

OXFORD MOVEMENT GROUP COMES HERE

Leaders to Conduct Week's Campaign in Capital Be- ginning Tomorrow.

Leaders of the Oxford Group Movement, a spiritual force whose professed aim is to "recapture the spirit and power and joy of the early church," are coming here tomorrow for the first time to conduct a week's campaign calculated to leave a profound imprint on the religious life of the Capital.

The Oxford Group Movement, as it is known in England, or "A First Century Christian Fellowship," as it is known in this country, is "the answer to all the world's problems in the time of crisis," in the words of its founder, Rev. Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, who will head the group on arrival here.

In recent years, this religious group of the laity, emphasizing personal evangelism and "sharing" or confessing of faults, has spread rapidly from the universities in the United States and England into all parts of Christendom. Dr. Buchman is being accompanied by 19 prominent foreign members of the group, while many others from every walk of life will attend the meetings from various sections.

At Shoreham Hotel.

The fellowship meetings—or "house party," as they are sometimes termed—will be held each evening for a week, starting tomorrow, at the Shoreham Hotel. The opening of the campaign will be marked by a reception at 9 o'clock for the visiting members. Prominent persons in official, diplomatic, civic and religious circles have been invited.

Right Rev. James E. Freeman, Bishop of Washington, will welcome the members of the group. With most denominations today officially recognizing the need of a revitalizing evangelism within the church, the meetings of the Oxford Group are expected to have a significant appeal to churchgoers regardless of creed. The strength of the movement, it is declared, lies mainly in its interdenominational interests.

Dr. Samuel Shellabarger, 2010 Hillier place, an author and former Princeton professor, is arranging for the series of meetings here, where hundreds are interested directly by associations with the movement.

Critics have called the movement a new cult or creed, a form of "high-brow" evangelism, lacking only the fervor of the well-known "sawdust trail." However, it is nothing of the sort, according to those familiar with the serious intent and spirit of the movement. It is simply an attempt to get back to the old truths of Christianity.

In No Sense a Cult.

"The Oxford Group movement is an interpretation of the answer of Christianity to the world's present distress," Dr. Shellabarger explained yesterday. "It exists as an international ferment within the churches of all denominations in many countries. While re-emphasizing the definite truths of Christian experience and doctrine, it is in no sense a sect, cult or organization."

Unlike other religious groups, the movement has no officers, membership rolls or budget. Its adherents are enlisted from every walk of life. Because it started in the universities, it is natural that among its adherents are many prominent in the intellectual life of the countries where it has spread. Its appeal, however, is to the serious-minded of all circles, who feel the church needs a reawakening of spiritual influences.

Dr. Shellabarger said the movement holds that "the present need demands a shift from material to spiritual standards, and believes that religion in the first instance is a personal matter, and that there can be no adequate solution to national or international problems without the 'changed lives' of many individuals as a basis."

Dr. Shellabarger pointed out that of the 19 foreign members of the group now visiting in America, only one is an ordained clergyman. The foreign members are coming here from New York, where a series of four-day meetings have just been concluded.

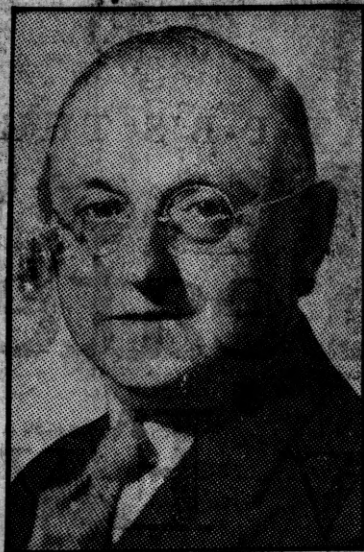
Began Teaching in 1908.

Dr. Buchman first began teaching the principles of a "Return to First Century Christianity" while in charge of the Christian Association of Pennsylvania State College from 1908 to 1915. Later the movement spread to Princeton University. In recent years, Dr. Buchman has made his headquarters at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in England, both strongholds of the movement. His present visit to the United States is his first in two years. During the interval he has been extending the activities of the movement in Great Britain, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and throughout South America.

In this country during the last five years there has been a constant increase in numbers and in group activity. Samuel Shoemaker of Baltimore is the leader in this country.

The foreign members of the group visiting Washington are: Count John Bentinck of Amerongen, Holland; Baroness Albertine Van Heeckeren Van Kell and Baroness Lilian Van Heeckeren Van Kell of de Steeg, Holland; Mrs. Alexander Whyte, of Edinburgh, Scotland; Col. H. D. Belgrave, D. S. O., and Mrs. Belgrave of Leicestershire, England; Jonkheer Eric Van Lennep of Vorden, Holland; Mr. and Mrs. A. S.

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DR. FRANK N. D. BUCHMAN.

Loudon Hamilton of Edinburgh; Mrs. Jessie Sheffield of Bloemfontein, South Africa; Rev. John Hunter Watt of Edinburgh; Evershed Thomson of Edinburgh; Donald Mackay of Durban, South Africa; James Watt of Edinburgh, Miss Jean Thornton-Duesbery of Oxford, Miss Ruth Bennett of London, Miss Oda Barbour of Edinburgh, Francis Ellison of Oxford and Miss Rosalie Spiller of London.

Will Meet Elsewhere.

Many other prominent persons from out of town, long associated with the movement, plan to be present this week. Among them are Harvey S. Firestone of Akron, Ohio.; Mr. and Mrs. Russell A. Firestone, also of Akron; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman of Bloomington, Ill.; Rev. and Mrs. Samuel M. Shoemaker, jr., of New York.

From Washington, the Oxford Group will go to Asheville, N. C., and are next to be routed to Detroit, Montreal and Boston, where similar fellowship campaigns will be conducted.