

FIRESTONE SR. TESTIMONIES IN GROUP TALKS

Rubber Magnate Tells St.
Paul's Audience it
Brought Happiness

MEMBERS OFF TOMORROW

Buchman and Followers Fill
Pulpits in Akron
Sunday

By DON STROUSE

The Oxford Group went into the last day of its dinner jacket evangelistic campaign here today after its members visited more than two score churches in the Akron district yesterday to tell about the modern revival of religion.

Group members visited churches of every protestant denomination. They appeared in the Episcopal high church, in Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches, telling of the changes that have come into their lives through the Christianity of the Oxford Groups.

Firestone Sr. Talks

Harvey S. Firestone Sr., senior warden of St. Paul's Episcopal church, and father of Russell A. Firestone, sponsor of the Group's visit to Akron, talked from the pulpit of St. Paul's church last night to a congregation that jammed the church to its very doors.

Mr. Firestone, his son Russell, and Dr. Frank N. E. Buchman, leader of the Oxford Group, all spoke at St. Paul's, stressing the meaning of the new movement. Rev. John Watt, rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal church at Edinburgh, Scotland, was leader of the meeting, which was turned over to him by Rev. Walter F. Tunks, rector of St. Paul's.

Mr. Firestone, wearing formal clothes and a flower in his lapel, talked from the rostrum, telling of the purposes of the Group.

Makes Religion Vivid

"It has brought religion in a very vivid way," he said.

"It is through the Groups that I have brought a very great happiness. It has brought my family closer to God," he said.

The Group, which has been having a drawing room revival here since Thursday, carried its evangelism into the native haunts of religion last night after Russell Firestone declared at a meeting in Hotel Mayflower Saturday night that Christianity as expounded by the Group was necessary to end the "dog eat dog" attitude that has threatened the ruin of the rubber business.

"I was affraid," he said, "to let Christ guide me in business because I feared that while I was doing the right thing, the other fellow would be doing the smart thing. But I found that through God, you can outsmart the other fellow and outsmart him in the right way."

House Party Planned

He criticised "the fiendish desire for sales" of the tire industry and said Christianity was necessary to save the business.

After meetings for the clergy, women and those who wish to continue as workers for the Group tomorrow, Dr. Buchman and most of his party will move on to Chicago and then to the Pacific coast. Some will stay here to guide the new workers, he said.

Dr. Buchman declared that the Group had no guarantee of financial support when it came to town and that so far it had received only small donations to pay for its expenses.

"We believe," he said, "that someone will be guided by God to pay for the visit before we leave. It generally is so."

He indicated that a "house party," one of the features that has characterized the Groups' work, would be held in the Akron vicinity soon.

Assails Selfishness

Into all kinds of protestant churches, the Group members carried their messages yesterday.

"The dollar is not the most important thing in the world," Russell Firestone, told an overflow audience at the Methodist Episcopal Church of Christ, Sunday morning. About 250 attended the services in Rankin school auditorium.

"I am not deprecating the dollar," young Firestone said from the pulpit, "but selfishness is one of the main things that's wrong with this world. Selfishness is a sin as great if not greater than any in the Ten Commandments."

"Sane" Evangelism

"The new type of personal evangelism is not one of hell, fire and brimstone, but is sane and of practical application. It gives new values to things," Mr. Firestone said.

Rev. Joseph Henderson, who introduced Mr. Firestone, said, "It is the greatest moment in my life in Akron to hear such a courageous

young man tell it straight from the shoulder."

Young Firestone's father and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Firestone attended the services.

To hundreds who packed the seats in Monroe Memorial United Presbyterian church, West Market and Atlas streets, yesterday, H. Kenaston Twitchell, Princeton and Oxford graduate, told of God and the personal life.

Pastor Is Elated

Rev. J. M. Russell, pastor, was elated after the services. "I believe in this Oxford Group idea," Rev. Russell explained. "It is like taking a person to the hospital and diagnosing his illness."

To me this is one of the outstanding movements of the Christian church through the centuries," said Rev. Orin Keach in introducing G. W. Hall Smith of the Group to a gathering which filled First United Presbyterian church, 417 Spicer street.

Mr. Smith told how the interest in "God's guidance" of his daughter, Prudence, then aged nine, had brought first his wife and then himself into the group.

Aisles Packed

Dr. Buchman literally "had them in the aisles" at the First Congregational church yesterday.

A congregation that overflowed into the vestibules and found seats in the choir loft steps when the aisles were filled, heard first century Christian fellowship expounded from the pulpit.

Dr. Buchman in the cloth, aided by tall stained-glass windows and reverberating organ music, his most ecclesiastical setting since coming to Akron, held his congregation with the "ABC's of Christianity."

"God plus you equals power," he said, urging the congregation to become "Life Changers."

"Just ordinary people, you and I, can become life changers," he said.

Before the sermon, Rev. N. S. Elderkin said he was glad Dr. Buchman was to fill the pulpit at his church.

"Men Only" at Y. M.

In the crowd that jammed the building were former Senator Charles Dick, Representative and Mrs. Carl D. Sheppard, Judge Frank Harvey, Dr. Oscar Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Stevens and Charles Herberich.

Nearly 1500 persons from all walks of life gathered in the East gym of the Y. M. C. A. yesterday to hear Dr. Buchman and his followers testify to the stabilizing influence of Jesus Christ in their lives.

It was a "strictly men's" meeting, including Rev. G. Taylor Wright, president of the Akron Ministerial association, rubber workers, and all grades of Akron society. The Group movement was described by Victor Kitchen, New York advertising man, as "falling in love with God."