

Reports

News from Keston College

Since I last wrote, all our staff has been exceptionally busy settling into our splendid new premises at Keston. This is a venture of faith which gives our work tremendous possibilities for responding to the increasing demands being made on it from all over the world. Please join me in prayer that the financial support will be increased, so that we may soon pay off the large loan we have had to take on in order to acquire Keston. Until this is done, we cannot expand in the way in which we are being asked.

Now, for the first time, we are able to do some essential things which were difficult before – for example, we have set out all our research materials so that they can be used by visitors as well as ourselves. We have been pleased by the number of people who have come to make use of the new facilities. Our aim eventually is to use the new space to develop our research on individual language areas, such as Romania, Poland, the Ukraine, Lithuania and any others for which we can raise financial support. There will also be limited residential facilities when the house, which is part of the complex, becomes vacant.

I have been travelling extensively, as usual, but the highlights have been an invitation to address the International Congress on World Evangelization at Lausanne and a visit to the United States and Canada. I believe that my contribution on religion in communist countries at Lausanne on 23 July was the first time that this subject had been properly discussed at a conference of this size and importance. It was a tremendous responsibility to be the sole voice at this conference speaking for perhaps two hundred million Christians living under communism, but I felt myself sustained by the backing that more and more of them now give to our work when they hear about it and by the prayers of many of you who knew I was going. The subsequent reaction has been beyond anything I have previously known, and I found myself greeted as a new friend by Evangelicals all over the United States.

My visit there and to Canada was perhaps even more intensive than recent ones to South Africa in 1973 and Australia and New Zealand this year. There is not space to discuss details or even the highlights, but one impression overrides all else: that the work of Keston College is urgently needed there. We need a properly-trained permanent representative who

would build up our work on the American continent and make available information which is not coming to them either from the Churches or the universities. Someone who could present the challenge of Eastern Europe, the new dynamic of the Holy Spirit there, would find a tremendous response among the American public, which is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with unreliable or politicized information coming from elsewhere. I found that the response was immediate, although Keston is not yet well enough equipped to take advantage of it.

In the last issue of *RCL* Peter Fahy informed our readers that His Eminence Cardinal Heenan had agreed to become a patron of the CSRC. We are now also delighted to announce that Archbishop Donald Coggan has agreed to become a patron. We wish the former a speedy recovery from his illness and congratulate the latter on his translation to the See of Canterbury. We also congratulate another friend of the CSRC, Bishop Stuart Blanche of Liverpool, on his elevation to the Archbishopric of York.

25 September 1974

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

1974

- Nov. 4 at 8.00 p.m. Director at public meeting arranged by Wimbledon Council of Churches, Methodist Church Hall, Worple Road, London S.W.19.
- 4 Xenia Howard-Johnston gives a talk at the chaplaincy of Glasgow University.
- 5 Xenia Howard-Johnston talks to members of Edinburgh University.
- 17 at 6.30 p.m. Director preaches at St. John's College, Cambridge.
- 29 Christine Waine speaks to Bangor Christian Union House party.
- Dec. 4 at 8.00 p.m. Director addresses Rochester Diocesan Training Course, Graham Chiesman House, Chislehurst.

1975

- Jan. 11 Open day – the first opportunity for our friends and supporters to meet at Keston College, Heathfield Road, Keston, Kent. 11 a.m. the Annual General Meeting, followed by cold buffet lunch. In the afternoon there will be lectures and discussion about the East European situation and

the prospects for development of our work at Keston.

15 at 7.30 p.m. Director at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, Charterhouse Sq., London E.C.1.

Feb.-April

Peter Fahy, Development Director, intends to visit South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Staff Member Bids Farewell

When this issue reaches you, I shall have left the staff of CSRC – for the present at least. The decision was taken in November 1973, and is effective from October 1974. I would like to describe the move in the New Testament words: “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15: 28).

Having worked at the CSRC for five years (or, more accurately, four preceded by one year as assistant to Michael Bourdeaux up to the CSRC's foundation in September 1970) I feel closely identified with its birth pangs and growing pains. I know that Michael Bourdeaux and all CSRC staff past and present would join me in thanking the many sincere friends who helped us through those years with their prayers, support, advice and encouragement. All these are still needed. CSRC work is very demanding as well as highly satisfying. There is always a danger before the slowly expanding research staff: to lose the overall vision in the wealth of detail, to adopt a “formalistic” approach to information that is essentially living and, in many cases, the product of personal agony and conflict. Please help them by your understanding, and if possible, prayers.

I take this opportunity of apologizing to all CSRC friends who have (in most cases) so patiently waited for my reply to letter queries. Please believe that the CSRC is interested in you. But the constant burden of work makes it difficult to maintain a rapid correspondence level, on research matters at least.

I would like to thank Michael and Gillian Bourdeaux, also CSRC staff, Council of Management and friends, especially Peter and Kathy Reddaway, Eugen Voss, Martin Dewhirst and Andrew Blane for their help and encouragement, and for their patience with me. Finally, a word of warm appreciation to Miss Xenia Howard-Johnston, friend, colleague and editor, by whose kindness I may still occasionally have the opportunity to contribute to this journal.