

TWO-YEAR SERMON MORATORIUM FINDS NO FAVOR AMONG PASTORS HERE

Churches Might as Well Close Their Doors, Clergymen Reply To Proposal of New Yorker

Better Preaching, Not Less of It, Is Need of World Today, Indianapolis Religious Leaders Say; Popularity of Recent Mission Cited.

The recent suggestion of a New York City Episcopalian minister that churches would be better off if they declared a two-year moratorium on sermons finds no sympathy or support from Indianapolis pastors.

In fact, a cross section survey of them shows belief such action would be detrimental to the church to the extent that "they might as well close altogether" and the world "surely would go to the dogs."

Some pastors here, however, are inclined to believe that when Dr. Frederick Fleming, director of the Church in New York, made the statement, he did not mean it literally.

"Perhaps the statement was ironical. Perhaps he didn't mean it literally," said Dr. Logan Hall, Methodist Street M. E. Church pastor. "But I don't agree with him. I feel preaching has a mission. But maybe we haven't been doing it in the most effective way."

"We should be practical and deal with the problems of everyday life, comparing them with situations described in Biblical history."

Would Be Calamity

The Rev. B. R. Johnson, Downey Avenue Christian pastor, thinks such a moratorium "would be a calamity, but some kinds of those radio sermons should be discontinued."

He bemoaned the fact that not enough people are hearing sermons. He said he asked seven persons how many sermons they had heard and only one had heard a sermon in seven years.

"We surely would go to the dogs if we declared such a moratorium," the Rev. Henry T. Graham, Westminster Presbyterian. "We can hardly hold our own now. We would be up against it in our civil and home life."

The Rev. H. H. Turley, University Heights United Brethren, opposes discontinuing all sermons because "preaching always has been a part of Christianity, but I think we should deal with practical subjects and preach the kind of sermons needed to help people."

Rituals Make Difference

A preaching moratorium would not be well for churches which do not stress rituals, according to the Rev. Frank S. C. Wicks, All Souls Unitarian.

"This demand for a moratorium," he said, "comes from a minister of a highly ritualistic church and the statement means but little. In such churches, the chief stress is upon the ritual. The service is long and elaborate and of great beauty. The sermons are brief and often omitted without detriment to the service. This is not true of the churches in which the ministers' function is prophetic, rather than sacerdotal. In such churches a moratorium would be equivalent to closing the church altogether."

"The most preaching mission indicates preaching is still popular and people believe it has a vital place in the life of the nation," was the comment of Dr. Carleton W. Atwater, First Baptist.

Bishop Gives Opinion

The Rev. Joseph M. Francis, Episcopalian Bishop, doesn't favor complete discontinuance of sermons, but believes those of some types should not be preached.

"We are sent to preach the gospel," the Bishop said. "That is our mission. The question is how we preach it. We preach on the other than the gospel, the sooner we stop the better. We should deal with the spiritual."

The New York minister is "all wrong" in the opinion of the Rev. Clarence E. Gardner, First United Lutheran.

"If the word of God is true, and it is," he said, "then the world is to be won to Christ by the preaching of the gospel. Nothing ever was said to us about ceasing to preach the gospel. When the Lord wants a moratorium, He'll call it."

The Rev. E. W. Hay, First Congregational, thinks doing away with preaching would be too much of a

sermon on "Revelation," by the pastor, is on the morning program.

Novena to Begin at Church Tomorrow

A novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is to be conducted at St. Philip Neri Church beginning tomorrow and ending Dec. 7.

The Rev. Charles McKenzie, Vicar, is to be in charge of services, which are to include a short sermon each night at 8 o'clock.

Auxiliary to Meet

The Woman's Auxiliary of All Saints Cathedral is to meet Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 with Mrs. Henry W. Buttolph, 4111 Washington Blvd. Miss Julia Harrison Moore is to give a review of "Out of Africa" by Emory Ross.

It is the part of the service which tackles the real problems," he said. "It has a tendency to keep people's feet on the ground."

DIRECT CENTENARY CELEBRATION



Indianapolis persons yesterday made arrangements for a centenary celebration in honor of Dr. D. L. Moody. Seated at C. F. Schnickie and Rev. H. E. Eberhart, Bert Morgan, the Rev. Robert D. McCarthy and Roy E. Bomboy of Chicago, Institute representative.

Rites to Be Given

Bishop Joseph E. Ritter of the Indianapolis Catholic Diocese announced today that he is to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to adults in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel tomorrow at 7:30 a.m.

Y to Resume Sunday Series

C. E. Guthrie Is to Direct Afternoon Meetings

The series of Sunday afternoon meetings conducted by C. E. Guthrie, secretary of the "Y," stage preparations are to be supervised by F. W. Dickens. Keith Pegg is to be responsible for seating accommodations.

V. D. Parker is to direct arrangements for special groups. A. F. Williams is to arrange the musical features. Neal Ireland is to direct mass singing in the outside lobby. Walter Ide is to be in charge of offerings and accounts. J. A. McConnell and R. C. Alford are to arrange services in the Central "Y" building during the meetings.

"Why and Wherefore of the Church," is to be the topic for night services, which are to include inspirational talks by the young people.

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Rev. Turner Guest Speaker at Omaha

The Rev. P. B. Turner, North Side Church of God pastor, is to be guest speaker at the Nebraska Young People's Convention in Omaha, Neb.

The Rev. Herb Thompson of Anderson is to be in charge of services in the North Side church tomorrow in his absence. Mrs. Thompson, "singing evangelist," is to take part in the program.

Irvington—The Rev. Abram S. Woodward, pastor. Morning, "A Well Informed Person." Night, "The Art of Living."

Edgewood—The Rev. M. O. Robins, pastor. Morning, "Kingdom vs. Kingdom." Night, "Dedication vs. Neglect."

General Park—The Rev. G. C. Carpenter, pastor. Morning, "Address by Miss Laura May Robins." Night, "Sword of Truth."

Broadway—The Rev. R. M. Dodrill, pastor. Morning, "Christian Education."

Second—The Rev. E. L. Elliott, pastor. Morning, "A Working Definition of Life."

LUTHERAN

St. Matthew—The Rev. L. G. E. Pack, pastor. Morning, "My Opportunity." Night, "The Committed Way."

Central—The Rev. W. A. Shulzenger, pastor. Morning, "The Focal Point of the Ministry."

Golden Rule—The Rev. William Marshall, pastor. Morning, "A New World but an Unchanged Christ."

Calvary—The Rev. Harry T. Bridwell, pastor. Morning, "The Divine Christ."

First—The Rev. Morris Morris, pastor. Morning, "A Few Words of Denying Christ."

Second—The Rev. C. R. Trout, pastor. Morning, "Christianity vs. the Devil."

Fountain Square—The Rev. Victor R. G. Cook, pastor. Morning, "Our Problem." Night, "Men and Mercy."

University Park—The Rev. S. Grundy Fisher, pastor. Morning, "The Great Spirit." Night, "Christian Endorsement."

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METHODIST

East Park—The Rev. R. A. Ulrey, pastor. Morning, "Our Administration."

West Michigan Street—The Rev. R. C. Gross, pastor. Morning, "Offering the Best to the Best."

Capitol Avenue—The Rev. R. C. Gross, pastor. Morning, "Living Thanks."

Second—The Rev. W. E. Elliott, pastor. Morning, "Such is My Heart." Night, "A Divine Appeal."

NAZARENE

First—The Rev. W. E. Elliott, pastor. Morning, "Such is My Heart." Night, "A Divine Appeal."

UNITARIAN

Christian Church—The Rev. A. C. Martin, pastor. Morning, "What Will the Harvest Be?" Night, "A Divine Appeal."

NAZARENE

First—The Rev. W. E. Elliott, pastor. Morning, "Such is My Heart." Night, "A Divine Appeal."

UNITED BRETHREN

University Heights—The Rev. Roy R. Johnson, pastor. Morning, "The Christian Life." Night, "Christianity vs. the Devil."

Churchmen, Attention

All Seals—The Rev. F. C. Wicks, pastor. Morning, "Drinking and Driving."

CHURCH OF CHRIST

First—The Rev. C. D. Davis, pastor. Morning—Morning service by the Rev. Dr. C. D. Davis.

CHURCH OF GOD

South Side—The Rev. H. A. Sherwood, pastor. Morning, "Spirit Wrestling."

West—The Rev. W. E. Elliott, pastor. Morning, "Such is My Heart."

West—The Rev. John J. Williams, pastor. Morning service by the Rev. Dr. J. Williams.

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Celebration of Birth of Moody Arranged Here

Month of Special Prayer Services to Precede Event Jan. 20-23.

Under the leadership of R. C. Hiller, a group of Indianapolis persons today completed plans for a three-day celebration here Jan. 20-23 marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dwight L. Moody.

The group met yesterday at the Columbia Club to outline plans which call for approximately a month of special prayer meetings before the event.

The First Baptist Church was selected as the meeting place for the observance.

The gatherings are to be held in approximately 45 large centers of the United States and Canada and are to re-emphasize the things for which D. L. Moody stood, "the exaltation of the Word of God and soul-winning."

Ray E. Bomboy, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago representative, told the gathering the meetings will have as their primary objective the teaching and preaching of the Word of God, sounding forth a strong call to prayer for the revival to the Christian constituencies of America.

Speakers From Europe

Among the speakers to participate in the activities in this country are Bishop J. Taylor Smith, London, England; Jock Troup, Glasgow, Scotland; Herbert Lockyer, Liverpool, England; Dr. William Evans, California; Dr. Harry Rimmer, Duluth, Minn.; Dr. Will H. Houghton, and the Rev. Ralph E. Stewart.

The Moody Bible Institute is to underwrite each of the meetings, but efforts are to be made in each city to get special gifts to cover the cost of expenses.

Among other cities to have observances are Philadelphia, Baltimore, Atlanta, Birmingham, Louisville, Nashville, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Boston and New York.

Mr. Ostrom Publicity Head

Ira Henry Ostrom is chairman of the publicity committee for the Indianapolis observance. The Rev. William Lee Spratt, Victory Memorial Methodist Protestant Church pastor, is chairman of the committee on prayer.

All interdenominational religious institutions in the city are to participate, among them the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., Wheeler's Rescue Mission, and others.

Present at the meeting yesterday were: Dr. E. N. Evans, the Rev. W. C. Calvert, Dr. A. J. Dunkle, Dr. Carlton W. Atwater, the Rev. W. H. Mueller, the Rev. W. H. Kendall, the Rev. C. J. Russin, the Rev. B. D. Billeisen, the Rev. L. A. Huddleson, the Rev. H. E. Eberhart, the Rev. W. H. Lee Spratt, the Rev. H. C. Linke, the Rev. Robert D. McCarthy, the Rev. H. B. McElanahan, R. C. Hiller, Bert Morgan, C. F. Schnickie, A. B. Cornelius, J. H. R. Pieron, Henry E. Ostrom, James Ogden, C. L. Harkness, Termer S. Canham, Homer L. Chailleur, Harry Krause, Eugene C. Foster, Harry White.

Miss Amy Bruce, Mrs. Richard E. Mitchell, Mrs. C. W. Achmen, Mrs. E. A. Piepenbrock, Mrs. C. J. Finch, Mrs. Paul T. Hurt, Mrs. Fred G. Balz, Mrs. R. O. McAlexander, Dr. and Mrs. Frank F. Hutchins.

Included among the 10 rules of

conduct for wives, according to Dr. Gillett, are "Forget Not Thy Good Humor," "Thou Shalt Not Nag," "Forget Not Cleanliness," "Keep Thy House With Diligence," and the rule regarding coddling.

Mr. Gillett announced his sermon next Sunday is to provide rules for husbands.

CHURCH PLAY



The St. Cecilia Dramatic Club, Sacred Heart Church, is to present Henry Irving's tragedy, "The Bells," on Dec. 6. Miss Mary Boardman (above) is in the cast.

Other members are James Bertram, John Lauck, Ole Bach, Frank Gantner, George Lauck, Paul Williams, Francis Burkhardt, John Kiefer, Henry E. Norbert Brinkman, Wylye Coleman, Marlene Schlueter, Helen Cafours, Marie Hobl, Rita Williams, Mary Bilt, John Wyss, Paul Kriese and Charles Williams.

A definite relation exists between increased traffic accidents and drinking, Dr. Frank S. C. Wicks, All Souls Unitarian pastor, said today. Dr. Wicks' sermon tomorrow is to be on the topic, "Drink and Driving."

"While I was opposed to prohibition," Dr. Wicks said, "I do not feel that repeal has improved the situation. It is the moderate drinker, the man who takes two drinks, who presents the greatest hazard to day. He can not be affected by legislation."

Only public opinion can remedy the condition resulting from driving after moderate drinking, Dr. Wicks said.

"It is regrettable to say that I feel drinking has generally increased since repeal of prohibition," he continued. "It is amazing the number of arrests that have been made for drunken driving, but these measures do not reach the moderate drinker."

Driving Examinations

In other countries, Dr. Wicks pointed out, stringent examinations are required before persons are allowed to drive automobiles. Personal habits are one of the points in the examination, he said.

Ability to judge distances is important in the 10 rules of

driving, and thinks he still is in full possession of his faculties is the major traffic hazard," Dr. Wicks declared. "Science has proved that the slightest trace of alcohol reduces keenness of the senses."

The British Association committee on alcohol has conducted experiments showing the speed of reactions required for a motorist to make the right motions instantly in case of danger, he explained.

It is emergencies that one can not act promptly under the stimulation of even the slightest amount of alcohol, Dr. Wicks said.