

DIES



Rev. Dr. J. Gresham Machen

DR. MACHEN DIES FROM PNEUMONIA

Fundamentalist Leader in Presbyterian Controversy Stricken in North Dakota

FORMED NEW CHURCH

The Rev. Dr. John Gresham Machen, militant Fundamentalist leader in the controversy that split the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A., last June, died last night from pneumonia in a hospital in Bismarck, N. D. He was 55.

The Philadelphia churchman was stricken while on a tour of the west, preaching in churches of the Presbyterian Church of America, the militant fundamentalist denomination he helped form after he and six associates were suspended from the ministry by the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. He was the first moderator of the new church.

He was taken to the hospital on Wednesday and was kept under an oxygen tent until his death. His brother, Arthur, arrived from Baltimore a few minutes after Dr. Machen died.

He prepared to have the body sent to this city. Funeral services will be held here next week, with burial in Baltimore. Another brother, Thomas, of Baltimore, survives.

A leading spokesman of fundamentalism, Dr. Machen charged that modernists within the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. jeopardized its constitution and principles. The General Assembly of the Church after investigating his charges reported they were unfounded.

Suspending Dr. Machen and his six associates after they refused to resign from the Independent Board of Presbyterian Foreign Missions, the permanent judicial committee of the church held that they "spread dissension and strife in their presbyteries, engendering suspicion and seriously disturbing the peace of the church."

His answer to this was to form a new church, bearing the name of the Presbyterian Church of America. The new denomination was born at a meeting of leaders and sympathizers in the New Century Club, 12th st. below Sansom, June 11, last.

In Row With Pearl Buck Mrs. Pearl S. Buck, author of "The Good Earth" and other novels, came into conflict with Dr. Machen when she was serving in the Presbyterian foreign mission field in 1933. Mrs. Buck later withdrew from the mission field.

For several years as a member of the faculty of Princeton Theological Seminary, Dr. Machen led a fight against what he termed the "indifferentist" attitude of authorities there towards liberals in the church. After many investigations by commissions of the General Assembly his charges were labeled unfounded and he and a group of the faculty withdrew to form the Westminster Theological Seminary, 1528 Pine st. He held the post of professor of New Testament literature there.

Dr. Machen was born in Baltimore, July 28, 1881. He was the son of Arthur Webster and Minnie Gresham Machen.

Studied in Germany

He was educated at Johns Hopkins and Princeton Universities and at the Universities of Marburg and Goettingen, Germany. He was graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1905.

From 1906 to 1914 he served as instructor in the New Testament at the Princeton Seminary and from 1914 to 1929 as assistant professor in New Testament literature and exegesis. He became professor of New Testament literature at Westminster Seminary in 1929.

He was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry in 1914. During the World War, from January, 1918, to March, 1919, he did Y. M. C. A. work with the French and American armies.

At different times he served as Sprunt lecturer at the Union Theological Seminary, Virginia, and Smyth lecturer at Columbia Theological Seminary, New York.

He was a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis, the Archeological Institute of America, the American Philological Association, Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Psi.

He belonged to the University Club of this city and the Nassau Club of Princeton.

Dr. Machen's home was at 206 S. 13th st. He was unmarried.

DEATH

DR. J. G. MACHEN; LED CHURCH FIGHT

Minister's War Against Modernism Precipitated Split in Presbyterian Ranks



DR. J. GRESHAM MACHEN

The Rev. Dr. J. Gresham Machen, Philadelphia, leader of the schism in the Presbyterian Church, died of pneumonia last night in a Bismarck (N. D.) hospital. He was 55.

Stricken four days ago while on a preaching tour of Western churches of the Presbyterian Church of America, the fundamentalist denomination he helped to found last summer, Dr. Machen had been kept under an oxygen tent since Wednesday.

Arthur Machen, Baltimore attorney and brother of the church leader, arrived at the hospital just a few minutes after Dr. Machen died.

The body will be sent to Philadelphia today. Funeral services will be held here next week, with burial at Baltimore.

Dr. Machen was the most outspoken critic of modernist doctrines of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. His differences with the parent Church led him to organize the Presbyterian Church of America, of which he was elected the first moderator.

Last May Dr. Machen founded the Presbyterian Constitutional Covenant Union, out of which grew the new Church. He accepted supervision of the fundamentalist Westminster Theological Seminary, 1528

Pine Street, which was repudiated by the presbytery because of its teachings.

Dr. Machen at first said he was "sorry" about the split, but later commented he was "happy" to be maintaining the creed he believed.

In 1933 Dr. Machen demanded that the novelist, Pearl S. Buck, be removed as a Presbyterian missionary to China because of her "modernistic leanings." When she later resigned, he criticized the Church for not censoring her writings and teachings.

He first assumed this leadership in 1923 when as a professor in the Princeton Theological Seminary at Princeton he warred on the so-called modernists in the Church.

In early 1924 the Rev. Henry Van Dyke, a former pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, gave up his pew in the old First Church at Princeton, after vigorously denouncing Dr. Machen, at that time temporarily occupying the First Church pulpit.

The modernist-fundamentalist war spread quickly, and seven months later the Princeton church freed Dr. Machen at his own request. In releasing the clergyman, the church session complimented him for his "faithful ministrations."

In the following four years dissension in the Presbyterian Church grew as its leading fundamentalist, Dr. Machen, continued to preach his doctrine. In June, 1929, he made a plea for the formation of a new college in which the modernism doctrine would be prohibited. The result was the founding of the Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia.

Dr. Machen became a professor at the new institution, continued to preach his beliefs and soon had at his side a larger group of sympathizers.

The dissension in the Church reached a head June 1, 1936, when the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. ousted him. With him went six fundamentalist associates. They were suspended for refusing to resign from the Independent Board of Foreign Missions.

Continuing the controversy, more than 800 members of three fundamentalist groups joined in a rebellion and Dr. Machen formed the Presbyterian Church of America. The new sect was established at a meeting of the group at the New Century Club, 124 South Twelfth Street.

The creed of the new Church was soon set forth in a series of three statements issued by Dr. Machen. Three of the main principles of the body are the infallibility of the Scriptures, the Virgin birth and the bodily resurrection.

DR. J. MACHEN DIES; LED CHURCH REVOLT AGAINST MODERNISM

Phila. Record.

**Militant Fundamentalist
Helped Form New Pres-
byterian Group.**

Dr. J. Gresham Machen, of Philadelphia, leader in the controversy that split the Presbyterian Church, died of pneumonia last night in Bismarck, N. D.

The 55-year-old churchman was stricken four days ago while touring the West to preach in churches of the Presbyterian Church of America, the fundamentalist denomination he helped to found last summer. He was kept under an oxygen tent until the end.

His brother, Arthur Machen, Baltimore attorney, arrived just after he died. Funeral services will be held in Philadelphia next week, followed by burial in Baltimore.

Foe of Modernists.

Dr. Machen was the most outspoken critic of modernist doctrines in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. His viewpoint led him to accept supervision of fundamentalist Westminster Theological Seminary, 1528 Pine st., which was repudiated by the Presbytery because of its teachings.

Dr. Machen charged that modernists within the church broke faith with its constitution and traditional principles by declaring that it is not necessary for clergymen to believe:

"First, the infallibility of the Bible.

"Second, the virgin birth of Christ.

"Third, the crucifixion of Christ as a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and to reconcile us to God.

"Fourth, the bodily resurrection.

"Fifth, the miracles of Christ."

No "Strange New Sect."

Replying to criticism of his attitude, he said, "Some seem to think that we who believe in these things are the adherents of a strange new sect. Our goal is to maintain the glorious heritage of the Presbyterian religion, which is ever fresh and new to every generation."

His conflict with leaders in the Presbyterian Church grew sharper when he attacked its Foreign Missions' Board for taking too liberal a viewpoint in missionary work.

He ignored warnings of Dr. George Emerson Barnes, moderator of the Philadelphia Presbytery, and preached a number of sermons assailing "modernist-indifferentists" in the church.

Set Up New Board.

Dr. Machen and his followers set up an Independent Board of Foreign Missions. They were ordered to resign from it. They refused.

The permanent judicial commission of the church then suspended

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DR. J. MACHEN DIES; LED CHURCH REVOLT

**Militant Fundamentalist
Helped Form New Pres-
byterian Group.**

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Dr. Machen and six associates who shared his views.

It held that they "spread dissension and strife in their presbyteries, engendering suspicion and seriously disturbing the peace of the church."

It cited Dr. Machen's refusal to resign from the foreign missions' board and termed his stand "insubordination."

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Said Evidence Was Suppressed.
"I was charged with making false assertions about the modernism of the Board of Foreign Missions," he said at the time, "and when I attempted to prove the assertions were true, I was not allowed to present my evidence."

He attacked leaders in the church and charged "the ecclesiastical machine is driving the church toward a schism."

More than 1200 ministers of the denomination signed an affirmation disagreeing with his stand.

The General Assembly then ruled that he and his associates could remain in the church, but could not occupy pulpits.

He refused to be silenced, however.

In response, he said, to numerous requests, he set about forming a new church and reiterating his fundamentalist doctrines.

Gathers 700 Members.

The six pastors who were suspended with him, five of them Philadelphians, became the nucleus of its clergy and it gathered 700 members here in a few days. Dr. Machen was first moderator and served until late last year.

Dr. Machen denied that he was acting counter to the best interests of Presbyterianism.

"It is they, not us, who have formed a new church," he maintained. "We are following in the old belief. They have branched off from it."

At first he said he was "sorry" that the split occurred, but his last comment on it was that he felt "happy" to be maintaining the creed he believed.

Record.

New York Times
MACHEN RITES TUESDAY

Services in the Spruce Street Baptist Church in Philadelphia.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 2.—A

funeral service for the Rev. Dr. J. Gresham Machen, Fundamentalist Presbyterian leader who died of pneumonia at Bismarck, N. D., last night, will be held at 3 P. M. on Tuesday in the Spruce Street Baptist Church in this city. Burial will be in Baltimore, Dr. Machen's birthplace.

Directing the service will be the Rev. Edwin H. Rian, general secretary of the Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension of the Presbyterian Church of America, of which Dr. Machen was the first moderator, and the Rev. Dr. R. B. Kuiper, Professor of Homiletics at Westminster Theological Seminary, of which Dr. Machen was a founder, Professor of New Testament and chairman of the faculty. Mr. Rian arrived at Bismarck today.

SERVICES FOR C. R. KING

DR. MACHEN DIES;
KIN LOSES RACE TO
CHURCH HEAD'S SIDE
"Inquirer"

Fundamentalist Leader in
Church Split Succumbs
in West on Tour

Rev. Dr. J. Gresham Machen, Philadelphia theologian whose fundamentalist leadership caused splitting of the Presbyterian Church into two groups, died from pneumonia last night in a hospital at Bismarck, N. D.

He was stricken while on a speaking tour through the West and taken to the hospital Wednesday. He had been under an oxygen tent since.

His brother, Arthur Machen, ar-

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DR. MACHEN DIES
ON TOUR OF WEST

Fundamentalist Leader
Victim of Pneumonia at
Bismarck, N. D.

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arrived in Bismarck from Baltimore too late last night to see Dr. Machen alive.

Death, at 55, came to the fundamentalist leader only a few months after his long fight against the modernist leaders of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. had culminated in a secession of his followers and the formation of the Presbyterian Church of America. He was elected first moderator of the new church.

First Head of New Church

Dr. Machen, long a storm centre in the parent Church, founded the Presbyterian Constitutional Covenant Union last May and out of this grew the new Church of which he was the first head.

He was also president of the faculty of Westminster Theological Seminary, 1528 Pine st., and was long prominent in clerical activities because of his forceful writings and outspoken criticism of Presbyterian leaders, especially those who held to Modernist interpretations of the Gospel.

For the past 12 years he had been the keystone of the controversy between the church's modernists and fundamentalists. He led the fight of the latter for their belief in a literal interpretation of the Bible, and a conception of Christianity as a doctrine, not a way of life.

He first incurred widespread criticism when he founded the Independent Board of Foreign Missions, which had fundamentalist teachings as the basis of its policy.

After he refused to resign from the board, he was suspended from the ministry by the Presbyterian Synod of New Jersey and this was later upheld by the General Assembly.

Foe of Pearl Buck

The stand of the General Assembly was approved in 1935 by the Presbyterian Synod of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Machen carried on his teachings in the face of Church leaders' outspoken criticism and in June of last year saw his work culminate in the formation of a new Church as he had long threatened to do.

His own lack of patience for those of Modernistic leanings caused him to demand in 1933 that Pearl S. Buck, famous novelist, be ousted as a Presbyterian missionary to China. When she later resigned he criticized the church for its failure to censor her writings and teachings.

Dr. Machen was born in Baltimore on July 28, 1881, the son of Arthur Webster and Minnie Gresham Machen.

He studied at Johns Hopkins University, at Princeton University and Princeton Theological Seminary before going to Germany for graduate work.

over.

Funeral Rites Here

He was instructor and then assistant professor at Princeton Theological Seminary from 1906 to 1929. In the latter year he came here to Western Theological Seminary as professor of New Testament.

This change was a direct result of his conflict with the Modernists, who had begun to be annoyed by his strict orthodoxy while he was an assistant professor of New Testament literature at the Princeton Seminary, in 1924.

They had their chance at him at the meeting of the General Assembly in Philadelphia in June, 1926. The Assembly refused to ratify Dr. Machen's appointment to the chair of apologetics and Christian ethics. The grounds given were that he was intolerant and spiritually unqualified for the post.

Also, it appointed a committee to inquire into conditions at the seminary. This committee found continual conflict between the directors

and trustees, usually over money matters. The result was the dissolution of both the directors and trustees groups, and formation of a new board of control.

Refusing to recognize the authority of the new board, Dr. Machen resigned. He refused also, an offer to be president of Bryan Memorial University at Dayton, Tenn. Instead, he founded Westminster as a last stronghold for cherishing his faith in the evangelical doctrines of the church.

He was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1914. During the war he served with the Y. M. C. A. in France and Belgium.

He was the author of several books and numerous articles. A bachelor, he made his home at 206 S. 13th st. He was a member of the University Club.

His body will be brought here for funeral services next week. Burial will be in Baltimore.

In addition to Arthur Machen, another brother, Thomas, also of Baltimore, survives.