

TELLS HOW CHURCH CAN INFLUENCE CITY LIFE

Dr. M. H. Bickham Urges Religious Groups to Do Constructive Civic Work

Will it be possible for Christian ideals to survive against the forces tending today to undermine them, and,

surviving, continue to influence the development of human personality?

Dr. Martin Hayes Bickham, of Wilmette, lecturer for the United Charities of Chicago, addressing the Wilmette Parish Methodist church congregation in last Sunday morning's service, put the answer to the question in the Chicago Metropolitan area squarely up to the 1,500 churches it possesses. Depressing and devitalizing conditions exist in a great metropolis such as Chicago, as a result of many people being crowded together in a small area, he told his audience, and he out-

lined a three-fold program by which he declared bad conditions might be overcome.

This program is to include:

A community life that is essentially Christian in its influences, free from saloons and all forms of legalized dispensation of alcoholic liquors, free from centers of recreation that demoralize youth and with constructive recreational agencies in their place.

Churches that are creative influences in the development of other social institutions and of human personality.

A family life that moulds human personality and a social order that considers personality more important than financial profits.

Urges Constructive Work

"I believe that in and through you church folk it is possible to plan and project constructive programs that will tend to counteract and overcome these destructive conditions," said Dr. Bickham.

"In the last three years I have visited and interviewed about 500 pastors, rectors and priests in the Chicago area, and entered into a more or less extended study of conditions in these parishes, and it is my conviction that our civilization in metropolitan Chicago, such as it is, is made possible and continuing by the activities and influences of these same Christian churches. If these churches and their Christian influences and control over native greed, selfishness and hatreds were totally removed, Chicago, within five years, would sink into an abyss compared to which the worst orgies of the French revolution and the more recent Bolshevik revolution in Moscow would pale into insignificance.

"The current particularistic explanations of the failure of the Christian church are based largely upon interpretations of the unfortunate contemporary intellectual and creedal controversies, and totally ignore the grip of the churches and the Christian religion upon the emotional bases of contemporary residents of our city.

"The churches are the most influential bulwarks of personality in our metropolitan civilization," declared the speaker. "They undergird our homes, encourage parents, teach our children and safeguard our youth. Think of the reach and influence on family life of that church on the northwest side of our city, which has 2,200 families on its roll—not members but families!

"When you get into the more congested areas and study child life and dig into the struggle of the poorer people to maintain their homes and family life and give their children a chance at adequate personality development, the real meaning of these frontier land tenure laws begins to dawn upon one. The relations of suburban and subdivision real estate exploitation to the basic life of the people of Chicago is a depressing factor in personality development as yet unmeasured and little understood," said Dr. Bickham.

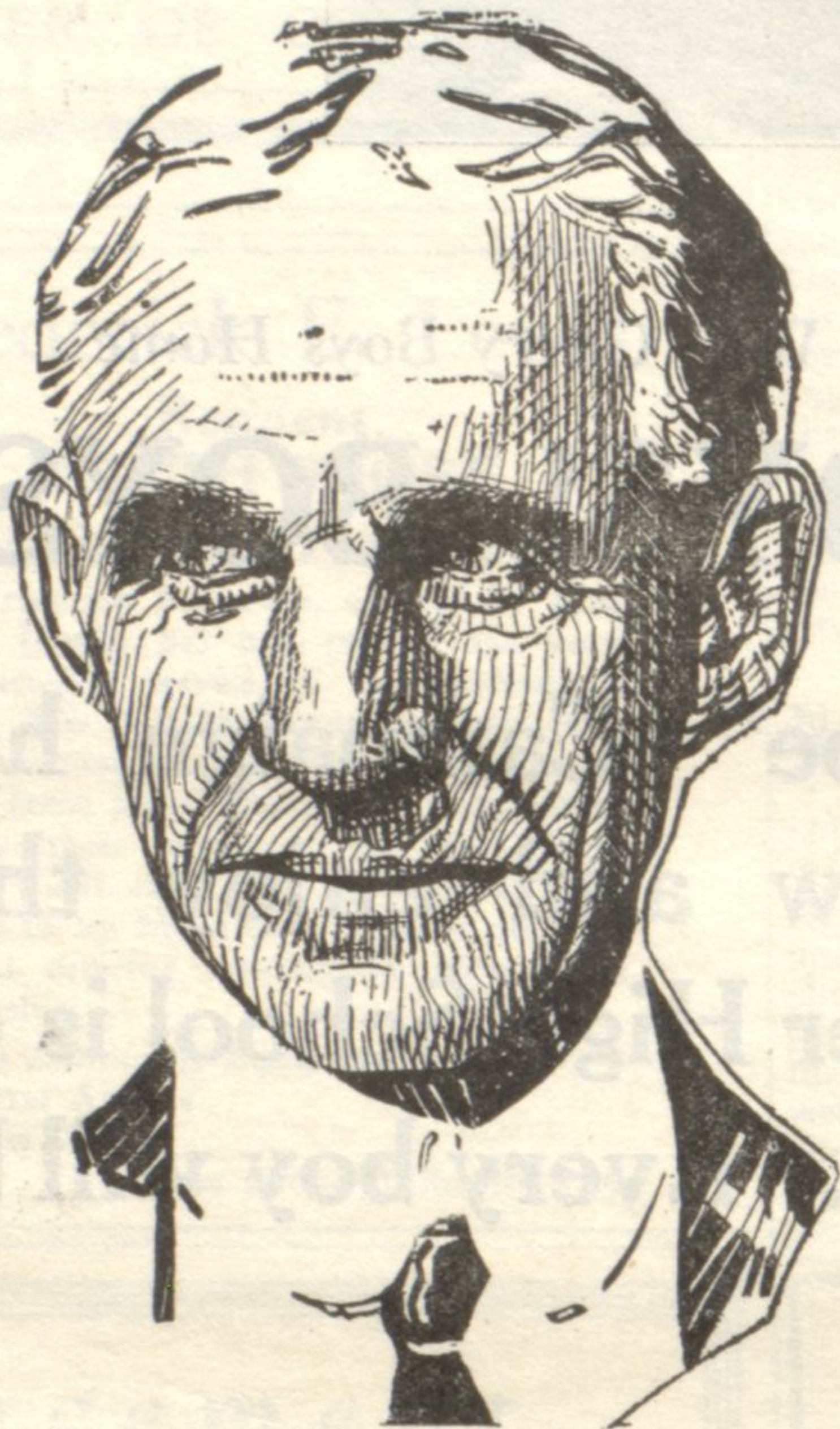
"As a result of existing conditions family breakdown and disorganization has become more and more frequent. The constructive family social work of the United Charities is aimed directly at the breakdowns in family life.

Urging co-operation between organized social welfare work and churches of the city, Dr. Bickham told of a family where a widowed mother, living in "Little Hell" was enabled to keep her brood of small children together and rear them into fine young men and women through the intelligent material assistance, teaching and guidance of the United Charities, with the co-operation of a church in the neighborhood, the schools and such organizations as the Y. M. C. A.

Negotiate Sale of Big Chicago Home Property

Charles M. Hayes, president of the Chicago Motor club, has just sold his former home at 6007 Sheridan road, at a consideration of \$120,000 to Adolph J. Strigl.

The property has a frontage of 100 feet on Sheridan road and a depth of 218 feet to retaining wall with full riparian rights. Elmer E. Stults of the E. E. Stults Realty company represented Charles M. Hayes and Ben Wilson of Cochran and McCluer represented Mr. Strigl. Mr. Hayes recently purchased a home in Winnetka.



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