

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.

Although it still has far to go, the CSRC is already an institution unique in the world. Whatever I have been able to contribute to it is more than balanced by what I take away in knowledge, experience and, best of all, many wonderful friends.

September 1974

KATHLEEN MATCHETT

Conference: "The Church in East Europe"

At the beginning of October, Keston College (CSRC) participated in a four-day conference entitled "The Church in East Europe", held in the small town of Driebergen near Utrecht, Holland. This conference, which followed the pattern of two previous conferences held in the summer of 1973, was jointly sponsored by Keston College, Glaube in der 2. Welt and the Inter-University Institute for Missiology and Ecumenism in Utrecht. Dr. Hans Hebly coordinated the conference.

Almost one hundred individuals representing a variety of bodies concerned with East Europe through the work of mission, research, broadcasting, publishing, came together to deepen their knowledge of the religious situation in the communist countries of East Europe by listening to, and discussing, papers on such subjects as: Church and Society in the USSR; the development of Russian theological thought in the 20th century; the mutual understanding of Church and State in Yugoslavia. Much interest was shown in the question of the ecumenical relationship between the Churches in East and West Europe - an interesting and stimulating paper was presented on that subject by Dr. A. H. van den Heuvel of the Netherlands Reformed Church.

The conference was greatly enriched by the presence of Anatoli Levitin, the well-known Russian Orthodox Church layman, who had arrived in the West less than a fortnight previously. Levitin expressed his gratitude at being invited to attend the conference, regarding such an invitation as an expression of love towards the Russian Church and all Russian people. He also discussed the subject of the ecumenical movement, emphasizing that it must have a deep and visible concern for upholding honour and truth, thereby becoming the inspiration for the struggle against all forms of religious persecution. The ecumenical movement must reach the ordinary believer, and be understood by him. Genuine ecumenism, as seen by Levitin, consists in displaying the love of Christ and sharing with those who suffer for their faith. He drew the attention of those present to the situation of the Church in Albania and China. Levitin's presence at the conference was a great joy to Keston