

Calvary Pastor Backs Ideals of Oxford Group

The Rev. S. M. Shoemaker
Jr. Asks Congregation
to Attend Services Here

Notes Fine Awakening

Hails Development as the
Greatest Since Wesley

The Rev. Samuel Moor Shoemaker jr., rector of Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church, Fourth Avenue and Twenty-first Street, who has been a leading spokesman of the First Century Christian Fellowship movement for the last decade, but has refrained from projecting the movement from the pulpit of his church, formally asked his congregation yesterday morning "seriously to look into the movement" with a view "to your possible help in the forwarding of the work in this needy day."

It was after he had hailed the movement as the greatest spiritual awakening since the days of John Wesley that Mr. Shoemaker described his connection with the movement since he had come into contact with the founder, the Rev. Frank N. D. Buchman, in China nearly fifteen years ago.

"The vestry of this parish knew of my connection when they called me here, and knew to what I referred when I told them that I would come here only on condition that I should be free to do intensive evangelistic work. I have felt no right to foist upon the members of this parish any movement in which I was personally interested: from this pulpit I have tried to preach the Gospel, and in doing so have simply told you the things I have learned about Christ through this movement to which I owe the vitalization of my own inherited Christian convictions.

Declares Work Growing

"In my talks with individuals, and in the work of the Thursday evening meeting, the principles of the Fellowship have had full play. Last Thursday evening 385 people gathered in the hall of our parish house to listen to the testimonies of changed lives. The work is steadily growing, and it has drawn thousands of people within the range of Calvary Church who would never otherwise have known it.

"I want to impress upon you your debt to this Fellowship for the help it has been in the building up of our congregation during the past seven years. Whatever I have personally been able to do in this time, I attribute almost entirely to what I have learned in the Fellowship."

Mr. Shoemaker asked his congregation to "forget your little Episcopalian prejudices," to cease being idle and sit and wring your hands and "run about with your own little pet schemes" and get on the bandwagon of "a great movement." He invited his listeners, "with all my power," to attend the fellowship meetings to be held at the Plaza tonight, tomorrow night, and Wednesday and Thursday nights.