

Men in a Hurry

Building the One-World Church

By CARL McINTIRE

THE MOST IMPORTANT issue facing the churches throughout the world today, so far as their future is concerned, is what is called the ecumenical movement. Ecumenical means "the inhabited world." The movement has as its goal and purpose the development of the world church, or "the coming great church." The movement is described generally as "Christian unity."

This drive finds its expression in many and varied places and no Christian faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and the holy Scriptures can evade his responsibility in facing what is being done.

The corollary that accompanies this drive is the building of a one-world government. This generally finds expression through an appeal to strengthen the United Nations so that it may have some of the characteristics of a sovereign state.

Moves, therefore, to unite churches organically, which has had priority in many churches the last forty years, are inevitably called steps toward the ultimate goal. The development of the World Council of Churches has carried with it this emphasis both in its immediate pronouncements and reports and also in its propaganda among its constituent denominations. On the national levels the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., the British Council of Churches in Great Britain, and similar councils in other nations are pushing the union.

The movement really goes back to the Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910 and its greatest landmark is the formation of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948.