

Book Reviews

Breaking Down Barriers : By Juergen Simonson. U.S.C.L. Pp. 48.
Price 2s.

The book is most interesting to read. The writer has tried to explain the two texts in the New Testament : ' Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate ' (2 Cor. 6 : 17) and ' Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation ' (Mark 16 : 15). He has tried to explain his subject from two of the small books of the Bible. Part I deals with the Book of Ruth and Part II with the Book of Jonah. The writer brings forth the evidence that God has called Israel to be His own special people to make Him known to the whole world. Part I deals with mixed marriages, Part II with the conversion of a great heathen enemy.

In Part I the writer has chosen the story of Ruth, undoubtedly a foreigner and yet she becomes one of the ancestors of Israel's famous King David. If God blessed the marriage between a Moabite and a Jew can He not also bless mixed marriages in our days ? Jesus Christ came from this ancestry.

The author has pointed out that in Ruth we see that God's choice of His servants is not determined by our origin or virtue or merit. God chooses and uses people whom we never consider fit for such high callings. As Christians, if we believe that by grace we are called, then we must also be the channels of God's grace to all men both foreigners, outsiders and non-Christians.

Similarly the author points out in the Book of Jonah the multitude of heathen who are created in God's image but are ignorant of His love. The book has a missionary appeal to the whole Jewish nation to recognize that they were God's messenger to the world. The Christian Church must go out and invite the non-Christians to believe in Jesus Christ. God commissioned Jonah with a strange mission to go to Nineveh, a heathen city, to save the people from their wickedness. Like Jonah, the Christians must obey God's call. We must never think that the people of other religions cannot be converted. If men are created in the image of God, then they shall respond to a fuller revelation of God. Because our faith is weak, our neighbours are not converted. We do not expect this to happen, as Jonah did not really want these enemies of his people to be saved.

The Christians, like the Jews, are in special responsibility. They know that God is holy, pure and loving. They must therefore help others to know Jesus Christ.

C. C. PANDE

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The Basis of Christian Unity : by Rev. D. Martyn Lloyd Jones. An exposition of John 17 and Ephesians 4. Published by the I.U.F., London.

The Rev. Lloyd Jones in this book points out that schism in Church life is a great sin. He has tried through his exposition of John 17 and Ephesians 4 to find the basis of Christian Unity. He points to the clear-cut division and distinction between those who are still in the world and those whom God has called out of the world. It is the unity of those who, in contradistinction to all others, have believed the truth concerning Him and His work. Such a unity is essentially spiritual, is produced by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the act of regeneration and shows itself in a common belief and reception of the teaching concerning our Lord's person and work. In the exposition he points out that John 17 does not start with unity and proceed to doctrine ; the call for unity is there because John has already laid down the doctrine. Therefore we should show greater diligence to keep the unity on doctrine already laid down. The unity itself is inevitable among those who have been quickened by the Holy Spirit out of spiritual death, and given a new life in Christ Jesus. They not only share the same life but they agree about the doctrine.

The author has an interesting chapter on Truth and Love, where he has explained the folly of the idea that the Churches can evangelize together without being one in doctrine. He says that the chief characteristic of modern movements is doctrinal indifference and the exaltation of a spirit of inclusivism and practical co-operation. He says that we must speak the truth in love, we must expose error and denounce it and not be men-pleasers only. The book is commended for students who are willing to see the other points of view on Church Unity.

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L. P. Larsen, Evangelist and Theologian : by Carl Bindslev, Copenhagen. Published by the United Theological College, Bangalore, and the Y.M.C.A. Publishing House, Calcutta, 1962. Pp. iv + 118.

'Undoubtedly Dr. L. P. Larsen was one of the most outstanding missionaries, and the Christian Church in India owes much to him' is how Principal J. R. Chandran of Bangalore introduces Dr. Larsen, the subject of this biography. Therefore it is quite appropriate that the book 'should be published on the occasion of the centenary of Dr. Larsen's birth' as the author reminds us in his preface.

Dr. Larsen came out in 1889 as a missionary of the Danish Missionary Society. He was indeed one of the great missionaries who came to this country. The author fully succeeds in portraying him as such, bringing out all the outstanding features of the great man. Reading the book, one gets the satisfaction of knowing Dr. Larsen almost as intimately as one who lived and worked with

him. Every side of his character and achievements as a missionary in rural parts, a Y.M.C.A. worker in the cities, a High School teacher, a Professor and Principal in a leading Theological College, and as a Bible Translator is depicted. Larsen was a simple village preacher—and he was superb at it—yet a profound theologian as well; a revivalist who could be ranked with Walker of Tinnevely with whom he shared many a pulpit, yet a bold reviser of the Tamil Bible translation—two roles which were quite irreconcilable in his time. He lived and worked in an age of transition in the history of the Indian Church and fitted in quite amply in all the situations that he had to face and work with, during the 41 years of his missionary life.

The subject is treated under several heads—Early Call, Y.M.C.A. Secretary, Professor at Bangalore, Work on Revision of the Tamil Bible. The last 38 pages carry selections from the writings of Dr. Larsen. The narrative is enlivened by a few anecdotes. Two portraits of Dr. Larsen and a half-tone reproduction of the staff and students of the Theological College, Bangalore, taken in 1913, which shows Larsen in his younger days, are quite useful additions to the book. This biography is a valuable addition to the books on the history of the Church in India.

D. A. CHRISTADOSS

Mission to the Head-hunters : by Frank and Marie Drown. Hodder and Stoughton, London. Pp. 252. Price 16s.

This is a stirring story of missionary heroism and patience, and a most encouraging narrative of successful evangelism. Frank and Marie Drown are two of those heroes of the Gospel, who for fifteen years lived among the head-hunting Shuara tribes inhabiting the depths of the Ecuadorian jungles in the upper reaches of the Amazon and its tributaries. They not only preached the Gospel to the savage aboriginals but lived the love of Christ in the midst of those killers. It is a moving story, the story of bringing the savages to the saving knowledge and love of the Lord, and founding an indigenous Church self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating. The narrative abounds in thrilling episodes of missionary heroism and sacrifice.

Sixteen pages of photo-reproductions, a picture of the jungle and an air-strip and a map of the Ecuadorian jungle land at the end covers add vividness to the description. A glossary running into four pages is a welcome addition.

D. A. CHRISTADOSS

Coral in the Sand : by Geoffrey T. Bull. Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1962. Pp. 125. Price 10s. 6d. net.

In this beautiful little book Geoffrey T. Bull describes his fourteen years' experience in Christian work in North Borneo. The story is graphically told, and the pictures we get of the people among whom he worked, Chinese as well as natives of North Borneo, are vivid and colourful. It is told with Christian sympathy and understanding, a characteristic which is the basis

CHRISTIAN TRAINING FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN SECULAR OCCUPATION

New One-month Courses at U.T.C., Bangalore

It was at the request of the Churches in South India that the United Theological College at Bangalore began to offer a one year's course of study for laymen who wished to prepare for the Serampore Diploma of Religious Knowledge (D.R.K.). This course is for graduates and covers a normal academic year from the end of June to Easter.

It has now been pointed out by various Church committees concerned with the training of laymen that this course, valuable as it is, cannot meet the full need for lay training. There is a need for shorter courses which have in mind laymen and women who are in occupations other than teaching and who are not able to attend college for a year's course. So, while the one-year course in preparation for the D.R.K. will be continued, five one-month courses will be offered between June, 1964, and Easter, 1965. These will be of the same academic standard as the D.R.K. courses for which the normal requirement for entry is a degree from an Indian university or its equivalent, but they will last only one month each.

The cost of a month's course will be about Rs.85 which will include accommodation, food in the hostel mess and tuition, but will not include the cost of books. All expenses will be kept as low as possible.

The five one-month courses will be:

In 1964: 18 July-16 August; 19 September-17 October;
31 October-28 November.

In 1965: 16 January-13 February; 13 February-13 March.

Applications for enrolment for the one-year course or for any of the one-month courses should be sent at once to:

The Director of Laymen's Training,
United Theological College,
17, Miller's Road,
Bangalore 6.