

God Calling

by Two Listeners

The "Two Listeners" (two women in England, one an Anglican and the other a Roman Catholic) started receiving divine messages in 1932, using a version of the automatic writing technique which the Oxford Group utilized for receiving guidance. One woman heard Jesus speaking in her head, and repeated the words aloud to the other woman, who wrote them down on paper.

They eventually took the whole collection of messages which they had received and sent them to the Oxford Group author Arthur James Russell, who then organized them and published them. This first printing (in England) came out in 1935.

The best information that I have at present seems to show that the first American edition was published later on, in New York, by Dodd, Mead and Company, in 1945. The earliest American editions I can find in the book dealers' catalogs are dated 1945.

If you are trying to look this book up, booksellers (and even libraries) often erroneously give A[arthur] J[ames] Russell as the author. But he should be listed as the "editor" not the author.

From: J. Lobdell

The British Library has the 1935 edition, published by R. J. James in London. The Library of Congress has nothing before the 1940 British edition — London: Simpkin Marshall for James.

From: John S. at Samuel Lasenby Bookseller

World cat for some reason shows only a second edition R. J. James for A. James published in London in 1935.

From: David

He sent us a few pictures of his British published copy of *God Calling*, including one page in that book which lists all of the editions published in England. This page reads as follows:

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The English Editions of
GOD CALLING

First Edition (5,000)	-	December, 1935
Second Edition (5,000)	-	December, 1935
Third Edition (3,000)	-	October, 1938
Fourth Edition (3,000)	-	May, 1939
Fifth Edition (5,000)	-	March, 1940
Sixth Edition (3,000)	-	August, 1941
Seventh Edition (6,000)	-	February, 1942
Eighth Edition (7,000)	-	January, 1943
Ninth Edition (3,000)	-	November, 1943
Tenth Edition (5,500)	-	May, 1944
Eleventh Edition (10,000)	-	March, 1945
Twelfth Edition (15,000)	-	April, 1946
Thirteenth Edition (10,000)	-	January, 1948
Fourteenth Edition (20,000)	-	September, 1949
Fifteenth Edition (10,000)	-	December, 1951
Sixteenth Edition (10,000)	-	October, 1952
Seventeenth Edition (10,000)	-	October, 1954
Eighteenth Edition (10,000)	-	January, 1956
Nineteenth Edition (10,000)	-	November, 1957
Twentieth Edition (10,000)	-	April, 1959
Twenty-first Edition (10,000)	-	January, 1961
Twenty-second Edition (10,000)	-	April, 1962
Twenty-third Edition (10,000)	-	August, 1963
Twenty-fourth Edition (10,000)	-	December, 1964
Twenty-fifth Edition (12,000)	-	March, 1966
Twenty-sixth Edition (15,000)	-	September, 1967
Twenty-seventh Edition (12,000)	-	February, 1969
Twenty-eighth Edition (15,000)	-	April, 1970
Twenty-ninth Edition (15,000)	-	August, 1971
Thirtieth Edition (20,000)	-	April, 1973
Thirty-first Edition (24,000)	-	March, 1975
Thirty-second Edition (10,000)	-	October, 1976

World Sales over 700,000

From Linda A. — a reference to <http://www.twolisteners.org/>, which reprints the introductory material from *God Calling*:

The Voice Divine

by

One of the "Two Listeners"

In the Autumn of 1932, I was sitting in the lounge of an hotel when a visitor, quite unknown, crossed over and, handing me a copy of *For Sinners Only*, asked if I had read it. I answered "No," and she left it with me.

On returning home, I bought a copy for myself.

I was curiously affected by the book and felt that I wanted all my friends to read it immediately, and actually made out a list of over a hundred people to whom I should have liked to have sent it. Not being rich, this desire had to be content with two copies, which I lent to various people, on whom it seemed to make little effect.

A few months later I read it again. It was then that there came a persistent desire to try to see whether I could get guidance such as A. J. Russell reported, through sharing a quiet time with the friend with whom I was then living. She was a deeply spiritual woman with unwavering faith in the goodness of God and a devout believer in prayer, although her life had not been an easy one.

I was rather skeptical, but, as she agreed, we sat down, pencils and paper in hand and waiting. This was in December 1932.

My results were entirely negative. Portions of texts came and went, then my mind wandered to ordinary topics. I brought it back again and again, but with no success. To this day, I cannot get guidance in this way alone.

But with my friend a very wonderful thing happened. From the first, beautiful messages were given to her by our Lord Himself, and every day from then these messages have never failed us.

We felt all unworthy and overwhelmed by the wonder of it, and could hardly realize that we were being taught, trained and encouraged day by day by HIM personally, when millions of souls, far worthier, had to be content with guidance from the Bible, sermons, their Churches, books and other sources.

Certainly we were not in any way psychic or advanced in spiritual growth, but just very ordinary human beings, who had had more suffering and worry than the majority and who had known tragedy after tragedy.

The tender understanding of some of Our Lord's messages was at times almost heart-breaking; but His loving reproofs would leave no hurt.

Always, and this daily, He insisted that we should be channels of Love, Joy and Laughter in His broken world. This was the Man of Sorrows in a new aspect.

We, or rather I, found this command very difficult to obey, although to others it might have been simple. To laugh, to cheer others, to be always joyful when days were pain-racked, nights tortured by chronic insomnia, when poverty and almost insupportable worry were our daily portions, when prayer went unanswered and God's face was veiled and fresh calamities came upon us?

Still came this insistent command to love and laugh and be joy-bringers to the lives we contacted.

Disheartened, one of us would gladly have ceased the struggle and passed on to another and happier life.

But He encouraged us daily, saying that He would not break the instruments that He intended to use, that He would not leave the metal in the crucible longer than was necessary for the burning away of the dross. Continually He exhorted us not to lose heart, an spoke of the joy that the future held for us.

Totally unexpected interpretations of His own words were given.

An adverse verdict on seeing visions of Himself, which we had hitherto thought granted only to the saintliest and, most strongly stressed of all, the immense power given to two souls praying together in close union and at one in their desire to love and serve Him. As others have proved, "such a union may, in God's hands, accomplish such great things that there certainly will be inimical forces whose purpose it is to mar the friendship." And so we found it.

Some of the messages are of surprising beauty. The majestic language of December 2nd, the inevitability of suffering in the Christian Life of November 23rd, and the explanation of the practical working of the Law of Supply of December 5th are examples of this.

Others may appear disjointed. This is because personal references and repetition have had to be deleted.

So to us this book, which we believe has been guided by our Lord Himself, is no ordinary book.

It is published, after much prayer, to prove that a living Christ speaks today, plans and guides the humblest, that no detail is too insignificant for His attention, that He reveals Himself now as ever as a Humble Servant and Majestic Creator.

The Two Listeners

The Story of the book — A. J. Russell

I did not write this book. I wish that I had done so.

Had I written it I should have been immeasurably proud. Too proud for spiritual health.

My simple task has been to prepare it for publication and to present it to the public. But that has not really been a task - only a privilege; an undeserved honour.

There is a legend that the praise for building the Cathedral of St. Sofia was not given to the Emperor Constantine but to Euphrasia, a poor widow who drew from her mattress "a wisp of straw and gave it to the oxen" that draw the marble from the ships. That was all, she did nothing more.

Not one woman, but two have written this book; and they seek no praise. They have elected to remain anonymous and to be called "Two Listeners." But the claim which they make is an astonishing one, that their message has been given to them, today, here in England, by the Living Christ Himself.

Having read their book I believe them.

I do not of course believe that He whispered to them all that He intends to say for this generation. But I am confident that He opened their eyes to many things which they and this generation greatly need to know.

I do not believe in the verbal inspiration of this or any book. But I do believe that these two women have been led and that much of what is written is very clear leading indeed.

I have found these messages a spiritual stimulus. But that statement is as inadequate as to say that I like England. None could have written this book unless he or she was a Christian and in touch with the Living Founder of Christianity.

We hear much of the decline of the drama. Think of this piece of real drama of our own times. Again, as so often before, "He was in the world and the world knew Him not."

Two poor, brave women were courageously fighting against sickness and penury. They were facing a hopeless future and one of them even longed to be quit of this hard world for good. And then He spoke. And spoke again!

Day after day He comes and cheers them. And though they still have their sorrows, they have joy and a new courage. For He inspires them with His promises for their future when His loving purpose shall be revealed; and He gently rallies them on their unbelief; as He did their forlorn predecessors during that walk to Emmaus.

Open this book at any page and taste its beauty. Dwell lovingly on its tender phrases. Let its wonderful quality sink deep into your spirit.

Have you lost faith? Meditate on any one of these tiny sections and it will come again to you as that of a little child. You may not see him standing by your side with His ready smile of confident encouragement; but you will know that He is there, as He always is and that He still expects great things of you, and is ever ready to help you to achieve them.

If winter comes - are you afraid of poverty? Turn again to these pages and you will find the law of supply - Give and it shall be given to you. Give your love, your time, your sympathy, yourself; give all that you have under His direct guidance to all who are needy; give both to the deserving and the undeserving.

Has health gone? Are you no better though you have prayed long and often? Here again you will find the incense of healing; and you will understand why He will not remove the gold from the crucible until all the dross has gone, and you are taking the glorious shape of your true self which His eye alone has foreseen.

You cannot eat honey all the day. Nor can you read this book through at a sitting. But you can read it every day, and several times a day.

It can be turned to in the heat of a sudden crisis, and when you put it down you will find yourself calm and at peace within.

You can open its pages when the birds are singing in the sunshine; and as you read, the song of the birds will be echoed in your spirit, for you too will be caroling your love for our Creator-Redeemer.

Put this book of "Daily Power" in your pocket, in your handbag, on the table by your bedside. Give a copy of it to your friends.

Inhale its spirit continually and live your life in its intimacy with The Master.

Through this message, which came to two lonely women, you will find that you are no longer one and alone, but two and united with the Great Companion and Guide, Who is the same yesterday, today, and for ever.