

# Lives Changed Through Oxford Group

## Testimony of Members of Visiting Team

### WAY TO NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

At a public meeting held on Saturday evening by the Oxford Group team in the Raadsaal, Mr George Wilsenach, lecturer in psychology at the Pretoria Normal College, spoke on world reconstruction, which, he said, had started for him in his home. His philosophy of life had been perfect, but somehow in the ordinary daily application he was conscious of a weakness, a lack of power which, through the Group, he found in God. In his profession, too, a change had to come about, for he felt he could not teach others what he himself had been doing, though theoretically he was offering them something wonderful.

After this change in his life, in his home and in his attitude to his profession, he was immediately chosen as a deacon in his church, for his church recognised his vitality. Not only to his church, but also to his nation, he felt he had a duty and a responsibility. South Africa's problems were the problems of each citizen, and each citizen must shoulder his share of them. In this way would the national reconstruction take place.

### CONDUCTING BUSINESS UNDER GOD'S GUIDANCE

Miss Beatrice Bennett explained how she was conducting her business under God's guidance, and declared that, realising that the money she had was God's money, given her in trust, she had no right to spend her money carelessly or to depend on credit.

Professor John Wellington, of the University of the Witwatersrand, told of what the Oxford Group had done to make him a better church member. "I was like the man who followed Christ in Galilee but kept on the verge of the crowd. This was because of lack of love, and you cannot love anyone while you are sinning".

Mrs Mabel Marshall, of Durban, spoke as a married woman whose home had been run without any consideration for Christ, until the Group brought a change into her life. She pointed out the importance of the mother in the world today, passing on to young minds what contributed to the furniture of life. If the mother had not the best to give she could not be surprised if the child suffered.

### NEW OUTLOOK ON NATIVE QUESTION

Mr Peter Phillips, a farmer from Grahamstown, testified to victory in his own life over what had been keeping him from the highest for God and man, even such seeming trivialities as worry and headaches. His whole attitude towards the Natives on his farm had been changed, and from regarding them as mere instruments, he came to look upon them as God's creatures with whom to co-operate. In such an individual manner, he maintained, the Native question would be solved.

The Rev. John du Toit and Mrs Nada du Toit pointed out the difference between what they had intended their home to be and what God had guided it to be. From a selfishly guarded and unwillingly shaved home, it had been changed to one used entirely as God directed, receiving whom He sent, run under His direction, and a possession stewarded for him instead of one selfishly possessed.

Mr John Blore, an advocate, of Durban, closed the meeting on the note of complete venture for Christ. "A little mild social endeavour is not going to do much good," he said, "and the mere fact that a man is cleansed is not much use if he is not a vessel fit for use".

"Is this a class movement?" someone had asked a leader about the Group. "Yes," was the reply, "two classes—the changed and the unchanged—to which class do you belong?"

### MEMBERS "WITNESS" IN LOCAL CHURCHES

Yesterday morning and evening various Oxford Group teams visited the local churches, where the members testified to a change in their lives and demonstrated their eagerness to pass on to every church member the power they had received.

### YOUTH RALLY

At the four o'clock meeting in the Raadsaal yesterday, while the audience sang the rousing "Onward Christian Soldiers," over 50 young members of the team marched in and took their places on and round the platform. Ten of these spoke to testify to the joy and power which had become theirs and to show what Christ had come to mean in each life.

There was a variety of speakers representing many spheres of life.

The meeting was led by the Rev. John du Toit, who is assisting the Rev. James Pollock in the Presbyterian Church locally.

Miss Joy McAlister, a teacher at Merchiston School, Maritzburg, testified to a changed attitude of teacher towards pupil.

The Rev. George Daneel, the Springbok rugby forward, spoke on the difference in his sport after it became subject to Christ instead of being merely for self-glorification.

Miss Beryl Reynolds, an optician from Pretoria, spoke to show how it was possible for a whole business to be directed by God, thus avoiding all unpleasantness, all arguments about the tea club and all pride on the part of the employer or shirking on the part of the employee.

Mr George de Villiers, of the City Treasurer's office, Johannesburg told the changed attitude he adopted after surrendering his life to Jesus Christ. Rate day brought no more fear and

(Continued from previous column)

furry and rush, but throughout all a calm serenity.

Mr "Koos" du Preez, agricultural instructor at Tweespruit, gave a glimpse of his new vision for the relationship between White and Black.

### EXAMINATIONS EASIER

Miss Kay Fernie, a university student, told how much easier the examinations written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit were than those written in self-effort, for she had found that when one's whole life was surrendered to God, He controlled every part of that life.

Miss Kay Dwyer, a Durban teacher, told of how she started her day with a "quiet time", during which both teacher and class received direction for the work of the day. She found that this new life made for a far better understanding and confidence between teacher and class, two qualities indispensable to the furtherance of the aims of education.

Mr Rick Sprowson, from the Reserve Bank, Pretoria, pointed out that individual selfishness was responsible for a rush on money, with all that this brought with it. He maintained that the only real method of solving the national financial problem was by the changed sense of values in individuals.

The last speaker was Miss Louise de Villiers, a school nurse from Ermont. She stated that the Group had given her freedom and purpose in life.

Dr H. C. de Wet (Bloemfontein North Dutch Reformed Church) closed the meeting with prayer.

### EVENING MEETING

In the evening at nine o'clock another public meeting was held, at which young people from Bloemfontein and elsewhere stated their findings after acquaintance with the Oxford Group. They had decided to venture for Christ, they said, and, rather than rest on material or social security, be prepared to lose all this world's goods if need be, to achieve God's purpose. But they had experienced the fulfilment of the New Testament promise that those who seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness would have, added to them, all they required of this world's goods.

Miss Molly Matthews, a member of the team, gave her impressions of South Africa upon her return from England. She realised that union was necessary, but that she shared the national sin of lack of unity in having failed to identify herself entirely with South Africa. Even higher than a national unity was a spiritual unity, but in this, as well as in national unity, the individual was responsible.

The campaign in the Raadsaal will continue this week. Today two meetings will be held. At 4.30 p.m. there will be Bible study and at 8 p.m. a public meeting. Both these meetings are open, and the public is invited, to attend.