jesus came, and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heavy and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Matthew 28:18-20

"For My sake and the Gospel's."

Mark 10:29

* * *

It is essential that we maintain warm, active, and direct involvement in gospel witness to the present generation.

We believe that this is the key to understanding the reasons for so many unnecessary problems that have arisen in the history of Christian testimony. Our attention to gospel witness is how we may best avoid the great snare of the enemy, who seeks to continually distract and divert each of us from the urgency of **the Great Commission**.

There is a key to the reason for success or failure of the many organizations that came into existence to be channels of gospel witness in the world. We believe that upon the maintenance of a living, loving, sacrificial involvement in the presentation to the world of the gospel of the grace of God's redemptive love in Jesus Christ, depends the spiritual relevance and continuity of every Christian ministry.

During these past two hundred years, in the many societies, associations and institutions that came into being, theological problems, methods of corporate operation, financial profits, controls and even worship, became to many, the main concern.

Wherever the above mentioned operational issues multiplied and became the major issue, the cost exacted was that clear focus upon gospel priority visibly waned and often disappeared.

The pages of Church history are strewn with the wreckage of churches and organizations that became irrelevant. Churches that at first shouted their loyalty to Christ (and many of them actually suffered much for Him) but when they forgot that the Lord Jesus combined in a single phrase "for My sake and the gospel's", that is, devotion to Himself and loyalty to His gospel, they then lost their prime reason for existence and influence in the world. It is possible to swiftly and also slowly sink down into stagnation and spiritual death.

Whenever Christians have lost the vision of the Lamb of God, Who gave Himself in sacrifice to save a perishing world of sinners, the Lord has necessarily passed them by. When the professing Church becomes inattentive to the fact that He alone is worthy of utmost devotion and first love, secondary causes soon arise and supplant the supreme value of the person and work of Jesus Christ and God's salvation of the soul. And if these former lamp stands of divine light persist in selfish indulgence, God leaves them alone and even the light of their local testimony is extinguished.

It is sobering to remind ourselves that the existence of the so-called "Christian" cults that abound today, are the price the Church must pay for all diversion from her true calling and commission. These sects can be said to be the fruit of a decadent world church out of touch with God;' out of touch with the witness of the true gospel, the glory of God and the need of all mankind. To be out of touch with the heart of God will mean to be out of touch with the need of God's salvation for all. Jesus Christ only and His atoning death as presented in the gospel, is the answer to the tragic state of all around us.

Upon the command of God, forgiveness of sins is to be preached to all, because all may share in that forgiveness if they will hear, believe and live. It is impossible that "election" can ever limit the value of the death of Christ for all, or limit the power of God's salvation in Jesus Christ to save and bless all who will repent and believe.

The cults continue their downward march, enfolding deluded crowds along with them. Their paid emissaries who cannot evangelise but proselytize only, will infiltrate into the whole of corrupt Christendom. Matthew 13:33. What are we therefore to do? Lament, criticize and give up?

No! Let us arise and preach and teach Jesus Christ, Son of God and the Saviour of the world. Let us preach Christ's death, burial and resurrection. Let us give a bold, fresh and strong testimony to His saving and keeping power.

We may not all be evangelists, for the evangelist is a gift from the Lord, but let us arise and as instructed in 2 Timothy 4:5 let us all "**do the work of an evangelist.**"

The means are at hand. Good literature abounds. Those whose eyes have been opened to see the spiritual conflict and the certain victory in Christ's commission to preach liberty to the captives and total victory to the believer, know only two lines in the warfare, the front line and the supply line! We are either actively involved at the front or sacrificing to keep up the supplies!

We should support in every way, the burdened preaching of the gospel of grace reigning through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, for who can estimate the precious value of one soul saved?

The Son of God gave His life, His all, to pay redemption's cost for all mankind. It is His blood that alone puts away the guilt of the believer's sins. And now He is worthy to have our focused attention to the call of the great commission. All around us and even beyond, people, family members, friends and strangers, can at this time be reached with the gospel.

And it is given to us to reach all we possibly can with this message before it is too late.

Today, salvation's door is open - tomorrow ^ when that door is tightly shut it will be too late.

"He that winneth souls is wise!"

Proverbs 11:30

-J. A. S.

THE CALL OF GOD!

What does it mean to you?

With spiritual perception and insight Oswald Chambers said:

*"It is easier to serve **God without a vision**, easier to work for God **without a call**, because then you are not bothered by what God requires; **common sense is your guide... You will be more leisure-hearted if you never realize the call of God. But if once you receive a commission from Jesus Christ**, the memory of what God wants will always come like a goad; **you will no longer be able to work for Him on the common-sense basis.**"*
(Emphasis added)

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