

Oxford Groups Termed Movement Inside Church

Dr. Watt, of Edinburgh, Explains View at St. John's

The Rev. Dr. John Watt, of Holy Trinity Church, Edinburgh, Scotland, spoke of the work of the Oxford Groups in his sermon yesterday morning in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The movement, also known as First Century Christianity, is, from beginning to end, Dr. Watt said, a "movement within the church."

"It is not an organization or a method," he continued, "but a quality of life lived out in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. I regard myself and my companions in this life simply as members of the church militant who are trying to be a little militant and to do the primary task of fishing, shepherding and witnessing for which Our Lord empowered and endowed His Church."

Speaking of the wide appeal of the Oxford movement, Dr. Watt said: "Criminals and unemployed, old and young, rich and poor, clergy and laity are beginning in ever-growing numbers to be turned upside down. They often begin by being upset, they go on by being critical and angry, and so advance through conviction and confession to surrender and dedication and the glorious liberty of power and peace. I have seen homes restarted, businesses rebuilt, men and women remade. One hundred and twenty men at least have passed through a prison group and 90 per cent have not returned to prison. But the greatest joy lies in the fact that this individual experience repeated daily in nineteen countries is possible to any one and every one, however apparently weak and insignificant."