

is gigantic in proportion. Probably the greatest influence was the impact on thoughtful lives..persons concerned about the state of world affairs and particularly interested in the middle east. I have no "conversion" figures but observed many persons who were moved to Christianity through the book's services. Whether one is a Lindsey admirer or not, that fact cannot be overlooked.

4. Some observations:

The book is aimed at the interested but uncommitted individual, not the dedicated student of Biblical affairs. Its thrust is just short of sensationalist and it is written in a lively, non-pedantic style. No one capable of reading could not understand it. Some of the content might be ambiguous in a final outworking but the major theme and treatment of the book are clear. The appeal is popular and the challenge that it gives to organized religionists is one always welcomed by the masses.

III. CONCLUSION

We have surveyed four books. One a political appeal based on biblical understandings, the second a narrative of spiritual life and devotion, the third a challenge to societal reform on biblical ground, and the last a warning against a program of history which both cheers and threatens. Each of these in its day carried a powerful impact that moved masses of people to act with regard to situations and belief. This literature virtually "shook the world". I am not saying these are the best or most notable contributions...I am saying they carried a powerful influence and in this sense are exemplary of the sort of thing we should find attractive. Of particular interest to me is the fact that their influence was not limited to the Christian community...far beyond that, the real impact was felt in the world external to the church or the religious systems as they have been understood. From them we extract the following ideas.

The ideal literature will be bold, logical, quickly understandable and have an appeal that is neither provincial nor esoteric. It will be founded on recognizable historic circumstance and will provide "answers" that will be more obvious than the questions. It will criticize but build; it will generalize in theory but be specific in practice. It may or may not exhibit what men call "common sense" but it will appeal to the reading sense of hearers at the level for which it is intended. Its particular genre is less important than the clarity of its ideas.

Failing to create the ideal in many situations, those preparing media materials will need to come as close to the ideal as possible and epitomize the aspects of it in which the author may have a particular touch or edge. And today, different from past ages, the literary media includes many more offerings to which we might address ourselves.

The challenge is to produce, under the Providence of God, the sort of material that will "shake the world" in making it see its indecision and lacking. It calls for vision and dedication and may be expressed in written works, the television media, etc. Unhappily I cannot do it...my talents run in some other lines, but if you can do it I will support you by buying your work! And it ought to be the aim of us all to make contributions to society that really work in carrying the Christian message to the realm of men.