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Dr. Karl Barth
Siebengebirgstr 18
Bonn, Germany

Dear Sir:

"BE YE WITNESSES"

A distinguished world missionary, Dr. E. Stanley Jones, in an opening passage of his "The Christ of Every Road" (1930), made, as you may recall, this significant statement: "The world-ground, I am persuaded, is being prepared for a spiritual awakening on a very extensive scale."

A similar belief has been recorded by Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, and other competent observers of divergent faiths. On the other hand, there are those whose current messages, far from felicitating in tenor, sound as the challenging voice of "one crying in the wilderness."

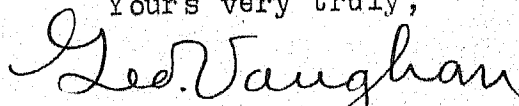
Personally, I have always been an optimist. But the later years of contact with the world--especially with my own (the legal) profession--have revealed symptoms of a discouraging indifference toward the things of the spirit. Indeed, an almost irrepressible drift to lower ideals looms on my horizon. Is not this moral lapse the real "depression" that besets the sad old world?

Deeply concerned over the situation, I am addressing you and a number of other religious workers of selected groups in an attitude not of idle curiosity but of earnest and friendly inquiry.

"Watchman, what of the night?" What is your general reaction?

While hesitating to trespass on your time, I should really appreciate a frank expression, brief, if necessary, in response to the hungering desire which this letter but faintly conveys.

Yours very truly,



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