

# **To Mission Supporters...**

*R. Stanley, 7 April 2020*

Dear Supporters of Indian Missions,

Greetings in the Name of the Lord of the Harvest! May God Almighty protect you and yours during this global calamity!

This is an Emergency Letter on behalf of the indigenous Missionary Organisations in India. These are critical times for everyone, especially for Missionaries who have forsaken the comforts of life and risked their lives to reach and bless those in regions beyond. Besides the health condition, the economic crisis is looming large in all sectors. One of the worst affected is the world of Missions. Already several of our Missions are going through financial crisis. The spread of Coronavirus has made it acute. I write the following lines with firsthand knowledge of the ground reality. As most of you know, under God, I led the Blessing Youth Mission as its Founder-leader for 33 years from 1971. May God speak to you and your family members as you read this letter.

Most of the Indian Missions do not have a big reserve. It is hand-to-mouth situation. Recently a very leading Mission paid its Staff on the 10th of that month only. The monthly income largely depends on the volunteers who visit Christian homes to collect missionary offerings. The national Lockdown has paralyzed these fund-mobilizers. The Mission leaders are wondering how they would find funds for the Staff salary of April 2020. Did not the brook of Prophet Elijah dry up? I wonder how “crows” brought “mutton sandwich” to Elijah in the days of famine without devouring it! (1 Ki 17:5-7). I can imagine a “dove” bringing a piece of meat, not a non-vegetarian crow! Dear friends, God is calling you to be God’s crows for the Missionaries in times like these. The brook is drying up fast. The Elijah-like travelling Missionaries need your “cup of cold water” (Mt 10:41,42). Even if you are a widow, God counts on you to support His servants (1 Ki 17:8,9). You may not have enough for your own needs. Don’t worry, give the “first cake” to God’s servants and see God’s miracle provision for you (vv10-16).

The frontline Missionaries solely depend on the monthly allowances sent by their organisations. Help cannot be expected from the families of many of them. Their field congregations are mainly of pagan background. Most of them are the poorest of the poor, unlike the urban Churches with rich Christians. Apostle John’s advice to Gaius is appropriate here: “Beloved, if you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, because they went for His Name’s sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to support such, that we may become fellow-workers for the truth” (3 Jn 5-8). Several Missionaries are in heavy debts because of the huge advances they have drawn from their organisations for the education and marriage of their sons and daughters. The escalation of the cost of commodities has made the situation worse.

Many of Indian Missions are of Southern origin. They very much count on their Annual Camps in May for raising new supporters and presenting major field projects.

In the present situation, it is highly improbable that any Mission can hold its annual programme successfully. Due to the hurdles in printing and despatch, several Missions have not been able to send the April issue of their magazines which serve as a promotional material.

The vast majority of Mission Supporters is of the middle income group, most of whom depend on weekly or fortnightly wages. The families of this working class are under stress. The business community, which plays a significant role in Mission support, is also going through a tough time. However, the Macedonian Christians stand before us who in their “deep poverty” abounded in the “riches of their liberality” ( 2 Cor 8:1-3).

May I urge my fellow-Christians to seriously consider my exhortations listed below—

**(1)** Do not wait for an appeal from the Missions for financial help. Send them by online bank transfer at least 50% more than your usual contribution. Don't hesitate to withdraw from your savings. You may close one Fixed Deposit. What is money for but to support those who carry the Gospel to the unreached and the unchurched? The Church is the only society on earth that is to function primarily for its non-members!

**(2)** If you don't have ready cash, sell one of your jewels for the Missionary cause. Why not? As per today's market rate, you will get a good price also. This is how you can store wealth in Heaven (Mt 6:19-21; Lk 12:33,34). Dear sisters, be a Joanna or a Susanna who provided for Jesus from their “possessions” (Lk 8:3). Do not carry heavy chains around your neck, but give them away to support those who risk their own necks in the frontline (Rom 16:3,4). Influence your husband to stand with you in the missionary cause as Aquila stood with Priscilla.

**(3)** Thank God for the Churches which are sponsoring Missionaries. Don't be satisfied. Slice a large portion from your funds and send it to support Missions. Use for them the huge sums you have accumulated for mega building projects. As I have been repeatedly saying, there's no big scope or safety for mega structures in future in a country like India. Christ is returning soon. Do not leave your monies for the Antichrist! The only two Churches not rebuked by Christ the Head were missionary-minded (Rev 2:8-11; 3:7-13). Be a Philippian Church, the only Church which supported Missionary Paul consistently, especially in his “distress” (Phil 4:14-18). It is to this Church the Apostle gave the promise, “My God shall supply all your need” (v19). This is a conditional promise. When you take care of the “necessities” of the Missionaries, God will supply your “need” (vv16,19).

**(4)** If you have never been a supporter of Missions, get the bank details of the Missions your Christian friends are supporting, and enroll yourself as a regular supporter.

If you follow what I have written in this letter, as an elder brother (74), you would thank me when we meet in Heaven (Phil 4:3).

With love in the Lord,  
R. Stanley