

News from Keston College

Firstly, I must apologize for the long delay in sending out the summer issue of *Religion in Communist Lands*. We were awaiting confirmation of the Ford Foundation grant which was announced in that number. Because the confirmation did not arrive until October, the posting of the journal was held up for two months. We won our grant in a competition for projects on Eastern Europe and we ended as one of 17 winners out of 269 university departments and organizations which entered.

We are now well embarked on the first year of the Ford Foundation project: research into Vatican-Kremlin relations in recent years and a study of the situation in Lithuania. The staff engaged in this consists of myself, Marite Sapiets and (part-time until mid-December) Professor Dennis Dunn from Southwest Texas State University.

On the financial front, our situation was greatly improved by a gift of £3,000 from Christian Aid, specifically to help to repay the loan incurred in buying Keston College. We were tremendously encouraged by receiving this support from the British Council of Churches.

As mentioned in the last "News from Keston", Aid to the Church in Need, a Roman Catholic missionary organization, is leasing a part of our premises. They have converted part of the old school canteen into two attractive offices where the new Director, Philip Vickers, and his secretary Sister Catherine Shakespeare work.

Also in the last issue, I mentioned that Professor Alexander Piatigorsky and his young family would be living in the old school house at Keston, where they are now happily established. He has started work as a lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies – a full-time post, not part-time as previously stated. He gives invaluable advice on our work at Keston.

Among many meetings in England this past summer an outstanding one was organized by Victoria Watts in Brockenhurst College, Hampshire to an audience of almost 500 people. Details of how the meeting was publicized could be sent to anyone arranging such an event.

The autumn has been a busy one with a visit to Milan and Munich to do research in October followed by participation in the International Sakharov Hearing in Copenhagen. November will find me in Rome again for research.

May I personally thank all those who have continued to support our work, which, with our financial problems somewhat eased, should now enter into a new phase, when we can endeavour to give a more comprehensive coverage on the vital question of religion in communist countries.

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

Keston College Staff

Rev. M. A. Bourdeaux	Director
* Mrs. G. M. Bourdeaux	Personal Assistant to Director Head of Administration
Mr. R. H. Ablitt	Financial Administrator and Warden
Miss J. Grieves	Research Secretary
Miss M. K. Blacklaws	Research : admin., filing, bibliography etc.
Miss J. Ellis	Research (major projects; library) Editor of Newsletter.
Miss M. Sapiets	Research (Ford Foundation)
Mr. A. Scarfe	Research : East Europe; KNS.
* Prof. D. Dunn	Ford Foundation (until Christmas)
* Miss Xenia Howard-Johnston	Editor <i>RCL</i>
* Mrs. M. Perriss	Director's Secretary
* Mrs. G. Van der Molen	Journal Administration
* Mr. D. Kelly	Development Specialist Editor of Newsletter
‡ Mr. Walter Sawatsky	Mennonite Scholar (Baptists, ecumenical relations)
† Mrs. A. Anderson	Administrative Assistant

* Part-time
† Part-time unpaid
‡ Paid by MCC

The Annual General Meeting of the CSRC is to be held at Keston College, Heathfield Rd., Keston, Kent on 10 January, 1976 at 10.30 a.m.

Forthcoming Engagements 1976

Director

- Jan. 26–Mar. 8 Chavasse Lectures, Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.
5 or 6 lectures on Mondays at 5 p.m.
- Feb. 1 (eve) Sermon at St. John's College Chapel, Oxford.
6–8 St. George's Tron Parish Church, Glasgow.
Saturday evening film "The Bitter Cup".
Sunday Sermon.
- 14–15 at 7.30 p.m. Public meeting in Victoria Hall, Sheffield. Sat.
Sun. at 9.30 a.m. Fulwood.
11.00 a.m. Cathedral.
6.30 p.m. Youth service in St. Paul's, Norton Lees.
- Mar. 21–23 Speaker at Conference on "Religion and
Modernization in the Soviet Union" in Southwest
Texas State University.

Alan Scarfe

- Jan. 20 at 8.00 p.m. United Reformed Church Hall, Bosham, Sussex.
25 at 9.55 a.m. Bishop Otter College Chapel, Chichester.
Sermon followed by discussion.
- 26 at 8.00 p.m. St. John the Baptist Church Hall, Epping.
- Feb. 14–15 Mission weekend at Sunbridge Road Mission,
Bradford.
- Mar. 17 at 8.00 p.m. Llandaff Missionary Evening.
Contact: Rev. Canon Bayley, 1 Thistle Way,
Llandaff, Cardiff.

Letter to the Editor

The Editor received the following letter (in Russian), criticizing an article entitled "Father Alexander Men" by Andrei Dubrov (RCL Vol. 2, Nos. 4–5, pp. 8–11). The letter is written by Anatoli Rakuzin in Jerusalem.

Not long ago, I read an article by A. Dubrov in your journal about the Orthodox priest, Father Alexander Men. One can only welcome the interest which has been generated in the West by Church life in Russia, its problems, joys and sorrows. This interest could in itself become a basis for establishing mutual understanding, respect and brotherhood between Christians. It is all the more gratifying in that there has often been a tendency in the West to regard Russian Christianity as ossified, deprived of living movement, search and growth. Father Alexander, to whom A. Dubrov's article is devoted, serves as a convincing refutation of such a concept.