

News from Keston College

The Spring issue of *Religion in Communist Lands*, in its new format, exceeded our expectations. The idea of having a slightly bigger journal with a stronger cover had been in our minds for some time. I feel, too, that the introduction of photographs makes the impact of the articles and documents more immediate. Deep thanks are due to our editor Xenia Howard-Johnston for the many extra hours she worked to produce this and to our Chairman, Sir John Lawrence, whose advice has been invaluable.

March saw the departure to Australia and New Zealand of our Council member, Peter Reddaway (lecturer in Political Science at the London School of Economics). He gave several lectures on our behalf in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra in Australia and in Wellington and Dunedin in New Zealand. His visit aroused considerable interest and he met many of Keston's friends.

Many in Australia and New Zealand were looking forward to the launching of the popular newspaper which we have been planning for some months. David Kelly, who will shortly be joining our staff on a more permanent basis, needs no encouragement to spur him on in the production of such a paper. His enthusiasm has infected the whole of Keston's staff. He is now helped by Amanda Tweedie, his personal assistant.

We are pleased to announce that the Archbishop of Westminster, Dom Basil Hume, has agreed to become a patron of Keston College. We congratulate him on being created Cardinal.

Keston Lecture No. 1 on 30 April was given by Mikhail Agursky, a recent Russian émigré now teaching at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Keston was flooded with people from miles around. They were delighted with Mr. Agursky's fascinating talk on anti-religious propaganda in the Soviet Union.

We celebrated May Day with the opening of an exhibition of unofficial Russian religious art and *samizdat* at the Parkway Focus Gallery, London. We are grateful to Alexander Glezer for the help he gave in mounting

the exhibition and to Jonathan and Bärbel Grange in whose gallery it was held.

"Light in Darkness", an interpretation of Christianity in Eastern Europe through the mediums of dance, song and drama, is currently being performed for churches by members of Keston staff.

Walter Sawatsky, who has been working and studying with us for nearly three years, has been awarded his doctorate. We give him our congratulations.

The first draft of my research on the Catholics in Lithuania is now complete. We will be holding a conference at Keston in July when those collaborating on the Ford Foundation project will be able to sift and analyse the work already done and plan the next year's work.

Keston is being inundated with students this summer – from America and Finland. Some will be staying for only a few days, some for several months. Our invaluable files on religion in Eastern Europe will be well-used.

Some parishes sent their Good Friday collections to initiate a fund for Jewish work at Keston. We hope that other parishes will realize the importance of this work and contribute to the fund now started.

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

Forthcoming Engagements 1976

Alan Scarfe (in addition to those printed in the last issue)

Jun. 13 St. Michael's, Blackheath at 6.30 p.m.

Jun. 20 United Free Church, Sydenham at 8.00 p.m.

Sep. 13 Sutton Amnesty Group, Church Centre, Mitcham at 6.30 p.m.

Sep. 26 Christ Church, East Sheen at 6.30 p.m.

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CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

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