

GROUP MOVEMENT

LONDON CAMPAIGN OPENED

The opening meeting of the London campaign of the Group Movement was held at the Central Hall, Westminster, last night. The Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan in India (Dr. Foss Westcott) presided. On the platform were a number of Anglican Bishops and representatives of the Free Churches. There were also present representatives of the German Evangelical Church and visitors from America, Holland, and other foreign countries. Owing to the large attendance three overflow meetings were held.

The METROPOLITAN IN INDIA said that a fundamental principle of the Group Movement was to put God first. They desired to see that in all man's varied activities—God at the heart of the individual, at the head of family life, and God directing all man's operations, and His glory being the object which they ever kept before their eyes. Apart from the guidance of God their work was futile. Team work was of the very essence of their movement. They had come to London confident that their message would find a ready welcome.

The REV. CUTHBERT BARDSLEY, Curate of All Hallows', Barking, who presided when Dr. Foss Westcott left for one of the overflow meetings, said that they had not come to London to give people an emotional thrill for the winter. Their vision was of another fire of London, the fire of the Holy Spirit burning and quickening and purifying London—not only the individuals in it, but through them the great life of the City. London needed a tremendous renewing of life under the guidance of God. They lived in a world that had been knocked off its equilibrium by the War. People were grasping and longing for something by which they could find their feet, and yet had not been able to find it. There were new elements which were spoiling life—speed, mass production, and materialism. They of the Group Movement believed that God had a plan and a purpose for London through the individuals. When those individuals gave up their lives to Him they would go out with new vision, new power, and a new purpose, and alter the life of London and other cities.

Brief speeches were then delivered by young members of the Movement, principally undergraduates and graduates from Oxford and Cambridge. Mr. DAVID GRAHAM said that the Group Movement taught him to see in Jesus Christ, working through the Church, the one solution to class war and international strife.

Mr. GARTH LEAN said that he was changed the day the hunger-marchers reached London. He then realized that unless he was changed and gained the capacity to work for other people regardless of class and temperament he could contribute nothing to the desperate need he saw around him.

Mr. BASIL ENTWISTLE said that the challenge of youth to-day to the world of scholarship was that learning should be related to life. As he had obeyed God's voice moral conflicts had been solved, and then came liberation of mind and will for God to use. The disciplined freedom which was experienced when God's Holy Spirit guided was the beginning of creative living and of creative thinking.

Mr. PETER PHELPS said that he saw effective Christianity in the Group Movement two years ago, and found that through it the lives of people were vitally changed. Piety, like patriotism, was not enough, especially in these present days.

Mr. FREDERICK TUGWELL said that their task in London was to introduce to men a programme of life which was Christ-centred; a life in which—as they had proved in their own experience—the accumulation of past moral conflict and repression was eradicated, any further conflict was daily eliminated, and every potentiality of brain and personality was released to create a new world order.

The DEAN of CAIUS COLLEGE, Cambridge, said that he was with the Group Movement with all his heart. Since he had joined in it there had been many changes in his life. A new order and harmony had come into his thinking, in the home there was now a radiance and depth that he once knew years ago.

Other speakers, representing various walks of life, also gave their testimony to the influence of the Movement.

The meetings will be continued at the Central Hall for three days this week, and special gatherings for clergy and ministers have been arranged.