

**THE CHURCH AND
YOUNG MEN. A
DISSERTATION**

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The church and young men. A dissertation by Frank Graves Cressey

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FRANK GRAVES CRESSEY

**THE CHURCH AND
YOUNG MEN. A
DISSERTATION**

The University of Chicago
FOUNDED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER

THE CHURCH AND YOUNG MEN

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTIES OF THE GRADUATE
SCHOOLS OF ARTS AND LITERATURE, IN CANDIDACY FOR
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY)

BY ✓
FRANK GRAVES CRESSEY

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1904

TO
YOUNG MEN
AND ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN
PROMOTING
THEIR SPIRITUAL WELFARE

PREFACE

The purpose of this study is to afford some help to those who are engaged in promoting, either directly or indirectly, the spiritual welfare of young men. It is a working handbook of practical methods, rather than a philosophical discussion of theoretical principles.

The information and opinions have been gathered at first hand from successful leaders of young men in all the principal denominations and in all sections of the United States. The questionnaire method was employed, over two thousand schedules being sent to pastors, superintendents, secretaries, college officials, and others, including many to young men themselves. These schedules were of seven kinds and contained from thirty to sixty questions, mostly concerning matters of fact but also calling for opinions. Nearly six hundred were returned (one hundred and thirty being from the young men), and the replies were analyzed and tabulated. Several hundred reports and other forms of printed matter were also received and considered. The following pages, therefore, not only present fresh and reliable facts but also valuable opinions.

To the many who have thus generously given their coöperation, often at no small sacrifice of

valuable time, grateful acknowledgment of large indebtedness is hereby made, chief among them being the writer's valued friend and instructor, Dr. Henderson.

It has, of course, been impossible to present all the agencies in the United States which are engaged in promoting the spiritual welfare of young men, and the omission of some is not necessarily to their disparagement. All the principal methods have, however, been given, as far as discovered in the course of many months of wide and careful investigation.

Many books have been consulted and a list of those considered valuable, together with all mentioned in the text, will be found at the close. Quotations of Scripture are from the American Standard edition of the Revised Version. Books have been cited and frequent addresses given in order to aid those who may wish to make further investigation in this great field, of which this professes to be only a general survey.

A constant effort has been made throughout this study to exercise judicial fairness in estimating the value of the agencies discussed. Whenever adverse criticism has seemed necessary it has been freely made, but always with a due appreciation of the good accomplished and an earnest desire to increase the efficiency of the means under consideration. The worth of each has been measured not from the point of view of its own immediate interest, nor that of any par-

ticular church or denomination. Rather has the standpoint, in keeping with the aim, been the higher one of the promotion of the spiritual welfare of young men. The dominant spirit is therefore sympathetically constructive, rather than critically destructive.

Although the study was undertaken primarily in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, this aim has constantly been the controlling motive. If it shall prove to be of service in advancing the interests of the kingdom of Christ among young men, it will have attained its chief object.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,
September, 1903.

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