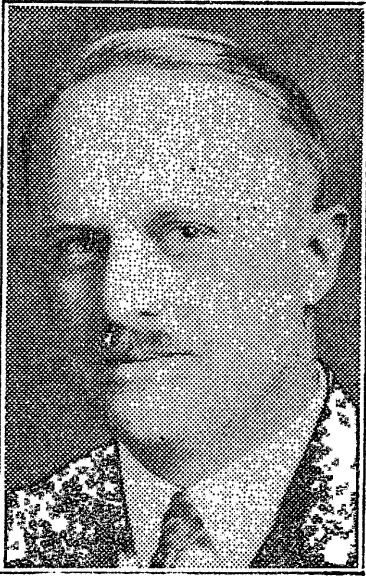


The Oxford Group



REV. P. P. W. ZIEMANN,
Minister, Fourth Ave. Baptist
Church, Ottawa.

VALUES.

I am profoundly grateful for the coming of the Oxford Group. Grateful for what it has meant to Christians in general, and myself in particular. May I summarize the values of the visit as I see them.

The visit made plain "The Naturalness of Christianity." Our religious experience should be part and parcel of our life. God can be mentioned naturally and not with a hushed, artificial voice as if it were not quite proper. God enters every department of life, and we should feel at home with him. This naturalness is the means used to spread the Gospel. "One loving spirit sets another on fire."

The visit revealed the deep needs of men and women, needs that were unsuspected or unrecognized even by the needy ones. There were needs among the clergy and laity, Christians and non-Christians. There were blind spots and surrendered areas. There were spiritual inertia and sodden complacency. Many folk were going through the motions of a formal religion but were not really Christian. In a vague way some knew that something was wrong, and longed for something, but did not know how to get it. The needs were brought to light and adequately met by a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

They reminded us of "The Worth of Waiting." Most of us are too busy, or so we thought, to follow the Psalmist's advice, "Wait on the Lord and He shall strengthen thy heart." We knew the truth but did not always follow it, and were the losers.

For many people "The Lost Radiance," as Principal Jacks calls it, was restored. Too long we have felt that if a thing is disagreeable it must be our duty; that Christianity is a series of negations and sacrifices, without a corresponding uplift of joy. They reminded us that the joy of the Lord is our strength in cross bearing, and that following Christ is "fun."

The changes were rung on the responsibility of the individual to measure up to the challenge of Christ, and carry on His work. The power and the possibilities for good are not confined to this Group, but are available to every Christian who will get in line with God's plan. Even the Apostle Paul had no more power than we can have, if we want it. God will not withhold anything from anyone who seeks to identify himself completely with Him.

There is one danger that must be carefully avoided. I greatly fear that some folk will feel that having had this new and refreshing experience, there is nothing new left for them, that the Oxford Group had "the last word" in religious satisfaction. Such is not the case. It is but the beginning. I would com-

mend to the readers the words of Paul to the Ephesians, 4:3, 15. Do not confuse the "shadow" with the "substance."

I am grateful to them for "the times of refreshing" that have followed the telling of the "old, old story."—P. P. W. ZIEMANN.