

The Student Volunteer Movement Papers consist of 673 archival boxes. The collection is housed in the archives of Yale University Library, Divinity Library Special Collections. A guide to the location of where each box begins within this microfiche set follows immediately hereafter. And the contents of each box are described in the 170-page guide to the collection that follows the guide to the box enumerations.

Guide to the Box Enumerations:

<u>Box Number:</u>	<u>Fiche Number:</u>	<u>Box Number:</u>	<u>Fiche Number:</u>
1	xxx	2	xxx
3	sss	4	ccc
5	hhh	6	nnn
7	nnn	8	mmm
9	mmm	10	mmm
11	nnn	12	mmm
13	nnn	14	mmm
15	mmnm	16	mmm
17	mmm	18	mmm
19	nnn	20	nnn
21	ooo	22	mmrn
23	mmm	24	mmm
25	mmm	26	mmm
27	mmm	28	mmm
29	mmm	30	mmm
31	nnn	32	mmm
33	mmm	34	nnn
35	mmm	36	mmm
37	mmm	38	mmm
39	mmm	40	mmm
41	mmm	42	mmm
43	mmm	44	mmm
45	mmm	46	mmm
47	mmmm	48	mmm
49	mmm	50	mmm
51	mmm	52	mmm
53	mmm	54	mmm
55	mmm	56	mmm
57	mmm	58	mmm
59	mmnr	60	mmm
61	mmm	62	mmm
63	mmm	64	mmm
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67	mmm	68	mmm

Guide to the Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions

(Record Group No. 42)



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

Yale University Library, Divinity Library Special Collections,

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Overview

- Title:** Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions,
- Quantity:** Total archival boxes 673; total linear footage 285'
- Access & Use:** Open to qualified researchers.
- Preferred Citation:** Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, Record Group No. 42, Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.
- Summary:** The papers document the activities of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions and provide valuable information on various aspects of American religious life during the period 1886-1964. Religious conditions on American college and university campuses are documented. Vast files of student volunteer application, information and health examination blanks provide personal data on thousands of prospective missionaries which is of potential interest to genealogists, biographers and historians. The financial records and correspondence provide documentation related to philanthropic support of religious causes in America. The Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions was an organization that sought to recruit college and university students in the United States for missionary service abroad. It also publicized and encouraged the missionary enterprise in general.
- Catalog Record:** **Guide to the Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions (Record Group No. 42)**
- For further information:** *Yale University Library
Divinity Library Special Collections
409 Prospect Street*

*New Haven, Connecticut
divinity.library@yale.edu*

Arrangement

The material is divided into ten series:

- **I. Volunteer and inquirer forms and statistics**
- **II. Volunteer and inquirer correspondence**
- **III. General correspondence**
- **IV. Financial correspondence and records**
- **V. Organization and policy records**
- **VI. Field work**
- **VII. Publications and literature distribution**
- **VIII. Conventions**
- **IX. Relationships with other organizations**
- **X. Photographs**

Historical note

"It may well be that the future historian will count the Student Volunteer Movement as one of the most remarkable and significant movements in the history of the Church of God and that in coming generations multitudes of visitors from distant lands may seek Mount Hermon as the place where this historic Movement was born." (The Student Volunteer Movement After Twenty-Five Years, New York: Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, 1911, p. 21.) These words, spoken by the eminent American churchman Arthur Judson Brown at ceremonies commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, give a taste of the ebullient confidence which characterized the Movement during its early years. The first third of the Movement's existence was a period of surging growth, not devoid of controversy, but with clear objectives and incontrovertible results. Enthusiasm peaked in 1920 and then, like many other "remarkable and significant" movements of the pre-War era, the Student Volunteer Movement was caught up short by the cynicism and confusion of a new era. Attempts were made to adjust its policies and mechanics to the altered mood of the Twenties, but things were never again the same. The starring role so boldly filled by the Movement in pre-War American religious life had become only a memory. For a quarter century after the First World War the Student Volunteer Movement walked an uncertain path, constantly forced to justify its existence. It was buffeted by theological controversy and financial woes, drawn into new territory by changing concepts of mission; it groped to find its place in the shifting matrix of student religious organizations and concerns. The years following World War II brought renewed momentum and financial stability for the Movement and it ended its autonomous existence on a positive note in 1959, becoming the Commission on World Mission of the merger-produced National Student Christian Federation of North America.

The student of American religious history will glimpse even in this brief sketch the familiar curves of a graph depicting the fortunes of Protestantism in America from 1800 to 1960. Closer examination of the Student Volunteer Movement's history

will provide insight into the general trends of American Protestantism as well as shedding particular light on two less widely discussed aspects of American Christianity, its evolving mission theory and its fortunes on the nation's college and university campuses.

Origins and Consolidation' 1886-1891

The social and religious milieu of the late nineteenth century was favorable in nearly all ways for the birth and growth of a movement such as the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions. It was a time of dominance and prestige for Western civilization. Imperialistic expansion was condoned as an altruistic response to increased knowledge of the non-Western world. The rising nationalism of the era provided important motivation for the foreign missionary enterprise, for the success of American civilization was attributed to its Christian basis. Protestant foreign missionaries were heroes and heroines for the American public; and, as Robert Handy has noted, "Though they strove as Christians to keep the priority on spiritual religion and to be aware of the difference between faith and culture, it was not difficult in the spirit of those times to lose the distinction and to see Christian civilization as a main outcome of faith, if not its chief outcome." (Robert T. Handy, *A Christian America; Protestant Hopes and Historical Realities*, New York: Oxford University Press, 1971, p. 140.) Historian of Christianity Kenneth Scott Latourette's comment that "one of the distinctive tokens of the Christianity and especially of the Protestantism of the United States was the fashion in which it conformed to the ethos of the country," was surely borne out in the early days of the Student Volunteer Movement. (Kenneth Scott Latourette quoted in Sydney E. Ahlstrom, *A Religious History of the American People*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972, pp. 858-859.) The spirit of pre-War American culture was one of expansionism and activism with an orientation toward business and enterprise. The extensive financial records and correspondence of the Volunteer Movement illustrate a congruence in style between business enterprise and the missions enterprise. American culture's shift toward scientific positivism during this era was reflected in the Student Volunteer Movement's emphasis on elaborate statistical evidence of its work.

Practical aspects of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century also contributed to the rapid growth of Protestant missions. Travel to far corners of the earth was possible as never before because of improved transportation and communication. The world scene was largely free from wars. It was a time of increasing Protestant wealth; Christian tycoons under attack for their enormous profits were more than happy to contribute large sums for the support of the foreign missionary enterprise.

With a perspective sharpened by knowledge of post-War events, historians of American religion have pointed to underlying conflicts and discrepancies which belied the idealistic confidence of the pre-War era. Economic turmoil, urbanization the rise of historical criticism and evolutionary theory, the issue of liberalism versus revivalism --- all these potentially disruptive elements lay beneath the assured facade of pre-War American Protestantism. Sydney Ahlstrom has attributed the foreign missions boom of the era to the churches' desire to avoid confrontation on these issues: "crusades of diverse sorts were organized, in part, it would seem, to heal or hide the disunity of the churches." (Sydney E. Ahlstrom, *A Religious*

History of the American People, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1972, p. 733.) Robert Handy has seen the mission enterprise as an extension of the voluntarism of the 1830s --- a means for cooperative Protestant action in society without confrontation on particular denominational differences. Handy, like Ahlstrom, has pointed to the dangers which were inherent in sublimation of theological and social controversy under activist crusades: "The possibility of a greater sense of self-criticism, which might have come out of a more open confrontation of the parties, was largely suppressed, in considerable measure because of the necessities of the missionary consensus." (Handy, p. 134.)

This, then, was the milieu into which the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions was born in July of 1886. Its emergence at a summer student conference held on the campus of the Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Massachusetts had all the drama of a theatrical play, and its story was told countless times over the decades of the Movement's existence. The drama of the scene will not be destroyed, however, by consideration of the historical antecedents of the Movement.

In his work, *Two Centuries of Student Christian Movements*, Clarence Shedd traced the existence of student Christian societies back to the early years of the eighteenth century. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, he found, a foreign missions emphasis was prevalent in the student societies and fully three-quarters of them were called Societies of Missionary Inquiry. (Clarence P. Shedd, *Two Centuries of Student Christian Movements*, New York: Association Press, 1934, p. xviii.) In 1877, a student department of the Young Men's Christian Association was formed to direct efforts more specifically toward Christian work on college and university campuses. Luther D. Wishard, the first collegiate secretary of the YMCA, had a great personal interest in foreign missions, and his influence did much to orient the student YMCA in that direction. On the theological seminary scene, efforts were underway by 1879 to form "some permanent system of inter-seminary correspondence on the subject of missions." (Ibid, p. 214.) To this end, the Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance was established in 1880 and had annual conventions until 1898 when its work was merged with that of the Student Volunteer Movement and intercollegiate YMCA.

The first, unofficial, group of student volunteers for foreign missions was formed in 1888 at Princeton College. Five students, including Robert P. Wilder, drew up and signed a declaration of purpose which read, "We, the undersigned, declare ourselves willing and desirous, God permitting, to go to the unevangelized portions of the world." (Robert P. Wilder, *The Great Commission: The Missionary Response to the Student Volunteer Movements in North America and Europe*, London: Oliphants Ltd., 1936, p. 13. Material related to the Princeton band is also found in the SVM archives, particularly in Series V, Organization and Policy Records.) Calling themselves the Princeton Foreign Missionary Society, these students met regularly on Sunday afternoons at the home of Robert Wilder's father who was a former missionary to India and currently editor of *The Missionary Review*.

In 1885, Luther Wishard discussed with evangelist Dwight L. Moody the possibility of holding a Bible study conference for undergraduate students, sponsored by the intercollegiate YMCA, on the grounds of the Moody-backed Mount Hermon School. Moody agreed to the proposal, and in July of 1886 two hundred and fifty-

one students from eighty-nine colleges and universities met together for nearly a month. Although Robert Wilder had graduated from Princeton in 1885, and was no longer an undergraduate student, Luther Wishard, knowing of Wilder's missionary interests, specifically invited him to the Northfield conference.

The Northfield conference was designed to provide for Bible study, evangelistic addresses, and discussion of methods for YMCA college work. Although several of the 251 delegates had come to Northfield already committed to a missionary vocation, missions were scarcely mentioned from the platform during the first two weeks of the conference. Those interested in missions met daily for prayer, led by Robert Wilder, and spread their concern for missions by word of mouth among the delegates. Two missionary addresses were given outside of the conferences formal program, the first by Arthur T. Pierson and the second by William Ashmore, an American Baptist missionary to China. Twenty-five years later John R. Mott waxed eloquent in reminiscing about the impact of Dr. Ashmore's address on the students at Northfield:

He knew how to get hold of college men. I will tell you the way to do it, and that is to place something before them which is tremendously difficult. He presented missions as a war of conquest and not as a mere wrecking expedition. It appealed to the strong college athletes and other fine spirits of the colleges because of its very difficulty. They wanted to hear more about it. The number of interviews greatly multiplied. (John R. Mott, "The Beginnings of the Student Volunteer Movement" in *The Student Volunteer Movement After Twenty-Five Years*, pp. 12-13. Information about the Northfield meeting is also available in the *Springfield Republican*, August 2, 1886.)

The underground swell of missionary enthusiasm grew daily, and at last the subject of missions was introduced on the formal platform of the conference in the form of a "meeting of ten nations." Ten men, some foreign students and others missionary sons, were found to speak of the mission needs of the lands of their birth. Those who listened were deeply impressed, and by the last day of the Northfield conference ninety-nine students had signed a paper which read: "We are willing and desirous, God permitting, to become foreign missionaries." The morning after the closing of the conference the ninety-nine volunteers met for a farewell service, and while they prayed one more came in to join their ranks.

In the succeeding days it was decided to form a deputation of volunteers to visit colleges across North America in an attempt to extend the influences of the Northfield missionary uprising. The model for this deputation was the "Cambridge Seven," a group of prominent British university students who had decided to become missionaries to China following the evangelistic crusade of Dwight Moody at Cambridge University in 1884. Members of the "Cambridge Seven" traveling throughout Britain and the United States had had considerable impact on various campuses.

The four volunteers chosen to form the Northfield deputation were Robert Wilder, John R. Mott, William P. Taylor, and L. Riley of Princeton, Cornell, DePauw, and Yale. The original scheme was that these four would not only speak about missions but would also form a Quartet and sing mission songs. The deputation fell apart

before it got started, however, as, within the next two months, Mott, Riley and Taylor decided that it was not God's will for them to travel during the next academic year. Worried letters were exchanged between Robert Wilder and the two YMCA intercollegiate secretaries -- Luther Wishard and Charles K. Ober. It was feared that the momentum of Northfield would be lost due to the recalcitrance of the three who had pulled out. Wishard wrote to Ober on August 19, 1886 regarding Mott's withdrawal: "The tone of his letter did not suit me. He seemed disposed to see the Lord's hand in his detention without indicating a single reason aside from his parents' opposition for not going. I told him the fact of God's interest in the enterprise did not absolutely insure success as his letter would imply." (Letter of Luther Wishard to C.K. Ober in John R. Mott Papers, Yale Divinity School Library Record Group No. 45. Sources of information for the early months of the Volunteer Movement are the correspondence of Wishard, Mott, Wilder and Ober, as well as printed historical pamphlets produced by the SVM.)

At last the problem was solved as John Forman, who had not been at Northfield but was one of the original five volunteers at Princeton, to accompany Wilder on his tour of North American college and university campuses during the academic year 1886-1887. One hundred and sixty-seven institutions were visited, and by the end of the year 2200 young men and women had declared their purpose to become foreign missionaries. In later years the work of Wilder and Forman was severely criticized for its highly-pressured emotionalism. The Catholic periodical *America* published a description of early volunteer recruitment which undoubtedly had some basis in fact:

The manner in which these young People were won over is remarkably American. According to Warneck, even moral violence was used. Three, four, five meetings were held in succession, the one more emotional than the other. At some of them even the lights were extinguished, while all lay prostrate upon the floor in prayer. More and more urgent appeals were addressed to the young men, then already in a state of great excitement, until finally, one, two, then three and more, of the artfully intoxicated students volunteered. ("Mission Movement Among Protestant Students," *America*, December 5, 1914, p. 192. Other comments regarding SVM methods are available in newspaper and magazine clippings which were saved in the Movement archives.)

During the academic year 1887/1888 there were no deputations to campuses, as Wilder and Forman chose to commence their theological training. The earlier visits had continuing impact, however, as local bands of volunteers were formed and six hundred further declarations of purpose were received. The offices of the volunteer movement during these earliest years were the dormitory room of William Hannum, a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. As Wilder and others visited campuses and churches and obtained names and addresses of students who wished to volunteer, Hannum made lists of volunteers and attempted to correspond with them. The records of volunteers were kept in envelopes in boxes under Hannum's bed. As they proliferated, Hannum called upon his fellow students for help. He later wrote "I almost felt that my demands for help were a hazard to my popularity. One classmate asserted that when I got to Heaven I should be making lists of the angels." (This quote and other details about the early years are in Wilder, p. 39 ff.)

By July of 1888, at the YMCA student conference at Northfield, it seemed clear to interested parties that the student missionary thrust needed some organization. Much of the original zeal had subsided, and "where it still survived it displayed itself in new organizations, tending to separate from the existing religious societies of the colleges and sometimes at discordance with them. (Robert E. Speer, "The Students' Volunteer Missionary Movement," *The Sunday School Times*, February 27, 1892.) The travels of Wilder and Forman had been completely financed by D.W. McWilliams, secretary and treasurer of the Manhattan Elevated Railways Co., but it was clear that the movement needed a broader financial base in order to continue.

In the summer of 1888 the volunteer movement adopted as its official name the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions and took as its slogan or watchword "the evangelization of the world in this generation." Questions regarding the relation of the student volunteers to existing student Christian groups, particularly the YMCA and YWCA, had been in the air since the fall of 1886. On September 7, 1886 Luther Wishard had written to C.K. Ober regarding the nascent volunteer movement: "It will not do to have a distinct organization for this purpose. Colleges are becoming overrun with organizations now." (Letter of Luther Wishard to C.K. Ober in John R. Mott Papers.) It was clear that the general aims of the Volunteer Movement were in agreement with those of the YMCA but the SVM had a wider constituency, including women and graduate students, as well as a more specialized focus. In August 1888, when plans were made for Robert Wilder to again tour the North American campuses for the SVM, Luther Wishard expressed reservations to a fellow YMCA secretary:

"Unless Wilder is perfectly willing to cooperate with our views concerning the connection of the missionary with the regular association work, I am seriously disposed to deflect his course into another channel. You know that we had little or no influence over him year before last. He talked Mission Band all year and never to my knowledge did he try to retain the work in the Association and never did he try to aid any other department of the Association work. As a result of his method the College Associations are conducting fewer missionary meetings." (Ibid., August 6, 1886.)

Wishard, Wilder, Mott, and other leaders of the volunteer movement sought a solution to this conflict of interests in early 1889 proposing that the Student Volunteer Movement be designated as the official missionary arm of the YMCA and YWCA. They formed an Executive Committee of the Movement with one representative each from the YMCA, the YWCA and the Inter-Seminary Missionary Alliance. A traveling secretary, a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary were appointed to carry on the daily work of the Movement. They concentrated their efforts on spreading missionary enthusiasm and bringing local and state volunteer organizations under the influence of the national Movement.

The work of the early years culminated in the First International (i.e., including Canada) Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement, meeting in Cleveland in 1891. This convention, with its keynote "The evangelization of the world in this generation", was the largest student conference assembled to its time. The

Executive Committee reported to the convention that 6,200 volunteers in 350 institutions had been enrolled and 320 had actually sailed to foreign fields under appointment of various mission boards. At Cleveland, the relationship of the SVM to the Protestant foreign missions boards was clarified to the effect that the Movement was in no way a sending agency but rather viewed itself as a recruiting agency for the boards.

Thus, by 1891, the Student Volunteer Movement was on firm footing and appeared to have found a clear space for operating in the American religious scene. Its relation to other established student Christian movements was that of an autonomous but associated agency with the clearly-defined objectives of foreign mission education and recruitment. As a missionary organization, the Movement was assured a place within American Protestantism, for, as missions historian Charles Forman has written, "In the new enthusiasm following 1890 mission work was seen by its interpreters as the essential work of the church; no church could be healthy without it." (Charles Forman, "A History of Foreign Mission Theory in America," *American Missions in Bicentennial Perspective*, ed. R. Pierce Beaver South Pasadena, Cal: William Carey Library, 1977, p. 83.)

Continued Growth

The years of steady growth following 1891 were not without their problems. In its report to the Second International Convention, held in Detroit in 1894, the Executive Committee pointed to five "problems" and five "perils" for the Student Volunteer Movement. The problems were: 1) lack of supervision and control over local volunteer bands, 2) inability to keep in touch with isolated volunteers, particularly those who had graduated but had not yet sailed, 3) difficulty in holding volunteers after they had entered theological seminary; "from the beginning to the end of the course the whole presumption in the teaching and attitude of the faculty is that the men are all going to stay home" (Student Volunteer Movement Archives, Series V, Executive Committee report, 1894, p. 6. Much of the material in this section derives from the Executive Committee reports contained in Series V.) 4) difficulties in connecting volunteers up with mission societies and 5) financial obstacles. by 1894, 630 volunteers had sailed but others had been held back because the mission societies did not have sufficient funds to send them.

The Executive Committee cited two "perils" which related to the Student Volunteer Movement declaration of purpose card, a 3" by 5" card which a volunteer signed to indicate his or her intention to become a foreign missionary. In the summer of 1892, the original phrase for referring to these cards, the "volunteer pledge", had been replaced by the phrase "volunteer declaration". The wording of the card had been changed to read: "It is my purpose, if God permit, to become a foreign missionary." These changes were made to counter the criticism that the card was a binding pledge which caused the volunteer to take his life into his own control rather than relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Charges of pressured emotionalism led to the Executive Committees caution that the declaration card not be used at the wrong time, in the wrong place or under wrong circumstances. The Executive Committee had included in its 1891 report statistics to counter the particular charge that students were being pressured at so young an age that they could not make competent decisions. Only 14 percent of enrolled volunteers at that

time were under twenty years of age.

A third peril seen by the Executive Committee in 1894 was that of exaggerating the results of the Movement. Thousands had signed the SVM declaration card but then had no continued contact with the Movement. The Executive Committee decided not to count as members of the Movement those of whom it could obtain no trace. By this policy, the official membership of the Movement was cut drastically from a supposed 6200 volunteers in 1891 to 3200 volunteers in 1894. A fourth peril concerned the growing class of volunteers classified as "hindered", those who had signed the declaration of purpose but now showed little likelihood of making it to the foreign field because of health, family or financial reasons.

The fifth peril brought to the attention of the Convention by the Executive Committee was one which proved to be a nemesis for the SVM throughout its existence. There was a tendency for a breach to form between student volunteers and religiously-oriented non-volunteers on college campuses. The volunteers were accused of taking on a tone of superiority and segregating themselves from the general religious associations. Nearly a decade later, Robert Speer again reported to the Executive Committee: "I have found an apparent chasm between the volunteers and the rest of the students in the institution. The Volunteer Band is a little circle cut off from the students and often without a bond of sympathy between it and the students." (SVM Archives, Series V, Executive Committee meeting 1903 Jan. 14.)

The Student Volunteer Movement's early method of presenting the missionary cause through "fact meetings", statistical presentations of the needs of various fields, gave way during this period to missions study classes. An Educational Department was formed in 1894, and introduced its first four courses of study: "The Historical Development of the Missionary Idea", "South America", "Medical Missions", and "China as a Mission Field." Increasing emphasis was placed on forming missionary libraries on campuses. (Correspondence between Harlan P. Beach and John R. Mott in Series III is the best source for information about the early educational work of the SVM.)

During the early years of the Movement emphasis had been placed on recruiting young men as volunteers. The traveling secretaries were men, and they had not generally visited women's institutions. The proportion of women accessible in colleges was also much smaller than the proportion of men. By 1892, seventy percent of declared volunteers were men and thirty percent were women although in the general American missionary movement women outnumbered men. In 1895, steps were taken to rectify this situation, including increased visitation of women's colleges.

No major rival movements had as yet arisen to compete for the student religious territory claimed by the SVM although potential rivals apparently existed, as mentioned in the correspondence of 1895:

I do not fear anything of much account from the 'Order of the Double Cross' which originated with Dr. Dowkontt. It cannot hold its constituency together even were it to become fairly organized on any considerable scale. It will doubtless soon die out as other side movements have. At its very best it would not be of much power or a

serious menace to our work. Still it is well to keep a watch on it and this we shall constantly do. (SVM Archives, Series III, H.B. Sharman to J.R. Mott, December 9, 1895.) Later, at a 1904 leaders' conference, a word of caution was again raised; "We must remember an undertone that the Student Volunteer Movement has a monopoly and there is talk of a new movement." (SVM Archives, Series V.) The initial fervor of the Student Volunteer Movement cause had swept aside questions regarding specific theological stances but as the Movement became more deeply involved in missionary education work, criticisms inevitably arose. Educational Secretary Harlan P. Beach wrote to John R. Mott in June of 1896 regarding criticisms of the Movement's course of study dealing with non-Christian religions. The views of the author, it was charged, were "tinctured with the Parliament of Religions flavor" but Beach maintained that they were not nearly so liberal as that. (SVM Archives, Series III, H.P. Beach to J.R. Mott, June 23, 1896.)

In the view of the Volunteer Movement leaders, the entire Protestant missions enterprise seemed to be sagging in the last years of the nineteenth century. Harlan Beach wrote to Mott in 1896: "Sometimes it seems as if the missionary spirit of the churches had received a permanent setback. The panic is far enough in the background now to have lost its power. No immediate prospect of better times is to be seen. What then can be done?" (SVM Archives, Series III, H.P. Beach to J.R. Mott, February 9, 1896.) Increasingly, the Movement's task was not only to recruit missionaries but also, through educational methods, to encourage financial support of the mission boards. There were far more recruits than positions to be filled but the SVM justified its continued recruiting activity on the grounds that a wider pool for the boards to select from would result in more highly qualified missionaries.

Despite these negative notes, the Student Volunteer Movement grew steadily during the pre-War era. Regular Quadrennial Conventions were held in 1898 (Cleveland), 1902 (Toronto), 1906 (Nashville), 1910 (Rochester) and 1914 (Kansas City). Convention speakers included such prominent individuals as former Secretary of State John W. Foster, Ambassador of Great Britain in the United States Henry Mortimer Durand and James Bryce. By 1910, 4338 volunteers had sailed to foreign fields. Slightly over fifty percent of all missionaries who sailed from America in the years 1906 to 1909 were student volunteers. (See particularly reports to the Quadrennial Conventions, Series VIII, and the material of Series V for information regarding the progress and problems of the Movement.) The activities of the SVM also had spinoff effects including the formation of the Laymen's Missionary Movement in 1906 and the establishment of home mission projects such as the Yale Hope Mission.

The identification of the work of the Volunteer Movement with the ethos of American society during this period was expressed clearly by the religious periodical *The Outlook* in its comments on the 1906 Nashville convention:

The confidence which, directed to one end, gives security to commerce was at Nashville a faith in the ultimate worldwide prevalence of the influence and principles of Christ. Ambition, which drives some men into constructing great industries, was there the impulse to have a part in bringing that dominion to pass; and devotion to a purpose, which is the secret of success in commercial enterprise, was there manifest in the determination of those four thousand delegates thus

expressed to make known to all the world "in this generation" the Good News. ("A Sign of American Idealism," *The Outlook*, March 31, 1906, p. 734.)

Facing a New Era

The onset of the First World War led to a drop in recruitment of new volunteers due to unsettled conditions, but the months immediately following the armistice brought a phenomenal increase in new missionaries sent overseas. The peak year for enlistment of new volunteers was 1921. Attendance at the December 1919/January 1920 Quadrennial Convention at Des Moines was limited to 6890 only by the size of the facilities available. The high idealism of the war years still reigned, and mission work seemed to fit clearly with hopeful expectations for international democracy. The Interchurch World Movement symbolized the crusading ideal of the times with its aim of gathering all American benevolent and missionary societies into a grand campaign for the spread of Christianity. The devastating collapse of the Interchurch World Movement due to lack of financial support shocked American Protestant leaders into the realization that a new era had arrived. With the "return to normalcy", post-War economic disruption and an altered psychological mood, there was a rapid descent into what Robert Handy has called the "American religious depression" of 1925 to 1935. This religious depression, in force well before the great economic depression of the era, was grounded in the realization that American Protestantism could no longer identify itself with American culture and civilization. (Robert T. Handy, *The American Religious Depression 1925-1935*, Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1968.)

The fortunes of the Student Volunteer Movement during this period provide vivid illustration of the general trends in American Protestantism. Even while missionary enthusiasm was peaking and declaration cards were pouring in, winds of dissent were buffeting the Des Moines convention of 1919/1920. As Robert Handy has described the scene, the patriarch of the Movement, John R. Mott, opened the convention with an address similar in tone to those of previous conventions. When Sherwood Eddy took the same tack,

some of the students disclosed their feelings to him frankly, saying "why do you bring us this piffle, these old shibboleths, these old worn-out phrases, why are you talking to us about the living God and the divine Christ?" Eddy thereupon threw aside his prepared second address and spoke instead in support of the League of Nations and social reform, before returning again to spiritual reform. (Handy, *A Christian America*, p. 193.)

The old Student Volunteer Movement evangelicalism no longer had the same appeal for the post-War generation of students. Proof seemed forthcoming that the surging missionary enterprise of American Protestantism's halcyon days had been in part a shield against potential controversy. When its momentum broke, several major problems arose for the Student Volunteer Movement and refused to be subdued.

The overarching difficulty was that of a widening conservative/ liberal rift. The rift was not without roots extending back to the founding of the Volunteer Movement. The early focus of debate had been the Movement's watchword, "the evangelization

of the world in this generation." Arthur T. Pierson, who had first used the watchword at Northfield, was a renowned conservative premillenarianist. The impression became widespread that the watchword implied a rapid, simplistic, verbal presentation of Christ to the world which would fulfill the Biblical command and bring about the Second Coming. Though Pierson himself denied this meaning and other SVM leaders, such as Mott and Speer, repeatedly urged a broader interpretation which involved church planting and educational work, the watchword remained a center of controversy. For the missionary enterprise, the conservative/liberal or Fundamentalist/Modernist debate of American Protestantism was framed in terms of the relative merits of an emphasis on individual evangelism and salvation or a broader, social impact on foreign culture based on the tenets of Christianity. According to Sherwood Eddy, this was exactly the issue at stake for the "insurgent revolution" of Des Moines. Eddy wrote in July of 1922 to the Executive Committee: "I believe that the demand of the progressive students at Des Moines voiced the new sentiment in the colleges for a more socialized and broader presentation and conduct of our whole movement The next Convention might well spend several days in making indelibly clear the Pagan racial practice both at home and abroad, the Pagan industrial situation here and in other lands, Pagan nationalism at home and abroad, and against such a background make clear the vital need for Christ's teachings and for Christ's power if the world is to be Christianized.(SVM Archives, Series V.)

The growing tendency of American students to view Western civilization from a critical perspective led them to view foreign missions and home missions as equally important parts of the same task. It seemed clear that American society was as much in need of Christianizing as many non-Western societies. At the same time non-Western countries were beginning to doubt whether anything of value could be derived from a civilization capable of producing the horrors of World War I. Rising nationalism abroad brought with it distrust of the motives and methods of foreign missionaries.

These elements in post-War thought led to a distinct shift in Protestant mission theory. At first evangelization of the world had meant exportation of a Christian Western civilization. Now that Western civilization was questioned and viewed as un-Christian, there was increased appreciation for non-Western cultures and a conviction that Western missionary activity should find its role in support, not control, of the emerging indigenous churches abroad. The new rationale for missionary activity was one which Charles Forman has called "ecumenical sharing." (Forman, p. 98 and *passim*. Other articles in the volume edited by Beaver and the writings of K.S. Latourette also describe the changing feelings about the missionary enterprise.)

Liberal missiology of the between-War period, as represented by Daniel Fleming, Archibald Baker, Oscar Buck, and others, was characterized by a cultural relativism with regard to religions. This relativism was bolstered by a cynical wave of negative publicity about missions work in the public press. A culmination of these liberal views was reached in the

1932 report of the Laymen's Commission of Appraisal, a Rockefeller-funded body established to review the work of the American Protestant missionary enterprise.

The conclusion of this group led by Harvard professor William E. Hocking was that missionaries should not stress the distinct claims of Christianity over against non-Christian religions. The aim of missions should be to cooperate for social improvement.

In addition to this major conservative/liberal issue facing the Student Volunteer Movement as it moved into the 1920s, there were more minor but equally compelling issues to be dealt with. The rising student generation was demanding more say in the operations and policy of the Movement. Despite organizational changes made to ameliorate this situation, a student writing after the 1924 convention in Indianapolis complained about the restraining hand of the "Big Four" (Speer, Mott, Eddy and Wilder) and insisted that the new numerical majority of students in committees meant little because the adults still had the power. (T. T. Brumbaugh, "Convention Mistakes", SVM Archives, Series V, Fifth Council, 1924.) Another continuing problem existed in the relationship of the Student Volunteer Movement with the YMCA and YWCA. A third problem concerned the role of "colored" students in the SVM. An underlying strain beneath all these problems and issues was the fact of decreasing financial support even before the onslaught of the Depression.

As problems amassed for the SVM, various individuals connected with the Movement published articles calling for radical change in its policies and procedures. In a December 1923 article entitled "Should the Policies of the Student Volunteer Movement be Modified?", John L. Childs questioned the value of the Movement, pointing to ways in which the missionary situation had evolved past it. He suggested elimination of the declaration card on the grounds that "modern missionary activity has become so complex that merely to decide to become a foreign missionary is a step of doubtful value in determining what one shall do with his life." (John L. Childs, "Should the Policies of the Student Volunteer Movement be Modified? *The Intercollegian*, December 1923, p. 6.) Paul W. Harrison, in an article entitled "The Future of the Student Volunteer Movement", suggested that Movement activities were "hindered by a most unsuitable mass of administrative machinery." (Paul W. Harrison, "The Future of the Student Volunteer Movement," *The Intercollegian*, April 1924, p. 24.)

The adult and student leaders of the SVM proposed and put into action remedies for many of the less fundamental problems facing the Movement. They instituted an increasingly democratic system of policy formation (as detailed in the description of Series V below). They changed the formats of the conventions to allow more student participation. They discussed numerous possibilities for relating the Movement to the general Christian associations and attempted to increase the Movement's cooperation with home missions agencies. To avert criticism of the declaration card, the secretaries of the Movement urged that the cards be distributed with great reserve and only in conjunction with explanatory material. Committees set up to deal with the problems of "colored" students recommended that "colored" institutions be added to the routes of traveling secretaries and that the missions boards be encouraged to reevaluate their restrictions on sending Negro missionaries abroad. On the financial scene, efforts were again made to establish a wider basis of financial support rather than relying so heavily on a few wealthy contributors.

Conservative and Liberal Confusion

Remedies for the philosophical questions confronting the Movement were not so easy to propose. The leadership of the Movement was clearly divided on the important issues. Special commissions established in 1925 and 1933 to evaluate the policies of the SVM came to some conclusions but did not solve any problems. It became increasingly difficult for the Movement to maintain its original blend of conservative and liberal elements in a time when conservatism and liberalism were rapidly drifting apart.

Executive Committee member E. Fay Campbell wrote to General Secretary Robert Wilder in 1925 expressing the fear that the Student Volunteer Movement was tending to become a conservative general Christian movement, a rival to the YMCA and YWCA on the conservative end of the spectrum. Wilder replied: "I may be wrong, but I believe that there is more danger of our Movement's losing conservative Volunteers than-liberal Volunteers. In two conservative institutions the Volunteers voted separation from the SVM on the ground that we are too liberal theologically."(SVM Archives, Series III, Wilder to Campbell, November 27, 1925.) Wilder's concluding plea that theological controversy be avoided in Movement work reflected the failure of the SVM leadership to comprehend the inevitability of liberal /conservative conflict in the changing religious scene.

The correspondence and documents of the Student Volunteer Movement from this period of its history seem to point to a three layer, conservative/liberal/conservative distribution in the hierarchy of the organization. At the highest echelons of authority men like General Secretary Wilder and his chosen successor, Jesse R. Wilson, as well as various members of

the Executive Committee, held to a basically conservative outlook throughout the period. They consistently called for deeper spiritual power in the Movement and emphasized the need for personal evangelical faith. In 1933 the Commission on Student Volunteer Movement Policy submitted a report which among other things questioned the entire "reservoir system" of missionary recruitment upon which the SVM was based. An interesting exchange of correspondence between two Commission members suggests that the higher echelons deliberately chose to disregard the proposals offered by the Commission:

There is an obvious shelving of the evidence. To my mind that pamphlet is nothing short of an unintended but actual betrayal of trust to those who supplied facts and got only one man's opinion in return, or the opinion of his group. My real concern is not for the SVM but for the future of Mr. Wilson. I truly believe that unless he makes a complete turn in his methods of operation, he will be shelved by those demanding a larger vision than exists in the SVM at present.(SVM Archives, Series V, 1933 Commission on Student Volunteer Movement Policy. Letter of Newton Peck to Leslie Moss, October 16, 1933.)

By 1935 Jesse Wilson was considering resigning from the General Secretaryship. A letter from his friend E. Fay Campbell again suggests the extent to which the Movement was wracked by conservative/liberal dissension: "Your years as SVM secretary have been terribly hard due to the spirit of the times, R.P. Wilder's

ineffective leadership and the situation in the General YMCA-YWCA. It was inevitable that your name and the name of the SVM should be identified with outworn ideas. I know it wasn't true that you didn't believe in social religion, but I also know that the fight for missions has antagonized certain People. You know I have talked on this point many times in YMCA group when you were accused of being only a personal gospel person."(SVM Archives, Series III -Campbell to Wilson, May 1935.)

Below the sphere of Wilder and Wilson there appears to have been a liberal contingent in the SVM which included educational secretaries and traveling secretaries as well as the most articulate and active portion of the actual student volunteers. The existence of this contingent explains the fact that many of the publications and convention themes of the period were rather far to the liberal side of the theological and missiological spectrum despite the SVM's leaders' conservative reputations. Many evidences of a liberal orientation in the Movement could be cited. Liberal missiologists Daniel Fleming and Oscar Buck were among those invited to speak at the 1924 Indianapolis convention. Fleming's book, *Contacts with Non-Christian Cultures*, was given a very laudatory review by SVM educational secretary Milton Stauffer in the October 1923 issue of *Intercollegian*. The 1930 issue of the SVM periodical *Far Horizons* were centered around the primarily social rather than personal gospel themes of 1)How do foreign missions meet human suffering?; 2) How do foreign missions create world solidarity? and 3) How do foreign missions fill the hunger of men?

The liberal drift of the Student Volunteer Movement was accentuated by the gradual withdrawal of conservative elements from the Movement. By 1925, at least three local Volunteer Bands had disassociated themselves from the national Movement, groups which E. Fay Campbell dismissed as uncooperative "controversial fundamentalists."(SVM Archives, Series III, Campbell to Wilder, December 2, 1925.) In 1928, when the Moody Bible Institute withdrew its support of the Movement, Campbell was a bit more concerned: "We need their point of view decidedly; in fact it would be nothing short of a major tragedy if they were to pull out of the Movement now and take with them some of our more conservative groups."(SVM Archives, Series III, Campbell to Wilson, January 31, 1928.)

Campbell's cause for concern was real. Examination of the denominational preferences of sailed volunteers for the years 1910 to 1930 reveals that while in the earlier years the vast majority of the volunteers had sailed under appointment to mainline denominational boards, as the Movement progressed through the 1920's an increasing proportion of its volunteers were sailing under faith mission boards. This trend in the Student Volunteer Movement reflected a similar tendency in the general missionary movement. The Movement now found itself in danger of losing the support of the conservative core which was supplying an increasing proportion of its volunteers.

Faith mission boards, so-called because of their methods of securing personnel and financial support, had long been part of the American missions scene. One of the earliest, the China Inland Mission, had been established in 1865. These mission boards, generally characterized by theological conservatism, had participated wholeheartedly in the early years of the Student Volunteer Movement, though their

programs were not nearly so large as those of the mainline denominations. As the gap between conservative and liberal missions theory opened and grew in the years following World War I, the Volunteer Movement found itself increasingly unable to cater simultaneously to the interests of the faith mission boards and the more liberal denominational boards.

As the 1930s approached, a growing proportion of missionaries going overseas were supported by faith mission boards. Reasons for this have been suggested by conservative missions historian Harold Lindsell: "Liberalism has never been noted for its missionary zeal. The inroads of scientist, behaviorism, and humanism may well have been the consequence of an uncertain theological note which carried no impelling conviction of the Gospel imperative for those without Christ." (Harold Lindsell, "Faith Missions Since 1938," *Frontiers of the Christian World Mission Since 1938*, ed. W.C. Harr, New York: Harper and Bros., 1962, p. 210, and Passim.) The theology of the faith missions, on the other hand, has had a compelling motivation for missions, asserting that no person can be saved from eternal damnation except through hearing and believing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The expanding faith missions were not inclined toward ecumenical cooperation. They increasingly drew away from the SVM, draining off financial support as well as potential volunteers. In 1934, General Secretary Jesse Wilson reported to the SVM General Council that "Many friends, rightly or wrongly, have questioned the soundness, from an evangelical point of view, of the Movement's present position and have preferred to make their contributions to organizations concerning which no such questions have arisen." (SVM Archives, Series V.) A direct rival to the Student Volunteer Movement's work was growing in the conservative wings during this period, although not emerging officially in the United States until 1940 as the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. In 1934, a year after the conservative Intervarsity Missionary Fellowship had been formed in Britain, E. Fay Campbell characterized the Volunteer Movement's position as follows:

The SV groups in the USA and Canada are in close contact with certain Christian groups which are not being reached very effectively by the General Movements... (but) I do want to remind you that there is a considerable movement of extremely reactionary students springing up in many parts of the world including Great Britain. We are simply crazy if we think that this movement is not going to make real headway in our American colleges. (SVM Archives, Series III, Campbell memo, May, 1934.)

In 1935, General Secretary Jesse Wilson and Vice Chairman of the Administrative Committee C. Darby Fulton resigned, essentially because of the increasingly liberal drift of the Student Volunteer Movement. However, while the official stance of the Movement was becoming defined as liberal, particularly because of its cooperation with the YMCA, the evidence also shows that a large portion of the Movement's student constituency continued to be of a rather more conservative cast. In 1928, Jesse Wilson had reported a revival of interest in missions on the campuses he had visited. The total number of outgoing missionaries for 1929 was a twenty-four percent increase over the total number sailing in 1928 and a forty-eight percent increase over the number sailing in 1927. In 1928, there were 252 new student volunteers, while in 1929 there were 609 new volunteers. Wilson thought that the

SVM could survive and thrive by falling in with the growing conservative missions revival, but the majority of the Movement leadership was reluctant to see the Movement go in that direction. They were appalled by the fact that the Movement's membership was increasingly conservative. In 1936, reporting on a tour of American campuses, SVM secretary Wilmina Rowland wrote of the following conditions: "Some students confess that they have gotten wrong impressions of the missionary enterprise through the Student Volunteers on their campus, who in such cases enlist a pious group of the more dependent-minded students....In summary, it seems to me that the SVM across the country is quite definitely conservative."(SVM Archives, Series V, Appendix A of the Administrative Committee minutes of May 8, 1936. Information related to the local Student Volunteer groups is also available in Series VI, Field Work.)

Perusal of the correspondence between SVM headquarters and local Student Volunteer groups during this period confirms Rowland's analysis of the situation. While the Movement had once been a powerful force on prestigious campuses, the majority of Volunteer groups during the 1930s existed at small rural colleges and were propelled by local tradition rather than following closely the lead of the national Movement.

Redefining the Movement

The Student Volunteer Movement's financial situation had never been without problems, but in 1932, America's "religious Depression," combined with the nation's general economic condition, had led Jesse Wilson to admit that "because of financial conditions, we are so puzzled now about our whole program that it is difficult for us to commit ourselves to anything."(SVM Archives, Series III, Wilson to D.R. Porter, May 23, 1932.) The dire economic straits had not lessened by the end of the decade, and it became increasingly evident that the SVM had to regroup and Redefine itself or else cease to exist.

While the Student Volunteer Movement had fulfilled a clear and unchallenged role in its early years, as a student, missionary education and recruitment agency, the need for such an agency was increasingly questioned in the between-War period. Wilmina Rowland reported in 1936:

The influence of the SVM across the country is not heartening. Many persons who believe strongly in missions feel that its days of usefulness are over. A number of foreign mission board secretaries say that if the Movement went out of existence, it would not affect their candidate work. Many, even among the conservative leaders, think that the Movement should revamp its functions and expand its membership if it is to continue its existence. (SVM Archives, Series V. Appendix A of the Administrative Committee minutes of May 8, 1936.)

Statements of denominational missions leaders during this period confirm the conclusions of Rowland. In 1939, Methodist leader H.D. Bollinger wrote: "The SVM is a thing of the past and those who are charged with the responsibility of perpetuating it should realize this fact." (SVM Archives, Series III, Bollinger to Campbell, November 29, 1939.) At a meeting of denominational leaders in January of 1940, it was suggested that since the SVM had done very little recruiting for the

major boards in recent years, and did not seem likely to do more, the boards should set up their own cooperative recruiting system. The gauntlet was thrown out: "If the students want the SVM or its equivalent to continue, let them run it and finance it." (SVM Archives, Series V, Personnel Committee, January 27, 1940. The results of a meeting of denominational leaders in Hartford were discussed at this Personnel Committee meeting.)

The Student Volunteer Movement entered these years of profound questioning without a stable leadership. In the decade following Jesse Wilson's resignation, four men served as acting or permanent General Secretary of the Movement. The General Council, an experiment in democracy begun after the Des Moines convention, was replaced by a smaller General Committee in 1936, which was in turn replaced by a different organizational arrangement in 1941. Amidst all this confusion, the Movement strove to identify the alternatives for its future existence. Most crucial during the late 1930s and the 1940s were the issues of how the Movement would relate to 1) the general student Christian movements (YMCA, YWCA, denominational student work and union movements), 2) conservative student Christian movements such as the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 3) the mainline denominational missionary programs, and 4) the evolving missions theory of the period.

The SVM and the General Student Christian Movements

The 1933 Commission on Student Volunteer Movement Policy, among other suggestions which were disturbing to the SVM leadership, had advocated the establishment of a Student Christian Movement in America which would unite the YMCA, YWCA and SVM into one body. This idea was considerably ahead of its time in the United States, although an experimental body of this type had been established in Canada in 1888 and was already the mode of operation in Great Britain. There was, however, a growing conviction that the Volunteer Movement should cooperate very closely with the National Intercollegiate Christian Council (YMCA and YWCA), as well as with denominational bodies, while still maintaining its organizational autonomy.

At a consultation at Oberlin in 1936, measures were taken to consolidate cooperation with the National Intercollegiate Christian Council, including the radical decree that individual SVM members and regional Student Volunteer groups should incorporate all their activities into the NICC work in their locality. In 1939, the National Intercollegiate Christian Council for the first time officially provided for the inclusion of the SVM General Secretary as a member of its Administrative Committee. Friendly relations were also established between the SVM and the University Christian Mission, a cooperative organization representing denominational student work. For a portion of 1938, SVM General Secretary Paul Braisted devoted three-quarters of his time to the Campus Secretaryship of the UCM.

A North American Student Conference on the World Mission of Christianity, sponsored by the NICC, the Council of Church Boards of Education, and the SVM, was held in Toronto in December of 1939. At this conference it was voted to "recommend the continuance of the Student Volunteer Movement as the

cooperative agency of the general Student Christian Movements for carrying forward their Christian World Mission emphasis in education and recruiting; and that, in addition, the Movement specialize in the following areas: 1) Establishment of standards of personnel for overseas service, and 2) Recruitment of personnel for missionary areas at home."(SVM Archives, Series V, General Committee, January, 1940.) The Student Volunteer Movement remained hesitant to sacrifice its autonomy at this phase of the development of student Christian work in the United States because it saw itself as a more ecumenical force than either the NICC or the denominational movements.

In 1944, the United Student Christian Council came into being as a national federation of the YMCA, YWCA, and denominational student movements. The federation was ecumenical on the national level, but did not express itself ecumenically on the regional or local levels. Though remaining autonomous in policy, administration, and finance, the Student Volunteer Movement agreed to serve as the Missionary Committee of the United Student Christian Council. A dilemma remained for the SVM, however, because the USCC offered no regional ecumenical structures for the Movement to work through. The SVM's role in the USCC was restricted to the national level, to planning the quadrennial student mission conventions and producing educational material. Some itinerating work was possible in the sponsorship of special missions programs on campuses. From 1945 to 1947 the SVM sought to maintain contacts on the local level through a system of "campus representatives," but this system was not successful. In 1947 a Special Commission on the Future of the Student Volunteer Movement recommended that SVM campus missionary fellowship groups be reestablished. The new missionary fellowship groups were to be informal interest groups, however, rather than official organizations. The Movement had found that students interested in missions were calling for missionary fellowship groups because their special needs were not being met by the general student movements. The dangers of separatism, which had led to the elimination of local Volunteer Bands, seemed less alarming at this point than the dangers of the SVM program losing the support of its volunteers.

In 1953, the United Student Christian Council asked the Student Volunteer Movement to become its Missionary Department, as a step toward a fully ecumenical student movement in the United States. After due consideration, the Movement agreed to this next phase, and in 1954 became the Commission on World Mission of the USCC, "temporarily relinquishing its status as a member movement of the USCC."(SVM Archives, Series V, Board of Directors, April, 1954.) This was a functional relationship which still did not affect the financial and administrative autonomy of the Student Volunteer Movement. The theory of this relationship was acceptable to the SVM, but in practice certain difficulties emerged. At a SVM Policy Committee meeting in March of 1956, it was a cause for concern that USCC member movements did not depend more on the SVM for missionary education. The Committee minutes indicate that both the Presbyterian and Methodist boards of foreign missions had active student departments of their own at this time.

In 1959, the United Student Christian Council, the Student Volunteer Movement, and the Interseminary Committee merged to form the National Student Christian

Federation. The Student Volunteer Movement became the Commission on World Mission of the NSCF. Its tasks remained those of promoting missionary education, fellowship, and enlistment. It continued to plan and sponsor missions conferences, including the 19th Ecumenical Student Conference on the Christian World Mission held at Athens, Ohio in 1964 with 3000 students present. The National Student Christian Federation was reconstituted as the University Christian Movement in 1966. At this time, as the *Concise Dictionary of the Christian World Mission* phrases it, "the Commission on World Mission was among the first to act on the formation of a movement fully representative of the churches, and agreed that the sense of mission was sufficiently embodied in the student movement for the Commission to cease a separate existence." (Stephen Neill, Gerald H. Anderson, and John Goodwin (eds.) *Concise Dictionary of the Christian World Mission*, New York: Abingdon Press, 1971, p. 434.)

The SVM and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship

The Student Volunteer Movement's decline, begun after World War I, reached its nadir in 1940. It was clear that if the Movement wanted to continue its existence it could not continue in its old role as a consensus movement acceptable to both conservatives and liberals. There was a parting of the ways, and the Movement had to choose to head in either a conservative or a liberal direction. As evidenced by the Movement's eventual entrance into the National Student Christian Federation, decisions made during this period had the effect of orienting the Movement in a more liberal direction. This orientation was not a foregone conclusion, however, for significant portions of the SVM's constituency and leadership were not in sympathy with the less evangelistic, more humanitarian drift of the "Y" and major denominational student movements during this period.

The SVM's path away from a more conservative basis can be traced in its relations with the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, a student Christian movement established in the United States in 1940. The Volunteer Movement was initially very sympathetic to the aims of the Fellowship. In February of 1944 SVM General Secretary Winburn Thomas wrote to a Yale Divinity School student: "I feel very keenly that we of the SVM have much to learn from the Inter-Varsity Fellowship, and I would therefore like to see represented on our Board of Directors the intensity of feeling and dynamic purpose which characterizes many of you in that movement." (SVM Archives, Series V, with Board of Directors records, February 1944) When the IVCF was discussed at a Movement meeting in October 1944 it was noted that the IVCF tended to attract "doctrinaire and controversial fundamentalists but "it was not yet clear that the Fellowship would be dominated by these types." (SVM Archives, Series V, Board of Directors, October 1944.) A Committee of Four was appointed at this meeting to approach the IVCF on matters of mutual concern.

In 1948 it was reported to the SVM Board of Directors that many formerly strong student volunteer movements overseas had faded in importance, and missionary education tasks were often carried by InterVarsity Christian Fellowship groups in these countries. The report of the Special Commission on Future Policy at this time recommended that the new campus missionary fellowships being promoted by the SVM should strive to be on good relations with fundamentalist campus groups.

Although the Volunteer Movement continued to seek rapprochement with the IVCF, appointing fraternal delegates to its conferences and encouraging reciprocal action, the Fellowship's vigorous missionary program became a direct rival to the program of the SVM. It was the leadership of the IVCF, rather than its constituency, which was most inclined to discourage IVCF-SVM cooperation. In 1949 a SVM traveling secretary reported: "In one state school I found that the Inter-Varsity group themselves were not at all aware of the fact that the Fellowship officers on the national level do not wish to cooperate with the SVM. All the students were interested and would have been willing to sign SVM declaration cards, but they had their affiliations with Inter-Varsity and it did not seem wise to interfere...."(SVM Archives, Series V, with records of Policy Committee, 1956.)

In the analysis of Vern Rossman, the Movement's fraternal delegate to the IVCF missions conference of 1951, there were four barriers to cooperation between the IVCF and the SVM: 1) historical: the IVCF's reaction against the general student movements' humanitarian drift of the 1930s and its desire for institutional preservation; 2) psychological: the IVCF's taboos on smoking, dancing, and cosmetics, its particular forms of religious jargon, its inclination toward political and economic conservatism; 3) theological differences; and 4) the IVCF's lack of ecumenical spirit, "IVCF sees itself as exclusive in function . . . doctrinally pure, true to the Bible . . . emphasizing holiness almost to the exclusion of catholicity."(SVM Archives, Series V, Executive Committee, December 31, 1951.) Rossman reported that the IVCF conference program stressed Bible study and worship and although a few unofficial representatives of mainline denomination missions boards attended, the platform speakers generally represented conservative or faith missions boards.

Despite the barriers cited by Rossman, the SVM continued to make overtures to the IVCF. In September of 1953 the SVM Board of Directors sent a letter to the Associate General Secretary of the IVCF asking for greater cooperation, "realizing that we are essentially one in purpose . . ."(SVM Archives, Series V, Board of Directors, September 1953.) It was proposed that the Inter-Varsity Missionary Fellowship be represented on the SVM Quadrennial Planning Committee and on the Board of Directors. The Student Volunteer Movement became increasingly involved in the ecumenical student movement, effectively eliminating the possibility of IVCF cooperation, but it continued to admire the spirit of Fellowship in IVCF groups. At a Policy Committee meeting in 1956, the Committee members still hoped that "development of SVM Fellowship groups envisaged on campuses might bring SVM closer to IVCF in understanding."(SVM Archives, Series V, Policy Committee, March 25, 1956.)

The SVM and Denominational Missions Programs

While the Student Volunteer Movement was struggling to find its place in the shifting student Christian movement configuration it was also forced to reevaluate its relationship to the missions work of the major Protestant denominations. In its heyday the SVM had been viewed by the denominational boards as an invaluable tool for drumming up missions interest and providing a pool of recruits from which the boards could select their missionaries. The SVM's broad recruiting system did produce a considerable amount of "chaff" individuals who could not meet the

boards' increasingly rigorous standards for trained and often specialized missionary personnel - but, in general, the boards were glad for the Movement's support and had often called upon its files to locate suitable candidates for specific openings overseas.

The era of disillusionment after World War I affected denominational missions activity fully as much as it did the Student Volunteer Movement. From the peak year in 1920 when 1731 new missionaries were sent overseas there was a steady decline in the numbers sent, reaching a low point of 550 in 1927 before rising again briefly. It was inevitable that the declining denominational activity would have a direct effect on the SVM's program. As E. Fay Campbell wrote to Jesse Wilson in 1935, "It seems harder than ever to get support, chiefly because of the continued financial state of the mission boards which does not permit them to send out many missionaries. It is almost impossible to get People to see the need for our Movement in the face of the fact that the boards are calling for so few new missionaries." (SVM Archives, Series III, Campbell to Wilson, March 25, 1935.)> As mentioned earlier, faith mission boards were experiencing growth during the period of decline of the more liberal denominational boards, but the Volunteer Movement had historically drawn most of its support from the major denominations, and its liberal stances increasingly divorced its program from the faith missions' developing work.

In the confusing days of the between-War period the SVM called upon board secretaries to help in evaluation of the Movement's role. Responses to a questionnaire sent out by the SVM's 1933 Commission on Policy indicated that some denominations continued to support the idea of a volunteer movement while others did not see a need for it. Representatives of the Baptist and Congregational boards expressed praise for the Movement while the Episcopal, Methodist and Presbyterian representatives were less enthusiastic. Criticism included the statements that "the Movement has dwindled until it is largely a movement of the 'hick' colleges" and "My fear is that at this present stage the idea of volunteering for foreign missions tends to divert the attention of Christian students from the essential obligation of the Christian, whether he goes to the field or stays at home." (SVM Archives, Series V, 1933 Commission.)

Before 1920, most denominations had not sponsored their own student fellowships and the SVM's role on campus had been clear. Partially in reaction to the liberal orientation of the "Y" movements, denominations developed their own campus student groups during the 1920s and 1930s. The effect of this trend was to obscure the SVM's role. According to a SVM report written in 1953, "In the late thirties, the pressure became so strong that SVM was forced to question its very existence, for many of those within the church student movement - - which, by its very nature, was pushing SVM into a separatist movement --- challenged the SVM and said that it should not operate as a separate movement." (SVM Archives, Series V, Board of Directors, April 1933.)

The development of the Student Volunteer Movement's relationship with denominational campus ministries has been touched upon earlier, but here can be mentioned briefly the more direct channels of contact with denominational mission boards which the SVM maintained throughout its existence. When the National

Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America emerged in 1950, the SVM's role in the new organization was as a member Unit of its Division of Foreign Missions, Division of Home Missions and Joint Commission on Missionary Education. The NCCCUSA viewed the SVM as primarily an interdenominational recruiting agency to work among students. As the organization of the National Council of Churches evolved, the SVM became the Missionary Services Department of the Joint Department of Christian Vocation of the Division of Christian Education in 1951. In 1959 when the Volunteer Movement passed from autonomous existence, it was related to the National Council of Churches as the Department of Missionary Services of the Commission on Christian Higher Education.

The SVM and Missions Theory

Various theories regarding missions activity have prevailed in American Protestantism during different historical periods. An early emphasis on evangelization for individual salvation gave way to concentration on church planting and educational work as bases for the spread of the Christian faith. With the rise of indigenous churches overseas the concept of ecumenical sharing gave continued justification for missionary activity. The Laymen's Commission of Appraisal in 1932 proposed a more radical conception of missionary work which involved not only inter-church development but also inter-faith development, drawing on increased appreciation for non-Christian religions. However, in Charles Forman's words, "the reaction of mission boards showed that the mission theory and theology of the Laymen's Commission was not that of American missions." (Forman, p. 103. The 1932 Laymen's Commission report was very controversial in SVM circles. It is mentioned repeatedly in the correspondence and committee minutes of the time.)

When missions activity was no longer viewed as an exporting of Christian civilization, but rather seen as a mode of worldwide ecumenical cooperation, the distinction between foreign missions and home missions became blurred. Throughout the post-World War I era, the Student Volunteer Movement constantly had to justify its continuing specific concentration on foreign missions. The "revolutionaries" of Des Moines in 1920 questioned the appropriateness of sending missionaries abroad when conditions in American were so much in need of Christianization. In a meeting in February of 1920, the Standing Committee discussed at length the pros and cons of Student Volunteer Movement involvement in home missions work, but decided to continue the status quo focus on recruiting for foreign fields only. In 1922, a new home missions movement, the Student Fellowship for Christian Life Service, approached the SVM seeking cooperation; for over a year it used a room in the Movement offices as its headquarters.

Though the issue was discussed many times, it was not until 1945 that the Student Volunteer Movement went beyond cooperation with home missions programs to actual participation in recruiting and educational activity for home fields. It changed its name from the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions to the Student Volunteer Movement for Christian Missions. The announcement of this change noted that:

official action recognizes that the artificial separation of home and foreign missions is now passe', since the work of the

Church, even as the world itself, is one. Whether the distinction between the pioneer, frontier worker on the one hand, and the supporting work on the other, can be or should be maintained for recruitment purposes remains to be seen. (SVM Archives, Series V, 1945 documents: "SVM Prepares for Reconversion of Missionary Enterprise", p. 3.)

The declaration card of the Movement, which formerly had offered only one option, commitment to foreign missions, was revised to offer three alternatives:

I. It is my purpose to become a Christian missionary . . . at home or . . . abroad.

II. I propose to seek further guidance regarding the missionary vocation.

III. I propose to support the world mission of the Church through my prayers, gifts and daily work. (SVM Archives, Series V, Board of Directors, 1949.)

This format for the declaration card came under attack from two different angles. Some thought that the Movement was making a mistake in relinquishing its specific focus on foreign missions education and recruitment. They thought that the Movement would become too diffuse and would lose any effectiveness which it still had. At the opposite end of the spectrum, others questioned the entire idea of a declaration card, wondering why the choice of a missionary vocation should be singled out for specific attention, since the Church's mission to the world could be carried out through nearly all vocations.

In 1949 a Committee to Study the Declaration Card was established and it proposed the following format for the card:

. . . It is my purpose to use my talents and resources to serve the Christian world mission, and in the light of its claims prayerfully to choose my life work.

. . . Further, it is my purpose, God willing, to be a Christian missionary . . . at home . . . abroad.

More than the phrasing of words on a 3" by 5" card was at-stake in discussion of the Student Volunteer Movement declaration of purpose. There was a question of missions theory - how was missionary activity to be distinguished from the normal interrelationships of Christian churches throughout the world? There was the related issue of the membership basis of the SVM --- should it be restricted to individuals who had made a specifically missionary vocational commitment or should a wider base of students, those who were supportive of the Church's world mission, be considered members of the Movement? At a meeting in March 1952, Policy Committee members expressed divergent opinions. E. Fay Campbell felt that "The regular membership of the SVM should be made up of students . . . who have purposed to offer themselves to Missions Boards for service." Vern Rossman called the first statement on the declaration card "highly problematic." "If we say that every Christian student should be centrally missionary, then every student

'should be' an SVMer." But, in another members opinion, "If one of the prime duties of the Christian community is to point out that almost all vocations can be 'Christian,' then surely the SVM is in a sense defeating the purpose of the Church by creating the feeling that service under a mission board is necessarily more important in the world mission than other vocations."(SVM Archives, Series V, Policy Committee, March 1952.)

As the 1950s progressed and the Student Volunteer Movement became increasingly involved in ecumenical ventures it became clear that the Movement would have a distinct contribution to make to the student Christian scene only if it focused its concerns quite specifically on education and recruitment for world missions service under established mission boards and agencies. The distinction implied by this focus, between the Church's general mission in the world and its "missions", was not agreeable to all, but without such a distinction the need for a Student Volunteer type movement became much less apparent. Those striving to maintain the SVM's distinctiveness felt that the Movement still had a role to play in concentrating on the "frontiers" of the Church mission to the world. There were still many places around the world where strong indigenous churches had not been established and the SVM could help to provide Christian messengers to those areas. Furthermore' it was felt that even the stronger indigenous churches overseas would increasingly welcome the assistance of Western missionaries. As a missionary to China had written to John Mott, "Members of the younger Christian churches have actually taken over the responsibility for determining the future character of the Christian movement and, having worked at this job for a period of years, they now realized its complexity and the need for comradeship."(SVM Archives, Series III, L. Hoover to J. Mott, October 1, 1936.) Another "frontier" which the SVM Newsletter suggested for the Student Volunteer Movement's attention in 1957, was confrontation with atheistic communism.

In the years after the Student Volunteer Movement's merger into the National Student Christian Federation, a Committee for the Fellowship of Student Volunteers produced a monthly newsletter. A large proportion of the articles in these newsletters were related to missions theory, indicating the realization that until these questions of theory were resolved the role of student volunteers could not be clarified. In the May 1960 newsletter there was a call for an "adequate theology of mission." The problems were evident. "We used to feel that the Church has missions and thought of missions as something which was done for the other People at some distant place. Such an understanding was based on the assumption that Western Christians live in a Christian society and the Christian missionary task was to take our faith and culture to those areas where it was not known."(Newsletter of the Committee for the Fellowship of Student Volunteers, SVM Archives, Series VII, May 1960.) The 1966 dissolution of the Student Volunteer Movement in its guise as the National Student Christian Federation's Commission on World Mission was the logical outcome of an increasingly prevalent theory of mission in liberal American Protestantism, one which stressed the worldwide ecumenical cooperation of the Church rather than focusing on frontier missions of the Western Church to the non-Western world.

The SVM After the Second World War

As indicated by the foregoing, a considerable portion of the Student Volunteer Movement's energy in the post World War II era continued to be taken up in attempts to define its relationships to other student Christian movements and to general Protestant mission mechanics and theory. Despite the uncertainties involved in these evolving relationships, the Movement was able to bounce back from its 1940 nadir and to continue with a positive program for nearly two more decades.

Sydney Ahlstrom, among other historians of American religion, has described a post World War II revival in American Christianity which extended nearly to the end of the 1950s. Amidst social trends of urbanization and suburbanization, geographical mobility, and economic affluence, problems of adjustment and anxieties over status and 'acceptance' were ever-present. Churches were obviously the sort of family institution that the social situation required."(Ahlstrom, p. 951.) The Cold War atmosphere of the era was ripe for the resurgence of a religious faith which could promise peace of mind. Fundamentalist theology which had fallen into disrepute was revived in an intellectually updated form.

During the 1920s and 1930s Student Volunteer Movement leaders had frequently pointed out that the decline of the Movement was directly related to a decline in general interest in religion on American campuses. Students were not likely to commit themselves to missionary work when they were not wholly committed to the Christian faith. A resurgence of more evangelical religion during and after World War II allowed the SVM to find a broader base for its programs. The Board of Directors in 1944 concluded that "The Movement needs to make increasingly clear its commitment to a full evangelical missionary message and program . . . Not alone in emphasis on current social improvement, but also in and through such service to a message that is in the fullest sense redemptive and eternal, will be its strength."(SVM Archives, Series V, Appendix III, Board of Directors minutes, February 26, 1944.)

In 1946, the Student Volunteer Movement's listing of missionary openings, Christian Horizons, included nearly one thousand overseas vacancies. A publicity release for the Movement claimed that "faced today with the need for hundreds of new workers, both large and small boards look to the Student Volunteer Movement for assistance, both in

supplying candidates to meet immediate needs, and in conducting a program of education and recruitment which will guarantee a steady stream of volunteers from which the boards can select personnel."(SVM Archives, Series V, 1945 document: "SVM Prepares for Reconversion of Missionary Enterprise," p. 1.)

At a meeting of the SVM Board of Directors in April 1948, it was reported that the Movement's finances were in good condition and there were many evidences of increased missionary interest on the campuses. The Movement budget for 1951/1952 was \$60,400, more than \$10,000 above the budget of the previous year and six times the budget of 1941/1942. During the academic year 1952/1953 a travel staff of twenty men and women from five denominations visited over three hundred colleges in forty-four states on behalf of the Movement.

The resurgence sparked by increased religious interest and the nation's improving economic condition appears to have peaked for the SVM towards the middle of the 1950s, or at least to have taken a different form as the Movement was drawn into ecumenical ventures and faced with theoretical questions about its recruiting program. Twenty-one members of the Movement travel staff visited three hundred and fifty campuses during the academic year 1955/1956. At the same time, however, there were only five hundred declared student volunteers on American undergraduate campuses. The SVM budget for 1956/1957 was reduced to \$50,000.

Programs of missionary education and support of student volunteers were carried on after the formation of the National Student Christian Federation by the Commission on World Mission and its Committee for the Fellowship of Student Volunteers. In May 1962 it was reported that the Committee's newsletter was sent to over three thousand volunteers or prospective volunteers. The Commissions program included staff visits to campuses, local Fellowship gatherings of volunteers, Week-End Conversations on Mission, personal encouragement and counseling, Frontier Seminars, the Quadrennial Conference, ecumenical summer service projects, and so forth.

Conclusion It was a long road from the Student Volunteer Movement's visions of heroic service overseas in the late nineteenth century to the Commission on World Mission's decision to dissolve itself in 1966. By 1959 over twenty thousand student volunteers had gone to serve the Church overseas. The Movement had shown repeated resilience in reacting to changing modes of theological expression, mission theory and student thought. Although Arthur Judson Brown's prophecy that the Student Volunteer Movement would be considered as "one of the most remarkable and significant movements in the history of the Church of God" is not likely to be fulfilled, one can perhaps agree with D.W. McWilliams' thoughts at the Movement's twenty-fifth anniversary services:

I think it is no exaggeration to say that the influences that have gone out from these school grounds on which we are gathered this afternoon in some respects have changed the history of the world . . . I do not think the history of the past twenty-five years can be written without putting in it something about the Student Volunteer Movement which originated here at Mount Hermon. (D.W. McWilliams, "A Reminiscence", *The Student Volunteer Movement After Twenty-Five Years*, pp. 70-71.)

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Introduction

The Archives of the Student Volunteer Movement are divided into ten series:

- **I. Volunteer and inquirer forms and statistics**
- **II. Volunteer and inquirer correspondence**
- **III. General correspondence**
- **IV. Financial correspondence and records**
- **V. Organization and policy records**
- **VI. Field work**
- **VII. Publications and literature distribution**

- VIII. Conventions
- IX. Relationships with other organizations
- X. Photographs

The Student Volunteer Movement Board of Directors voted in October of 1943 to transfer the archives of the Movement to the Yale Divinity School Library. Further archival increments were sent to the Library through 1963. A large volume of Volunteer Declaration of Purpose cards were microfilmed by the Library and the originals destroyed. The remainder of the material is in its original, in some cases crumbling, format.

Besides documenting the activities of the Student Volunteer Movement in a very complete way, these archives also provide valuable information on various aspects of American religious life during the period 1886 to 1960. Religious conditions on American college and university campuses are documented. Vast files of student volunteer application and information sheets provide personal data on thousands of prospective missionaries.

These sheets, in addition to health examination blanks for the years 1923 to 1937, provide extensive information of potential interest to genealogists, biographers, and historians. The financial records and correspondence of the Movement provide documentation related to philanthropic support of religious causes in America. In short, the archives are a largely untouched mine of information for the historian of American religious life.

The researcher should be aware of the extent to which the Student Volunteer Movement archives are supplemented by other collections at the Yale Divinity Library. The Library holds the personal papers of various leaders and friends of the Movement including those of its founder and General Secretary (1920-1927) Robert P. Wilder; its longtime Executive Committee chairman and leader, John R. Mott; its first educational secretary Harlan P. Beach; volunteer and committee member Kenneth Scott Latourette; traveling secretary Lyman Hoover; and other supporters of the Movement such as Luther D. Wishard, George Sherwood Eddy, and Clarence P. Shedd. Also found at the Divinity Library are the early archives of the YMCA-Student Division and the World Student Christian Federation, two organizations whose leaders were intimately associated with the Student Volunteer Movement.

As might be expected in the archives of a long-lived and constantly evolving organization like the Student Volunteer Movement, the categories indicated by Series I through X are more clear-cut in theory than in practice. The archives were in a chaotic state due to the circumstances of their accumulation at the Library, inconsistencies in SVM procedures, and previous attempts by untrained Library personnel to organize portions of the material. In the detailed descriptions which follow, an attempt has been made to indicate points of overlap, gaps in documentation, and material of particular interest in each series.

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Volunteer and Inquirer Forms and Statistics

Included in Series I are the forms and record keeping devices used by the Student Volunteer Movement to keep track of its members and prospective members. The enormity of the Movement's record-keeping task becomes apparent when one considers that by 1932, 48,866 individuals had volunteered and many non-volunteers were also on the Movement's mailing lists. There are over fifty linear feet of records in Series I, dating from approximately 1888 to 1956. The material is divided according to the following formats;

A. Declaration' information and Address cards

- 1. Declaration cards: In order to become a member of the Student Volunteer Movement, a student was expected to sign a declaration of purpose card and complete a follow-up information blank. The wording and explanatory material on the declaration of purpose card were changed several times during the Movement's existence but the centrality of this written commitment remained constant. From the card's earliest phrasing, "I am willing and desirous, God permitting, to become a foreign missionary", to its later two and three option formats, the formal declaration of purpose was thought to be an effective means of crystallizing nebulous missionary interest into productive missionary action. Thousands of declaration of purpose cards are found in the Movement archives. Those from the period 1888 to 1922 have been microfilmed and the originals destroyed. The over fifteen hundred cards available for the period 1941 to 1953, in addition to the signed declaration, also provide basic information about the volunteer, including his or her address, academic affiliation and area of study, denominational ties, and so forth. The declaration cards on microfilm and those from the period 1923 to 1941 are arranged first by the year in which the card was signed and within each year in two alphabetical sequences, for men and women respectively. The later cards are arranged alphabetically in two blocks. The first "A" to "Z" sequence includes cards signed during the years c.1941 to 1949. The second "A" to "Z" sequence includes cards signed during the years c.1945 to 1953.
- 2. Information cards: Some of the cards included in this section were completed by student volunteers to provide updated information about their status and future plans. Others were created by the Movement headquarters staff to facilitate the processes of compiling statistics and matching missionary candidates with suitable openings. The earliest cards in this section date from c. 1925 to 1932 and provide information about the volunteers who sailed during a given year, including their destinations and denominational affiliations. Portions of an extensive alphabetical sequence of cards dating from 1942 to 1949 are classified using a colored tab system to indicate academic specialization, field and vocation preference, race, and so forth. The key to the classification system is found preceding

the "A's". The cards which provide updated information on volunteers date from 1948 to 1954 and are of interest for tracing the paths taken by volunteers who did not make it to the foreign field.

- 3. Address cards: The cards in this section provide names and addresses of volunteers and prospective volunteers, with no additional information. The cards all date from the 1940s and 1950s and were apparently used as a mailing list for SVM periodical publications. Some cards are arranged in alphabetical sequences according to the year in which they were removed from the mailing list files. Addresses were removed from the files upon request of the person involved or because the address was no longer correct, previously in contact with the Movement. These address update cards are in no particular order.

B. Application blanks

Over thirty linear feet of application blanks dating from the period 1888 to 1936 are arranged in alphabetical order. These blanks vary in format but are generally two sides of one sheet. The information supplied by volunteers on these prerequisite application blanks included full name, home address, marital status, educational circumstances and plans, denominational affiliation, extra-curricular activities, motivation for volunteering, field preference, and so forth. The detailed responses required by these forms are very revealing of the personalities and backgrounds of the applicants. Particularly interesting in terms of evaluating the work of the Student Volunteer Movement and the general missionary enterprise in America are the reasons given by the volunteers for their choice of a missionary vocation. In reading through the application blanks one is struck by the wide range of types of individuals who volunteered, from Episcopalians to Pentecostals, from highly competent medical school students to obvious misfits. In a few cases, incomplete blanks were returned to the Movement with the irate comments of unsympathetic parents.

The application blanks are generally stamped with the ultimate disposition of the volunteer such as "Sailed," "Deceased," "Renounced," "Withdrawn," etc. Other related forms or correspondence are occasionally attached to the blanks. The application of a female who married after volunteering was routinely filed under the name of her spouse. An index which provides access to the maiden names of married woman volunteers is located before the "A's" in this section.

C. Health examination blanks

The missions boards had rigorous health standards for candidates, so the physical condition of a volunteer was of crucial importance in determining his or her likelihood of making it to the foreign field. The Student Volunteer Movement had always encouraged volunteers to have physical examinations performed when they first applied for

membership. Beginning in 1924 this encouragement took on a more concrete form as all new volunteers were sent health examination blanks to be completed in conjunction with their physician and then sent for appraisal to consulting physicians associated with the Movement. The four linear feet of health forms in this section are arranged alphabetically and date from approximately 1923 to 1937. In addition to the specific information provided by the examining physician, the forms also contain certain information supplied by the applicant about his or her general condition, outlook and family health record.

D. Statistical records

The statistical records related to volunteers are primarily in bound volumes. They describe the results of the Student Volunteer Movement recruitment activities from various perspectives. In three volumes volunteers are listed in numerical order, or by the date of their signing the declaration of purpose card. In other volumes volunteers are listed by their institutional affiliation or by their denominational affiliation. In still another volume volunteers who actually sailed during the years 1886 to 1921 are recorded in a generally alphabetical format. Other statistics relate to the results in terms of personnel of the general American missionary enterprise. The statistical compilations found in this section will be of interest to the researcher because they distill important information out of the bulky files of forms and information cards found elsewhere in the archives.

Box Folder Contents

Declaration, Information, and Address Cards

- 1 Declaration cards - on microfilm 1888-1922
- 2 Declaration cards - women 1923
- 3 Declaration cards - men 1923, 1924
- 4 Declaration cards - women 1924
- Declaration cards- men 1925
- Declaration cards - women 1925, 1926
- Declaration cards- men 1926, 1927
- 6 Declaration cards - women 1927-1929

- Declaration cards- men 1928, 1929
- 7 Declaration cards - "A-Z" for each year
1930-1932
- 8 Declaration cards - "A-Z" for each year
1932-1941
- 9 Declaration cards - one sequence "A-Z"
1941-1949
- 10 Declaration cards - one sequence "A-Z"
1945-1953
- 11 Declaration cards - foreign students
- 12 Information cards - re. sailed volunteers
pre- 1925-1928
- 13 Information cards - re. sailed volunteers
1928-1932, 1936
- 14 Information cards - miscellaneous,
including . medical volunteers and
prospective volunteers 1941-1949
- 15 Information cards - one sequence "A-K"
1942-1949
- 16 Information cards - one sequence "L-Z"
1942-1949
- 17 Information cards - updated info. on
volunteers 1948, 1950
- 18 Information cards - updated info. on
volunteers 1953, 1954
- 19 Address cards - "Middle Atlantic States"
1940's
- 20 Address cards - removed from files c. 1950-
1953 Jan.
- 21 Address cards - removed from files 1953
May-1956

		Address cards- Miscellaneous 1941-1948
22		Address cards - miscellaneous
23		Mailing list update cards 1941
24		Mailing list update cards 1941
25		Mailing list update cards 1941
		Application Blanks
26	1-15	Aadland -Alexander, J. B.
27	16-30	Alexander, L.-Anderson, Minnie
28	31-46	Anderson, Molly-Atkinson, M.
29	47-63	Atkinson, O. - Baker, R.
30	64-81	Baker, S. - Barrow
31	82-98	Barrows - Beck, G.
32	99-115	Beck, J. - Bentenmueller
33	116-132	Benway - Black
34	133-148	Blackadar - Bond
35	149-163	Bonde - Braak
36	164-178	Braaten - Brix
37	179-193	Bro-Brown
38	194-210	Browne - Burkwall
39	211-226	Burland - Camburn
40	227-241	Cameron - Carter, E.
41	242-258	Carter, F. - Childrey
42	259-273	Chassell - Clay

43	274- 289	Claypool - Colson
44	290- 305	Colt - Cory
45	306- 320	Cosby - Crosby
46	321- 334	Croze - Daniels
47	335- 347	Danielson - Deal
48	348- 361	Deale-Dicks
49	362- 373	Dickson - Douglas
50	374- 386	Douglass - Durgin
51	387- 398	Durham - Edwards
52	399- 410	Eels - Erickson, G.
53	411- 425	Erickson, H. - Faus
54	426- 439	Fauske - Fitts
55	440- 452	Fitz - Foye
56	453- 466	Fraas - Gailey
57	467- 479	Gaines - Ghormley
58	480- 492	Giammittorio - Gooch
59	493- 505	Good - Green, J.
60	506- 518	Green, K. - Gunn
61	519- 531	Gunnerfeldt - Hamilton
62	532- 545	Hamlen - Harris, P.
63	546- 599	Harris, R. - Hawthorne
64	559- 571	Hay - Hendrix
65	572- 585	Hendry - Hill, R.

66	586- 599	Hill, S. - Holmes, L.
67	600- 612	Holmes, M. - Howey
68	613- 625	Howie - Hutchens
69	626- 638	Hutcheson - James, F.
70	639- 651	James, J. - Johnson, P.
71	652- 665	Johnson, R. - Kanda
72	666- 677	Kane - Kerr
73	678- 685	Kerschner - Knight
74	690- 702	Knighton - Lair
75	703- 714	Laird - Leck
76	715- 726	Leckrone - Lilley
77	727- 739	Lilly - Loukas
78	740- 752	Louthan - McClelland
79	753- 764	McClements - McGonigle
80	765- 776	McGoogan - McNair
81	777- 788	McNall - Marsh, A.
82	789- 800	Marsn, B. - May, H.
83	801- 812	May, L. - Middleton, G.
84	813- 822	Middleton, L. - Mitchell
85	823- 833	Mitchum - Morley
86	834- 845	Morlock - Murphy
87	846- 858	Murray - Newcomb
88	859- 871	Newcomer - Nyboer

89	872- 883	Outey - Owen, J.
90	884- 895	Owen, L. - Patterson, J.
91	896- 908	Patterson, L. - Peterson, J.
92	909- 920	Peterson, L. - Pomeroy
93	921- 932	Pond - Putnam
94	933- 945	Putney - Reeder
95	946- 957	Reeds - Ricker
96	958- 969	Rickerd - Rockwell
97	970- 982	Rockwood - Ruikin
98	983- 994	Rudolph - Saum
99	995- 1006	Saunders - Schwandt
100	1007- 1019	Schwartz - Shank
101	1020- 1032	Shanklin - Shutts
102	1033- 1045	Sias - Smit
103	1046- 1057	Smith
104	1058- 1069	Smithwick - Stager
105	1070- 1081	Stagg - Stevenson, M.
106	1082- 1094	Stevenson, P. - Strine
107	1095- 1107	Stringer - Taggart
108	1108- 1120	Tague - Thist
109	1121- 1132	Thistle - Tintel
110	1133- 1144	Tippan - Turner, C.
111	1145- 1156	Turner, D. - Varner

- [112] 1157-
1168 Varney - Walks
- [113] 1169-
1180 Walkup - Watson, J.
- [114] 1181-
1192 Watson, L. - Wertz
- [115] 1193-
1203 Wesche - Whytock
- [116] 1204-
1215 Wiant-Wills
- [117] 1216-
1227 Willson - Wong
- [118] 1228-
1239 Woo - Wylie, F.
- [119] 1240-
1250 Wylie, H. - Zydenan

Health Examination Blanks

- [120] 1251 -
1261 Abbott - Clay
- [121] 1262-
1273 Clements - Guyer
- [122] 1274-
1284 Hadsell - Larson
- [123] 1285-
1295 Laug - Petty
- [124] 1296-
1305 Pflueger - Swies
- [125] 1306-
1314 Tabor - Zimmerman

Statistics and Records

Record Books

- [126] 1 volume misc. statistics 1886-1926
2 volumes recording sailed volunteers
alphabetically by name
- [127] 1 volume recording numerical listing
of volunteers 1930-1939
Oversize: 1 volume numerical listing
of volunteers 1930-1939
Oversize: 1 volume "Probation List"
1892-1907
- [128] 3 volumes
- [129] 4 volumes

- |130| 3 volumes "Mailing List" 1930-1934
 |131| 2 volumes 1886-1905
 Oversize: 3 volumes 1905-1922
 |132| 5 volumes

Miscellaneous

- |133| 1315-1317 1886-1909, 1927-1930, 1932-1947
 |133| 1318 By Denomination 1941-1945
 1319-1321 Mailing Lists 1934-1945, n.d.
 |133| 1322 Listed by board 1917-1925
 1323-1325 Compiled statistics 1925-1928
 |134| 1326-1328 Forms returned by boards 1925
 1329 Tally sheets 1925
 1330 Compiled statistics 1926
 1331-1333 Forms returned by boards 1926
 1334 Tally sheets 1926
 1335 Compiled statistics 1927
 1336-1338 Forms returned by boards 1927
 |135| 1339 Compiled statistics 1928
 1340-1342 Forms returned by boards 1928
 1343 Compiled statistics 1929
 1344-1346 Forms returned by boards 1929
 1347 Compiled statistics 1930
 1348-1350 Forms returned by boards 1931
 |136| 1351 Compiled statistics 1931
 1352-1353 Forms returned by boards 1931
 |136| 1354 Compiled statistics 1932
 1355,1356 Forms returned by boards
 1932
 1357 Compiled statistics 1933-1937
 1358 Forms returned by boards 1933
 1359 Forms returned by boards 1934
 |137| 1360 Forms returned by boards 1935
 1361 Forms returned by boards 1936

1362

Forms returned by boards 1937

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Volunteer and Inquirer Correspondence

A crucial element in the operations of the Student Volunteer Movement was its extensive correspondence with volunteers and prospective volunteers. Personal letters were used to provide guidance and answer specific inquiries. Form letters were used to welcome, encourage and check up on volunteers. The Volunteer and Inquirer Correspondence of Series II differs from the General Correspondence of Series III and the Financial Correspondence of Series IV in that it centers around the individual volunteer or prospective volunteer, his or her introduction to the Movement, progress toward placement, and continued or discontinued relationship with the Movement. Because of overlap in the Movement's filing system, it is possible that one may find in Series II letters soliciting contributions from volunteers or a few letters which deal more with policy or general issues than with the personal progress of the volunteer. These, however, are the exception rather than the rule.

The over eighty-five linear feet of letters in Series II date from the early 1900s to the late 1950s. The correspondence is divided into three sections:

A. Older file of primarily volunteer correspondence

The letters in this alphabetically arranged file of volunteer correspondence date primarily from the 1920s and 1930s. An information sheet about the volunteer is often attached to the front of the correspondence.

B. Older file of primarily inquirer correspondence

This alphabetically arranged file is from the same time period as "A". It includes letters to and from individuals inquiring about the Movement, individuals reported to be interested in missions, individuals

seeking missions placement, and individuals who had signed the SVM declaration card but had not followed through in completing their affiliation with the Movement.

C. More recent file of volunteer and inquirer correspondence

Beginning around 1942 a new file of volunteer and inquirer correspondence was established which reflected the evolving modes of operation of the Student Volunteer Movement. This alphabetically arranged file includes not only correspondence but also interview records and introduction sheets. These forms provide information

similar to that provided by the earlier application blanks of Series I but are retained in this section in order to maintain the integrity of the SVM filing system. The forms and correspondence in this section are related to both actual and prospective volunteers, as well as to individuals who did not intend to volunteer but were interested in missions. The interview records were filled out by Student Volunteer Movement traveling secretaries after personal interviews with interested students on the campuses they visited. They conclude with the interviewer's evaluation of the student's potential for success as a missionary. The introduction sheets in this section appear to be standardized forms which were filled out by students interested in missionary vocations and sent to the Student Volunteer Movement for transferral to appropriate denominational missions boards or sending agencies. The correspondence in this section is similar to that in sections "A" and "B" above, but is from the approximate period 1942 to 1957.

Following these three sequences of correspondence are a few folders of general material related to the SVM Candidate Department's procedures and policy.

Box Folder Contents

Older File of Primarily Volunteer Correspondence

<u>138</u>	1363- 1379	Abbott - Aldrich
<u>139</u>	1380- 1391	Alexander - Anderson
<u>140</u>	1392- 1405	Andrew - Atwater
<u>141</u>	1406- 1422	Aumack - Banks
<u>142</u>	1423- 1441	Barbanti - Bartlett, R.
<u>143</u>	1442- 1457	Bartlett, W. - Bell, H.
<u>144</u>	1458- 1471	Bell, J. - Biesecker
<u>145</u>	1472- 1485	Bigelow - Boettger
<u>146</u>	1486- 1500	Bogart - Bowman
<u>147</u>	1501- 1516	Bowser - Brady, J.
<u>148</u>	1517- 1532	Brady, K. - Brazelton

149	1533- 1545	Brecht - Broadwell
150	1546- 1558	Broady - Brown, Florence
151	1559- 1572	Brown, Forrest - Bruen
152	1573- 1587	Bruhn - Buchanan
153	1588- 1604	Buch - Burek
154	1605- 1621	Burdick - Burt
155	1622- 1637	Burton - Caldwell
156	1638- 1650	Cale - Cannon, J.
157	1651- 1666	Cannon, R. - Carner, G.
158	1667- 1685	Carner, L. - Carver, C.
159	1686- 1703	Carver, D. - Chamberlain
160	1704- 1723	Chamberlin - Cheek
161	1724- 1745	Cheeseman - Christopher, Mrs. D.
162	1746- 1771	Christopher, H. - Clark, T.
163	1772- 1792	Clark, W. - Clopton
164	1793- 1815	Close - Cole, C.
165	1816- 1836	Cole, D. - Conklin
166	1837- 1856	Connally - Coray
167	1857- 1880	Corbett - Courtney
168	1881- 1900	Coutts - Crane, Harriet L.
169	1901- 1921	Crane, Helen B. - Crocker
170	1922- 1946	Crockett - Culler
171	1947- 1960	Culley - Currier

172	1970- 1993	Curry - Darling
173	1994- 2013	Darner - Davis, L.
174	2014- 2040	Davis, M. - Day, L.
175	2041- 2063	Day, L. (cont.) - Delamarter
176	2064- 2089	Delange - Devitt
177	2090- 2112	DeVoy - Dill
178	2113- 2138	Dille - Donaldson
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184	2247- 2272	Elder, Mrs. John - Ellis
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While the correspondence of Series II centers around the individual volunteer or inquirer, the General Correspondence of Series III centers around the life of the Student Volunteer Movement itself - - its policies, operations, and relationships with other organizations. Over seventeen linear feet of letters are organized alphabetically by the name of the person with whom the SVM headquarters staff was corresponding. The arrangement of this Series is somewhat complex due to the fact of a constantly changing headquarters staff and the fact that some of the letters were exchanged between colleagues on the SVM staff.

The main alphabetical sequence of the Series consists of folders labeled with the names of frequent or notable correspondents. The letters of each individually-noted correspondent are arranged in chronological order. In the cases of leaders of the Movement, the correspondence found in the folders labeled with their names is primarily correspondence from periods when they were not in principal leadership of the Movement. In the case of Robert Wilder, for example, there would be no correspondence arranged under his name for the period 1920 to 1927 when he served as General Secretary of the Movement except with his personal secretaries at the headquarters office. The bulk of correspondence from that period would be filed under the name of the person with whom he, as headquarters staff, was corresponding. When there is correspondence between two SVM staff colleagues the letters are located under the name of the more peripheral staff member. For example, letters exchanged between Executive Chairman John R. Mott and Educational Secretary Harlan P. Beach would be filed under Beach's name.

Following the alphabetical sequence of frequent or notable

correspondents are several brief sequences which represent the routine or less important correspondence of the administrations which led the Movement from 1888 to 1958. No correspondence will be found in these brief sequences for individuals who are listed in the sequence of frequent or notable correspondents. The ten administrations of the SVM were as follows:

- 1888-1896 : Mott era. During this period before a strong General Secretary position was established, it is considered that John R. Mott was the central leader of the Movement. Toward the latter part of this period H. B. Sharmar was designated General Secretary
- 1897-1919: Fennell P. Turner administration
- 1919-1927: Robert P. Wilder administration
- 1927-1936: Jesse R. Wilson administration
- 1936: Andrew T. Roy administration (acting General Secretary)
- 1937-1940: Paul J. Braisted administration
- 1940-1943: R. H. Edwin Espy administration
- 1943-1948: Winburn T. Thomas administration
- 1948-1954: Edward H. Johnson administration
- 1954-1958 : Lucius Newton Thurber administration
- In the Turner administration sequence, for example, the SVM correspondents involved would include not only General Secretary Turner but also Harlan P. Beach, Burton St. John, William P. McCulloch and other secretaries who served during that period. These less substantive files of each administration are arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

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Financial Correspondence and Records

The Financial Correspondence and Records of Series IV comprise twenty linear feet plus twelve oversize volumes. It is evident from the quantity of financial records and from perusal of the general correspondence and committee records of the Student Volunteer Movement that financial survival was a major focus for the Movement's energies. There were those who thought that this focus tended to obscure the real objectives of the Movement. There were many who objected to the frequency and insistent nature of SVM requests for contributions. Writing in 1932, former SVM traveling secretary Weyman C. Huckabee suggested that administrative overload was a major problem for the Movement. During the time when Huckabee traveled for the SVM only one-quarter of the Movement's budget was devoted to "field cultivation" operations, direct contact with volunteers and prospective volunteers. He felt that some of the energy consumed by innumerable financial solicitation letters should be redirected into field work. (Weyman C. Huckabee, "The History and Significance of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions" (unpublished MA thesis, Duke University, 1932), p. 179.)

In its early years the Student Volunteer Movement had been dependent

on a few wealthy contributors for a significant portion of its budget. As the general state of the economy, the effects of income tax legislation, and proliferating appeals worked to reduce the contributions of former major supporters, the Movement was forced to find a broader base of smaller contributors toward its work. An interesting exchange of correspondence in Series III points to the fact that John R. Mott's long-time cultivation of wealthy supporters was not without its drawbacks.

E. Fay Campbell wrote to Jesse Wilson in April of 1935:

I believe . . . that the SVM is paying the price of having been

supported for so long by a few of Mott's rich friends....It's not your fault that things have gone from bad to worse. It is the way the show was set up. It must be changed somehow. For your eyes only, of course --- and Louise's --- but every one of Dr. Mott's organizations is in the same boat --- WSCF, YMCA World's YMCA, etc. He was and is a great man and a loyal Christian. But he is the religious counterpart of the great barons of wealth --- Rockefeller, Gould, Vanderbilt, etc. That's not a new idea but you are paying for it and it is a tough price to pay.(SVM archives, Series III, Campbell to Wilson, April 1935.)

This series is divided into three sections:

A. Older file of financial correspondence

The letters in this alphabetical sequence date from the early 1900s to approximately 1943. They are generally requests for contributions with responses and follow-up. General folders labeled with letters only (e.g. "Ab" - "Ak") are followed by folders with individually listed names of more notable contributors.

B. More recent file of financial correspondence. The letters in this alphabetical sequence date from the period 1941 to 1951. They are arranged in the same manner as those of section "A."

C. Financial records: The financial records in Series IV are primarily bound volumes representing various aspects of the Movement's financial operations. There are cash books, invoice registers, budget statements, records of payments by contributors, employee payment records, bank books, etc. One notebook is related to the investment of the \$55,000, in cash and bonds which Eli Kirk Price gave to the SVM in 1926. Of particular interest are the records of contributors' payments covering the period 1901 to 1932 which indicate the annual receipt of gifts from major supporters such as John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The financial records in this section date primarily from the middle years of the Movement's existence; there are no records from before 1900 or after 1943. Financial material related to the SVM publishing and literature distribution functions is located in Series VII. Financial material related to the SVM quadrennial conventions is located in Series VIII. Other financial

material is available in the records of the Finance Committee found in Series V.

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SVM shipping facilities charges 1931-1935

General ledger 1917-1934

General ledger 1935-1936

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Organization and Policy Records

The documentation contained in Series V is central for the study of the Student Volunteer Movement's evolving policies, operations, and relationships. The over ten linear feet of records dating approximately from 1883 to 1956 include minutes of meetings, memoranda, reports, and personnel records. The basic organizational arrangement of the Movement changed frequently and was supplemented by a variety of special commissions and committees. In the interests of clarity, this series has been arranged on a chronological basis. For each year the material is divided according to the administrative, legislative and study units which existed during that particular year. For example, for the year 1947 there may be records for the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Special Commission on the Future of the Student Volunteer Movement. A "miscellaneous" category under some years contains material not directly related to a specific unit. Material within the unit categories is arranged in general chronological order.

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The names and relationships of the various administrative units are somewhat confusing. For example, as the committee structure evolved, in 1920 the Standing Committee was the interim body of the Executive Committee; in 1926 the Administrative Committee was the interim body of the General Council; in 1936 the Executive Committee was the interim body of the General Committee; in 1941 the Executive Committee was the interim body of the Board of Directors, and so forth.

Of particular interest for study of SVM policy are the records of special commissions set up in 1925, 1933, and 1947 to evaluate the work and plan for the future of the Movement. The 1925 Commission on Inquiry dealt with issues such as the SVM's relation to home missions work, rewording of the declaration card, the Canadian SVM situation, the watchword, relationships with other organizations, and the "colored" student problem. Material related to the 1933 Commission to Study the Work of the Student Volunteer Movement includes numerous questionnaires sent to campuses across the United States to evaluate the status of student missionary interest. The aim of the 1947 Special Commission on the Future of the Student Volunteer Movement was to find "a basis of appeal for missionary recruitment that was as vital (a) theologically and (b) in terms of the needs of our times, as the original psychology of the SVM was for its time." (SVM archives, Series V, Special Commission on the Future of the Student Volunteer Movement, Minutes, June 27, 1947.) It recommended distinct policy changes for the Movement, including re-establishment of local SVM campus fellowship groups.

In the first folder of this series is material related to predecessors of the Student Volunteer Movement, including a notebook from the group begun by Robert Wilder at Princeton in 1883. Following the chronological sequence of this series are three folders containing material related to the SVM watchword (1896-1916, n.d.) and four folders of material related to the questions of racial discrimination in the missionary endeavor (1920-1958). It seemed wise to retain a topical arrangement for these materials rather than scattering them throughout the chronological sequence.

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- 5299 : Standing Committee : Student Volunteer Council (Fifth -- February)
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- 5326 : Evaluations of SVM Declaration of Purpose Cards
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|------|--|
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| 5565 | Material related to race questions in missions 1920-1929 |
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Field Work

From the 1886 Wilder-Forman deputation to the cooperative ventures in the late 1950s, the Student Volunteer Movement consistently viewed field work as the most important part of its program. The aim of field work was to develop missionary enthusiasm and thereby recruit volunteers, to educate regarding missionary concerns, to establish continuing student volunteer fellowships, and to promote the quadrennial conventions. Series VI contains over twenty linear feet of material and is divided into three sections.

A. General field work

The records in this topically arranged section include annual reports and statistics, form letters, procedural instructions and publicity releases. Of particular interest is a series of volumes which are compilations of very specific information regarding campus visits during the period 1909 to 1931. These volumes provide valuable documentation of the state of religious life on American campuses during this period.

B. Field staff recruitment

The chronologically arranged correspondence of this section dates from 1930 to 1955 and concerns the recruitment of traveling secretaries. The SVM's traveling secretaries were primarily recently graduated volunteers not yet gone to the field or missionaries home on furlough. Many letters were exchanged with denominational boards in the effort to obtain personnel and financial support for the SVM field work program.

C. Traveling secretary correspondence

Following two folders of general material, the correspondence in this section is arranged alphabetically by the names of the traveling secretaries. The correspondence dates from the early 1900s to the late 1950s and includes letters exchanged between the secretaries and SVM headquarters, as well as letters concerning local arrangements for visits, itinerary planning sheets, and publicity releases regarding specific secretaries. In some cases the files of correspondence include letters from before and after the traveling secretary's term of service.

D. Traveling secretary reports The reports in this section are of three types:

1. Monthly reports: During the early years of the Movement traveling secretaries filled out forms describing their activities on a monthly basis. These monthly statements are available only for the

periods 1897 to 1898, 1927 to 1929, and 1931 to 1933, but the information which would have been found on the forms was largely entered into the record books of section A of this Series. The monthly reports are arranged by year and alphabetically by the name of the secretary within the year.

2. Financial reports: A small section of traveling secretary financial reports covers the period 1930 to 1942 and contains records of expenses.

3. Campus visit reports: Of most interest are the reports submitted by traveling secretaries concerning their visits to specific campuses throughout the United States. These reports have varying formats but generally contain information regarding the activities of the secretary during his or her visit and the state of student missionary interest at the institution. The campus visit reports date from 1928 to the late 1950s and provide valuable information regarding religious conditions on American campuses. They are arranged in two sequences, one dating from approximately 1928 to 1933, and the other dating from 1933 to the late 1950s. The reports are arranged alphabetically by state and within each state by the name of the institution visited.

E. Records of student volunteer unions and groups

According to Student Volunteer Movement policy, individuals were first and foremost members of the national Movement, but local volunteer "groups" (formerly called "bands") and regional volunteer "unions" were found to be effective means for providing fellowship and support for volunteers. From the earliest days of the SVM, relationships between the national Movement and its local and regional expressions were often a problem. Local groups tended to gradually lose contact with the aims and mood of the national headquarters and to settle into their own traditions. Some groups, for example, became involved in home missions projects at

a time when the national Movement was striving to confirm its commitment to the foreign side of missions.

Relatively little mention is made of student volunteer unions and groups in the annual reports of the SVM General Secretaries before the 1920s. The Movement was anxious not to appear as a rival to the YMCA and YWCA groups on campuses. When the organizational arrangement of the Movement was changed in 1920 to allow for more student participation, the student volunteer unions became somewhat more important because the student members of the new General Council were to be elected by the regional unions. In 1936 the Movement changed its policy on local volunteer groups, recommending that they no longer exist as autonomous organizations but rather incorporate their activities into other religious organizations on campus. It was not until 1947 that this policy was reversed.

The material in this section dates from 1892 to 1954. Preceding the material which relates to specific regional, state, or city unions are three records books and several folders of general material including manuals with suggested procedures for student volunteer groups and unions. Also included in this first section are materials related to the campus representative system which the SVM experimented with in 1945 and materials related to a 1933 survey on 'missionary interest in the colleges.' Records of local groups, such as a 1903 minute book of the Bryn Mawr College Student Volunteer Band, are not listed separately in this section, but rather will be found amidst the regional, state, or city union records.

Among the earliest records of cooperative regional activities are sample union constitutions from the 1920s. A major function of the regional unions was to sponsor missionary conferences for the area of their jurisdictions, which was usually a state, but in some cases covered a wider geographical area and in other cases was limited to a metropolitan area. Reports on regional conferences are available in Series VI, Section D.

Some unions were much more active than others, and this is reflected in the quantity of newsletters, correspondence, announcements, and so forth available for each union. One of the most active unions appears to have been the Georgia Union. Letters exchanged between Georgia Union leaders in the 1930s provide interesting insight into the problems faced by the Union, particularly in relation to its efforts to promote interracial conferences.

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Publications and Literature Distribution

The Student Volunteer Movement had a message which it wanted to communicate to students on North American college and university campuses. Early in its existence it discovered that one of the most effective means of communicating its message was through the publication and distribution of periodicals, pamphlets and books. Even during the years when the Movement's role on local campuses was questioned, its mandate to produce mission-related literature remained

clear. The over fourteen linear feet of records in Series VII are divided in five sections:

A. Literature Committee records

The correspondence, meeting minutes and other administrative papers in this section date from approximately 1940 to 1960. Also included in this section are a folder of literature copyright records (1913-1937), a folder of orders for literature not published by the SVM, and several record books dating from 1927 to 1952.

B. Literature distribution correspondence

1. General records: The material in this section is topically arranged and includes literature inventories, accounts, orders, etc.

2. Literature distribution correspondence: The letters in this section date from approximately 1916 to 1957. They are in general alphabetical order, according to the name of the individual or organization requesting or inquiring about a SVM publication.

C. Prospective publications

The material in this chronologically arranged file includes manuscripts, reviews, correspondence, and notes related to actual or possible SVM publications. The title of the prospective publication is noted in addition to the dates when it was under consideration.

D. Periodical publications

The major periodical publications of the Student Volunteer Movement were as follows:

The Student Volunteer (1893-1898)

The Intercollegian (1898-1912; published jointly with the YMCA)

The North American Student (1913-19 ; published jointly with the YWCA)

Student Volunteer Movement Bulletin (1915-1930)

Far Horizons (1930-1934)

Intercollegian and Far Horizons (1934-1939; published with the YMCA)

Intercollegian 1939-1959; published with the YMCA and YWCA)

These periodicals were issued at varying frequencies and were supplemented at certain times with less substantial offerings such as the Fellowship News. During the 1940s and 1950s the SVM also published a semi-annual listing of missionary vacancies entitled Christian Horizons. After the SVM became the Commission on World Mission of the National Student Christian Federation, the Committee on the Fellowship of Student Volunteers produced

a newsletter, for which copies are available through 1964. The bulk of the material in this section is related to the more recent

periodicals published by the SVM, Far Horizons and Christian Horizons. The material consists primarily of correspondence to arrange for articles and to maintain subscriptions. The series is arranged alphabetically, by the title of the publication.

E. Pamphlet Publications

Copies of many of the pamphlets published by the Student Volunteer Movement are available in this section, arranged alphabetically by title.

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Conventions

The quadrennial conventions of the Student Volunteer Movement were the highpoints of its corporate existence. It was during these gatherings that the meaning and value of the Movement seemed most clear. The stated objectives of the first convention held in Cleveland in 1891 were 1) to allow for discussion of any problems facing the Movement; 2) to provide opportunities for student volunteers to meet with missions board secretaries and returned missionaries; 3) to enlighten missions board secretaries and others regarding the work of the Movement, and 4) to give new impetus to the missionary cause.(SVM Archives, Series VIII, Cleveland 1891, Convention report, p. 3.) The sixteen quadrennial conventions which followed Cleveland varied in their points of emphasis but essentially held to these four objectives.

The earliest quadrennial conventions were held in February or March, but, beginning with the Rochester gathering of 1909/1910, the pattern was established to hold the meetings shortly after Christmas, extending a day or two into the new year. Attendance at the conventions rose dramatically.

from 680 present at Cleveland in 1891 to 6890 present at Des Moines in 1919/1920. Reflecting the general fortunes of the Movement and national economic conditions, attendance then dropped steadily to slightly over 2000 at Indianapolis in 1935/1936, the last convention sponsored solely by the SVM. Beginning with Toronto in 1939, the conventions were sponsored by the SVM, the YMCA and YWCA, denominational student organizations and the Canadian Student Christian Movement. The conventions were progressively of a more consultative or educational nature, focusing on the problems of the general missions enterprise rather than on the work of the Student Volunteer Movement. The conventions were ostensibly student gatherings, but at Kansas City (1913/1914), for example, nearly one-third of the delegates present were not students.

The first convention at Cleveland in 1891 was the largest student conference to its time. More than any of the later gatherings, the first convention was a propaganda exercise for the Movement, an attempt to publicize its aims and work. By the third convention, again held at Cleveland in 1898, the Movement had established its reputation and could speak to wider issues; seven addresses on the program, for example, were devoted to the problem of financing the missionary enterprise. At the Nashville convention 1906, another issue came to the fore, the relationship of the missionary enterprise to international relations; addresses such as "The Relation of the Student Volunteer Movement to International Comity and Universal Peace" were on the program. Beginning with the Rochester convention of 1909/1910, gusts of the new trend in missions theory were felt; Sherwood Eddy's opening address was entitled "Is our Christianity Worth Propagating?" At Kansas City in 1913/1914, two Christian nationals, rather than Western missionaries, presented the needs of China and Japan at the convention.

The Des Moines convention of 1919/1920 was a watershed for the Movement. Many student delegates were dissatisfied with the dogmatic tone and narrow focus of the convention. As the Harvard University Crimson reported after the convention: "Men looked forward to a discussion of broad religious problems with their economic and political bearings. What they got for the most part from the speeches in the big Colosseum was narrow sectarian religion." ("The Des Moines Convention", Harvard University Crimson, January 7, 1920.) At the conventions which followed, measures were taken to meet the criticisms voiced at Des Moines, both in terms of the content of the message being presented and the format for presenting it. The Indianapolis convention of 1923/1924 is the first for which extensive files are available in the Student Volunteer Movement archives. Three major issues were addressed by the convention: industrial conditions overseas, race relations, and hopes for lasting international peace. After the presentation of these issues on the first day of the convention, forty-nine discussion groups under student leadership were formed. The trend toward student leadership and participation was continued at Detroit in 1928 as thirty-three "colloquia" were formed, with adults serving in a "resource person" capacity only. The trend toward a broader conception of missions was also continued, as

evidence by the reaction of one conservative Kentucky coed: "The reports of the convention that I have both read and heard indicate that the spirit of the recent Detroit Convention was not only modernistic and unscriptural but also Bolshevistic." (Quoted in Weyman C. Huckabee. "History and Significance of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions". p. 94.)

Despite these efforts toward a new style in the SVM conventions, criticisms similar to those heard at Des Moines persisted. Seminar leaders at the Indianapolis convention of 1935/1936 echoed familiar themes in evaluating the convention:

- If the platform speakers could attend the seminars and could thus find out what the student needs are, their later platform addresses would be more helpful.
- Platform addresses were by speakers marked by too much age and maturity.
- Program was not so much above heads, nor under heads, but beside the heads of the students-did not come to grips with student needs. (SVM Archives, Series VIII, Indianapolis 1935/1936, "Evaluations and Criticisms.")

The 1939 convention at Toronto represented a radical departure from the patterns of the past. It was the first of the conventions to be held on a university campus rather than at a large city hotel or hall. The conference was billed as a consultative meeting with attendance limited to 500 students. It was jointly sponsored by the SVM, National Intercollegiate Council, Student Christian Movement of Canada, and Commission on University Work of the Council of Church Boards of Education. Students and campus study groups were asked to prepare papers in advance of the conference which were to serve as the basis of discussion for seminar groups. The 1943 Student Planning Conference on the World Mission of the Church held in Wooster, Ohio was similar to the Toronto conference.

With the Second World War having ended and American campuses being infused with new religious life, the massive SVM convention pattern of the past was revived at the University of Kansas in Lawrence in 1947/1948 and 1951/1952. The 15th Quadrennial Convention of the SVM, again sponsored in conjunction with other movements, was billed as the North American Student Conference on Christian Frontiers (FRONCON) and attracted over 2500 delegates. There were also echoes of former controversies over the relationship of the Church's world mission to international relations. After conference chairman Congressman Walter N. Judd of Minnesota voiced the opinion in his opening address that the United States government should send aid to the Chinese nationalist government of Chiang Kai-shek, a protest movement among the student delegates arose. A letter appearing in the Daily Froncon, the conference newspaper, included the statement: "As a group of students interested in the welfare of this conference, the undersigned wish to express concern over the note of international power politics that had been sounded here

and with the apparent identification of the Christian Church with one side in such politics." ("Tempest on Christian Front Over Judd Stand at Lawrence", Topeka Kansas Capital, December 31, 1947.) Student Volunteer Movement General Secretary Winburn Thomas's response to the controversy was: "This is a missionary conference and we have no desire to turn it into a political sounding board." (Ibid.)

There are over forty linear feet of records related to the quadrennial conventions in the SVM archives. The earlier conventions are documented primarily by scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings and reports. Extensive files for each conference beginning with Indianapolis 1923/1924 are divided according to topical categories. Of particular interest among these rough divisions are 1) the "budget and finance" categories which document how convention funds were

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Relationships with Other Organizations

In its ideal formulation the Student Volunteer Movement was important as a catalyst, not as an entity in itself. Its role was to accelerate a reaction among students through missionary education, conferences, correspondence and counseling. When the reaction was begun and a student decided to pursue a missionary vocation, the Movement's role was to direct him or her to the appropriate sending agency. The ideal recruit was one who passed rapidly through the hands of the Movement into the hands of another organization. As its leaders frequently reiterated, the Movement was not a rival of the churches and missionary agencies, but

rather a tool for furthering their work. The usefulness of such a tool had been very clear in the early years of the Movement but the complexity of a new era in missions work brought with it the need for more complex and varied tools. As the organizations around it changed and developed, the Student Volunteer Movement was forced to re-evaluate and redesign itself in order to remain a useful tool.

The approximately ten linear feet of records in Series IX consist of correspondence, and typescript, duplicated and printed materials which document the relationships of the Student Volunteer Movement with other organizations. The documentation relates to a) rivals of the SVM such as the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship; b) organizations which the SVM sought to serve, such as denominational boards and missions agencies; c) cooperating bodies, such as the Home Missions Council and the World Student Christian Federation; and d) organizations into which the SVM was functionally or administratively integrated, such as the United Student Christian Council and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. The records are arranged alphabetically by organization with sub-categories as dictated by the quantity or importance of the material.

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- 7652 United Christian Missionary Society
- 664** 7654,7655 United Christian Missionary Society
- 7656-
7660 United Christian Youth Movement
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- United Church of Canada
- 7662 United Lutheran Church in America
- 7663 United Presbyterian Church of North America
- 7664 United States Conference for the World Council of Churches
- 7665,7666 United Student Christian Council 1948
- 665 7667-7675 United Student Christian Council 1948-1953
- 666 7676-7684 United Student Christian Council 1953-1958
- 7685 United Student Peace Committee
- 667 7686-7692 University Christian Mission
- 7693 Vellore Christian Medical College Board
- 7694 Woman's Union Missionary Society of America
- 7695 Women's Christian College, Madras
- 667 7696 World Conference of Christian Youth
- 7697 World Council of Christian Education
- 7698 World Council of Churches
- 7699 World's Student Christian Federation
- 668 7700-7705 World's Student Christian Federation
- 7706 World Student Service Fund (See also: International Student Service and World University Service)
- 7707,7708 World University Service
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- 7712 World's Sunday School Association
- 7713 Yale-in-China

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Photographs

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- A. Portraits of individuals, including SVM officers, traveling secretaries and student volunteers;
- B. Group portraits from SVM conferences or union meetings, mostly unidentified;
- C. Photographs portraying missionary activity overseas and in the United States.

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