

The Witness of the Student Christian Movement

Robin Boyd

What happened to the Student Christian Movement in the 1960s and 1970s?

Why did it go into a steep decline and cease to be the force it had been?

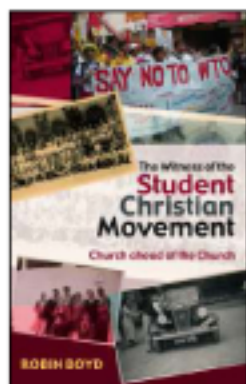
The Student Christian Movement was a large and wonderfully vibrant community where students could ask any questions, access the best resources, and find their way into, or more deeply into, the life of the Church. It encouraged them to offer themselves to God and endeavour to carry out God's mission in the world. But at a critical period, the SCM suffered division, struggled and perhaps went astray; its vision of mission and unity, justice and peace passed to successor organizations. The question is, why?

Robin Boyd examines the story of 'the SCM tradition': as it began and developed; as it wrestled with the challenge of being Christian in the academic world – its own special mission field; and as it has sought to recover its roots and face the future with hope.

'Robin Boyd shows just how much the ecumenical movement of the twentieth century owes to the SCM. So why did a movement that changed the course of church history decline in the late 1960s? Here is a well argued, penetrating and convincing answer which sheds light on today's complex ecumenical scene and has implications for the future direction of the ecumenical journey.'

*Mary Tanner, Vice-President
World Council of Churches*

Robin Boyd grew up in Northern Ireland. He served on the staff of the Student Christian Movement in London, taught – and learned – Christian theology in India, and was a minister in newly united churches in both India (Church of North India, 1970) and Australia (Uniting Church in Australia, 1977). From 1980 to 1987, he was Director of the Irish School of Ecumenics, where he worked closely with Roman Catholic colleagues to promote understanding and reconciliation.



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