



Dynamis World Ministries a.k.a. Christopher Alam Ministries Intl.

April 2015

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

The origins of this, now famous, hymn are said to have come from Northern India during the late 1800s. It was during this time, that India was experiencing an evangelistic movement as missionaries labored to spread the Gospel in an effort to convert the nation of India to Christianity.

This movement was unique in that it was largely led by native Indian evangelists. They were joined by missionaries from around the world as the region of Northern India, which was formerly closed to the Gospel, became accessible. This area was deeply rooted in the caste system and was known for the barbaric custom of head-hunting. Despite many missionaries becoming martyrs, as a result of the local tribes who prided themselves for their hostile response toward these foreigners, they were starting to gain access to these unreached areas.

Wales in particular sent hundreds of missionaries to India during this movement. During the 1880s one particular Welsh missionary finally saw his first converts. In the village of Garo in the Province of Assam, a man, together with his wife and 2 children chose to follow Jesus.

Upon learning of their conversion to a "foreign god", the village chief ordered the man to lay aside his newfound faith or risk his family being executed. When the man

refused, archers murdered his children right in front of him. He was unmoved when given another chance to recant his faith, at which time his wife was also struck down. After one more chance, his life was taken and he too joined his family.

Witnesses later reported the events to the Welsh missionary. They told him, when asked to turn from his new God or see his children perish, he replied, "I have decided to follow Jesus, and there is no turning back." After his children were killed, it is reported that he said, "The world can be behind me, but the cross is still before me." And after his wife's body lay riddled by arrows, he held fast to his new faith and said, "Though no one is here to go with me, still I will follow Jesus."

Upon returning to the village, the missionary discovered that revival had broken out. It is reported that the village chief was puzzled that an entire family would die for this Jesus. He marvelled at the strength that their commitment reflected – strength formerly measured by the amassing of "trophies" through their brutal head-hunting practices. As a result, the chief gave his life to Christ along with many from the village.

These events were reported by the Welsh missionary to Sanhu Sundar Singh, a native Indian evangelist, who is attributed with forming the martyr's words into a hymn set to the Indian melody of Assam, named after the region where the text originated. It became the first uniquely Indian hymn. It immediately gained popularity, and even today continues to be a mainstay in worship throughout India.

Later, William Jensen Reynolds, an American hymn editor, composed an arrangement which was included in the 1959 Assembly Songbook. It was this version that gained popularity as George Beverly Shea sang it regularly during Billy Graham's evangelistic campaigns.

I have decided to follow Jesus...

*I have decided, To follow Jesus
No turning back, No turning back*

*The world behind me, The Cross before me
No turning back, No turning back*

*Though none go with me, Yet I will follow
No turning back, No turning back*

I was taught this song as a new Believer. The last verse was especially poignant. There were four of us young Muslims who had received Jesus, and we were out evangelizing every day.

Then one day, we were told that the police were coming to arrest us. My three friends took their things and ran and never came back. When my Canadian team leader asked me if I was leaving too, I remembered the words of the Twelve to Jesus when everybody else had left Him, "Where else shall I go? You alone have the Words of Eternal Life."

So I stayed, just because I had no other place to go to other than to stay at the feet of Jesus. I was arrested that evening and spent almost a year in prison for preaching the Gospel.

All through that time this is one of the songs that sustained me and kept me going.

Today, 39 years later, The Lord has been faithful and true to His Word, and I am still preaching the Gospel. I look back at that time in prison, and I realize that persecution and imprisonments for the Gospel are things that God uses, to make us the men [and women] that we are today.

Let us all be faithful today and to the very end. He is faithful and will carry us through; we are more than conquerors through Him who has loved us.

Glory be to our Lord Jesus for evermore!

*I have decided, To follow Jesus
The world behind me, The Cross before me
Though none go with me, Yet I will follow
No turning back, No turning back*



Itinerary

May 3, 2015

More Life Church

Newark, OH, USA

Pastor Josh Pennington

May 10, 2015

LifeSpring Fellowship

Lititz, PA, USA

Pastor Dennis Loose

May 19-24, 2015

Crusade

Mazabuka, ZAMBIA

May 27-31, 2015

Crusade

Monze, ZAMBIA

June 7-10, 2015

Waterloo Pentecostal Assembly

Waterloo, CANADA

Pastor Marshal Eizenga

June 14, 2015

Griffin First Assembly

Griffin, GA, USA

Pastor Randy Valimont

June 21, 2015

First Assembly of God

Manchester, NH, USA

Pastor Garry Hamilton

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