

negative and the other is positive. The negative is in Verse 4. "Don't be afraid." Our greatest enemy is fear. Our greatest need is faith in what God promises to do. I haven't checked but I am told that the words 'Fear not' occurs 365 times in the Bible - one for every day in the year. There isn't a servant of God of any significance in the Bible to whom God did not have to say somewhere, 'Don't be afraid.' So if you have fears, you are in good company. But don't be afraid. You have to learn what to do with your fears. Psalm 56, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in you." That's the first process. Second, I will trust and not be afraid; then we move from these two ways of dealing with fear. But let's deal with it and not be afraid for the loss of face or loss of reputation or any other things. Three fears exist, which, if you get rid of them, will make you invincible as a Christian. First is the fear of death. Did you listen to Jonathan Chow last week? His testimony was the secret of a growing church in China. They have lost the fear of death. The second is the fear of poverty. Get rid of the fear of poverty and nothing will stop you. The third is the fear of shame. If we could put our reputations on the altar and despise the shame, we would be invincible. When I say 'Don't be afraid,' I'm calling you to something very significant. That God will work with you and removed the fear of death, the fear of poverty and the fear of shame, and then there will stand an army that no one can resist.

The positive is, to make the tent larger, count on growth. Make provision for it. Remember, when they heard it they were in exile in Babylon. Only God could bring them out, but they were to prepare for what God would do. Our efforts will not produce growth; it is God who gives the increase. We, however, are to prepare for the blessing he will give by expanding our capacity. At the end of this Conference, this is my word to you - a word of hope. I hope that you will receive it. I hope you will share it wherever you go in your own church, in other churches *Until all Asia hears the word of the Lord*. This word interprets the facts of our time and matches them with the promises of God. Carey said it all when he preached from this text 200 years ago and told his reluctant audience then to **expect great things from God and attempt great things for God.**

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WORDS OF CONSECRATION

Rev Viju Abraham

As I think of ALCOE III, I am amazed at the way God has brought us around a sort of spiritual Olympics from 1978 to 1992. In 14 years we have met three times. I hope it will be not more than four years till we meet again to stimulate one another as we have done here. Have you sensed the Spirit of God here?

I believe that God has been stirring us very uniquely. I think we are on sacred ground. Let us slaughter the sacred cows because they don't belong here. I think about two Brahmins who met in London and one ordered Beef Steak and the other Brahmin asked him, "You eat cow?" The other said, "I don't eat Indian cows, I eat English cows only!" Well, whatever cow it is that we eat, let us slaughter those sacred cows because I think they come in the way of our work. Someone has said that the pathway to hell is paved with good intentions. Let's not leave this conference just with intentions, but also with the resolve to follow through.

Let's meditate on what we have learned and go with a sense of commission. "Lord here am I, send my sister." This is the usual way we travel. The emotion has died out, the feeling has died out, and our commitment has flown out of the window. Let us pray that God's Word will move Asia. What will it cost for you and me, for all of us if we give ourselves totally to the task? Not waiting for James Wong or John Cho, or Bel Magalit, but saying, Lord, what will you have me to do? I know we don't have much in our hands or pockets. Some of us come from poor countries. We just have a few takka. But God says, "Give me those takka. I will bless them and I will multiply them." This evening I had one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. Three brothers and one sister came to me and said, "Brother, we believe that we must take South Asia for Jesus. We believe in what you are doing in trying to get the region moving. Here is what we believe." They took out \$400. You realise that with a \$100 they could have bought a tape recorder. I believe that we can all give according to what we have, not according to what we keep

back. On the basis of what we give will be the basis by which God judges us. I praise the Lord for what our brothers and sisters showed me; it encouraged me to say, "O Lord, you are moving your people and may you move them and shake them even more."

This evening I want to tell you what the ALCWE Committee has been doing, sometimes behind closed doors and sometimes in the dining room. Someone has said that the best Committee is a committee of three: one of the members is sick, the other is absent and that is the best way to get work done. Now if you want to get work done, it has to be done by people who mean business. I want to thank the Lord that he has given some people with heart in this Committee. I want to charge them before the Lord that they keep the commission that God has given them to see all Asia come to the Lord so that by the time we meet again, four years hence, we will have made rapid and measurable progress as a result of Asia Lausanne Committee for World Evangelisation. ALCWE is a co-operative movement of individuals - you and I. We are all in this. Different churches, different places, different groups, but we are all in this together. Let us pull together and let us move Asia for Jesus Christ, to move all our churches with the whole Gospel, proclaiming and working for Jesus in our cities, our towns, in our nations, in our regions, and among our unreached groups.

They have given us a wonderful start-up here. You know one of the blessed things is that they made us all work, and we worked hard. Some haven't slept. Some have dozed through the morning meetings, but for a good reason - they have been praying all night. I want to challenge the Committee members to spend hours on their knees to pray for Asia to come to the Lord. I miss some of them in the prayer meeting and I want to ask you all to move in prayer till we see this continent being shaken. We are not going to see the Khomenis, the Ayatollahs, the Sheikhs, and the Sultans of Arabia turn to Christ without shaking the kingdom of Satan in prayer. If ALCWE is to be a movement of prayer, we call you to pray and to claim this continent for Jesus Christ.

If you are to see the continent shaken, you need labourers. One of the first things the Committee did was to ask Martin Alphonse to take up the work of General Co-ordinator; he will do it in spite of being a Methodist and having a Bishop looking over his shoulder. He is going to give at least 20% of his time for ALCWE. Let us pray for him that God will energise him with the Holy Spirit to fulfil this task.

As you worked in these sub-groups, one of the most exciting things was to match minds, hearts, and to pray together. An example was a group I attended in the South Asian Group. What they did was to get together and plan for their whole region in co-operation with each other. They appointed a co-ordinator, trusting the Lord for the money, and the Lord has already sent us the first packet. They believe that they should help one another within the region, travel, help one another, and minister to each other's groups. Fortunately we have Ajith Fernando there. He is going to carry the message of Acts, hopefully, around the sub-continent, either by himself or by proxy. I don't know but we hope things will happen as we share each other's gifts around the area. We believe that we will help these regions set up their work and concentrate, and then we will move in South East Asia, North East Asia, West Asia, and Central Asia. We pray that God will move co-ordinators into this area. Pray that this will happen. We must take these sub-regions and move people into them. We hope to have consultations in different key areas of theology. Dr. Saphir Athyal always writes because his brain never stops. He always thinks of something new and he has several things in the pipeline, issues that we face in theology. We hope to have a compendium of all the works we've had at this meeting so that it will be available to you and others and will inspire people to pray and work for the evangelisation of Asia. We hope also to have consultations on urban evangelism and on the Diaspora. There are about 15 to 20 topics that they want us to think about to match our minds with others across Asia and to think through and pray through key areas of concentration. So pray that this will indeed become a reality.

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I believe God is calling us to a new day of co-operation in evangelism with the whole Gospel in our continent. Pray for God's guidance. What is the cost? I ask you, my friends, as we leave this conference. Would you take a vow before God that before the next ALCOE comes, you just would not go to conferences, but that you will work untiringly and sacrificially for the evangelisation of all Asia?

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