July 13, 1967

My dear Christian Friend:

I am sure that never before has such an appeal gone forth. Yes, we want 200 church buildings and several thousand Bibles.

The story of these 80,000 low caste Christians and sufferers in South India is almost unbelievable, yet it is true. They went into the Church of South India in 1947, one of these ecumenical unions—the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopalian. They were told, of course, that everything would be fine, no changes, no difference. Then the changes started to come: a new liturgy for communion, the promotion of the ecumenical movement, the coming of the Communist spokesman from Moscow, Metropolitan Nikodim; and these poor, Bible believing saints knew that they were in the wrong place, but they could not get out. The leaders would not permit them to go out.

After years of struggle, Bishop V. J. Stephen, a God anointed man of faith, led them out of this bondage and apostasy. The price they paid was the loss of their cemeteries, schools, churches—everything!

Of all the blessed things that God has enabled us to have a share in, we were privileged to go to India, to come into contact with these people, see their faith and love for Christ. They love Him! They worship in huts, sheds, under the palm trees, but they worship in spirit and in truth. They belong to Hebrews 11, "being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (of whom the world was not worthy:)" (Heb. 11:37).

The Bishop had never been on an airplane or outside of his section of the country. Now he is in the U.S.A. for two months. He sings, "God can do anything but fail." He is a blessing, a challenge, a lesson to every one of us.

I want you to help him, too. The Archbishop of Canterbury has refused to see him. Bishop Stephen calls it all "ecumenical thievery." It is! They took all they had into the union but not one penny could they take out when they saw their faith denied.

These people are the poorest of the earth. The wage for these former slaves in the rice paddies is thirty-three cents a day.

God is calling on us to help. They are brethren. Let us put them back on their feet and give them hundreds of Bibles. We can photographically reproduce the Malayalam Bible and let them use this plus their precious testimony to evangelize the lost. Even the Hindus are moved by the spectacle of their losses and they are in a special position now to give them the Gospel. This is the primitive, New Testament church, afflicted, naked, imprisoned, and alive.

A church can be built for $300, $500, or $1,000—a good church, too. We need 200 churches. As of this writing, we have 23. The Bishop will put memorial plaques in each church. They will be stone and plaster with a pulpit in the center and a Bible on that pulpit.

I invite you, your church, your Sunday school, your club; I invite you personally—perhaps you have a loved one who has gone on to whom you could make a memorial. It will be a testimony there for Jesus. Here are some of the pictures. Temporary sheds. They have no money to build churches; it just is not there. And as the missionaries came and brought them the Gospel and with it the gift of life, may you be a missionary today with a missionary gift! My friend, please do something. Let everybody share in this. No matter who you are, where you live, may the Spirit of God commend this letter to you. Send your gift or pledge immediately to the 20th Century Reformation Hour, Collingswood, New Jersey. Mark it "India"—yes, "Churches and Bibles"!

This is a worthy and glorious appeal. Your gift will be tax-exempt, but most of all, it is a gift for the glory of Christ. Give, my friend. Souls will be in Heaven because of your gift today.

Thank you,

Carl McIntire

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