

### Village Pastors Discuss Remarks of President Little On Church And Youth

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Frank directness of "fearless Christianity" in the approach to our common problems whether in the church, in the university, or in society at large. Youth demands such frankness, and, desiring frankness, youth finds itself best with tradition, conservatism, and often obscurantism and dodging of issues. This is due to the fixity of age and institutionalism. It is found in every established institution in more or less degree whether the institution be economic, educational or religious. It is not the church alone, as the reporter would have Dr. Little's remarks imply, that is guilty of the sins of institutionalism.

Further, we agree with Dr. Little in believing that the church should be in the forefront in the blazing trail of understanding through the complex problems of our day. Science and religion should go hand in hand. There are too many of those who fear science and condemn religion. All should see that truth is truth. You may approach it from the point of view of science or from the point of view of religion. But if you find truth it will unite both points of view ultimately in common understanding. Both the church and the university need to emphasize this in their leadership of youth today. No amount of juggling of facts to fit theory, or obscuring facts to suit tradition, can exclude the ultimate reality of God nor the truth concerning His operation in the universe. It seems to some of us that the better religion welcomes the discoveries of God's ways of working as revealed by science, and scientists become reverent in their research and teaching, by so much sooner will youth discover truth and be satisfied.

Nor has the church lost her prophetic vision. It is true that institutionalism has laid its throttling grip upon large sections of the church at large and upon many of its leaders. But it is also true that the flame of the living Christ is bursting anew from the very institution that seeks to confine and control it. The great throbbing movement within the church today is toward reality in religion and life. The outstanding religious book of last month was 'The Impatience of a Person,' written by H. E. L. Sheppard, said to be England's most popular parson. It is white-hot with constructive condemnation of the institution of which he is a part. The same is true of the outstanding book of this month, 'Christ at the Round Table.' This is a plea for reality from the mystic mind of India by E. Stanley Jones, one of the missionaries of the church.

To those who are alive to the moieties within the church it certainly does not appear, as the reporter would lead us to believe, that churches and their representatives today are spending their home in interpreting Christ as an historical figure, or in debating the divinity of His origin, or the infallibility of the Bible, all possible explanations have long since been made, and all possible positions taken. But there is a growing purpose in the church today that both the Bible and Christ shall be so interpreted as to become a living reality in the life of our day.

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Mr. Woodward: "Personally, I feel that President Clarence Little of the University of Michigan is justified in making his recent appeal for frankness on the part of the ministry and for a greater manifestation of 'fearless Christianity' in our churches. Theology has never saved a man, and, as a minister of the gospel in a modern age, I feel it is my privilege and duty to interpret Christ and his teaching in terms of everyday life thought. If we have the 'Mind of Christ,' we have the Christ who is the great problem that affects human welfare is at heart a religious problem and must be fearlessly dealt with as such. Therefore, I have always tried to face the vital issues of life instead of dodging them. As Christians we should welcome the truth from whatever source it may come. The ministry is no place for the man who either has no convictions or is afraid to express them. I am glad, however, to note that there is an increasingly large number of our modern ministers who are making a practical application of the gospel to the problems of everyday life.

Mr. Atkins says: One hesitates to discuss the statement of any public man upon the meager details furnished in the Associated Press dispatch. President Little's predecessor in the University of Michigan, Doctor Burton, in an address at the ministers of the City of Detroit shortly before his death, warned the ministers that the Universities were not destroying the faith of young people, but that the Churches were teaching the young people of this generation a theology and point of view which was incompatible with scientific knowledge. Undoubtedly there is much truth in Doctor Burton's Criticism of the Church, and there is also much truth and frankness in Doctor Little's estimate which he made at Princeton, N. J., on February 19th. However, there is a great group of clergy-men of all denominations today who are meeting fearlessly an honest inquiry regarding the Bible, the Church, Creation, the Personality of Christ, and the Being of God, and all of the social implications of religion.

When Doctor Little says "Youth, I believe, recognizes the need of getting back to the sort of direct and fearless method used by Christ" he has touched the surface of youth's present day need. Not only youth, but people of all ages need to take heed not only to the method of Jesus, but to the spirit of Jesus. The religion of Jesus Christ is a spiritual way of life which in its negative emphasis stands opposite to every social injustice and every way of life that dwarfs or thwarts human personality. On its positive side it is an interpretation of that way of life which is inspired by mercy, humility, forgiveness, and love. One feels from reading the associated Press article that Doctor Little sees clearly the technique of "Fearless Christianity" but has not given the Church the credit which it deserves for creating the spiritual impetus which is today making Christianity fearless in its outstanding protests against the war system, economic exploitation, and the crushing of human personality in the following of the material philosophy of life.

Doctor Little's criticism of the Church, and any honest criticism of the Church, is good for it. It is unfortunate that Doctor Little should have chosen the more conservative and backward elements within the Church as representative of the Church. He must be aware that the present leadership of the Church has within it, in such cities as the City of Detroit, men whose understanding of human and spiritual values are heralded throughout the English speaking world and in their capacity of re-creating life are more potent than any other force or ideas that have been set loose in the world today. The best that is there are at least one or two voices in the pulpits of the City of Detroit that are as socially constructive and significant in the creating and maintaining of human values as any voice that is raised on the Campus of our State University.

**600 CITIZENS AT FATHER AND SON BANQUET**

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troit. Music was provided by the Epworth League and there was community singing.

The Southfield Methodist Church held their banquet Friday night at 6:30 p. m. at the Southfield town hall.

Addresses were delivered by Rev. Howard A. Field of Detroit and Rev. E. F. Dunlavy of Farmington. Invocation was given by Rev. W. T. Armstrong of Southfield United Presbyterian Church.

Miss Bernice Hughes of Southfield township played several songs at the piano while Mrs. Herbert M. Schultz of Purdy street, Mrs. Howard Musson of Southfield and Miss Mabel Rosedger of Franklin each appeared in song selections.

Rev. H. G. Bushong closed the evening's entertainment with prayer. Rev. Thompson was toast master of the evening.

At Lutheran Church  
Melvin C. Hart, principal of Baldwin High School, was main speaker at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, his topic touching the relations of father and son and especially the responsibilities of the father toward the son in the face of temptations that beset the modern boy.

Otto Breitfield of Davis avenue was toastmaster. Duets were sung by R. E. Scaer and Louis Marcot of Bird avenue.

St. James Episcopal  
The St. James Episcopal Church Father and Son banquet was given at the same time that a parish dinner planned for this date, was going on.

Herbert Snyder, member of the faculty of Cranbrook School, Cranbrook, spoke on the "Athletic Development of the Boy," encouraging boys to take up physical exercises that would prove beneficial in after life. Community singing was a part of the simple program.

At Baptist Church  
Rev. Fred McAllister, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Royal Oak, delivered the address of the evening at the Father and Son Banquet at the First Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Rev. McAllister's talk, "Why I am What I am," dealt with the problems of environment and heredity. Right inheritance was stressed by the speaker as being one of the most important factors in a successful life. Environment, he maintained, was a great character builder.

Group singing at the First Baptist Church was led by Wilbur McAlpine of Townsend street. Several humorous selections and musical dialogues were given by the boys under the supervision of W. S. Toothacker of Merrill street.

**Couzens To Start \$25,000 Block**

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Maple avenue. Part of the building will be devoted to the Wabec corporation, which is at present housed on north Bates street.

Awarding of the sub-contracts for electric and plumbing and heating will not be finished for a fortnight, Mr. Couzens said, but work on the general construction work will commence immediately after the awarding of the main contract.

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