

What Others Say About Us

(New York Times—March 14th, 1921)

FORM FIRST CHURCH FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS HUMANE WORKERS "TO PREACH AND TEACH ONENESS OF ALL LIFE AND HUMANE CONSCIOUSNESS"

The "First Church for Animal Rights" was organized yesterday in the Hotel Astor by humane workers. Royal Dixon was the founder. Services will be held each Sunday at 3 P.M. in the hotel.

A school for children to teach consideration for animals and the prevention and cure of animal diseases also is contemplated.

An animal ritual and an "animal Bible" will be used at the Sunday services. The Bible will contain chapters from both the Old and New Testaments dealing with humanity to animals.

The organization meeting was attended by 400 persons. Membership cards were circulated giving the purposes of the church to be:

"To preach and teach the oneness of all life, and awaken the humane consciousness."

"To champion the cause of animals' rights."

"To develop the character of youth through humane education."

"To train and send forth humane workers."

"To awaken the realization that every living creature has the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

"To act as a spiritual fountain-head and spokesman of human organizations and animal societies, and give a better understanding of their work and needs to the public."

Dr. S. A. Schneidman of 937 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, presided and Mr. Dixon, Mrs. Diana Belais, President of the New York Anti-Vivisection Society; Mrs. Edwin Markham, Dr. John Edward Oster, Mrs. Margaret Crumpacker, Miss Jessie B. Rittenhouse, Dr. A. I. Lucas and Miles M. Dawson made speeches.

(NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL—MARCH 28, 1921—EDITORIAL COMMENT BY ARTHUR BRISBANE.)

A "CHURCH FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS" IS STARTED IN NEW YORK CITY

The idea is to preach the truth that all animals are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is a good idea to champion the cause of animals' rights.

(THE AMERICAN, BALTIMORE, MD.—MARCH 21, 1921.)

A CHURCH FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS

The objects are admirable, especially the character-building of youth in humane education and the practice of humanity in the treatment of the lower creation. There can be no worse influence on character than systematic cruelty or the unrestricted indulgence of brutal instincts. History shows how cruelty to creatures in both individuals and nations naturally results in the demoralization of the better instincts and gravitates towards cruelty to human beings. The sense of justice as well as the sense of humanity is fostered and developed by the humane and proper treatment of animals.

(THE AMERICAN, BALTIMORE, MD.—MARCH 31, 1921.)

MOVE TO PROTECT ANIMALS Organization Founded in New York Starts Nation-Wide Campaign (May Stranathan, in the Pittsburgh Dispatch)

Prompted by the same spirit which moved St. Francis of Assisi when he called the birds and beasts his "little brothers," a movement has been started by a group of prominent men and women in New York to develop a human spirit toward dumb animals.

The organization, called the FIRST CHURCH FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS, was organized by Royal Dixon, a Texan, who has written on such subjects as the human side of plants, insects and animals.

That there is need for such teaching as that set forth as the cardinal point of the organization is shown by its appeal to many persons of prominence, including authors, ministers, scientists and actors, as well as pronounced humanitarians and naturalists.

(TOWN TOPICS—MARCH 17, 1921)

We wish to congratulate Royal Dixon and his friend, Dr. Schneidman, in connection with the movement which they have inaugurated, and for which they have already found a number of supporters. It cannot do any harm, and it may do much good, especially in bringing about the kindlier treatment of animals and birds in general, and of our domestic pets in particular. Indeed, the S. P. C. A. ought to welcome this latest comer among our churches.

(“THE OPEN DOOR”—FEBRUARY, 1921)

This vast accumulation of animal information which Royal Dixon has at his disposition is resting upon the solid, immutable foundation of a deep sympathy for these, God's creatures, and he is impelled by a burning desire to aid them by aiding mankind to see them as they really are, and also, to see ourselves as we are in our trespasses upon them.

Mr. Dixon's wish is to make his appeal universal. He does not desire to talk solely to the different coteries of humanitarians—his object is to make his talks a place where the public will come, and what he needs from professed humanitarians is that they should aid in pushing, pulling, driving or enticing the great mass of the people to attend these unique, attractive expositions of animal life and characteristics.

Beyond question Mr. Dixon is gifted with an unassuming charm and ease in speaking upon this usually neglected subject of our sub-human brothers, and every one of us who has their cause at heart should be grateful that this new advocate has come forth prepared to press valiantly forward the plea for mercy, justice and understanding towards those who need it most—our sub-human dependents.

(NEW YORK TRIBUNE—MARCH 27, 1921)

As founder and leader of the First Church for Animal Rights, Mr. Dixon is a pioneer in the field—the first man to come boldly out and spread the animal religion gospel without reservations. At present his activities do not go much further than a series of Sunday afternoon meetings held at the Astor Hotel. But there is much more to the plan.

Eventually there is to be a real church, with an animal bible, animal prayers and the animal creed. There is even to be a Sunday school for the youngsters—all devoted to creating a better spirit between mankind and the animal kingdom.

In offering this new phase of his work, Mr. Dixon is inspired by the thought that more human treatment of animals will bring about a higher type of humanity.

(OFFICIAL METROPOLITAN GUIDE—MARCH 20, 1921)

A CHURCH FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

The First Church for Animal Rights, which meets at the Hotel Astor each Sunday at 3 P.M., acts as the spiritual fountain-head and spokesman of humane organizations and animal societies. Royal Dixon, the founder and leader, ranks among the great naturalists of America. He has dedicated his life to the cause of animal rights: to reach and teach "The Oneness of All Life" and awaken the humane consciousness in youth and adult. He is ably assisted by Dr. S. A. Schneidman, a young veterinarian of vision and organizing ability.

There is a need for a creed of humaneness and the organization is steadily growing.

(MINNIE MADDERN FISKE, the well-known and much-beloved actress, in a letter to Dr. S. A. Schneidman, Executive Director of the First Church for Animal Rights,—March 18, 1921)

I need not tell you how deeply my mind and heart are with you in this splendid new idea of the Animal Church. I know that there are thousands of people in sympathy with your cause, and I wish you Godspeed in reaching them. Your movement is an epoch-making one in the humane cause.

MRS. HUNTINGTON SMITH, President of the Boston Animal Rescue League.

"Unique in the humane field, praiseworthy and beautiful!"

(MISS JESSIE B. RITTENHOUSE, Author and Lecturer)

Once in a century is a real humanitarian movement born. I believe that the movement started by Mr. Royal Dixon and Dr. S. A. Schneidman through the First Church for Animal Rights will go down in history as the outstanding humane work of the century. First came rights for the Slaves in this country, next came rights for Women, now will come rights for Animals. I shall do all in my power to help the cause.

DIANA BELAIS, President of the N. Y. Anti-Vivisection Society.

"It is manifestly the duty of everybody to uphold the work of the First Church for Animal Rights. Nowhere in the history of the humane movement has there been anything like it, notwithstanding that we all base our work upon the moral and the spiritual idea. But this concrete movement has never been suggested before, and it has been taken hold of by a man who I believe is capable of carrying it to a successful issue."

HARRISON H. WHEATON

"I feel that the First Church for Animal Rights will pave the way for a higher civilization. Its program of humane education will have a beneficial and far reaching effect upon our future citizens."

BERTHA KUNZ BAKER.

"I shall be glad to do everything I can to promote the progress of this splendid and new work. It is one that all humanitarians should endorse."

DR. ALZAMON IRA LUCAS, President of the American Drugless Association, in a letter to Royal Dixon, March 5, 1921.

"Kind Soul and Friend of All Life:—

"Your soul has been attuned to feel the love; your ears to hear the cry; and your tongue to speak the rights of bird and animal life.

"You will move onward and upward in your glorious field of service. You and Dr. Schneidman have started a movement, the progress of which no individual or set of individuals can impede. All blessings upon you and your co-workers. You can count on me in every possible way."

(MISS EDITH THOMPSON, Indianapolis, Indiana)

I wish to endorse the movement of the First Church for Animal Rights, and to assure you that I will give it my hearty support. I long to see the day when animals will come into their rights as God must have intended. Accept my sincerest wishes for your success.

(MRS. LOUISE A. KEESE, Brooklyn, N. Y.)

Enclosed is my check for \$25.00, as a Charter Member of the First Church for Animal Rights. The purposes are splendid, and I earnestly hope that many members able to contribute large sums will join in the movement.

(MRS. F. N. FOOTE, New York City, N. Y.)

Enclosed please find check for \$10.00, as a Contributing Member of your Church. The "Oneness of All Life" is certainly an ideal needed for our civilization of today. I wish you all success in your undertaking. May God speed the work, for it is God's work!

(MR. AND MRS. EDWIN MARKHAM)

You have our warm good wishes in your tender plea for the animal cause. Power and Peace to you—now and always!