

American Protestants Wake Up To Need Of Missionary Work Right Here at Home

Editor's note: Despite the overall boom in church construction, the number of Protestant churches in the downtown areas of America's big cities has dropped sharply. The following dispatch tells why church leaders consider this trend "alarming" and what they hope to do about it.

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press Correspondent
 Washington—(U.P.)—American Protestants, who spend more than \$100,000,000 a year to send missionaries to the far corners of the earth have discovered a new and sorely neglected mission field, right here at home.

It is in the downtown areas of America's big cities. According to the National Council of Churches, Protestantism has all but abandoned the slum-ridden central sections of the cities in a headlong flight to the plush and prosperous suburbs.

No overall figures are available, a council spokesman said, but checks show that "Protestant churches are disappearing from inner city areas at an alarming rate." A survey in one unidentified "typical" city showed there are less than one-third as many Protestant churches today as there were a half-century ago.

The trend cannot be explained on the basis of dwindling downtown population. Despite the much publicized "movement to the suburbs," census figures show that the U.S. urban population has actually grown by some 6,000,000 persons in the past decade.

Moreover, there has been no comparable disappearance of Roman Catholic churches from inner city areas. A spokesman for the National Catholic Welfare Conference said a comparatively few Catholic city parishes have been crowded out of existence by commercial or industrial redevelopment that left them with no residential neighborhoods to serve. But, he said, it has been

Catholic policy to keep city parishes functioning "as long as there are any people to come to mass or any children to come to school."

Protestant leaders privately acknowledge the superiority of the Catholic record in ministering to inner city and slum area residents. Indeed, one of the reasons for current Protestant concern is the realization that millions of people, who moved to cities from rural areas where

Protestant traditions prevail, now find themselves faced with the alternatives of going to a Catholic neighborhood church, or no church at all.

Why have Protestant churches so largely deserted a field in which they have millions of actual or potential members to serve?

Main Reasons
 A recent study by the Home Missions Division of the National Council of Churches pointed to

two main reasons:
 1. Many churches have fled from "changing" downtown neighborhoods to all-white suburbs to avoid facing the issue of racial integration. Council officials hope that the "run-away" trend is now gradually being reversed.

They report that a small but growing number of city churches are choosing to stand fast and serve their mixed communities on a "color blind" basis.

2. American Protestantism has a long history of attachment to "traditional middle-class values." It has not easily learned to

roll up its sleeves and tackle the grubby problems of poverty, juvenile delinquency, drug addiction, moral and physical squalor

that often characterize life in the big city slums.

If there is a bright spot in this picture, it is the fact that Protestant leaders have developed a sharp pain in the conscience and are now trying to start a "back to the cities" movement.

They'll Do It Every Time



Place of Bathtub in Human History May Always Be Subject of Diehard Discussion

By H. D. QUIGG
United Press Correspondent
 New York—(U.P.)—Almost nobody can take a diehard stand on the place of the bathtub in human history and make it hold water.

Some people say Rome fell because Romans spent too much time in their baths. Some say the empire would have gone down the drain anyway.

Heavy Damage From 'Burning Water' Fire
 Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Firemen estimated Saturday that a freak "burning water" fire caused \$3,000,000 damage to the giant Ford assembly plant at Long Beach Harbor.

The fire, which swept the plant Friday, was set off by burning gasoline floating atop flood waters from Southern California's worst storm in 20 years. The blaze started with a series of explosions and inflicted burns and injuries on some plant officials.

Firemen from three communities using regular equipment and fireboats, brought the fire under control after fighting it for several hours.

Misunderstanding Ends In Rush To Meet Plane
 Minneapolis, Minn.—(U.P.)—A slight misunderstanding sent photographers, newsmen, a doctor and an ambulance to meet the landing of an unscheduled Northwest Airlines plane at Minneapolis airport.

Everyone on the ground was interested in the baby they understood was born on the Chicago to Portland, Ore., flight.

It turned out, however, that the pilot had radioed he had a "burn" case on board, not a "birth" case. Stella Green of Portland was treated for minor burns from spilled hot coffee.

Tokyo Rose Leaves Federal Prison
 Alderson, W. Va.—(U.P.)—Tokyo Rose, the American girl who turned traitor for the Japanese in World War II, was released from prison Saturday and showed no repentance for the broadcasts in which she taunted American troops with swing music and talk of home.

After six years in prison Mrs. Iva Toguri D'Aquino said "All I ask is a 50-50 chance to get back on my feet." But the federal government made the one-time Japanese radio propagandist's future uncertain by threatening to deport her from the country she betrayed.

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strength was in their baths. They even built portable baths for their legions in the field and kept their conquests clean. Back home, Roman men joined the local bathhouse gang and even transacted business in the public baths.

Some Roman ladies, in their private baths, wallowed in donkeys' milk. Others bathed in a luscious goo made up of 20 pounds of crushed strawberries and two pounds of crushed raspberries.

The Greeks had a word for bathing that is translated "to drive sadness from the mind." The Greeks are said to have been fond of a home-style tub shaped like a modern birdbath. Part of the glory that was Greece lay in eating and drinking while bathing—which is a nice trick if you can do it in a birdbath.

No Soap
 The Romans, who didn't have soap, used a scraper to cleanse their skin while bathing. Oddly enough, the barbarians who brought the Dark Ages to Europe also brought in the first soap, but on the subject of bathing they were rather wishy-washy.

And the plain fact is that in the Dark Ages people were—as some philosopher has said—wishy but not overly wishy.

Well, as you might have imagined, it remained for the Americans to bring the bathtub to full flower. Benjamin Franklin is alleged to have brought the first formal bathtub to America—a tub in the shape of a shoe, with a grate in the "heel" to heat the

water. With that start, American imagination ran amok. There were shoe tubs, hat tubs, wooden showers, fold-away closet tubs, and convertible furniture tubs in this country in the 1880's.

The Association of American Soap & Glycerine Producers, Inc., a trade organization now in convention here, has gathered up 14 of these antique tub-uglies and put them on display in a "bathorama" at the Waldorf-Astoria, a hotel which has a bath for nearly every room.

Even Extras
 Probably the most fascinating item of the display is the Virginia stool shower, believed to have been used around 1830-40. It's a walnut gadget with a revolving piano-stool-type seat beside which is a wooden lever. The bather worked the lever back and forth sending water up a hose into a nozzle and onto himself. The lever action at the same time worked an old-fashioned stiff-bristle scrub brush up and down the bather's back.

An 1880 closet tub, framed in pine, folded up into its own closet, and thus was camouflaged as a wardrobe when not in use. It had its own hot water heater.

A Victorian soft tub 1880-90 doubled as an overstuffed, living room sofa of carved, scrolled walnut and gold brocade, with a curved armrest. The sofa top was removable, disclosing a full-length metal tub composing the bottom half of the piece. It was advertised as "the common sense invention of the age."

Floods Reflect In Financial Report

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Losses suffered during the Christmas week floods were reflected Saturday in a financial report by Western Pacific Railroad Company.

The railroad said gross revenues dropped nearly \$200,000 to \$3,752,494 in December compared with \$3,940,015 for the same month in 1954. Net income for the month was \$9,639 compared with \$359,085 in December, 1954.

Despite the December revenue drop, the railroad said gross revenue for 1955 was \$53,747,777, up more than five million dollars from the 1954 revenue of \$48,118,749.

Net earnings in 1955 were \$4,605,540, representing earnings per share of \$6.86. The 1954 earnings were \$4,313,953 for \$5.62 per share.

Trainees Take Tip From Moviegoers

Munich, Germany—(U.P.)—American military police trainees of the local MP battalion take a tip from moviegoing youngsters in one phase of their training. They shoot at the bad men on a movie screen—only they use live ammunition.

Old gangster films are used for the pistol practice and an electric plate behind the screen records the hits.

PANIC! PANIC!

Radio Free Europe broadcasts have Puppet Reds running in circles

Work practically stopped in a large Hungarian electrical plant after a Radio Free Europe truth broadcast exposed inefficiency and corruption. Red bosses ran about accusing each other—to the workers' amusement.

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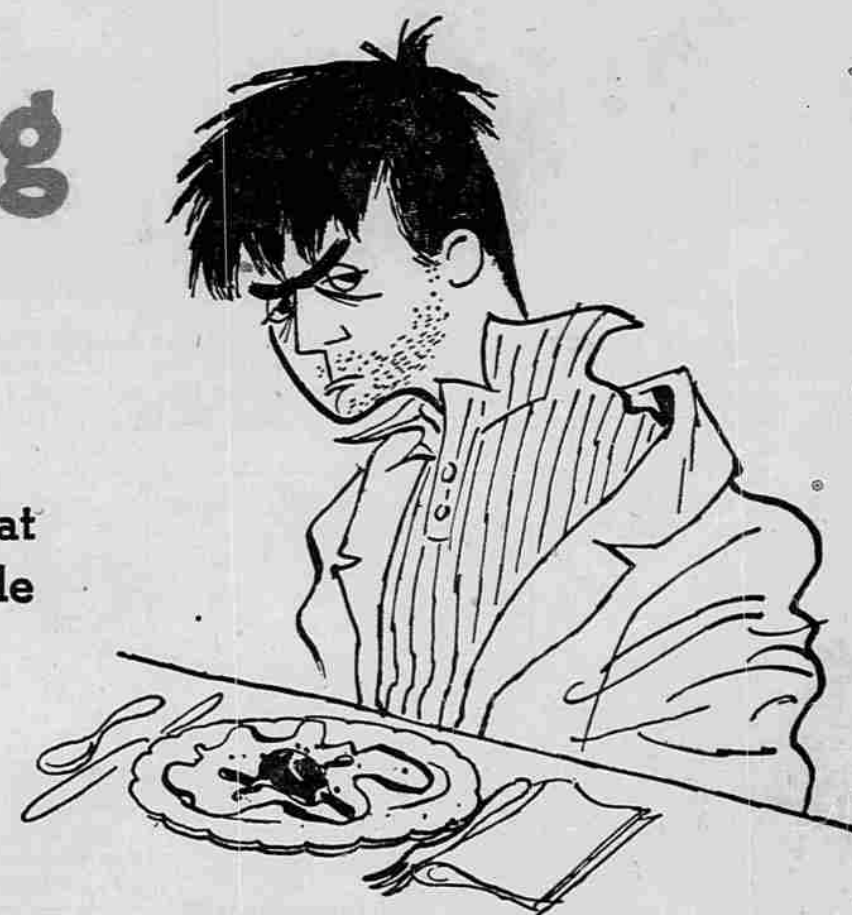
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