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"There's Only One Way Left"

Director : Food for Peace Campaign

Superior : Brotherhood of St. Laurence

The Most ReverendG. H. Gough

Archbishop of Sydney and

Primate of Australia

FOREWORD



"I am happy to commend to the serious consideration of the members of the Anglican Church this pamphlet by the Director of the "Food for Peace Campaign." Whilst not committing myself to full agreement on everything that Mr. Tucker says, I believe that he has faced us with a challenge which it is our duty to consider. There is real danger within the Church of England of being complacent and of shutting our eyes to the reality of the situation of the world around us. Study of this article will shatter the illusion and will force us to face up to facts. It is our duty as Christians to arouse public opinion to provide relief for the hungry multitudes of the world. Australia holds a position of unique responsibility towards our neighbours in South East Asia! and it is our first duty to do all that we can to help our brethren there. I commend this pamphlet to the prayers and serious study of the people of our Church."

- R. H. SYDNEY

THE LESSON FROM THE BIBLE

One cannot but have some sympathy for the rich man in the Gospel Story who, because he refused to help the unfortunate beggar who lay sick at his gate, ended up in hell. After all, the sight of sick beggars lying about the streets was a sight to which all had become used and it was quite impossible to help all; we have however only the outline of the story. The rich man may have been brought up by wise parents who taught him of the duty of caring for others. And he was a Jew, and as such should have been alert to the needs of the distressed for doubtless he had been trained in The Law.

Whatever conception we may have of hell, I think we all believe that all folly has to be paid for. This most certainly is the teaching of the Christian Church. The man who ended up in hell was a fool. "Fool," "hell," those words should make us fearful, for we most certainly are acting the fool according to the Gospel. The kind of fools that we are end up in hell.

We do not know, whether or not Dives should have known better than to fail in his duty as he did. We however most certainly should know better for we have had our warnings in full. History, if nothing more, is a series of warnings. The history of the Jews is a shining example in this respect. They were the Chosen people and as such were promised that if they followed the pattern laid down for them by Almighty God, He would bless them and make of them a mighty Nation. They were told on the other hand, that if they disregarded God's plan, trouble would follow. The old Testament tells how this was the case. They were given chance after chance, but rejected them all. Refusing to take their last chance they became a despised and homeless people suffering as none had suffered before. "What fools they were," we say, but are we any better? or are we not even worse, for we have nearly two thousand years of Christianity behind us. It may well be that we, in this our age and generation, are being given our last chance.

THE LESSONS OF HISTORY

The Jews were not the only ones who rejected their last chance. Reading of the state of affairs in France, that led up to the revolution, we exclaim "what fools the ruling class of those days were - could they not see what was coming to them?" There were some no doubt who sounded the note of warning, but the warning was disregarded and the result was hell in the form of bloody revolution.

During the days that led up to the first world war, that great little man Lord Roberts, stamped the country, sounding the note of warning. He was convinced that Germany was preparing for war against Britain and said so in no uncertain terms. All knew that Britain and the Empire was quite unprepared to withstand

the forces arraigned against her but the warning was disregarded and war with all its horrors followed, and the agonies of hell were experienced by countless thousands. Some of those thousands still linger in hospitals and asylums too as mute reminders of the folly of disregarding warnings given.

The ink was hardly dry on the parchment on which the Versailles Treaty of 1918 was written when notes of warning were sounded. A cartoon appeared in an English paper of that time. It depicted the signing of the Treaty. Lloyd George was seen signing for Britain. In a listening attitude he seems to pause as he writes. The caption under the picture tells what he hears. It was, "I THOUGHT I HEARD A CHILD CRYING" One sees behind the pillar in the great hall a small child crying as if her heart would break. She represents the great multitude of men, women, boys and girls who would in a few years time pay the price of the folly of those who drew up the Treaty that made the second war inevitable.

In no period in the history of our race (except the present with which we shall deal later) did we reach such heights of folly as during the years between the two wars, and in no period up to the present have we endured the agonies of hell as were endured during the second world war and the years that followed.

There were many both in Britain and in Australia who struck notes of warning as we continued to pile up arms. They proclaimed that what we prepared for must come. A colleague of the writer, when preaching on the subject, stated that if the policy of the time was continued, within a few years time the Shrine of Remembrance in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, would have to be enlarged. He too heard children crying. Those to whom he spoke were shocked, and I was told that his services would be no longer be welcomed in that particular Church. Since those days millions of children and their elders too, have cried "as if their hearts would break"- and the Shrine of Remembrance has been enlarged.

THE MODERN PROPHETS

Somewhat cynically, but with truth, it has been said "the one thing that we learn from history, is that we do not learn from history. We act at the present time as if quite ignorant of past events - of the part fools of the past have played and the price fools have paid for their folly. We not only ignore the past, but ignore all warnings of the terrors that lie ahead. In January 1951 the Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth of Nations proclaimed for all the world to hear, **"There can be no lasting peace while millions are living in poverty."** The warning thus uttered fell on deaf ears and those who uttered them, seem quite content to have it so, for they do little to follow their warning with action. Of recent years warnings have come in ever increasing numbers from leaders in all spheres of human endeavor.

our. Statesmen warn us as do economists, also scientists and Churchmen, but the vast majority pay little heed. None of them but be fearful as to the future, but the vast majority thrust their fear into the sub-conscious mind and endeavour to keep it there, by busying themselves with everything but that one thing which can save the world from what we are told could be the end of civilization for generations to come, if not for all time.

It is the same old story. Before any great crises, the senses of people seem to be injected with some kind of drug that prevents them from seeing the danger for which they are headed. With others it is a case of "eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." In a broadcast interview an overseas entertainer seems to sum up the situation. It would seem that his act is one of those crazy shows that are so popular at the present time. He puts on such a show he said, "because the outlook of the world is pretty hopeless and we can do nothing about it. It is no good crying, so let us laugh." "We cannot do anything about it," his defeatist attitude seems to be that of those who organize get together and have fun" carnivals, and that which we are in Melbourne to have at cup time - "the greatest carnival of all times."

The outlook most certainly seems pretty hopeless. It was pretty hopeless for the people of Britain during the darkest days of the last war. Invasion seemed imminent, bombs reigned down on their cities. People died in their thousands, they were short of food and much else besides. They were not however, short of faith or of courage. They stood together and they worked together - the old and the young, the people of the East-end and the people of Mayfair. Hitler could do his worst, but they scorned the defeatist attitude, they laughed, but they did not cry. There was something to be done and they did it, and so they saved themselves, and they saved us too. It is only by such an attitude that we and all mankind can be saved from sufferings greater even than those ever endured in the past.

But what can we do? We must face facts, cease from living in a fool's paradise and adopting the "head in the sand" technique. The warnings given come in many different guises and from men and women of various interests, but in the final analysis the warnings are the same. It is that the root cause of war is the lack of the wherewithal to live on the part of the majority while the minority in varying degrees live in comfort.

GOVERNMENT AID IS NOT ENOUGH

The Colombo Plan is good, as is the Interchurch Aid and other such organisations, but in as much as these very worthwhile efforts continue to take the form of tranquilizing drugs, as seems to be the case at present, in the long run, they will do more harm than good. Here again we should face facts. No voluntary personal contribution is made to the Colombo Plan; 8/- a year is taken from us by means of taxation to make up the amount the

Government gives. As valuable as is the work of the Interchurch Aid, the meagre support given is something of which Church people should be utterly ashamed!

It is of course very easy to follow the age old custom of criticizing Governments, but such is the only method the ordinary people have of expressing their minds on matters which concern all. At a time when the future of the world hangs in the balance it is disconcerting to, say the least of it, to know that much of the Government's time is spent in wrangling on purely party lines. Money is poured out on projects, which in ordinary times, would be of great importance, but in the light of the dangers that lie ahead many of those projects fade into insignificance. Members of Parliament oft times strike the note of warning, but the Government as a whole act as if there were no need for such warnings. It would no doubt be very nice to have a beautiful lake in front of Parliament House in Canberra, but the present is not the time to even think of such things. It is not so much the expenditure that would be involved in such plans, for that would be comparatively small, from a National point of view. The Nation must be "geared up" for peace as in the past it was "geared up" for war, and it is for the leaders of the Nation to set the example in this respect. If the ordinary people have not that example, they will continue to go merrily on their way, without a thought of the sufferings which must be theirs if the present policy of refusal to face facts is changed to a policy of seeing things as they really are and courageously doing something about them. If ever there were needed a call for a united front, that time is the present.

THE WAR EFFORT

War with all its horrors brings out the worst in mankind. It also brings out the best, and not only men, but in women too. The courage, devotion and selflessness of the men who go forth to fight and to die is only matched by the women who stay at home and give all they have in the service of their country in general and their boys in particular. Through the devotion of the women of two wars, countless lives were saved, and the sufferings of their men folk would have been infinitely greater than they were but for the mothers, wives and sweethearts, who sewed, knitted, packed parcels, organised, and gave of their time and their health too, for the welfare of dear ones who were risking and giving their lives in defence of their country and all they held dear.

THE PEACE EFFORT,

Where are all these women and their counterparts to-day? And what are they doing? Chivalry in man causes one to shrink from distressing his women-folk, but to refrain from warning

them of the danger which lies before the sons whom they bore and the husbands they cherished, is more than cowardice. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." To a very large extent this is true. Those that "rock the cradle" could do much - perhaps more than any other section of the community, to save the world. But they too must face facts, they must read the signs of the times, and they must heed the warnings of those who tell that there is a very grave danger, not only of a third war but of something even worse.

Mothers are wonderful people, they work and give and go on giving for their children. They readily suffer to bring those children into the world and they would sacrifice almost anything for the welfare of their children. Those mothers should ask themselves if they are doing all in their power to see that their hopes and prayers for their boys and girls are to be realised. To secure this, more, much more is needed in these days of crisis than what would be needed were the times normal. The correct home training and a good education are of course very necessary, but these things in themselves will not insure the children and their elders too, from the catastrophe of this age of atomic bombs, racial unrest and the continued advance of those forces which, unless checked, must lead to the end of the cherished hopes of parents and even the annihilation of the human race.

THE CHURCH HAS THE ANSWER, BUT..... ?

The Church? Herein is the crux of the whole matter. If such is not the case we have indeed believed in vain. If such is not the case then those who say that the Christ is a mere myth and religion "dope for the people" are right, and we and our forbears for nearly 2,000 years have been framing and fashioning our lives on the greatest unreality ever conceived, brought forth and acted upon since the dawn of history. If the Church has not the answer to our present troubles and all our troubles, there is no answer. But of course the Church **has** the answer. It is all there in the Gospel Story.

As Mr. Justice R. Sholl recently said - "a spiritually led and a spiritually inspired minority can succeed against enormous odds as history, including the last two great wars, has shown."

When men are ordained to the Ministry of the Church of England they are charged to be, not only messengers and stewards, but also watchmen. It is the duty of watchmen to give warning of approaching danger. To fail to do so or to cry "peace, peace where there is no peace," is to ignore a duty of paramount importance.

Never perhaps since the apostolic age have the clergy been more zealous in their calling than at the present time. Never have they studied the implications of their calling, and never have they tried to influence for good their fellows of all classes than at

the present. And never has the Church been more social minded, more enthusiastic on Missions, never has there been bigger building programmes, never more conferences and in some directions, more hope of success, but yet never has the reality of it all been challenged as at the present time.

The clergy are true watchmen in regard to many dangers - danger involved in materialism, the lowering of moral standards, neglect of God and public worship and of sacrament and prayer. Such warnings are very necessary, but the greatest of all dangers seems to be ignored. Are the clergy too, thrusting their fears down into the subconscious mind or are they so much occupied with things of the present as to ignore the dangers ahead, dangers which would retard the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth for generations to come.

It would seem that we are becoming what is called "Gospel hardened" - becoming too used to it as to ignore its true significance and its great challenge.

With due solemnity we read the parable of Dives and Lazarus and in our sermons we eloquently enlarge on the folly and sin of Dives. But yet we fail to see that Australia is portraying the part of Dives, with a perfection seldom attained before. With all earnestness we tell our people that they cannot love God unless they love their fellow man, and yet Australia is so lacking in love, so taken up with her own affairs that she is deaf to the cries of countless millions of her brothers who cry for even something of our bounty, and because we fail to hear their cry and do something about it, they languish and die.

We welcome to our shores students and others from non-Christian countries. It is fearful to visualise what must be in their inmost thoughts in regard to us their hosts. We are kindly and generous in our hospitality, but many of them come from countries where corpses are cleared from the streets daily, where numberless little children, if they live, live only to be crippled, maimed and sickly until claimed by kindly death. They know of the filth and degradation of some of their cities and villages, they know of the struggle on the part of many of their countrymen to raise the standard of living for all. They know of the heroic part being played by many in battling for those things that will bring hope and salvation to those whose present lot is one of hopelessness and despair. And what is worst of all, these students and others know that we know, at any rate something, of the desperate lot of their folk at home, and they see us acting as if we could not care less. We show them with pride our public buildings, including our Churches where the story is told of Him who went about doing good, feeding the hungry and healing the sick and Who told those who follow Him, to do the same.

Missionaries and other Christians in northern lands tell how difficult it is to "explain away" this inconsistency on our part. If our Asian visitors know the word "humbug" and the phrase

"lip service" if they must be used repeatedly when returning home they tell of the main objective of such Missions has been to bring about out a revival in religion. All have been to tell us in various ways, to trust in Christ. To quote the words of one of the ablest and most devoted of those Missioners, "Man could go forward into all time peace and security or backwards into the atomic age: but the one thing that could save the world is faith and trust in Christ." How true! But surely that "faith and trust must be followed by, not only personally ridding our lives of those things that hinder spiritual progress, but by doing the kind of things that Christ did when on earth.

WORDS WITHOUT DEEDS

Since the end of the last war, there have been many evangelical missions. The main objective of such Missions has been to bring about out a revival in religion. All have been to tell us in various ways, to trust in Christ. To quote the words of one of the ablest and most devoted of those Missioners, "Man could go forward into all time peace and security or backwards into the atomic age: but the one thing that could save the world is faith and trust in Christ." How true! But surely that "faith and trust must be followed by, not only personally ridding our lives of those things that hinder spiritual progress, but by doing the kind of things that Christ did when on earth.

As a Nation we are guilty of many sins, but in the light of current happenings, the greatest of our sins is our inability or refusal to heed the call for help that comes from those living within a few flying hours of our shores. If we hear such calls we fail to realise that they come from the Christ himself for He has told that if we fail our brethren, we fail Him. From the cross He cried "I thirst" today we could hear "I hunger". The soldier at the foot of the cross eased that thirst by giving him a drink. In the same way, we ease the hunger of him who

"The gates of hell shall not prevail." This we believe but this does not mean that we could not, while here on earth suffer the pangs of hell. It has happened in the past it could happen again. The fire of hell can sweep through the world as a bush fire sweeping through a forest, destroying all before it leaving in its path death and destruction. In a few years life returns to the forest and except for mute signs of the past inferno in the form of charred trees, life is as it had been before the coming of the fire. No power on earth can destroy Divine life but all may perish as does all natural life as a result of forest fires.

THE OPPORTUNITY

"Man's extremity is God's opportunity" We are at the extremity of our resources to save ourselves and the world. The Church has an opportunity as never before vouchsafed to her. Alert to the perilous state in which mankind finds itself and should we be given the grace to follow to its logical conclusion the gospel we preach, we would be enabled to lead the world

along the road that leads to peace. In so doing we would be enabled to solve those problems which now seem insoluble. Those who now refuse to respond to the Church's teaching would take that teaching seriously and they too would follow it to its logical conclusion. "To every man there openeth a highway and a low, and every man decideth the way his soul shall go." Before this Nation there openeth a highway and a low. The decision the Nation makes depends on the Church. Please God, mindful of her Divine origin and mindful too of the Divine power which is hers, she will respond to the challenge which this perplexing age constitutes.

It would seem that no country has as great an opportunity as has Australia of demonstrating to the world wherein lies our peace. We are less involved than other countries in International quarrels, we are held in high regard by most, and few would deny that in our comparatively short history we have built up a Nation of which we are justified in being proud. We have proved ourselves in two world wars. We excel in sport. Our cultural standard is high. Our artists of various kinds have made names for themselves overseas. Our business men are as alert and proficient as any. We have organising ability. We are a generous warm hearted people. Of course we have our faults and they are many. But to be realistic, and again to face facts, we have much to give and we have it in us to do really big things.

THE ONE WAY LEFT

is surely to channel all our resources into a mighty effort for peace as we have in the past for war. For this we need a Faith and a Vision. Gandhi had a vision for India. He kept it aloft and devoted his "all" to the attainment of it ... and in the doing uplifted the moral and spiritual fibre of his country. When Gandhi fasted he "spoke for the mute millions" who could not speak for themselves. To-day there are more mute millions than ever before ... mute, starving, suffering. On their behalf we must acquire a new outlook, a vision, in regard to the peace of the world. This is summed up in the words, "this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

Given a vision, our youth would throw themselves as wholeheartedly in this, the most important of all causes as they now do into sport, and valuable and interesting as sports are they would find this constructive work more exciting and worthwhile. It could be the most thrilling of all endeavours.

The bid for peace must be at the people's level and not only at that of Governments, for these are suspect. To secure peace there must be goodwill amongst the Nations. In order to secure this goodwill, the Colombo Plan was initiated. From the outset those peoples the Plan aimed to assist suspected the genuineness of the token of goodwill. With ever-increasing conflict among the rival powers of the world this suspicion has increased.

Should help come from the people rather than from the Government, this suspicion would be very much lessened and in time it would disappear. The Voluntary Graduates' Association have proved the value of a people's effort. For some years past young doctors, teachers, chemists and the like have gone to Indonesia and there worked side by side with their counterparts, receiving the same salaries and living in the same kind of homes. They have met with nothing but goodwill. It has been obvious that there have been no ulterior motives on the part of the Australians. There have been no "strings," no axes to grind. They leave Australia for a few years just because they want to help and that help is accepted in the spirit it is given. These young men and women are doing far more to secure that very necessary goodwill than any other gesture hitherto made by any nation. Here Australia is leading the world, but we must all be in it. We must not leave it all to a handful of young people. As we made an all out effort to win the war, so we must make an all out effort to win the peace.

THE KIND OF THINGS THAT SHOULD BE DONE

- (.) Australians should travel far more to Asian countries.
- Mutual Asian/Australian interests widened and assistance given as the Volunteer Graduates' Association are doing.
- Self-denial contributions by Australians pooled into a really worthwhile gift to assist projects of self-help, not merely food "hand-outs."
- Groups of Australian students should be taken on tours of Asia so that the younger generation knows the state of existence in these countries.
- 4 Education should embrace far more Asian flavour - languages, history, geography, art, etc.
- Wider publicity should be given to the disparity between Australian and Asian living standards to evoke greater awareness,

A TARGET

We should set ourselves a target. There are 10 million of us altogether. By using some of that organising ability of ours we could easily give 10 million pounds in twelve months. In 2 years time that £10 million would become £20 million. Needless to say even £20 million would not go very far in relieving the poverty of our Northern neighbours and enabling them to become self-supporting. But should we have the vision to set the right example, other Nations of the West would follow our example and so the first real step towards international goodwill would have been taken. Besides giving of our money, we must give

of our youth. Give this to secure peace, not to fight wars. Financed by those who stay at home, in ever-increasing numbers, young men and young women too must go as ambassadors of peace and goodwill to Indonesia, India and all countries where help is needed.

They need not only be University Graduates, but can be Agriculturists, Technicians, artisans of all kinds, clerks and people of all calling. Such men and women of past decades went forth in the cause of war and the "stay at homes" financed them. This must be done again, but this time not to slaughter and be slaughtered, but to give with the knowledge that in giving we will receive more, far more than we give.

All very visionary perhaps but "without a vision the people perish" and worthwhile things have been done by those with vision and all reforms have come from ordinary people. A very ordinary person appeals to other ordinary people ... to parents who must be concerned about the future of their children and to wives who dread the thought of losing their husbands. The appeal goes to all lovers of Australia who have faith in the land of their birth or land of their adoption. The appeal goes too to those of my own age group. We who have experienced two world wars and should know better than any others the futility of expecting lasting peace, by such methods. The very fact that we who are now old are the only ones who might escape the inevitable holocaust (unless we change our ways and adopt a plan in which we have faith) should make us the more willing to give all we have for the welfare of those who come after.

In conclusion the Writer would ask four questions:-

1. Do we really believe that the piling up of armaments can bring peace ?
2. As worthwhile as "summit talks" may be, do we believe that therein lies our peace ?
3. Has anyone any other plan than that outlined in this article ?
4. Is it at any rate worthwhile trying ?

Criticism as to weakness in arguments and faulty reasoning will be welcomed by the Writer.

FOOD FOR PEACE CAMPAIGN

("There can be no peace while millions are living in poverty"-1951)

- Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth of Nations

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