

The Denver Gospel Center.

For some time I had been hearing a great deal about the work of a certain preacher, who operates a mission known as North Side Mission located at 39th and Umatilla. This information had been coming to me from a family living on my charge at Broomfield, Colorado, who are intimately acquainted with him. So I chose the opportunity afforded by this class to make a study of his movement.

DENVER GOSPEL CENTER

(North Side Mission)

On Wednesday December 5, 1934 about 2 o'clock in the afternoon I cranked old Liza, a statement that is literally true, and drove to 39th and Umatilla. There much to my surprise I found a fairly attractive little building of yellow stucco. The sign on the building was the usual sign board giving the dates and hours of services, headed by the name, "Denver Gospel Center", and just beneath it the name Dr. W.H. Bernhardt. Instructor.

1934

When I saw this title, "Denver Gospel Center", I immediately thought of the injunction of the head of this Department, who declares that if you wish to make an impression on the people of this age one must claim the world and all that is in it. Any how it was evident from the start that here was a man who believed in the truth of all the Gospels centered in his interpretation of the Bible and the Scriptures.

Presented by

Leon Foster

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I found Mr. Meldau in a little store room at the west end of the building. I told him who I was, we shook hands and I ask to see Earl Waugh. Earl is the son of the family living at Broomfield, that I mentioned above, and I will speak more about him later. I might mention here that just a week before Earl and a group of Gospel workers from the Mission had been out to my church and put on a program, but I happened to be sick that day and was unable to attend so I had not met Mr. Meldau.

When he discovered I was from Broomfield and knew Earl he was pleased to see me and told me that Earl would be in about four O clock as he was attending North High School. He showed me into the next room and told me to be at home for he had to mail out some tracts before he could talk with me. The room was a large basement affair roughly furnished with a table covered with literature. I picked up a little booklet entitled, "The Seven Sevens of Prophetic Wonders", and began to read. But before I could finish the introduction, a man by the name of Mr. Miller entered and we struck up a conversation. I discovered that he was quite well acquainted with Broomfield as he had been a traveling salesman for some years. But he had given up his work to answer the call of the Lord, and was now working in the transient camp at Golden, and had just came into the "Center for a supply of literature. He seemed to be very enthusiastic about his work as he was convinced that the time was short, as the Lord Jesus was near at hand and as many as

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possible must be snatched from the furnace of destruction. He further expounded on the signs of the times and named Hitler, Stalin, Mussblina and Roosevelt as possible candidates for the office of Anti-Christ. In parting Mr. Miller volunteered his services in prayer to me and the work of my charge, which I graciously accepted and he also requested my services in return. The request I granted, but haven't as yet fulfilled.

The Building.

In a few minutes more Earl came and we preceeded to look over the building. The church had the appearance of an Auditorium. There was a small rostrum with a central pulpit. Just back of the pulpit was a baptistry and on each side a small class room. The basement composed several rooms mostly unfinished as yet. In one of these was an almost complete printing outfit, a lina-type, a press, a melting vat and various other equipments.

The Organization.

I discovered from Earl that the church itself had no membership list, and that it was supported by contributions from the friends of the Lord. I discovered from the record on the wall that they had 97 at Sunday School on Dec. 2 which is not bad for any small mission. I found they own and operate a bus that goes out to the edge of town and brings in those who have no other means of transportation. On Tuesday

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and Saturday nights they have Bible Study and I ask Earl what age of people attend. He said it was mostly people past middle age, with a few young people. He said also that they had just opened a new mission down on Eighteenth St between Lawrence and Larmier and were holding services there every night except Sundays. The property as near as I could discover belonged to Mr. Meldau how ever he does have a board the nature and function of which I was unable to determine. Then too, I must mention Earl Waugh who seems to serving an apprenticeship and there is another young man, Jack Mauxlow, who is now at Moody Bible Institute, and it is my guess that upon one of these young men the mantel of the prophet will fall.

The Man Himself.

Mr. Meldau is a tall dark complected, dark-eyed gentleman and at first appearance at least is somewhat of an introvert. It was very apparent that he is a hard worker and if one can judge by the plant that he has built up, a fairly capable business man.

His Work

Mr. Meldau not only does a great deal of preaching, but he has also established a printing press, by the use of which he does a considerable amount of publishing. He has published so far as I could determine two small books and five pamphlets in which he sets forth his doctrine. I will

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simply give you the titles here with a short comment on each, and if you are interested in making a study of the doctrine you may secure them from the publisher at 2909 Umatilla St. Denver, Colorado, by paying the following: "The Miracle Man and The Wonder Book", a book on the Deity of Christ and the inspiration of the Bible. 75¢ "The Seven Sevens Of Prophetic Wonders" 60¢ This book speaks for itself. "The Great Olympic Of The Christian Life" 10¢ "57 Reasons Why We Know The Bible is The Word Of God" 10¢ "His Fulness" Thoughts on the glorious person and work of Christ. 10¢ "Witnesses Both Living and Dead Against Evolution". 10¢ "Saved and Safe". What the Bible teaches about Salvation, Assurance, Security. 10¢.

In connection with these works Mr. Meldau also publishes a monthly magazine entitled; "The Christian Victory Magazine". \$1.00 per year. This paper he told me had a circulation of 1500 and he made me a present of a copy. He also made me a special price of five of his booklets which I purchased for 50¢. I might say in closing this part of the review that his work is largely Missionary and evangelical and his followers are recruited from the ranks of day laborers and the small business men of the sub-urban type. These works that I purchased will be on file at The Illif Library if any one wishes to read them.

His Doctrine.

I secured very little from Mr. Meldau himself about his education and training. He told me however, that he favored

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Moody and I learned from Earl that he had attended the "Denver Bible Institute" for a time but broke with them on some point of doctrine the nature of which I was unable to determine. He knowing that I was from Iliff rather regarded me with suspicion for some time. However during the conversation I casually mentioned that I had spent two years in Asbury, and at this his face brightened up and he remarked; "Oh well, you got some real spiritual religion there."

One only needs to glance at his writings to discover that he is an adventist in the extreme and that his teachings are largely of an apocalyptic nature. However from what I could learn the basis of his teaching is set forth in his pamphlet; "His Fulness". I believe it is well to mention in this connection that Mr. Meldau himself is a Baptist, being a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Denver. He therefore believes in baptism by immersion and also the doctrine of Grace. His teachings may be termed the teaching of truth and Grace.

Conclusion.

My conclusion is that the future of this movement is bright especially in an age of economic depression when people are looking for a quick escape from all their difficulties. So long as we have uneducated people and the poor this type of a movement will have to be reckoned with as a dominant factor in our civilization.