

Youth for Christ
Radio Talk
in
St. Louis, Mo.
March 24, 1945.

J. J. Van Hise
Testimony to V. N. Call

Just two weeks ago American planes bombed the Japs in the town where my husband and I lived and worked for many years among the Annamese. It did something to me when I heard it on the air for I had been there when the Japs bombed on their way in.

A Jap officer had smashed one by one the dishes and the set of china which I had painted in my student days in Switzerland. They looted our home taking the silver and heirlooms that had come down to me from my grandparents.

When the French asked for help to care for the wounded, a group of our boys acted as stretcher bearers. Mr. Van Hise was in one of the most dangerous spots of the City directing the stretcher bearers.

I worked in a cave as assistant to the surgeon, a Colonel in the French Medical Service. This officer commented on the courage and spiritual strength of these young men - and I thought back to something which happened in the Sunday School the week before.

The lesson was from Isaiah where God revealed Himself to His prophet, showed Isaiah his own worthlessness - touched his lips with a coal from the altar, cleansing him and purifying him from his sin and making him fit for service. Only then could God ask the question: "Whom shall I send, who will go for us?" Isaiah answered, "Here am I, send me".

The Superintendent of the School said: "God calls people today even as in Bible times. Surely Mrs. Van Hise could never have endured us in our sinful paganism through the early years of this pioneer work if God had not called her, even as He did Isaiah."

I could remember this young man from years before, ringleader in a band of trouble makers and could recall how God had transformed him, turning him into a soul winner, leading to Christ the same comrades he had once led to evil.

He turned to me and said: "Mrs. Van Hise, will you tell us how God called you from Switzerland across the world to this dark land to lead us to Christ?" I told them as I tell you tonight.

When I was only 12 years of age I was saved. I read all the missionary biographies Father had in his study. Everytime I put one back on the shelf, I took another one out, I was a little afraid God might want me to be a missionary some day. I did not particularly cherish the idea, for there were other things I wanted to do far more. It was in my first year's University work that God spoke to me at a Youth Rally like tonight's. Father and Mother were sitting on either side of me. When the opportunity was given to stand in dedication for foreign service, God had spoken very definitely to me. When I asked my parents if I might stand they said: "But child, God might take you at your word and send you!" That is just what I wanted Him to do so I stood, while tears ran down my parents' cheeks. That night God set me aside for service, put His seal on my life. In later years when testings came, when the flood destroyed many of our precious belongings, some valuable manuscripts ready for print and when we were bombed and looted - lost all our earthly possessions - it was good ALWAYS to know that God had sent us there.

Oh young people - when you boys go off to war and when you girls have to wait at home alone - it is good to know that you are in the will of God, just where He wants you - no matter what you do - you must be in the will of God to know true joy and happiness.

When I was through telling the Sunday School of my call the handsome young superintendant turned to me and then to that large group - was quite choked up and then said: "Suppose Mrs. Van Hine had not said in Switzerland so many years ago, "Here am I, send me? Do you realize we might never have heard of Jesus and His love for she was our first and only missionary."

God in turn called several of our young Christians to minister to their own people. One I would like to mention tonight is Vi van Ben. He was a brilliant chap, spoke Annamese, French, Thai and Chinese and was offered an interpreter's position in court. He told me all about it and then said: "It's very tempting but the Lord has called me to give the Gospel to my own tribe's people and I must obey God. I would never be happy otherwise.

A few months after we left he wrote that he had the joy of seeing 55 of his people come to Christ and a few months later wrote: "85 more accepted Christ as their Saviour. They are all anxiously waiting for your return so Mr. Van Hine can baptize them." So you see, the work is nobly carried on by our native workers while we are detained in America by the war.

It was this young man and the Sunday School Superintendent and others of our Young People's Society who distinguished themselves and called for the praise of the atheistic Doctor. He had wondered why I called these Annamese boys by their first names and it was then that I told him that these boys were Christ's. He said: "War time proves the genuineness of one's faith and these young men have passed the test, their religion is real - they are quite unafraid of death, I wish I had their faith."

Some of you fine Christian young people in the audience or even in radio land may wonder how I know and how Vi van Ben know God wanted us to serve Him. Did we actually hear the voice of the Almighty God?

In Washington, D. C. there is a college - Gallaudet College - founded for the education of the deaf and dumb. In football games when Gallaudet had the ball, all of Gallaudet players looked at the quarterback and watched him signal with his fingers. When the other college team had the ball all their players listened to the quarterback and heard him signal with his voice.

The Gallaudet players heard with their eyes, the others with their ears. Both quarterbacks spoke but through different mediums. So God speaks to us in different ways.

Isaiah heard a voice even the voice of God with his ears. Must we deny the experience of Isaiah simply because we have not heard God with our ears? Some people have heard God's voice in His Word, others through their eyes - in nature, in beauty. We can say then that God speaks to us through various senses. We differ in the sense used but the Voice is real. He says:-

"Look unto me" for those with eyes
"Hear my Word" to those with ears
"Come" to those with feet
"Believe" to those with minds
"Receive" to those with hearts.

Should He be speaking to you tonight, in one way or another, will you not with Isaiah of old say: "Here am I, Lord, send me!"