

News from Keston College

The fortunes of Keston College seem destined to have a stormy course. Occasionally we seem to be on the crest of a wave for a short time, only to plunge into even greater depths a few weeks later. The only thing which makes us cling tenaciously on and determined to survive is the knowledge that those we serve – the believers in Eastern Europe – are surmounting troubles of a greater magnitude than ours and emerging with faith strengthened, a shining example.

We are continually being asked to undertake more work – translations, books, more and more research – and yet the financial support still leaves us struggling to pay the salaries at the end of each month. If you can persuade your own church to support the vital work we do, this will help ease the strain for us.

The Ford Foundation grant has enabled me to spend six months working on a book about Roman Catholics in Lithuania. This will shortly go to the publishers. My visit to Canada and the United States in September and October was a whirlwind lecture tour – 14 towns in 23 days! A large number of the lectures were to the Ukrainian community, which expressed great interest in the work of Keston College. Its members may possibly sponsor a staff member at Keston to do research on the Ukraine. I received invaluable assistance on this trip from Sandy Oestreich. She raised half the money for her fare by appealing to her many friends all over the world, who already help to support her while she works at Keston. I would like to thank all those who helped in this way.

In September we had a visit from Pastor Janis Smits, a Latvian Baptist pastor, who is now living in the West. He told us fascinating details about the church in Latvia, including the fact that, in the 1960s, when the schism developed between the official Baptist Church and the *Initsiativniki*, there was no comparable schism in Latvia, although many supported the position of the *Initsiativniki*.

It was also a pleasure to welcome Peter and Anita Deyneka of the Slavic Gospel Association in Illinois, Hans Kristian Neerskov of Dansk Europamissionen and Per Kahnberg of Slaviska Missionen, Sweden, all of

whom were visitors to Keston this autumn. They have been friends for many years and we look forward to close co-operation with them in the future.

We would like to congratulate Kathy Matchett on her recent engagement to a young accountant, Andy Carter, whom she met at her church in Witney. Kathy continues to work closely with us. The list of Christian prisoners which she has compiled (see separate note) should be invaluable for all those who are concerned for Christians in Eastern Europe and who wish to have more concrete knowledge on which to base their prayers.

Our new monthly newspaper may start regular production in January. I sincerely hope that readers of *RCL* will continue to subscribe, but if you would be willing to make the newspaper available to members of your church, please fill in the enclosed slip.

We look forward to welcoming many of you to our Annual General Meeting on 8 January at Keston College.

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

Forthcoming Engagements 1977

Michael Bourdeaux

- Jan. 17 St. Luke's Church, Sevenoaks at 8.15 p.m.
- Mar. 26 One day conference at Portsmouth Baptist Union and Baptist Missionary Auxillary.

Alan Scarfe

- Jan. 23 Headingley Hill United Reform Church at 10.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Leeds University Christian Societies at 8.00 p.m.
- Feb. 3 East Grinstead Council of Churches AGM.
- Feb. 13 New Addington at 10.30 a.m.