

Chandu Ray

1912 - 83

In a leaflet about the Sindhi Bible Chandu Ray described his own story. 'God called me out of the darkness of Hinduism into his marvellous light...I had been with my mother on pilgrimages all over India... Then I met a Christian friend with eye disease who asked me to read the Bible to him. I read John chapter 14, ' I am the way, the truth and the life ... Ask what you will in my name and I will do it'. They prayed in faith and God gave physical sight to his friend and spiritual light to Chandu.

Books were the business of the middle-class Hindu Sindhi family into which Chandu was born. After becoming a Christian he spent much of his life producing and distributing books especially the Bible. When he was not dealing in books he was proclaiming the Biblical message. He married Sarah, an orphan from the Brenton Carey Orphanage in Karachi run by Marian Laugesen. They had three children.

Chandu Ray was ordained deacon in 1942 and priest the following year. He became Archdeacon of Baluchistan in 1954. Appointed in 1956 to work in Sindh he used his gifts of evangelism and encouragement in leading a team among the Kohlis, a large animistic tribal group of around 75,000 thousand. Within a few weeks hundreds asked for baptism. This was part of a continuing movement of tribal groups into the church. Then, based in Lahore, Chandu Ray served as Secretary of the Pakistan Bible Society for nine years. He worked with others in completing the translation of the Sindhi Old Testament and revising the New Testament. He published the Sindhi, Tibetan and Gurmukhi Bibles. In 1978 the Chicago

Bible Society awarded him the prestigious Gutenberg Award for his contribution to Bible translation and distribution.

In his leaflet on the Tibetan Bible he described God's miracles. A fugitive from Tibet, Gergan fled to Ladakh where missionaries asked him to teach them Tibetan. They translated the Gospels into Tibetan. His son Yoseb reading the manuscripts believed in Jesus. Sent to the CMS school in Srinagar, Kashmir, he learned Urdu and English. He refused lucrative government jobs saying, 'I have found Christ through the reading of Scriptures and so I want to give the people of Tibet the Bible in their mother tongue'. He spent thirty-five years translating and revising the Tibetan Bible. Sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society (BFBS) in London it was hidden in a crypt when WW11 broke out. After the war Yoseb, then over seventy, enquired what had happened to his life's work. The BFBS decided it must be published in Lahore. This involved getting the manuscripts to Yoseb to write out by hand with the help of three other scribes and sending them to Lahore. Twice proofs were lost or damaged. The outbreak of war between India and Pakistan in the 1947 partition caused further difficulty, danger and delay. Prayers were answered. Three months later Chandu received a telegram which said 'Come quickly...come, Lord Jesus'. He knew who sent it, why and where he should meet the sender – in Srinagar. Chandu flew to India and was able to meet the man with the manuscripts and get priority passes for them to go to Delhi. Finally they reached Lahore. The Bible Society presses worked shifts to complete the printing. The bearer took a bound copy back reaching his village after forty days. In five years all copies were distributed by traders and monks. The Chinese used it in learning Tibetan.

Chandu Ray became Archdeacon of Lahore. On 16th February 1963 he was consecrated Anglican Bishop of Karachi, the first new diocese carved out of the Diocese of Lahore which

embraced all West Pakistan. In 1968 he was one of the two candidates for the Bishopric of Lahore. Archdeacon Inayat Masih was chosen. Shortly after his disappointment in Lahore, Chandu resigned from the Karachi Diocese, moving to Singapore to become Executive Director of the Co-ordinating Office for Asian Evangelism of the Asia-South Pacific Congress on Evangelism. In 1975 he joined the staff of the Haggai Institute in Singapore and later became their Director of Third World Outreach until his retirement in 1982. His dynamic personality, love for Christ, concern for evangelism and infectious enthusiasm inspired many throughout the world to become involved in mission.

Pakistan Bible Society Annual Reports, especially 1983; leaflets on the Sindhi and Tibetan Bibles.

Stacey, Vivienne, Pakistan: Land of Challenge, Bible & Medical Missionary Fellowship, London nd.

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