

FAREWELL ROVIANA.

25 MARCH 1956

CHARLES ROYLAND.

Now has come the time when it is proper to talk of the things that have happened during my year with you.

From the material point of view ~~MINIMUM~~ I've come to know you in your society. To see the groups of happy children on their way to and from school each day has given me cause to reflect that where once all was fear, sorrow and despair, now by the Great Grace and Glory of God all is happiness and hope.

I've learned about the problems of your food, your health, and their solutions. As you know my travels will keep me in the tropics for some more years before I reach my home, and what experience has taught me about what foods to buy and what will keep and what is available, is and will be very valuable. Even common things like how to bake my own bread and to cut my own hair have their value.

From the spiritual point of view, I may remind you that since May '34 the call has come to me - a re-awakening, that called me away from selfish service to real Service for others. It led me to the B.S.I.C., and the Mission here. I came willing to give it a trial

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year. I came however with the idea of keeping a critical eye open. I have seen the problems of the Mission staff itself. There has been such harsh criticism, jealousy, selfishness, indifference, and callousness, that I was angered and dismayed that I found hatred growing in my heart too. Could God spread His word in such an atmosphere? There was a lack, a frustration, - a need of something more, to let His Word spread with real vigour.

The book, "Isles of Colonization", has shown me how great was the faith of the new converts here. But now I've heard of and seen a lessening of the faith under the sinister touch of the white man's Commercialism, with its profit possibilities.

That is one side of the problem. Another side may be seen in my own country where bumper crops have made a surplus of grain valued at over a million dollars. Yet elsewhere actually it is causing hardship and even starvation among the farmers who grew it.

Is this the Devil's world after all? Does Jesus stand for "World Reputation"? In the Gospel of St. John 17:14-21 we may read Christ's great affirmation of the ONENESS of GOD and His

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believers with Christ. He tells us what to do in Luke, 14:19, when He says to "make friends of the Mammon of unrighteousness" i.e. to learn about the things of this world its material problems, for how else can we "do unto the least of these my brethren" as we would to Christ. Is any of that "world negation"?

But what did we Christians do for all our knowledge of worldly things --but stand back in horror when the "A" bombs hit Japan. Is that what we do to Christ? And what will we Christians do with our great understanding of worldly things. Will we stand back and see farmers starve while the grainaries grow with wheat? Is or will that be the kind of bargain we will give Christ

and in our great knowledge of world matters will we stand back from the groups that control these material things by which we "serve" Christ, and say with self-righteous smugness "the Church and politics don't mix." Did Christ tell us to do that?

No, Christ called His followers fools when He said "for the children of this world are wiser than the children of light."

But this is God's world. In our mental, and moral lives, GOD is KING. He is King also in our

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material lives. GOD in our Mental, and Moral lives bears fruit in our material lives -- or else HE IS NOT IN US.

Let us see the Head of GOD in all the world, -- Let us see the Vision of GOD in all the world, sacred & secular, -- I see the need of GOD in politics and finance and I know how He may be taken there, -- that is my Call now.

Where there is no VISION the people perish. I pray that you will have the whole VISION of OUR WORLD for GOD.

W. H. Edwards, March 21, 1956