

'Century' Editor Questions Value Of Billy Graham Type Conversions

Editor's note: Author of this week's column is editor of the Christian Century magazine, an old and respected organ which circulates widely among clergymen of all major Protestant denominations. He raises questions about the lasting benefits of crusading techniques like Billy Graham's and finds that in the past mass conversions have failed to take hold.

By DR. HAROLD E. FEY
Written For The United Press
Each Saturday evening during his New York Crusade the na-

tion has seen hundreds of television men and women moving to the front of Madison Square Garden as evangelist Billy Graham has pleaded with them to "accept Christ."

Forty years ago Billy Sunday urged New Yorkers to "hit the sawdust trail," and they came in even larger numbers. But the effects of the Billy Sunday meetings have long ago disappeared, and it seems likely the Billy Graham revival may have a similar transiency. Mass-produced conversions fail to endure the test of time.

On the other hand, the one-

by-one conversions which take place through the churches amount to more than three millions each year, renewing a Christian community of nearly 100 million each generation, without fanfare or excitement and with a minimum of loss and disillusionment.

Believes In Conversion

Right off I must make it clear that my skepticism concerning the value of mass evangelism does not mean I am skeptical concerning the importance of religious conversion. Real conversion is not only possible; it takes place every day and under the

right circumstances it is greatly to be desired.

Conversion can bring a radical and wholesome change to life. A person who has been consciously alien, despairing, guilty, confused as to his goals and at odds with the universe, with society and with himself, can be changed. He or she can come to know reconciliation with God, with other people, with self. Despair can be transformed to confidence, guilt to forgiveness, the cross purposes of uncertain goals to the integrity of one aim. The personality, hitherto utterly alone, takes on a new character as it becomes part of the church, the living society which has as its highest designation the title "Body of Christ."

Clearly it is of overwhelming importance that a person who has been at odds with himself and the universe can be so reconciled with God, his fellows and his own soul. This change is conversion. It can usually take place without a wracking emotional upheaval, but it involves the emotions since they are part of the totality of personality. But it can never take place without the presence and help of the church at various stages.

Urges Church Association
Billy Graham is right in insisting that every person must make his own decision about Christ, must surrender his life to God. But experience has repeatedly shown that the person who "accepts Christ" in such circumstances as those seen in Madison Square Garden is very likely to lose his way.

He may transiently know what it means to be converted, but if he fails to become integrally identified with other Christians in a church, the experience will wither. He needs guidance immediately into an understanding of the good news which runs far deeper than that preached by the mass evangelist, whose sole concern is to present only that portion of the gospel which bears on "decisions for Christ."

The new Christian needs more help than ordinarily he knows "to grow in grace." He is fortunate if he is led into the experience of conversion by the pastor or members of a church whose individual counsel and prayers guide each step.

Medford Exchange Student Writes on Religion in Europe

(Editor's Note: David Frohnmayer, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Frohnmayer, 1656 Spring st., is in Germany this summer as an exchange student under the American Field Service program.)

The Mail Tribune asked him before he left to write a series of articles on his experiences, several of them concerning churches and religion. Following is his first communication concerning this field of life abroad.)

Möln in Lauenburg, Germany, July 11.—In these past few weeks I have seen and heard much about churches and religion that was new to me. Since there were 769 young people together on the ship, my first contact with churches away from home was during the 11 days at sea. We had many good opportunities to learn about other faiths and beliefs, as there was a panel discussion of an open forum on a different religion each day.

In addition, on both Sundays, church services were held for Protestant, Catholic, Jewish and Mormon faith. Every evening there was a vesper service for Protestants and a Rosary for Catholics.

It is perhaps interesting to point out that all of these religious discussions and services were organized completely by the young people on board.

I had always expected the Europeans to be very devout and faithful church goers; but when we arrived in Düsseldorf, Germany, for an overnight stay before continuing on our journey, a surprise awaited me.

I stayed with another boy in the home of an artist-teacher. His son, Hajo, will be an exchange student to the U.S. next fall, and as he speaks good English we had a chance to ask him about the church in Germany.

Unlike America, there are only two churches, Catholic and Protestant (Lutheran). Hajo told me that in Germany church life is not as important as in the United States. Apparently, the church is old-fashioned and, in his words, "not alive." He told me that what the people here in the church, they have heard before; this may be due to the fact that many pastors in Germany are not very good—he used the word "primitive."

He went on to say that a person many times has more faith if he doesn't hear the sermons than a faithful church-goer does. Hajo also explained that men of science often disagree with some parts of the Bible, and because of this, all religion is discarded. These men, Hajo said, think only a child can have a faith, because a child doesn't know science.

All of these things were very new to me and so I inquired if perhaps the church was looked upon in this manner because of persecution by Adolf Hitler. He replied that to the contrary, war years were the most successful for the church because it had something to live for, and grew under the attacks made upon it by the Nazis. These many different views on churches were quite surprising to me, but it must be remembered that I talked to only one person, and perhaps his facts are not completely accurate. Nevertheless, he is a sincere Protestant; so he probably has valid information.

The church buildings throughout the nation are very beautiful, as well as quite old. All towns are dominated by church spires, and Möln, the town I am living in, is quite typical. The church here dates back to about the year 1300, and in it is buried Till Eulenspiegel, who was a famous jester and wise man in early Germany.

It is very interesting to note many of the styles of architecture in the older churches. In Ratzburg, a town not far from here, is a Protestant church,

GUEST SPEAKER

The Rev. Lewis Collins will be guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service at Central Point Community Bible church. He will also be in charge of Bible study and prayer hour in the 7:45 p.m. Wednesday meeting.

formerly a monastery. One can see the old Roman style, and as the church was enlarged, Gothic arches, and still later some Renaissance architecture.

It is a pity that many many churches have been destroyed by war, for many historic ones were razed as far back as the

Thirty Years war, which was fought between the two religions. World War II also took its toll of the old churches, but most of these are gradually being reconstructed. At a later date I hope to report on other church activities and youth groups in modern Germany.

Church News

Adventists Attending Gladstone Park Camp

Many members of the Seventh-day Adventist church will be attending the Gladstone Park Seventh-day Adventists camp meeting this week end, according to Elder John D. Trude, church pastor.

Services at the Gladstone camp began July 25 and will continue to Aug. 3.

A former associate pastor of the church here, Don MacIvor, is to be one of three men ordained to the gospel ministry at the camp tomorrow. Service

will be at 2 p.m. with Elder L. E. Biggs, president of the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and Elder C. A. Scriven, president of the North Pacific union, will officiate.

MacIvor was associate of Medford, Valley View, Ashland and Eagle Point churches a year ago. He led a series of meetings in Prospect and directed a laymen's evangelistic campaign in Gold Hill while here.

The camp meeting at Gladstone will feature Elder William Fagal, television speaker, with his quartet, at worship services this week end. Other church leaders from around the nation are scheduled to speak during the week.

Conference officers for the next two years were selected at the biennial business session Wednesday and Thursday. First religious service at the meeting took place Thursday night.

Eagle Point — Members of the Eagle Point Seventh-day Adventist church leaving this week for the Gladstone Park campground are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clark and family, Mrs. Myrtle Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian L. Pittsley and family, Mrs. Roy Swan, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Estelle, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Pershall, Carole and Pat Pershall, and Mrs. Victor Bartholomew.

Local Unitarians Hear California Minister

The Rogue Valley Unitarian Fellowship will host Sunday at a 5 p.m. potluck picnic in Ashland's Lithia park. Attending will be Unitarians from Grants Pass, Klamath Falls, and Rogue valley points.

The J. Ford Lewis family of Stockton, Calif., will be guests of honor.

Dr. Lewis is minister of the Unitarian church in Stockton. He was graduated from Salem college, received his M. A. degree from the University of Arkansas in 1940. In 1952 he received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

The Lewis family has been vacationing at Lake of the Woods.

The fellowship will furnish coffee and punch at the Sunday picnic.

C. Pt. Presbyterians Hold Picnic Monday

Central Point — The annual picnic for families for Central Point Presbyterian church and the church school will be held at Tou Velle state park Monday, July 29.

Games for young people will begin at 4 p.m. and a picnic potluck supper is planned for 6 p.m. Those wishing transportation should meet at the church at 3:45 or 5:30. The women's circle is sponsoring the picnic, and will furnish coffee.

ADVENTIST SPEAKER

Eagle Point—Elmer B. Estelle will be the speaker for the 11 a.m. worship service at Eagle Point Seventh-day Adventist church this Sunday.

SAMS VALLEY PICNIC

Sams Valley—There will be a picnic on the Rogue river at Surgeon's place following the 11 a.m. morning service at Sams Valley Gospel church.

SERMON SUBJECT

"Truth" will be the sermon subject Sunday at 10 a.m. at the First Church of Christ, Scientist.



MINISTER TRANSFERRED—The Rev. Ernest Volkman, minister for the past two years at the First Presbyterian Church of Phoenix, has been transferred to the First Presbyterian church in Oakland, Calif. A reception for Mr. and Mrs. Volkman will follow 8 p.m. Union Vesper services at the Phoenix church this Sunday. He will deliver his last sermon here at the regular morning service Sunday.

Ernest Volkman, Phoenix Minister Moves to Oakland

Phoenix—The Rev. Ernest Volkman will conduct his final service at the First Presbyterian church here Sunday morning.

He and his family will move next week to Oakland, Calif., where he will assume duties as assistant pastor of the First Presbyterian church there.

Mr. Volkman, his wife and two sons, moved to Phoenix in June of 1955, shortly after he was graduated from the San Francisco seminary. He was ordained and installed at the Phoenix church on Aug. 18, 1955. He has served as minister there since then.

A reception for the family will follow the Union Vesper services to be held for all Rogue valley Presbyterians at the church Sunday evening. The Rev. Harold Bridges of Jacksonville is speaker at the service, beginning at 8 p.m. This will be the last night of the vesper services for the summer.

The Volkman family have been on vacation the last month visiting his parents in Chicago, Ill. During that time the morning message has been delivered by Dr. Clifford Miller, professor of history at Southern Oregon college, and Dave Heinz, leader for Young Life work in Medford.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Volkman come originally from Illinois. He attended Wheaton college and Northwestern university before entering the San Francisco seminary. While in the seminary, he served as student assistant to the minister in a Berkeley Presbyterian church.

Pathfinders Begin New Club House

Construction was begun this week on a club house for the Medford Pathfinder society, Seventh-day Adventist youth organization. The club house is to be on the Rogue River Academy school grounds, South Stage rd.

Oral W. Tucker, director of the group, said the building will be rustic in architecture. Plans include eight unit-meeting rooms equipped for hobby and craft work, in addition to a counsellor's room, kitchen and large assembly hall.

When the building is completed, it will be available for practice sessions by the school band also, Tucker said.

Work is being done largely on a volunteer basis, and funds will be raised by club members. Pathfinders are selling candy house-to-house in Medford this month to aid in financing the club house.

Park Picnic Scheduled For Phoenix Nazarenes

Phoenix — A picnic at Tou Velle state park is scheduled for members of the Phoenix Church of the Nazarene Sunday school tomorrow.

The picnic will begin at the park at 2 p.m., featuring contests races and a tug-of-war. Potluck supper will be served there at 6 p.m. Those attending are asked to bring covered dishes.

Anyone wishing transportation may call the parsonage or superintendent, at K E y s t o n e 5-2547.

William C. Piper
Minister

California Minister First Presbyterian Speaker on Sunday

The congregation of First Presbyterian church will hear a guest speaker at both 9:45 and 11 a.m. services Sunday.

The Rev. Larry Cardwell, Berkeley, Calif., a missionary appointee to Beirut, Lebanon, will speak briefly on his plans for work abroad.

Mr. Cardwell has been appointed for a three year term to teach and counsel students in the Near East School of Theology.

His work will be related to the Protestant Student House adjacent to the American university of Beirut.

The local congregation has shared over the past three years in support of the Rev. Lynn Boleik who has carried on similar duties in Beirut.

Mr. Cardwell will speak to the combined Geneva and Westminster fellowships at the 7 p.m. service. He has been working with students in Berkeley and is a recent graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey.

The assistant pastor of the church, the Rev. John Reynolds, will preach at both morning services on the theme "A Day of Good News." The Westminster choir, under the direction of Miss Priscilla West, will sing anthems at the first service. Mrs. Charles Champlin will be soloist with the chancel choir at the second service.

St. Luke's Methodist To Break Ground

The congregation of year-old St. Luke's Methodist church expects to begin its building program with ground breaking ceremonies tentatively set for Sunday, Aug. 11.

The present site is on Barnett rd., just west of the new Rogue Valley Memorial hospital.

Thursday, the trustees of the church met with the Rev. Melvin Dixon, pastor; the Rev. Meredith Groves, district superintendent; and the Rev. J. B. Harris Jr., executive director of the western and south central jurisdictions of the department of church extension of the division of national missions of the board of missions of the Methodist church.

The trustees and building committee are under advisement from Mr. Harris on preliminary planning and building procedures and also on recommendation for a building donation from the national board of missions.

Ascension Lutheran Ceremonies Sunday

Ground breaking ceremonies are scheduled this Sunday at 3 p.m. for the new Ascension Lutheran church. The church site is at Barnett rd. and Black Oak dr.

Fred Robinson, Medford city councilman, will represent the city at the ceremonies, according to Walter Nelson, secretary of Ascension Lutheran.

The construction contract has been awarded to Meyer Jones, Medford contractor, by the home mission department of the Evangelical Lutheran church.

The contract calls for the first unit, a Sunday school building, and parking lot for about 50 cars. This is to be completed within 150 working days. The cost of this unit is estimated at \$45,000. The entire project will take approximately \$260,000.

All interested persons are invited to attend the ground breaking.

Three Ministers Talk on Roundtable

Three Medford ministers will discuss a question on scripture from the book Matthew on the Ministers Roundtable program over station KMED at 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

The question is: "Please explain Matthew 7:13-14. I am especially curious to know why the way that leads to life is hard and why there are only a few that find it."

Appearing on the program will be Dr. George Roseberry, First Methodist church; the Rev. Mansveld, First Church of the Nazarene; and the Rev. Robert Bruer, summer assistant at St. Peter's Lutheran church. The Rev. John Reynolds, First Presbyterian church, is moderator.

Baptist Film Shows Story of Barabbas

"Wine of Morning," a two-hour film, will be shown at the First Baptist church in Medford at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, and at the Berean Baptist church in White City at 8 p.m. Tuesday, July 30.

The film is the story of Barabbas—the man whom Pilate released at the demand of the mob in the trial of Christ. It is in color.

Unusual Films of Bob Jones University, Greenville, S.C., produced "Wine of Morning." The story includes a number of miracles performed by Christ. Most of the camera work was done on the 200-acre university campus. A member of the university faculty wrote the original score.

The Bob Jones university is a school of about 3,000 students. In 1950 it instituted a department of cinema for teaching film techniques and production of films centering around religious themes.

Lutheran Intermediates To Spend Week at Camp Southeast of Portland

Eleven young people of the intermediate classes at Zion Lutheran church will spend next week at the Lutherans' Camp Colton, about 34 miles southeast of Portland.

The Rev. G. H. Hillerman, pastor of the Medford church, will accompany the group. Campers will return to Medford next Saturday evening.

Going to the camp are Judy Alder, Brian Christoffersen, Billy Gates, Janice Hillerman, Kit Jepson, Donna Johnson, Danny Kadin, John Kuoni, Terry Perkley, Salli Reule and Brian Waldeyer.

Two Men of Letters Featured on Broadcast

A dialogue between Mark Van Doren, Pulitzer prize winning poet and professor of English at Columbia university, and Maurice Samuel, author and lecturer, will be broadcast on NBC over radio station KMED from 9:30 to 10 a.m. Sunday.

The dialogue is the fourth in a series of 10 on the wisdom books of the Bible over the program Eternal Light, sponsored by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

During the 10-week period, the two men are discussing in unrehearsed dialogues Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, as well as Ecclesiastes and the Ethics of the Fathers.

Phoenix Women's Group Hears Speech About UN

Phoenix—The Women's association of First Presbyterian church here met recently for a business meeting and covered dish luncheon at the church. During the afternoon, Mrs. Carl Bismark spoke on the United Nations. Plans were also made for the reception to be held this Sunday for the Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Volkman.

STUDY TOPIC

The 6 p.m. Sunday Bible study topic at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses will be "Accepting Responsibility in the New World Society," as featured in the June 15 Watchtower.

BAPTIST MESSAGE

"Christ Hath Abolished Death," will be the pastor's sermon from the First Baptist church at the 11 a.m. service Sunday. It will be broadcast over radio station KBOY.

CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP

The sermon theme for the 11 a.m. worship service at Eastwood Baptist church this Sunday will be "Creative Fellowship."

SERMON ON HAPPINESS

The topic for the 11 a.m. Sunday sermon at the First Methodist church of Ashland will be "Springs of Happiness."

'Brotherhood Hour Four Give Special Concert at First Church of God

The Christian Brotherhood Hour quartet will be featured singer in a special concert at the First Church of God Tuesday evening.

The group will appear at the church, Haven and Holly sts., at 8 p.m., according to pastor Darold H. Jones.

The Christian Brotherhood Hour is a 30-minute weekly radio program produced by the Church of God. Appearing in the Medford church will be Gene Miller, first tenor; Dave Turner, second tenor; Paul Hart, baritone, and Darrell Taylor, bass. Paul Yerden is piano accompanist.

Clergymen Trained To Help in Mental Cases

Philadelphia — A grant of \$10,000 has been allocated to the National Academy of Religion and Mental Health by the Smith, Kline and French foundation to train chaplains for mental hospitals.

The non-sectarian, non-profit academy was organized in 1954 to emphasize how clergymen can deal with mental health problems.

A spokesman for the academy said that although clergymen are often consulted at the time of an emotional crisis, very few are trained to deal with the problem.

Episcopal Church Dedicated July 7

Wellesley, Mass. — A unique Episcopal chapel to be known as St. James the Fisherman was dedicated here July 7.

The chapel has an open, pyramid-shaped tower for a steeple and a rough-hewn interior designed to create the atmosphere of an old-time sailing vessel below decks.

Olav Hammarstrom, Finnish, born architect of Cleveland, O., designed the chapel, which will accommodate 175 persons.

Revival Meetings Set For Prospect Church

Prospect—A series of revival meetings will be conducted at the Assembly of God Church here every night except Monday.

The meetings begin Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are conducted by the Rev. Charles D. McLintic, pastor of the Assembly of God Church in Shady Cove.

'EXCELLENT EXCHANGE'

The sermon subject for St. Luke's Methodist church at the 9:30 a.m. morning worship Sunday will be "An Excellent Exchange."

ROSEBERRY SERMON

Dr. George G. Roseberry will deliver a sermon entitled "Important Events" at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. services at First Methodist church Sunday.

SERMON SUBJECT

"Can This Be Christ?" will be the topic of the 11 a.m. worship sermon at the First Church of God Sunday.

ANNUAL UNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 28 — 1 P.M.

CASEY'S PARK

On Crater Lake Hwy., above Trail.

Devotional services as usual at Center rooms, Holly Theatre. Your family and friends are cordially invited to attend. Bring basket lunch. Coffee, soft drink and ice cream furnished.

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Groveland Ave. and Oakwood Drive

Summer Schedule

Church School at 10 a.m.

Church Worship at 10 a.m.

First Christian Church

"The Friendly Church"

Welcomes You TO ALL SERVICES

Bible School — 9:45 a.m.

Morning Service — 10:50 a.m.

Youth Meeting — 6:30 p.m.

Evening Service — 7:30 p.m.

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