

Requested And Contributed Articles

"RELIGION IS THE KEY TO HISTORY"—Lord Acton

The Hour Of Decision Is Here

THE average American is a complacent person. The further he is from the sources of danger to him and his loved ones, the more complacent he is apt to become. World ills are to most of us like a movie which we have seen, but once seen, soon forgotten. Fortunately or unfortunately, depending upon one's viewpoint, the world is not as large or spread about as much as it was some 25 to 50 years ago. In the modern age of fast moving airplanes, when it is possible to eat dinner in New York and breakfast in London, the problems of the world are brought to our own front doorstep. And one doesn't have to travel to far lands to meet these problems—especially that of the insidious Communistic influence—because more and more of our people are ignoring its dangers to our way of life.

Already our nation has embarked upon a militant process to help stop the rising tide of Communism throughout the world. Already Christians and others are beginning to feel the ominous threat of cataclysmic proportions of the world-wide spread of war and its terrible consequences. Ever since V-J day, the news broadcasters, newspapers and periodicals have been warning us of the potential sudden thrust upon our way of life of a theory not in conformity with what America always had and always will stand for.

Four Present-Day Political Ideologies Defined

It might be interesting to note what the dictionary has to say concerning the definitions of the four kinds of political ideologies in the world today. Since the eye of Communism has been thrust upon the world in recent years, this definition is given first: "Communism is the common ownership of property; the abolition of private property; and state control of labor, religion, social relations, etc." Second, Socialism: "A theory of civil polity that aims at the public collective ownership of land and capital, and the public collective management of all industries." Third, Democracy: "Government directly by the people collectively; a government so conducted; the mass of the people." Fourth, a Republic: "A state in which the sovereignty resides in the people and the administration is lodged in officers elected by and representing the people; a representative democracy."

Communism Versus Freedom Present Situation

Of course the present Communism in Russia is a far cry from the theory of Communism because Russia is controlled by one man and a Politburo, which is nothing more or less than dictatorship.

It is seen at a glance that the United States has the form of government as defined as a republic, which is in direct contrast to that of the Russian form of government even in theory.

How did the world get into the position it is in today, that is, Freedom versus Communism? Some of the greatest leaders in our great country now assert positively that we brought this condition largely upon ourselves at Yalta, where America, England, France and other free peoples literally gave half of the world to Russia including the encirclement of Berlin. Having sown the wind they are now reaping the whirlwind. The situation also is due to a laxity among Christian peoples the world over, permitting the pagan life to creep unmolested into their lives. Letting down the bars of basic Christianity in the early stages of modern civilization and of Christian living has to a great extent been responsible for the breakdown of the moral code of the world today.

America calls herself a Christian nation. But do those who call themselves Christians really follow the teachings and life of Christ, who is the root of the word, "Christian?" When men get to the place where they feel themselves to be omnipotent—and this applies to national, state, religious, or home living—anything can and usually does happen; and none of the things which happen does in any way conform to the ideology of Christianity which is basically the Golden Rule. Religion, no matter by what name you call it, is the only bulwark against the insidiousness of communism, socialism, or any other "ism" of evil nature, in our humble opinion.

Religion The Remedy For World Evils

The remedy is something which all men are seeking today. In my opinion the best and only remedy to counteract the evils of the world whether they be moral or political is for each one of us to return to the faith of our fathers, and not only preach the doctrine of Christianity but really live it, live it inwardly and outwardly, for it is by our actions that we are known to our fellowmen. To make the Golden Rule the basic law of modern civilization would be to make "peace on earth and good will towards men."

So, the hour of decision is here. Which way will America go? There is no middle ground: one either goes toward righteous living or he heads for evil days to come. Each one must make that decision for his own future living. Man can be shown, but history proves he cannot be forced; and when enough people live the Golden Rule, "wars and rumors of wars" will be in the forgotten limbo of history. What are we individually going to do about it?

—JIM FULLWOOD

Vacation Scenes

By GORDON H. CLARK

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THIS YEAR the family had a vacation such as it gets once in 10 years. We saw wild cats in the Black Hills, bear cubs in Yellowstone, and deer on Pike's Peak. We also saw some scenes of spiritual significance.

A Minister With A '39 Jalopy

There was a minister with a '39 jalopy parked in a church yard full of his parishioners' '49 and '50 models. There was also a minister, his wife, and several children, who had no carpets or rugs on their floors. And the cheerful smile of another minister revealed all too plainly the need of considerable dental work. It all reminded me of an incident I learned of a few years ago.

The elders of a country church, whose calls had been consistently declined by a series of candidates, came to a neighboring minister for advice or consolation. These young men—they said—seem to be too much interested in money; when they learn of the small salary we offer, they will not accept our call; are there no spiritually-minded young men?

A Neighboring Minister With Blunt Words

The neighboring minister replied: Perhaps you have made the wrong diagnosis. It is possible that these young men have not accepted your calls for quite another reason. Your unwillingness to pay a man what you can well afford to pay him is an indication of unspirituality on your part; and I suspect that the Lord is punishing you by calling men to other churches and letting you remain in the leanness of your souls.

These blunt words carried weight because of the man who spoke them. Ten or 12 years before a small group of country people had asked him to be their pastor. Yes, he said, I shall gladly be your pastor on certain conditions. I do not want to be a routine country pastor, but if you are willing to follow my leadership and if you will see the vision I see, I will gladly accept your call. The result was that the 30 persons who issued the call, without a church building, shortly had a comfortable building. Within a year or two a summer conference was begun and expanded until it came to have \$25,000 worth of equipment. And more recently this pastor, still a rural pastor, with his people has erected a \$260,000 home for the aged.

A Vision Of Progressiveness

His salary which had begun very low (I doubt that he got \$2,000 the first year) is perhaps twice that figure now, but still one-tenth what he could earn in business. The men of the ministry are not usually greedy of filthy lucre. Four thousand is not a large salary these days. Unskilled or at least semiskilled workmen can easily earn as much. But how many ministers, who must spend years in preparation for their calling, get an adequate living?

If a particular congregation or an entire denomination seems to be languishing, if it is not growing and expanding, if it cannot support schools, colleges, homes, and orphanages, if it cannot cover the globe with mission stations, may not the explanation lie in the stinginess of soul that condemns the Lord's servants to '39 jalopies, bare floors and bad teeth?

"Literacy Is The Entering Wedge"

WE HAVE DISCOVERED that where non-Christians will not listen to straight preaching, they welcome you if you teach them, because they want to learn to read. We have discovered that if you love and pray while you teach, you open their ears and they listen to your Gospel.

Literacy is the entering wedge. I first discovered this for myself among the Moros of the Philippine Islands. They were violently prejudiced against the gospel just as the people in Arabia still are. For 15 years we made sporadic attempts to start religious services, but no Moros would come. Then we began teaching them to read. They had only 16 sounds and our lessons were easy.

Now came the stunning surprise. Nobody at all would come to our religious service, but dozens, then hundreds, then thousands came to learn to read. We were thronged. We had 400 volunteer teachers who brought in as many as a thousand names a month of people they taught to read. Our second discovery was that people liked to teach one another at home if we furnished the cheap little four-page primer.

Our next discovery was that everybody we taught became a friend. When we first went to Lanao we did not feel safe to venture out of the village without soldiers. But within a year the whole province became our friends. The Moros began to come to our religious services, including the highest chiefs. When young Moros joined our church there was no open opposition even from priests. What had utterly failed for 15 years by direct preaching became easy, delightful, and swift when we began our literacy campaign. Literacy made the impossible easy.—*Frank C. Laubach.*

[From *World Christian Education*]

Kagawa Clarifies Attitude On Korean Situation

TOYOHICO KAGAWA, world famous Japanese Christian leader and pacifist, yesterday endorsed the United Nations' police action in Korea and stated that "we must be grateful for the great effort and truly Christian sacrifices now being made by the United States soldiers . . . to help the South Koreans retain their freedom." Kagawa, who is now in America for a six-month evangelistic tour which will take him to 146 communities, has frequently stated his

opinion that "a world police force is absolutely necessary," but he had not previously taken a definite stand on the Korean situation, itself. The text of Kagawa's statement is:

"The United Nations, to be an effective instrument of peace, must evolve into a world federation with the power to suppress war. A world government, just as any national government, can be of no effect without the power to enforce its laws. By advocating and undertaking the defense of South Korea, the United Nations has assumed this power.

"It must be understood that I do not believe in violence, and I have been imprisoned for saying so. Only those who fear the sacrifice of love must resort to violence, and then they find that violence is suicidal. Only Christian love is progressive, reproductive, and eternal.

Cannot Condone "Acceptance Of Enslavement"

"I therefore cannot condone the fighting in Korea. No Christian can condone bloodshed. But neither could I condone the passive acceptance of Russian enslavement. We must therefore accept the fighting in Korea whether we condone it or not.

"If the United Nations had not advocated the defense of South Korea against its aggressors, and if the United States and other democracies had not accepted the tremendous sacrifice necessary to help the South Koreans retain their freedom, the Communists would not only have overrun that country, but would have continued their acts of aggression in the attempt to overrun the entire Far East.

"We must be grateful for the great effort and truly Christian sacrifices now being made by the United States soldiers in Korea, and we must pray that through this conflict will arise the determination to put aside our selfish personal and group interests so that we, and all other peoples, can live in peace and freedom."



Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa (left), world-renowned Japanese Christian leader who is now touring the United States to request "more missionaries, lay leaders, and Testaments" for his people in Japan, is shown accepting a personal copy of the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament from William T. Dickerson, Jr., representative of Thomas Nelson & Sons, publishers. When given the Testament, Dr. Kagawa said, "The Revised Standard Version of the New Testament presents the story of Christ in language that the people can understand. It is especially helpful for people in countries such as my own where English idioms are not always clear. I hope many of these Testaments will be sent to Japan and all over the world."

Dr. Kagawa's current tour brings him to Pittsburgh Nov. 12-14.