

ON FIRE TO SERVE GOD

Biography of Bro. Jordan Khan



Bro. Jordan C. Khan with Bro. Bakht Singh

Bro. Jordan Khan was the son of to Chanan Khan, a convert who dedicated his life to serving God and was co-workers with the famous Praying Hyde. Bro. Jordan was born on the 26th of February, 1918. When he was ten, his father was promoted to glory and his family had to leave the parsonage. His mother had to work hard to educate her seven children. Although Bro. Jordan grew up in a Christian environment, he was not born again. He would fight with the boys in school and steal fruits from his neighbor's properties. He went to church but would sleep throughout the sermons. He studied in Ewing Christian High School in Ludhiana.

He got a job as an Assistant Station Master in Kotri, (Sind, Pakistan). He worked in the Karachi division from 1939 and was transferred to Shahdadpur (Sind). Far away from his family, he began living extravagantly and made many frivolous friends. The drinking taverns, gambling dens and the cinemas were his favorite resorts.

In 1941, Bro. Jordan, expecting a promotion decided to celebrate. He went to Karachi with two of his friends on a drinking spree. By evening, he was thoroughly intoxicated. His companions dumped him on the upper berth of a carriage. He lay there all by himself, vomiting. His condition was shameful and deplorable. He eventually arrived Shahdadpur and was too sick to report to duty. He sent a message to one of his friends saying, "I am sick, come soon." He waited anxiously for the sound of a friendly voice but no one arrived. He thought that surely his best friend Mahmud would come to

his aid but no one came or showed the least bit of concern for his condition. Disillusioned with his friendships, the penetrating words echoed in his mind, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," (Eccle 1:2). He did not know that those were Words from the Bible. He had never heard the Words before. Finding his life very empty and bitterly betrayed by his friends, he went back determined to live an honest life and never to accept bribes. This behavior infuriated the corrupt Station Master. The passengers whose regular practice was to travel by giving bribes were enraged. The dishonest authorities slandered him against the Divisional Office at Karachi after which he received a telegram stating that his promotion had been withheld and he was transferred to Hyderabad.

He reached Hyderabad but suffered financially as, his salary was mistakenly sent to the previous station. Hungry, homeless and dejected, he camped out on the railway station for a couple of days. When he went to pour out his woes to a friend named Akhtar, he realized that the latter fell asleep instead of giving him an ear. Once again he was let down by worldly friends. The Words, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity," came back to him again.

During those traumatic days, he was confronted by several tragic deaths. A Station Master abruptly fell down dead, a passenger was carried out of the train dead and a coupling porter died an agonizing death, trapped under the wheels of a train. The thought of death arrested him. "Where will I go after death?" The question

haunted him. The fire of hell gripped his mind. In the stillness of the night he heard a voice, "The wages of sin is death," (Rom 6:23). Distraught, he walked out of the station, to a jungle. He paced about restlessly until, he heard another distinct voice, "You have tried everything, why not try the Lord?"

All alone at a friend's apartment, he cried out, "Oh God!" At that moment, all his sins flashed before his eyes. It was 11th September 1941; he wept bitterly and repented of his sins. When he got up, the peace of God flooded him. He had full assurance that his sins were now washed by the blood of Christ. All his sinful desires left him. From then on, he boldly testified about the Lord to his friends. He spent his spare time reading the Word of God. Eventually he finished reading the entire Bible. He often withdrew from the crowd to spend time in worship, and meditation. That was the source of his spiritual strength.

Two months after his new birth, he was sent to Larkhana (Sind). Here, the words, "I want you for my service," kept ringing in his ears. He knew that this meant that he had to resign from his secure railway job and trust God for his daily needs. He was severely disturbed and this affected his work. The Lord assured him from His Word, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you," (Matt 6:33). Therefore, he handed in his resignation. The Divisional Officer was thoroughly irritated as he had given him only a 24 hours notice instead of the required 3 months but Bro. Jordan would not be shaken. He said boldly, "The Lord has spoken to me, I must obey Him. You can take me to prison. How can I go on working here with bribery and corruption going on from top to bottom?"

His mother was shocked and heartbroken to hear about his decision. His family members arranged for a dinner party for all the close relatives intending to confront Bro. Jordan. When he was asked whether he did not care about his mother who had brought him up with love and sacrifice, he replied that the love of the Lord Jesus who left His heavenly glory to die for him on the cross, was

supreme in his heart (Matt 10:37-38). Later, his mother became the first person to receive the Lord Jesus through his ministry. His brother Frankie also accepted the Lord through his witness.

Once, he came across an angry mob confronting a Canadian Missionary, Dennis Clarke. They were tearing Gospel portions and shooting questions at him which he was finding very difficult to answer due to his limited Urdu. Bro Jordan pushed through the crowd, took the Urdu Bible from Bro. Dennis' hand and began preaching in a powerful voice. This pacified the crowd. Bro. Dennis and Bro. Jordan became very close friends from then on. Their friendship proved to be a strategic part of God's plan in evangelizing and planting indigenous churches.

Bro. Jordan obeyed sound doctrinal truths revealed to him. When his eyes were opened to the truth of believer's baptism, quoting the case of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, he requested Bro. Parves to baptize him. The church grew and multiplied. They held regular outreach efforts and went with the Gospel in big processions.

One day, Bro. Jordan received an invitation from Bro. Bakht Singh to come to Chennai. When Bro. Jordan went to meet Bro. Bakht Singh in the morning, he was spending time in prayer. After some waiting, he decided to come back in the afternoon but even at that time, Bro. Bakht Singh had not yet concluded his time of prayer. When evening came, Bro. Bakht Singh was still on his knees interceding with the Heavenly Father. This touched Bro Jordan deeply and left a lasting impression on him. From then on, Bro. Jordan worked alongside this man of prayer successfully bringing many to the Lord through outreach ministries. He later went to Kharagpur in West Bengal where he started special Gospel Campaigns. Many were added to the kingdom like, Bro. Nikhil Mahapatra, Bro. Gyan, Bro. Lazar Sen, Bro. Jana, Bro. Charles Sen, the Sylvester family etc.

He had an especially heavy burden for North India. Despite the hostile religious conditions post partition of India and Pakistan, even with curfews

and over booked trains, Bro Jordan Khan miraculously procured the last ticket available to go to Darjeeling. The moment his train pulled out, there was terrible bloodshed in the platform. The Lord had saved his life for a purpose.

In Darjeeling, the Lord sent a mighty revival of the Holy Ghost as many were saved. He ministered in places like Sukheya Pokhri, Kurseong etc. Then he was requested to speak in a church at Kalimpong. On 7th September, 1947, Bro. Jordan Khan set foot on Kalimpong. This was the dawn of a new era for the work of the Lord amongst the Nepali speaking community. On 13th September, the Lord burdened Bro Jordan to continue in prayer the entire day. In the evening when he got up from his knees, the Holy Spirit whispered that there would be a great moving and break through.

The Gospel of new birth was preached and the Holy Spirit so strongly moved the people to repentance that they started weeping. Bro. Jordan was faced with opposition and was asked not to preach in that church any more. The Lord saved Bro. Victor Pradhan fulfilling Acts 16:31 as his entire family was saved. He opened his house for meetings and this continued for three months. Sis Mukhia, Dayawati, Sumitra and Amrita were amongst those saved during those meetings. Bro. Jordan emphatically reinforced the Biblical preconditions of repentance and salvation before baptism. He also emphasized on the essentiality of the immersion baptism. Following the message, a procession marched down Relli road and were baptized in a river. Bro. Andrew Pradhan and Bro. Tashi of Darjeeling also later believed and were baptized. Soon, Bro. Dhankumar, Bro. Panchanath, Bro. Prem Pradhan, Bro. Peter Song and his wife, Bro. Masih Prakash, Bro. Robert Mukhia and Bro. Fudong joined them. The Lord helped Bro. Jordan to challenge the new believers to surrender their lives for full-time ministry. Eventually, God supplied the pressing need for church property. The compound to this day is called El-Shaddai.

One day, Bro. Jordan received a death threat via a letter to either leave Kalimpong or perish. He

found solace in prayer and received comfort from God. He went ahead preaching in the market but was soon surrounded by men with clubs and sticks. Bro. Jordan just knelt down right there and prayed. By the time he finished his prayer, all those who had come with weapons were gone.

Bro. Jordan began suffering from severe lung problem to the point of coughing up blood. Bro. Goldsworthy an English missionary, seeing Bro. Jordan's predicament advised him to get married. When he protested, Bro. Goldsworthy reassured him that he was married and was still truly serving God. From then on Bro. Jordan began praying for the Lord's will concerning marriage. After much prayer, the Lord spoke to him through Isaiah 62:4. The Word Hephzibah jumped out of the verse. The name reminded him that there was a place with the name of Hephzibah, which accommodated women who had dedicated their lives for the Lord's full time service in Chennai. When he was later reading the book of Esther during his quiet time, he was thoroughly convinced that there was a woman named 'Esther,' in Hephzibah who was chosen by God to be his wife. He wrote a letter to Bro. Bakht Singh and the elders of the church at Chennai relating the definite leading of the Lord regarding the matter. There was in fact a young lady named Esther there, a convert who had dedicated her life to the service of the Lord. However, due to misconceived reservations on marriage, Bro. Jordan was discouraged from the same by some believers. He therefore wrote to Bro. Bakht Singh to dismiss the marriage. Later however, the Lord spoke to him again and the two were married in Chennai on 15th March 1950.

Soon after marriage, Bro. Jordan complained of pain in the throat. He went to see the doctor and discovered that both his lungs were severely infected with tuberculosis. Bro. Bakht Singh accompanied the newlyweds to a sanatorium in Valnasyadi (Maharashtra). The doctors declared him a hopeless case. His mother and brother also arrived to meet him for what they were made to believe was the last time. All of them and the church

in Chennai persevered in prayer. Within two months, he underwent three major surgeries. Seven of his ribs were removed and the infected lung was silenced. The other lung was treated with chemotherapy. By the end of six months, he completely recovered. The doctors were certain that it was a miracle because patients with minor infections were camped in the hospital for years while here was a patient on the verge of death, supernaturally cured within six months. The fact that while the other patients swore and cursed while undergoing surgery but Bro. Jordan called out the Name of the Lord Jesus, was a tremendous testimony to the entire hospital. As he was discharged, the doctors advised Bro. Jordan to stop preaching and to speak softly only for about 15 minutes at a time. God supplied for the colossal medical bills. He and his wife went to Hyderabad where he convalesced for a year. Bro. Bakht Singh told Bro. Jordan to remain in Hyderabad but he insisted that he must go back to his people in Kalimpong.

He left Kalimpong for Kharagpur upon the invitation of Bro. Biesel. Here, Bro. Jordan and his family were initially given accommodation in the Sylvesters house. In 1952, the Lord blessed Bro. Jordan with a son, Joseph. The Khans moved to a building which served both as an abode and an assembly hall. In 1954, God blessed him with a daughter, Beulah. Bro. Lazar Sen teamed with Bro. Jordan in going to Balasore, Berhampur, Jamshedpur, Chakradharpur, Bilaspur, Rourkela etc. The relationship between the two deepened.

The Lord burdened the heart of Bro. Jordan for Nepal. No Christian was tolerated in Nepal at that time. After much prayer, as the Lord gave liberty, Bro. Jordan along with Bro. Victor Pradhan and others entered Nepal and boldly preached there. This was followed by several successive gospel expeditions to the country and the work of the Lord began to spread there. In fullness of time, doors were opened to take the gospel to Bhutan and the

work began to multiply and penetrate Nagaland as well. In 1956, a son, Joshua was born to Bro. Jordan. Bro. Jordan also planted an assembly in Orissa. The church at Nimpura grew and another church was founded in Salwa as well. Later, he moved to Jabalpur where he faithfully served the Lord.

When Bro. Jordan received news about his mother's terminal illness, he faced difficulty in attaining a visa to cross the Indo-Pakistan border. Although grieved, Bro. Jordan resolved to stay back with a clear conscience than to go to Pakistan using foul means. Not long after, his dear mother passed away.

The Lord's great commission took Bro. Jordan beyond India as well to places like Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Canada, West Indies, United Kingdom, Germany, other European countries and countries bordering India. He met the International Director of Operation Mobilization (O.M.) Bro. George Verwer in the 1960's and jointly ministered in Kolkatta in an evangelistic outreach. He also served in the O.M. ship, the Duolos and the Logos. On these he visited numerous countries where he delivered powerful messages. He was often given the invitation for rewarding ministry in developed countries but, he politely refused citing that his heart was in the ministry back home in India. Bro. Jordan was also a great composer of poetry and songs. In the year 1990, he was invited to speak in the Holy Convocation at El-Shaddai Kalimpong. After completing his ministry there, he ministered in the Kolkatta assembly and reached Bilaspur, his last detour before reaching home. There, on 31st December 1990, at 2:30 pm, he received the home call from His Almighty Father, who he had faithfully served.

His death was a devastating loss to the universal church. The funeral was held on 4th January 1991. "Many begin well, but few end well. Bro. Jordan Khan began well, served his Lord well and ended well to the glory of God." He fought a good fight and completed his race.

(Compiled from, 'A Soul's Travail Satisfied' by Beulah Yogi)

