-Indigenuity at Last!



1. Let me ask you something: If Jesus had staved with them, how far would the disciples have gone & how much would they have accomplished? Those poor ignorant stupid dumb blundering befuddled fishermen & nobodieswho would have even seen any leadership in them anyway?

2. If Jesus had stuck with them they'd have been dependent on Him till the day they died & they would have never gotten any further, right? But when the Pioneer had to go off & leave them behind, it was live or die, sink or swim. They didn't have His physical presence to lean on anymore. They had to depend on His Words & His Holy Spirit.

3. They evangelised all the known civilised World of their day within 100 years, because He physically left them. They trusted God & His Spirit, that He was able to at least help them to carry on from the Spirit World.

4. Just as Jesus had to leave His disciples so they could go on to even greater works, just as I had to leave TSC so that we could spread out & go into all the World, so our North American leadership is going to have to step down & out of the picture & push forward the nationals in order to integrate & nationalise the many countries we're in.

5. I wrote a whole series of Letters in 1974 on "In-

digenuity", about our need to become home-grown, native-grown. Yet in many places we still have not trained the national leadership, & I don't think we ever will unless we're forced to.

6. If the Work has always got to be held up by the Americans & the Americans have always got to run it, then there is no such thing as indigenuity & it doesn't work. If we can't get enough converts & good enough material to run their own Homes & their own country, then I will certainly be highly disappointed, because then we are not missionaries, we haven't established anything native & we're just a foreign colonial empire!

7. We have just moved like a bunch of Gypsies & we're just living different places & in other countries & we're not getting the job done that we came to do, & that was to evangelise the people, get them saved, filled with the Spirit, on-fire for the Lord, train them to preach the Gospel, train them to run themselves!

8. After being in some of these countries for so many years, if we're really doing a good job, we ought to have all kinds of good nationals in places of responsibility.

9. But a lot of our own people have the idea that nobody's better than the Americans, nobody is smarter than Americans & nobody can do it but U.S. Americans. But I don't believe it!

10. If we don't force them to use native leadership in their ranks, they will never do it, because they just think, "Oh well, there's no one we can trust!" Well, they're going to have to find somebody real quick because we're going to start requiring natives to now be in positions of authority.

11. I've heard some horror stories about what happened to mission fields where they had not nationalised nor prepared the nationals to take over. When the U.S. leadership were finally all kicked out, the Work just collapsed, because there wasn't any national trained in leadership to carry it on.

12. The nationals had never been given any organisational training or position of responsibility. So the Work just practically fell apart, except in some unusual cases. Usually the Work just virtually collapsed, & about all they would hear from a few converts now & then was that they were still loving & serving the Lord. But anything of any real substance of organisational cooperation had pretty well vanished.