

News from Keston College

Distant travel has been one of the keynotes in the Keston programme since I last wrote. Though we very rarely initiate a long journey (we have such a tiny travel budget) it is nevertheless a vital part of our work to respond to the major opportunities which come along. Alex Tomsy and Stella Alexander went to the university of Notre Dame, Indiana, in April at the invitation of Alan Scarfe to give papers at a conference on developments in the Catholic Church in Eastern Europe since the election of Pope John Paul II. Sir John Lawrence led a "Cristo-Tour" to the Soviet Union in June, assisted by Philip Walters. The group visited Leningrad and Pskov. This was the first visit to the USSR by a Keston group as such and it was remarkably successful, though we would like to have seen more participants. Those who went were so keen to make their association with us closer that they held a reunion at Keston on 15 September.

The Consultation on World Evangelization invited me to their big international meeting in Thailand in June. I attended the first of the two weeks, where I advised the group working out evangelical policy towards the Orthodox Church. Although it was extremely valuable to be there, it was disappointing that only a tiny handful of the thousand delegates chose to attend the meetings of this section. A great honour came my way in August, when the Knights of Lithuania in the USA bestowed on me their "man-of-the-year" award for the non-Lithuanian they considered to have done most recently to help their cause. They generously invited my wife also to be present in Boston on 9 August.

An important staff change at Keston is the appointment of Donald Sly as our first full-time company secretary. In this capacity he will take over responsibility for all our administrative and business dealings. Living locally, he was able to begin work soon after his appointment and this means that the Rev. Bernard Tidball is already much more free to concentrate on fund-raising activities. We warmly thank Col. George Shrimpton who has retired, after guiding our business

administration voluntarily for some time. He will be much missed.

Among many important visitors, we received Mr and Mrs Andrew Balcombe and their party on 8 July. The former is the Chairman of the National Council for Soviet Jewry of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and this visit was in a sense a follow-up to that of the Chief Rabbi earlier in the year.

Our varied publishing programme rightly continues to occupy all research staff (except the archivists) in one way or another. We are delighted to announce the timely publication of *May One Believe—in Russia?*, edited by Michael Rowe. This book is an up-dated version of *The White Book* on restrictions of religion in the USSR, and was commissioned by the International Committee for the Defence of Human Rights in the USSR (Brussels) for the Madrid Review Conference of the Helsinki Accords. Darton, Longman and Todd have done an especially good job in bringing this out so rapidly.

October, 1980

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

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