

The Oxford Group, in Action in the Summer of 1932.

A group of seventeen of us sailed from New York on the Berengaria on June 15th, we had an uneventful crossing, but a restful one after the strenuous days in America. "Bill Pickle" was along and made many friends on the boat, while Phil Brown arranged a meeting for his friends in first. The weather permitted the deck games which never cease to mix the unknown together and add zest to travel.

A bus met us at Southampton and motored us through the hills and gardens of England to Oxford, where a preliminary h-p of 150 we gathered preparing for the three to be held separately at Lady Margaret Hall, St. Hughes and Hereford colleges. It was fun to be back with Nan and Garrett Stearly, Eric van Lennep, Don Mackay and John Roots at the party at St. Hughes; the old South African team again. At this particular gathering a number interesting people were gathered. One of them was Commander Brooke of the Royal Navy; he came to observe and was slightly critical, he had to go back for duty. However he obtained an extra leave and returned. He said that what he had found of Christ was just what he had been wanting all his life and what the Navy was longing for. Admiral Drury-Lowe and his wife also had their witness as to what they had found that was enriching their personal lives and was the answer to international affairs. The Admiral was off to Geneva to help in arrangements for the Geneva h-p. Jean Evans brought her parents along, because they had seen the difference that Christ had made, in her life when the MS was sunk and her fiancé was drowned. The h-p was a series of two legged miracles, time does not permit of the families reunited, students, ministers, men in all walks and those of no walks who found Christ's power and purpose for their lives. Each Sunday the morning and evening services in Mansfield chapel united the three h-ps into a single whole. The final service when Bishop Linton commissioned the 150, most of them students, to go out on the four teams to the South Coast, London, the Midlands and the North was thrilling and as the Editor of the Church of England Newspaper said at that service, "this marked in England and perhaps for the world a revival fully as significant as the Reformation. You can follow the doings of these teams and all other news of the groups in this paper. Then all the momentum of this spiritual crusade was let loose in London in a luncheon in which various members of Parliament and the House of Lords were present. The success of this luncheon hailed by the papers and discussed far and wide up and down England made necessary a series of evening meetings at the St. Ermin's Restaurant, which reached many and set the sphere of interest flowing through London.

From the teams in action throughout the land there came back encouraging reports and the fact the first arrangement were not adequate and crowds came far larger than expected. It is revival and survival. Imagine it over 150 students witnessing for Christ in terms that this modern world understands giving again the eternal gospel. The clippings are enormous. Here is one which I have with me here at Les Haudéges in Switzerland from the Wolverhampton campaign. The head line is the four standards in bold type--**HONESTY; PUNY; LOVE and UNSELFISHNESS--University Students as Christian Crusaders--**"The Oxford Group Movement came to Wolverhampton last night.

"When their first meeting began at Reynolds Café there were some 250 people present, of whom 200, including the Mayor and Mayoress were confessing to each other they had little notion what they expected to see and hear. They simply knew they were attending a meeting of university students loosely described as revivalists. The other 50 were the students themselves, but with a sprinkling of mothers, friends and ministers. When the visitors left two hours later, they had attended one of the most remarkable meetings held in the town for many years.

"THERE WERE NO PRAYERS; NO MUSIC; NO SERMON; NO EXHORTATION; NO APPEAL TO EMOTIONS; NO RESOLUTIONS; NO VOTE OF THANKS AND NO OFFERTORY--Modern Miracles

"Instead, half a dozen students and as many young women, perched themselves on a table and talked. They called each other by their Christian names, a smile was never far from their lips. They were natural, sincere, pleasing in manner, but very frank. What they had to say fell with the same freshness on the ears of local ministers, regular church goers, spasmodic worshippers and people who had not been to a place of public devotion for years.... So the testimony went on from one speaker to another... it is impossible to catch in these few paragraphs the infectious Christianity of the meeting." By the time the meetings of three days had finished they were crowded out by over 500 people. Similar meetings were held in Bournemouth, Manchester, Birmingham, and in London. With house parties in each of the places, ministers and congregations of Free Church and Established came together and many of the unchurched. It is amazing how the new book about the work has sold and the reviews of it in countless papers have been triumphant. There is not time to tell you of the campaign in Sheffield and the city wide reception there and of the three simultaneous h-ps that took place in England, while the seasonal leadership was conducting h-ps in Geneva and in Holland. Then the German h-p where men from all over Europe came. Some 50 teachers and nearly as many ministers, doctors and professors, Communist workers and titled folk in abundance. Leaders in business and civic affairs. All learning to share, all learning to be guided by God in their lives. Life does sparkle.