

10-1-1971
(On the Panel) - Australian Church - all States Women's
Non Australian living in Australia.
Read by Mrs S. Sundera Das

I The Problems facing non Australians - let them be students or migrants or people on Contracts.

(a) Australians talk of Assimilation & Integration - how what is wrong with it? It is a great levelling influence and it doesn't take into account cultural differences.

(b) It propagates the Concept of "one Civilisation" namely the Western one - All other cultures have inferior Civilisations or none at all. The missionaries going to India or Africa are supposed to be away from Civilisation. This Concept of one Civilisation has to be destroyed. It is a Procrustean Bed. Procrustes Bed is a mythological story, where a Sadiat pulled or cut. (Explain)

c Integration in the sense that all human beings belong to one culture and one civilisation might be impossible goal to attain.

II What about the present?

a) The patronising attitude of "white" people. Only the colour matters. A crude white man could think it justified to be patronising towards an enlightened educated "black" or "brown" man

b) Most white societies deliberately lower the self-esteem of non-white people by subtle and crude methods.

c) Language Usage :-

(1) a violent group of people in a "white" Country is described as a demonstration or, at its worst a "riot"

By some strange transformation it becomes a "primitive mob" in a non-white Country.

(2) No white man is ever a "native" in any Country. (Eg Queen Elizabeth II in Australia)

(3) Poor housing is referred to as a "slum" in a Western Country. But it becomes a "stinking ghetto" in a non-white Country.

III Deliberate falsifying by the mass media

(a) Stereotypes of "dirtiness", "lower mental ability", low I.Q. + so on are attributed to the black or the brown man.

(b) No good item of news from non-white countries is ever publicized.

(c) Any item of unpalatable news receives undue publicity.

d) Deliberate attempts are made by T.V. stations to undermine the self-esteem of overseas people in Australia. (Take away the wealth of a man he can still look up and work hard & make more money. But you take away the self-esteem of a person, what is there left for him to look up? yes) Bihar Famine.

IV The Church

a) A convicted Christians seem to be the most prejudiced.

b) A recent headline in a Missionary Journal was "India becomes Self-Sufficient in Tear gas". This is a very sarcastic article. When we have built so many dams, factories, universities, Hospitals etc, why mention Tear gas? (Expand on Vellore & Andhiana medical colleges & what the local Australians think about medical colleges).

(c) I want to say a few things about missionaries taking pictures of slums in underdeveloped countries

(eg) Ethiopia - (1) a lady hiding behind a tree & taking a photograph of a dirty woman returning from a river in Gondar.

(2) Police man confiscated the film from a foreigner in Assis Ababa

(3) (Car michael) Haile Selassie School - Slums of India was shown to teachers during ~~school~~ year after year by the head master of that school where most of the staff members were Indians.

(4) Missionary - taking pictures of a hospital in India with staff members lying on the floor - Screened in London - to film stars to collect money for India

(d) Differential treatment by missionaries in India - Describe the incident in underground Tute of a missionary looking for an Indian 'xian medical

doctor - Indian with English wife, both practising 'xians - Husband - Piano and sing Tenor, wife also plays on piano and sing Alto. He had ^{B.A.} H. B. B. S from India & F. R. C. S and M. Ch from London - The white missionary had only M. B. B. S.

Salary - £350!
or said
missionary Rs 600

Mission hospital - Rs 250!

Tried all the mission hospitals all over India in all the denominations. They had one scale for white Doctors & another scale for Indians - It's the Colour of the Skin that speaks!

~~the~~ Anniversary of S. of South India -
monkey faced children of S. India -

e) The Australian Concept about Asian

- ① Countries :- People often ask "What have you come to ~~study~~ learn? Have you got buildings like these - pointing to small home units. The impression that I get from my conversation with them is that we have come to learn something from them and that they have nothing to learn from overseas people.

(2) Rev ? Papua + New Guinea
Rev + Mrs - - - - were sent from C. of S. India
to P.N.G.

But the Australian Missionary Association was against C of S. India sending missionaries to P.N.G. Christ said go & preach to all nations & he didn't give those instructions only to Australians!

3) Rev T.M. wore Dhoti, shirt, identified himself with the people of India - Very Popular - Tamil in London - Older missionaries told him not to wear dhoti, not to sit on the floor. In short an Australian made this remark to me "Is ~~he~~ not ~~he~~ a queer person"

f Arshrams :- 'Xian Arshrams - part of Y.W.C.A. Tirupattore in S. India - Dr Paton + Dr Jesudasan - Dr Paton dressed always in ^{shirt + slippers} ~~Dhoti~~ like the local Village people, travelled on foot, or bullock cart carrying his medical equipment.
You can call him and a few other dedicated missionaries who did sacrifice for the sake of India.

I would consider Miss E. Rivett as one of those who loved India & loved the people of India & served them in ~~the~~ manner that ~~as~~ a practising 'Xian would have done. Of course I met quite a good no of Educationalists in London who have done wonderful work in all the mission schools

I'll close with a Chinese Proverb:-

2 men from a prison looked
thru' a cell -

one saw - mud +

the other saw - Stars.

Thank you.