

15.7.33

THE NATAL MERCURY, SATURDAY

OXFORD GROUP IN DURBAN

BIG MEETING IN
S.O.E. HALL

"TRAVELLING TEAM"
PRESENT

SPEAKERS RECOUNT EXPERIENCES

A large audience filled the Sons of England Hall last night, when Major Guy Swart and Mrs. Swart, of the Oxford Group travelling team, addressed a meeting.

The first speakers gave a few details of their home life before they came to Christ. Pictures and dances and other things were merely attempts to cover up something that was a symptom of what was deep and hidden. When they came in contact with people who spoke of themselves as sinners and yet were very happy they became deeply interested and accepted the challenge of absolute honesty.

Professor Arthur Norval, of Pretoria University, spoke of the time when he was a critic of the Bible, an unbeliever, one who knew nothing of God because he would not accept anything that he could not explain in a rational way. Since he had come into the new life he was able to approach the matters of his fellowmen from a different angle, and the effect was shown in the relationship between himself and his students.

Miss K. Knowles-Williams (Pretoria) declared that after she met the Oxford Group she long resisted the challenge and refused to "share" until misery drove her to it. Now she enjoyed relief, and could give out love, friendship and fellowship.

Mr. George de Villiers, of the Treasury, Johannesburg, said he used to bask in the sunshine of certain members of the church he belonged to. The Group had shown him something really worth while.

Mrs. Spence, of the Salvation Army, Pretoria, who had been a missionary and Christian worker for years before she came into the Group fellowship, said that selfishness in her heart made it very difficult for her to humble herself. When, however, she did so, she found honesty and happiness.

"A purposeless life" was next described by a solicitor, Mr. Phil Wright of Bethlehem, who said he was first attracted by the happiness of the Group members. Since he had poured out his heart he had found joy, and overcoming his fear to own himself a Christian he had been able to influence others. He mentioned some striking instances of answered prayer.

"There was in my life a traditional God, but I knew not God," said Miss Jeanne van Belkum, of the Normal College, Pretoria. Through prayer she had found that she had been a failure in her relationships and friendships, and had found that Divine wisdom was wonderfully higher than human reason.

Mr. Dick Holderness, of the Railway Mission, Bloemfontein, spoke of his ideals and failures. His was a futile life until he met the Group and found men living the kind of life he had coveted. Sharing, surrendering, restoring, were not enough until he had got victory through being reborn by faith in Christ.

Dr. Truda Brock, a lecturer at the Rhodes College, Grahamstown, also spoke.

The last speaker was the Rev. Dr. Moorrees. He recounted that a jolly old pagan was invited to a Group dinner. When he heard someone mention Christ he said a shudder went down his spine, because that kind of thing was not done at decent dinners, but it brought him right down to the feet of Christ and since then his life had been well ordered and successful.

The speaker concluded with a touching story of a German woman who, having been relieved of the sin of hatred, was carrying the Message to Canada.

To-night there is to be a meeting again in the Sons of England Hall, Smith Street, and to-morrow (Sunday) in the Town Hall.