

# The Holy Way Training Vision

(From the June-1971 Newsletter)

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## Introduction

For the benefit of all that have been a part of The Holy Way in recent years, the following article will be a make sense of what you have experienced. It will also provide an accurate context for how The Holy Way operates and why Holy Convocation is conducted in the way it is. In reality it was the history of the vision for the Lawang Training Center, but in practice it is the early blueprint of how all Holy Way training is conducted to this day.

Today we know that the church in general (inc. the Pentecostal church) has moved on from these "ecstatic congregational generated experiences" and replaced them with a carefully regulated approach that can be controlled from the platform. It is interesting to note that Ed Stube was making similar observations in 1971. Sometimes this regulated approach looks similar, and of course God can bless it, but as Ed Stube would say, it is mankind presenting their best and asking for a blessing. It is an interesting reflection of the human psyche that we deliberately arrange to do this whether God is going to bless it or not. At that point we know is not "worship at the perfect level." Therefore it is not ministry at the perfect level either.

So without any further ado it is time to wind back the clock to an earlier era of loud shirts, Hippies, and long hair. Here is "The Growth of a Vision" exactly as it appeared in the 1971 June Newsletter.

I guarantee you will understand more about The Holy Way, and why we do what we do - Enjoy!

*(Ps. Spencer Scrutton)*

## **THE GROWTH OF A VISION**

(From June 1971, Newsletter)

By E. B. Stube

When I visited Indonesia in 1963, some of the church leaders began to speak to me about the need for a new kind of training center for Christian evangelists. They said that in an ordinary theological school or Bible school, the students get their brains filled up with knowledge. But their spiritual condition often declines and their enthusiasm always declines. For that reason these leaders asked me when I went home to examine schools in America and try to find out how to start one that would really prepare students for enthusiastic spiritual ministry.

This started me thinking seriously about methods of training for ministry. After returning to the United States, I collected and examined catalogues from over 200 schools. I also visited several of these and began to learn some amazing things about training programs.

I discovered that most of the ones which were most alive spiritually had one thing in common: they did not begin with buildings, professors, and curriculum, but with a vision from the Lord, and much prayer. As they began to put into practice the vision the Lord had given them, they invariably ran into almost unbelievable obstacles and frustrations in which they learned deep lessons about the meaning of the Cross and its application in their lives. If they remained faithful to the vision through all these difficulties, the Lord's blessings began to be poured out on them.

In addition to examining schools, I began an intensive study in the Bible of the Lord's method of training disciples. I found this to be far more radical than anything I had seen anywhere.

### **The New Testament Approach**

Jesus gathered a little group of twelve young men to be with Him, He never built a building, never scheduled a service or a class, had no curriculum, no courses. He simply told His disciples to follow Him. They began to walk. They saw His miracles and heard Him talk to all sorts of people - to the crowds, to the sick and possessed, to the seekers, to His opponents, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, etc. etc. When there was time, Jesus sat down where ever they were and talked to His disciples about what they had seen and heard, and answered their questions. He did not pull rank on them, but rather became their friend. They ate and slept together and were continually in the closest kind of fellowship. From time to time He sent them out on their own to put into practice what they had learned. Then they came back and reported, and continued to walk with Him. Jesus obviously wanted to introduce an entirely new method and concept of teaching; because all of this was in direct contrast with the method of all other religious leaders and teachers of His day.

When we read in Acts 2 that the Christian converts in Jerusalem after the Day of Pentecost "continued steadfastly in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship," we may be sure that the Apostles used the same method that Jesus had used on them. They did not build buildings

or schedule Classes, They met in close, intimate fellowship in believers' homes and broke bread and prayed together with them. The people learned quickly in this close, informal fellowship; and very soon they were able to become leaders in beginning fellowships in other places.

Paul used this same method in training Timothy, Titus, Luke and others. They became members of his team. They followed him around for a few years, occasionally being sent out to practice on their own, and eventually going out to exercise a ministry of their own.

In the traditional method of teaching theory always comes first for a long time, followed by a bit of practice. In the Lord's method, the practice usually comes first, followed by explanation as time allows.

### **The Call to Make a Difference**

In the year 1964, as I was pastoring the Lord's flocks on the prairies of Eastern Montana, He began speaking to me about preparation for something new. He said: "You have to go somewhere to be trained for the mission field. I want to train you in a fellowship where My Spirit operates freely." So I began to explore all the possibilities I knew of. The Lord firmly closed the door on them all. We went into a heavy time of prayer and seeking the Lord, In December the Lord said: "You are to go to Indonesia. Be ready as soon as possible," The Lord was going to prepare us for the mission field in Indonesia.

So it was that in early February of 1965 we arrived in Semarang in Central Java, began studying Indonesian, and praying for the Lord's further guidance. I knew we were here primarily to learn. I believed that the Lord wanted to show us new things about His ways of evangelism, training ministries, etc. But I knew I had to do this with other Christians in a fellowship which could operate in the fullness and freedom of the Spirit.

So I tried to get the elders and others in the church in Semarang to gather together for fellowship in the Spirit. But they had all become occupied, with various social work projects and seemed not to have any interest in the work of the Holy Spirit. I submitted my report on training programs, but I don't think they even read it. They were now thinking in terms of founding a theological school along traditional lines. I tried to move some of them to evangelize, but they said the political situation was unstable just now and it was unsafe to go out evangelizing.

But the Lord was letting one door close, because He wanted to open another one. As I continued to pray and seek His will, He began to point out to me several young men that He said would work with me, I did not say anything to them, but just kept praying, One by one the Lord moved in their hearts and they came to me. We began to gather at my home each evening mostly just to pray and praise the Lord. We felt that the Lord was gathering us together to be an evangelistic Team, but we did not know how we should go about it. The boys all got baptized in the Holy Spirit, and I began to teach them about sanctification and victorious Christian living. Several of them could play guitar and we spent a lot of time singing, and praising the Lord together.

After a while ministry began to open up to us. We began to be

called to homes where there was sickness or trouble. The Lord performed many miracles through this ministry and led quite a few people to Him! It was also the beginning of our learning from Him how to do things His way. ^Sometimes we went to other cities to minister in churches and the Lord poured out His Spirit!

We were very green in those days and really did not know how to begin. Since I still could not really preach very intelligibly in Indonesian, the boys had to do most of the talking. I remember the first time each of them had to get up to speak. They shook and asked me to pray for them. But when they got up the Spirit gave them the right things to say. Our ministry was very poor by man's standards, but the Lord used it. Everywhere people were healed, and whole churches were baptized in the Holy Spirit, We learned more of the Lord's ways.

As time went on several of the boys felt they should give full-time to the Lord's work. So in June of 1966 our family and five of the boys moved to Nongkodjadjar, a small village in the mountains of East Java. We intended to begin studying together and doing a bit of evangelizing on the side. We even had a class room set up at one time, but we never used it. The Lord had other plans.

The first week we were invited to a Bible Camp in Lawang, a small city at the base of the mountain. This Bible Camp was sponsored by the Presbyterians, during the day we attended the teaching sessions. Night times we prayed for people who came to us seeking the Baptism in the Spirit. After the Bible Camp about 30 or 40 young people came up to Nongkodjadjar and our house was full of people for another week. The Holy Spirit was gloriously poured out and did a sovereign work in their hearts with a very little help from us.

The end of June we sailed for Makassar on the island of Celebes, There we encountered fantastic difficulties and frustrations, and experienced a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, especially among the young people. Many Juvenile delinquents were converted, filled with the Holy Spirit and began to experience all the Gifts of the Spirit. We went with the intention of being there for one month, but we stayed three. There was time in the weeks and months that followed to fill in the theory and get some questions answered. We returned to Nongkodjadjar at the end of September, full of the joy of the Lord, but exhausted and thoroughly drained spiritually. As we had ministered continually in Celebes and encountered all sorts of experiences, the boys had come to feel a tremendous need to dig deeply into the Bible to find answers to their questions and direction for future ministry.

So it was that we plunged into Bible study with tremendous enthusiasm, Often we would get so happy studying, that we would just have to stop and sing and shout and leap and praise the Lord. We learned fast and we needed to, because the Lord never let us sit around home for extended periods of time. He seems to feel that His Word has to be put into practice. Since then He has always alternated times of travel and experiences of all kinds with periods of quietly sitting at His feet at home to learn from Him.

For convenience, early in our stay in Nongkodjadjar we developed a daily schedule, which we adhere to unless something causes it to be changed. We felt that a Christian's life must contain certain elements which have to be in balance.

First and foremost is a right personal relationship with God. For that reason we always got up not later than 5:30 and each one prayed privately with Bible reading until breakfast at 7:30. Before we meet each other or greet anyone else, we meet with the Lord.

Second in order of importance we regard corporate prayer. Each evening our whole household -- family, Team, cook, washerwoman, guests, etc. -- gathers in the living room to pray in accordance with 1 Cor. 14:26 to celebrate Holy Communion together.

When we are at home, third importance is given to study. Our study has been almost exclusively in the Bible. We regard the Bible as our Field Manual. We studied all the healing miracles to see how our healing ministry could be more effective. We studied all the stories about evangelism in the Gospels and in Acts to see how we should go about evangelizing in the villages. Once, when our money got low, we dug out all the passages relating to money or God's provision. We always try out what we have learned in the Bible, and have always found it to be practical. In addition to studying special topics, we also frequently take a book of the Bible and go through it verse by verse. We have covered the whole New Testament this way and also a large part of the Old Testament. We always study prayerfully by discussion method, believing that the Holy Spirit will guide the discussion and reveal things to us as He wills, using whom He will.

This study is never divorced from practice. What we learn in the morning study period is usually put into practice in house-meetings and other ministry in the afternoons. Two days a week we go out evangelizing in the villages.

From the beginning we have spent a lot of time traveling. For instance, in the year 1967 we figured out that we were only at home a total of about three months for the whole year. When we are on the road we usually cannot find time to keep the study program going, but we try always to maintain the private prayer and Bible reading and the corporate prayer. But as we travel and minister we learn many things that we could not possibly learn in a class room. Most of all we learn how to minister in the Spirit under all sorts of conditions and in all sorts of churches, and how to deal with all kinds of people. In a class room we could note down in our notebooks that the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc." But only as we get in contact with all kinds of people and especially as we get kicked around a bit, the fruit actually begins to grow and mature in our hearts.

In spite of the fact that we have so little time actually to sit down and study Bible, yet it has been proven that our boys at the end of a year know more Bible than students at a theological school or Bible school. What we learn is always immediately put into practice and is never forgotten.

From the beginning we hoped and prayed for a full-fledged training center to be established along New Testament lines. But obviously the Lord had much to teach us first. He kept us small. For years our Team was just four or occasionally five members. As we traveled together and prayed together, and studied together, the Lord prepared us and taught us very patiently, step by step etc.

The vision of a training center was confirmed again while we were in the United States in 1968, first through a vision that Rochani received while we were in Washington, and also several times through

prophecy, by people who had no idea of the plans and thoughts that were in our minds.

### **Pinecrest - An Alternate Training Approach**

While we were in the United States we stayed for several months at a Bible Training Center that was being opened in Upstate New York. They had been given some "big old "buildings in the midst of many acres of pine forest, far from anywhere. It was a lovely place, but the buildings were in disrepair, little or no heat with winter coming on, needing repair, paint, etc. But every day was a miracle of the Lord's provision. With no public announcement, there had gathered about 40 students, faculty, and staff. They came from all over the country. Most had not even known of the place two weeks before.

A typical story is the young man who came out of the armed service and wanted to seek the Lord's will for his life. He took a map and looked for the place farthest from any cities. He went there, pitched a tent and spent several days in prayer. One day he took a short walk, and came upon the sign saying "Pinecrest Bible Training Center" He knew at once that this was the Lord's answer, and moved in.

The chapel services and classes were very unusual. The first Sunday I was there, they asked me to preach. But when the service began, there was an hour and a half of singing in the Spirit as waves of glory broke round us. Then one of the students got up and said the Lord told him to pray for the sick. He called people out of the congregation, told them what their sickness was, gave them a word of prophecy, and prayed for them. The Lord healed. Then two or three others began ministering in like manner. After an hour and a half of this they closed the meeting.

They had the understanding that the Lord has a time for praise and a time for prophecy, a time for imparting gifts and ministries, a time for teaching or healing. When it was the Lord's time for one thing, nobody was allowed to do something else.

Sometimes they would go to their first class at nine o'clock, after chapel service. They would begin the class with prayer, and by twelve o'clock they were still standing there with their hands in the air worshipping in the Spirit, lost in wonder, joy, and praise.

One time I went to the class on Old Testament History. The teacher began to call the pupils one by one and pray for impartation of Gifts of the Spirit and ministries, sometimes giving a word of knowledge concerning something that was hindering them. This went on nearly the whole class period. He said: "When the Spirit wants to impart gifts, it would not be appropriate to give teaching as such." Finally in the last five minutes, he began to teach, and the teaching was also so anointed and clear that I remember it to this day.

Another time I went to the class on Prayer. The teacher said it is more instructive to practice than talk about prayer. That day everyone was soon worshipping the Lord in the Spirit. They sang in the Spirit the whole hour with hands in air, feeling the sweet presence of the Lord. Every few minutes two people from different parts of the room would begin to move as though by appointment and approach the some person. They laid hands on his head and prophesied and prayed. Then they returned to their places. Pretty soon two more began to move and

did likewise. It was all so beautifully ordered, though completely unprogrammed from man's point of view. At the very end the teacher said: "This is our preparation for the heavenly choir. As each of you learns to find his part in the new song, you will occasionally see heaven open and you will Join with all the heavenly hosts of angels before the Throne of God, in one great magnificent chorus."

We were very grateful for those months there. We learned a lot of lessons that we need as we contemplate starting our own training center here.

### **The Burden for a New Training Center**

In September of 1969 our Team was fasting and praying for a week in preparation for a trip to Borneo. One day, Pak Susetijo, the school principal and one of the church elders in Nongkodjadjar came to the house. He said that since our youth camp in Tosari he had had a heavy "burden to get a training center started here. (We had never spoken to him of our thoughts along this line.) He said that we get many requests for ministry to small churches in surrounding areas which we cannot fill. There were also a number of young people who yielded to the Lord during the Bible Camp who wanted to "be trained." Pak Susetijo had seen the advantages and results of our informal, on the job, method of training and wanted to see that in effect on a larger scale. So we did a lot of praying about this and wanted to be sure that it would be done God's way, not ours. We knew that the Bible way is to get a few people together in a close fellowship. And then you start walking and see what the Lord wants to do and what He wants to show you. This is the way we had begun and this was the way Pak Susetijo wanted to begin the Training Center. He said he had been awakened three times in the night and heard "Romans 12:3, 16" Finally he got up and read it and he got shock realizing how much the Lord doesn't want any of us to try to make the Training Center our project. We have to be careful not to get ahead of the Lord. We also should not get ahead of each other, because each has his own function in the Body and his own part in the work. At that time Pak Susetijo felt that the Training Center should be housed at our place and that sooner or later we would have to get one or more extra houses, so that all could be together in close fellowship. He hoped that our Team could form the nucleus for the training of the people that the Lord would gather together here. But we felt very strongly that the training program should be a function of the entire local church, so that it is not an isolated school experience, but actual training in the context of the Body of Christ. This was even more confirmed by the verses from Romans 12, We obviously couldn't do anything until we got back from Borneo, but we planned to continue praying about it and commit it to the Lord, with the understanding that when we got back from Borneo, we would go on with it as the Lord might lead.

It was, therefore, a disappointment, when we came back from Borneo, to discover that in our absence the voice of man had prevailed over the voice of God in the local church, and Pak Susetijo no longer dared to cooperate with us in the formation of the Training Center. I am sure the Lord was disappointed also.

So we were back to our own little group again. We began to pray again about this matter, to find out what the Lord's alternative

suggestion would be.

I had always assumed that the four original members of our Team would become the staff and teachers of the Training Center. I was therefore surprised and a bit discouraged in 1970 when the Lord called two of us Home. But since then they have been replaced by others who are learning quickly and showing promise.

## **Early Basic Principles**

As time has gone on the Lord has given us a clearer and deeper vision for the Training Center. It will clearly not be like any other that we know of. The Lord wants it set up strictly along the lines of the New Testament patterns, with His methods of teaching and His method of organization. It was not to train ministers in the usual church sense of the word, but rather New Testament ministries according to Ephesians 4:11 or 1 Cor. 12:28 - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, etc. We are to "become the Body of Christ, each member with his own ministry or function in the Body, working together and building up the Body according to the pattern and the order which He gave to the early church."

He has also told us that He wants to reveal through us new truths for these last days. For the time of harvest is near. God's fields are ripening. Work in the harvest field is not the same as in the time of planting, and therefore the Lord must reveal new things to those of us who approach His harvest time. We have received many prophetic words in which He has outlined for us some of the things which He will be teaching us as the training program goes on.

We received a preview of some of these things in a Bible Camp which was held here in Nongkodjadjar in December of 1970, in which the Lord spoke to us almost continually for one week through prophecy and inspired teaching, preparing us and leading us into His Most Holy Place to experience His rest and to enter into a new and more wonderful kind of ministry in His Spirit.

The training program will be at two levels: the first for the new pupils, in which they receive a grounding in the fundamentals of the Bible and evangelism; the second, the experiencing of the life and ministry in the Body of Christ, and the revealing of God's end-time truths.

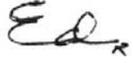
The Lord has begun to send in pupils, one by one. We have made no effort to attract them, and in fact have been forbidden to do so. The Lord Himself has promised to bring them in as He wills. I feel sure that the numbers cannot become large, as the New Testament method will not work with a large number of people. In my mind I feel that the limit should be twelve male members with maybe a comparable number of female members in the fellowship.

We will be rather reluctantly leaving Nongkodjadjar where we have lived and worked for several years, and will be starting in Lawang, a small city at the base of the mountain. This is the place that the Lord has pointed out for us. We have recently found an excellent house with quite a bit of land conveniently located and with a reasonable price and are in the process of buying it. We hope to be moved there in a month or so, and will be officially beginning what has long been our dream and our prayer.

We earnestly desire your prayers for us, that we may truly be obedient to the Lord in every detail of this undertaking, so that we may really experience the fulfillment of all His glorious promises.

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In His Name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed" with a small flourish at the end.

Ed Stube