

# YMCA Spiritual Legacy Series

## John R. Mott – Great YMCA Leader of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### How to “Be like Mott”

#### 1. Keep your focus and define your terms

- a. Body, Mind, “Spirit”
- b. “Spiritual” = “Christian”

*“It is the obligation of the Church to evangelize the world in this generation because all men need Christ and the need is indescribably great...”*

*“The Scriptures clearly teach that if men are to be saved they must be saved through Christ...”*

*“It is our duty to evangelize the world because we owe all men the gospel. To have a knowledge of Christ is to incur a responsibility to every man who has it not...”*

#### 2. Live for today, but plan for tomorrow

- a. Urgency: “The Evangelization of the World in Our Generation”
- b. Future Minded: Mott was always looking for future leaders

#### 3. Be a “Straight-Shooter”

- a. No “hidden agendas”, yet asked to be ambassador to China!
- b. Risk offense

*“Another hindrance is what I might term false courtesy or, as an eminent bishop characterized it, being “too polite to speak to a man about his eternal interests.” It is noticeable of people of whom this is true that they are perfectly willing to talk about the weather, about the scenery, about the beauties of the visible world; they will talk without reservation to one in physical distress and perchance suggest remedies; if one has intellectual problems and ambitions, they will converse about these without reticence; but when it comes to speaking of what will live on after our bodies have crumbled to the dust, after tongues have ceased and after present knowledge has been supplanted - silence! You may offend that person if you speak on such a subject; it would be a breach of etiquette; it would not be good form to dwell on themes like that; it is a subject too sacred for conversation! How can we explain the practice of Jesus Christ and the early Christians? If it is contrary to the prevalent practice among Christians, it is within their power to change so that it will become the reasonable and natural thing, not the superficial thing, to weave into our conversation the great theme of themes.”*

#### 4. Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in!

- a. Myth: “So heavenly minded that you are no earthly good”
- b. Reality: Those who have their minds most on the next world make the greatest impact on the present.

*“Looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth “thrown in”: aim at Earth and you will get neither.”*

C.S. Lewis

#### 5. Have Great Confidence in God

*“Yes, I believe to the core of my being that Christ some day must have sway over this whole world. He is not going to divide the world with Buddhism and Confucianism and Hinduism and Mohammedanism; he is going to have complete sway...He shall reign from sea to sea. When he girds on his conquering sword all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”*

Rev. Tom Welch  
Central Florida YMCA  
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