CHAPTER 37

THE AFTER EFFECTS OF REFORMATION

Portion to read	:	Rev. 3: 7-13
Memory Verse	:	1 Cori. 9:16; Reve. 3: 10
Objective	:	To impart zeal in the students for evangelization and Christian obedience, from the study of the life of the leaders of reformation

INTRODUCTION

The Christian church was under false doctrine and traditions from 4th century to 14th century. Bible was a closed book, as far as a common man was considered. People joined the church only to get the mercy of the king. The gospel was not preached inside or outside the church. But in the 16th centry, as a result of the effort of Saints like Luther, Swingli, and Calvin, reformation brought revolutionary changes in the church. We will learn about that changes, in this chapter.

BIBLE TRANSLATION AND ITS WIDE CIRCULATION

Today, Bible is the most widely circulated book. It is also the book translated into most of the languages of the world. But before reformation, Bible was available only in Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Syrian languages written in scrolls. John Wycliff, William Tyndail and John Rogers had to face great persecutions for translating Bible into English. Martin Luther translated Bible into other European languages, for which he was also persecuted. (The advent of printing in Europe by 16th century, helped in Bile translation). during the period of Queen Elizebeth, many versions of Bible were published in England, between 1558 and 1603. This helped to take the message of reformation deep into the common people. The descendent of Queen Elizebeth, King James I was a Bible lover, under his guidance, 47 scholars prepared a new version of Bible based on previous versions and original manuscripts, and it was published in 1611. Later it came to be known as the 'King James Version' or 'The Authorised

Version'. For the last 350 years, all the non - catholic churches are using this version or its modified versions. In the19th century, many missionaries from England, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, America and Canada went to India, China, Burma and Srilanka and suffered a lot for Christ and translate Bible into the local languages.Among these missionaries,Adoniram Judson (Who evangelised Burma and translated Bible to Burmese) and Robert Morrison and Brother Sherry (Who were evangelists in China and translated Bible to Chinese) require special mention. Robert Moffert and David Livingstone took gospel to Africa. The industrial revolution and the widespread use of printing machines in England helped in these works. England became a world power and English language became popular and the English rulers encouraged the evangelization works of missionaries'. In 1804, at Britain the foreign Bible society was established. God used this organisation to publish Bible in many languages.

PROTESTANT EFFORTS FOR EVANGELIZATION IN INDIA

Danish Mission

The first protestant missionaries who came to India were, Barthalomea Seagen Balgom, Henaiku Plushow,were send by the Danish mission. They land in the Tharangapadi thaluk of Tanjore district in Tamil Nadu in South India. The fruits of their work is still vivid inTamilnadu.

Baptist Mission

The first protestant missionary who came to North India was William Carey, who landed in Calclutta in November 11, 1793. He is known as the father of modern missions. He was sent by the Baptist mission, which stood for baptism after believing. He was a Cobbler and after many years of prayer and waiting, he came to India after a tormentsinship journey.Since the East India Company was not supportive, Carey started his work in Serampur, a small city under the rule of the king of Denmark. In the midst of the declining health of his wife and children and the threats from various quarters, Carey translated and published, Bible fully or partially into 40 Indian languages. He worked in Serampur and later moved to Calcutta and sent missionaries to different places in India. The school started by him in Serampur, has today become the first Christian university in Asia. Carey wroked in India, on the support of London Missionary Society.He influenced the British rulers to abolish 'Sati'.

London Missionary Society (LMS)

Rinkletob a missionary of LMS, worked faithfully from 1806 to 1815, in the South Travancore, that included Kanyakumari district and Trivandrum district. This led many people to Christ and LMS started many schools and hospitals in these regions. LMS also evengliszed certain ares of Bengal and Tamilnadu.

Anglical Missioary Groups

Even before the coming of Anglical missioary groups, the chaplains of East India company had started churches in various parts of India. Among them, Clandians Bukkanan, who visited Kerala, in 1806 is worth mentioning. In his interest, the 4 gospels were translated to Malayalam and printed in Bombay and published in Keala. Henry Martin, who worked in North India and Bishop Middleton (1814-22) who established Bishops college, Calcutta, also belonged to East India Company.

Church Missionary Society (CMS)

Among the Anglican missionary groups, CMS made praise worthy cotributions in Kerala (Old Travancore - Cochin States). In 1813, CMS started working in India, in Bombay,Madras Thirunaveli, and Central Kerala. CMS led the church in Kerala to reformation and established many Churches and schools.

Bassal Mission

Bassal Mission started its work in Manglore in 1834 and did powerful missionary work in Karnataka (Uduppi, Mulky, Hoobly) and North Kerala (Kannur, Telicherry, Kozhikode, palakkad). Many schools and small scale industries were started. Samuel Hebbik was one of the earliest missionary of Bassal Mission. He wrote the famous book, 'Humanhear', for children. Herman Gundert, the German missionary translated Bible to malayalam and published it from Telicherry. He also compiled malayalam dictionary and grammer. The churhes established by Bassal mission have now joined the C.S.I.

Apart from the missionary societies mentioned above, others like methodist (Weslian) missionary society, Church of Scotland mission and American mission also contributed a lot for the evangelization of India? We are debted to the brave missionaries who faced great persecutions, for giving the gospel to us.

EFFECT OF REFOMATION IN ROMAN CHURCH

The Roman Catholic Church which strongly opposed the reformation efforts of Luther, itself went through a reformation in 16th century. This

reformation which was started to prevent the flow of people to the protestant churches, came to be called the counter reformation. It aimed at bringing changes in the traditions of church and starting more schools and missionary works to attract people. This movement was led by Ignatious Liola, who established 'The Society of Jesus' and did powerful evanglization. The members of the society are called Jesuits. They have many centres in India and other parts of the world. Francis Xavier, who worked in the south - west coastal areas of India, was a Jesuit.

19th century was a period when new doors opened for gospel, all over the world. It is interesting that the message to the church of Philedelphia in Revelation is true about the 19th and 20th centuries (Reve. 3: 7). Let us share the gospel, to everyone around us, before the opened door gets closed.

QUESTION

1. What were the fruits of the reformation started by Luther and others in 16th century?
2. How did Bible get circulated through the nations of world in 19th and 20th centuries?
3. Which was the version of Bible published in 1611?Why was it named so?
4. Why is William Carey known as the father of modern missions?
5. Which were the major missionary groups that worked in India?
6. What was 'counter reformation'? Who led it?

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