The Student Volunteer Movement

1886-1924
“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isa6:8)
Mid-19th Century London
1st YMCA in London
Growth of U.S. Colleges

- 1870
  - 23,000 undergrads
  - 350 colleges
- 1900
  - 100,000 undergrads
  - 500 colleges
Intercollegiate YMCAs

THE COLLEGE “Y”
student religion in the era of secularization
Luther Wishard
“I am willing to go anywhere, at any time, to do anything for Jesus.” (Luther Wishard)
REPORT
of the
Third Annual Convention
of the
American Inter-Seminary Missionary
Alliance,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
OCTOBER 24, 27, 28 AND 29,
1882.

P.B. SHELL, 301 and 303 Adams Street
Chicago, Illinois.
The Cambridge Seven
Mount Hermon School for Boys
Princeton Foreign Missionary Society

Pledge: “We the undersigned declare ourselves willing and desirous, God permitting, to go to the unevangelized portions of the world.” (1883)
Mount Hermon Summer Bible Conference 1886
Arthur Tappan Pierson, Detroit pastor
Pierson:

“All should go, and go to *all*!”
Meeting of Ten Nations, July 23, 1886
William Ashmore, missionary to China
The Mt. HERMON 100
Robert Wilder
Summer Conference at Northfield, MA
Report of the First International Convention

Student Volunteer Movement Foreign Missions, Held at Cleveland, Ohio, February 26, 27, 28 and March 1, 1891

Classic Reprint Series

Forgotten Books
SVM Quadrennial Conventions: Locations & Attendance

- 1891: Cleveland, 558 students
- 1894: Detroit, 1,082 students
- 1898: Cleveland, 2,221
- 1902: Toronto, 2,597
- 1906: Nashville, 4,188 students
- 1910: Rochester, 3,747 students
- 1914: Kansas City, 5,031 students
SVM Quadrennial Convention, 1920
Student pledges

- 1891: $3,000/year
- 1894: $6,000/year
- 1898: $16,000/year
- 1906: $21,000/year
Education at SVM Conventions
John Mott
The Morning Watch

COMPILATION
John Mott, missionary statesman
YMCA local campus missionary “band” (group)
YWCA local campus missionary “band”
SVM Missionary Studies

KNIGHTS OF THE LABARUM
BEING STUDIES IN THE LIVES OF
JUDSON, DUFF, MACKENZIE AND MACKAY

By HARLAN P. BEACH

CHICAGO
STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT
FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
1886

The Foreign Missionary: An Incarnation Of A World Movement (1907)

Arthur Judson Brown
SVM Missionary Literature

**ISLAM**
A Challenge to Faith

STUDIES ON THE MOHAMMEDAN RELIGION AND THE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE MOHAMMEDAN WORLD FROM THE STANDPOINT OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS

BY
SAMUEL M. ZWEMER, F.R.G.S
SECRETARY, STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT
MISSIONARY IN ARABIA

NEW YORK
STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS
1907

**A HANDBOOK OF COMPARATIVE RELIGION**

BY
REV. S. H. KELLOGG, D.D., LL.D.
MISSIONARY TO INDIA.

PHILADELPHIA
THE WESTMINSTER PRESS
1884
SVM Missionary Literature

The New Era In The Philippines (1903)

Arthur Judson Brown
Kissinger Legacy reprints

The cross in the land of the trident, or, India from a missionary...

Harlan Page Beach
Volunteers’ denominational affiliations

- One-fourth Methodist
- One-fourth Presbyterian
- One-fourth Congregational
- One-fourth Baptist
- A few Episcopal, Lutheran & Friends
- No Catholics
SVM Volunteers 1891-92
1st 20 years: Countries where SVM missionaries were sent

- 43% went to China, Japan, Korea, SE Asia
- 21% went to India, Burma, Sri Lanka (Ceylon)
- 11% went to Africa
- 5% went to Iran, Arabia, Turkish Empire
- 11% went to miscellaneous places
SVM’s Watchword

• “The Evangelization of the World in This Generation”
• Utilize modern means of communication & transportation
• Use new American wealth to financially support missionary work
• Gave students a living hope & concrete goal
SVM Declaration Card

DECLARATION CARD

Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions

Name: Alexander

IT IS MY PURPOSE, IF GOD PERMIT, TO BECOME A FOREIGN MISSIONARY

Signature: Esther Kristensen

Institution: St. Olaf College

Location of Institution: Northfield, Minnesota

Permanent Address: Northfield, Minnesota

Date: Oct. 15, 1923

If signed return to
Student Volunteer Movement, 25 Madison Avenue, New York City.
Growth of North American Protestant Missionary Movement

- 1890: 934 missionaries on the mission field
- 1900: 5,000
- 1915: 9,000
- End of 1920s: 14,000
- Half of them had been recruited through the SVM & signed the declaration card
The influence of liberal theology on the SVM

The Student Volunteer Movement

- Thousands recruited, but allowed liberalism in the movement
  - In 1890 - all seminaries but Harvard were evangelical
  - In 1920 - virtually all denominational seminaries were liberal
- The same year was the peak of the SVM, which slowly died after that; they had not separated from liberal influences
Prayer

PREVAILING PRAYER TO SEND FORTH LABORERS
The Holy Spirit

Equipping for Global Harvest Series

engaging the holy spirit
Understanding His Dynamics Among Believers Toward the Fulfillment of the Great Commission

Ryan Shaw

“In this short volume, Ryan Shaw returns us to a true understanding of the Holy Spirit’s role in exalting Jesus to all the nations.”
- Paul Borthwick
Bible study

A.T. Pierson

Knowing the Scriptures: Rules and Methods of Bible Study
References
