

THE MEN AND RELIGION FORWARD MOVEMENT.

In the Department of Practical Sociology.

Course No.70. "Problems and Method  
of Church Expansion.

Parris Carlisle Greenly.

Spring Quarter 1913.

THE NEW ART BRILLIANT FORWARD MOVEMENT.

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The work of the city is moving at a rapid rate. Rev. J.W.Graves, of the Calvary Baptist church, chairman of thesocial service committee, visited Chicago to inspect the municipallodging house, this being one of the things Mr. Robins recommended for Res Moines. He returned in time to present his report at the first meeting of the inter-church council. Atthatameeting a report was made as to conditions in the city and county jails which so aroused themen present that immediate steps were taken to secure relief. A committe was appointed to wait upon the city council, withthe resultthat they appropriated \$2500.00 for the immediate establishment of a municipal lodging house and employment bureau. The committee is now working upon a plan to form an industrial coöny. It is believed that the cooperation of the count y will be secured to bring this about.

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The committee on community extension was hard at work with a large number of shops being organized before the eight day campaign. These meetings ~~have~~ been greatly strengthened and about twenty shops now have weekly meetings. This number will be increases from week to week and it is expected that practically every place in the city where men are employed in large numbers will be covered before spring. Dozens of men who never addressed a shop meeting before in their lives have been enlisted, and the universal expression is that the meetings in are doing the leaders and speakers almost as much goods as the men in the shops themselves.

The committee on evangelism has planned a series of meetings on Sunday evenings for men in the churches of the city, and these are being well attended. A number of large mass meetings are being planned for different sections of the city during the winter. These are addressed by well-known speakers.

The committee is urging individualistic evangelism every where, the idea being that every church member is to reach himself to one man or group of men not now in the church with the view to lead them to commit themselves definitely to the Christian life. The plan is also being considered of districting the city and of placing one man in charge of each block, or in a small portion near his home, and make him responsible for personal work in that section.

The committee on mission is being reorganized and recruited. The old laymens' missionary committee is made a nucleus of this new missionary committee and its work is prosecuted energetically.

The committee on outside cities is hard at work. A week end campaign is being conducted practically every week, and several teams are now visiting all the towns and cities in Des Moines district. Most encouraging reports are coming from the cities already visited, and the calls for teams are so numerous that difficulty is being experienced in getting enough men to visit the cities that are asking for week end campaign.

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## The Results.

Now that the Men and Religion Forward movement is over, the question is "What are the results? What did it accomplish? Are the results from it worth all it cost? This was the one question I had in mind from the beginning of this study and have made many inquiries as to this point, but from all have come practically the same answer; It is too soon yet to estimate the value and worth of this movement. In fact it will never be possible to estimate the full worth of such a movement. It was a great educational movement ~~and it will not take long to see its results~~ begun with the hope and expectation that the Christian men thus trained for work will produce results worthy of such an undertaking. Some immediate results, however, may be mentioned. One of the important results of this movement was to give the church and the Labor organizations a much better understanding of each other. It brought before the churches many of the actual facts of the social conditions of their own community. The central Committee sent out to the various sub-committees blanks with a set of six hundred questions which there were expected to make the investigation and collect the desired information. This great array of facts showed the churches how little was actually being done for the general welfare of the community. But greater than the mere collecting the facts, it gave each community a program for religious work. This, as we have said, was the greatest work of the Men and Religion Forward movement. We have seen how many of the communities after the Eight day campaigns took up the program outlined by the Team and have done much valuable work. This program had a six-fold message. We will now indicate some of the results along these six ~~lines~~ lines.

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(1) Bible Study has been greatly increased in every city visited by

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Schools and churches has been greatly increased. Besides this there have been organized many normal institutes for the training of Bible class teachers.

(2) Boys' Work has been greatly increased through out the country. Boys' Work departments have been organized in hundreds of churches and new and enlarged work has been aroused in Brotherhoods and Y.M.C.A.s.

(3) Community Extension has been wonderfully aroused. Not one city but has some form of strong gospel work in shops and factories which has been organized and placed in the hands of good communities.

(4) Evangelism has its fruition in the establishing a quickened desire on the part of pastors and laymen for personal winning of men to Christ. During the Campaigns a total attendance of all was over a million and half peoples, and and seven thousand five hundred and eighty men and boys confessed and accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour.

(5) Social Service was wonderfully stimulated. Many churches caught a new vision of the practical application of religion, and have enlisted many people in this work who before had no use for the churches.

(6) Missionary enterprises every where received a new impetus. Many churches have increased their missionary collections and a large number of Mission Study classes have been formed as the result of this movement.

(7) Cooperative Work among the various churches and the other agencies in the communities has been one of the most encouraging results of this great movement.

(8) Christian Publicity. This was one of the strongly emphasized points of the Movement. The public was made acquainted with the work of the churches as never before, and the churches are now making use of the Public press as never before, and the Press

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