

News from Keston College

In January 1975 the atmosphere at the Annual General Meeting was one of desperation because of our financial plight. It looked then as if Keston College might be forced to close its doors and lock up its files. But this January the mood was one of cautious optimism. We had weathered the storm and, although not yet in completely calm water, we looked forward to a time of constructive work, consolidation of what had already been achieved and development in our coverage of other countries. I reported to the meeting the stimulation I had personally received by being able to turn my attention once more back to research (thanks to the grant from the Ford Foundation) instead of being primarily a fund raiser. The fascinating story of the Catholics in Lithuania is continuing to absorb me and I am receiving invaluable help from my research assistant, Marite Sapiets. Another opportunity I have accepted was the invitation to give the Chavasse Memorial Lectures on World Mission at Oxford University in the Hilary Term. What is the challenge the Russian Church makes to the West? I could not miss the chance of presenting this over seven weeks.

Victoria Watts from Brockenhurst has joined our staff and is giving much-needed help with the administration. Our new research secretary is Sandy Oestreich, an American girl who has lived in Yugoslavia for the past three years. Her knowledge of the country should prove useful. Milena Kalinovska, a Czech girl who is bi-lingual in Russian and Czech, is doing work for us in both languages. We are lucky enough to have David Kelly still working with us part-time. He is a financial journalist who has worked for *Reuters*, *The Times* and *The Economist* in the past. We hope that he will be joining us full-time as soon as it is financially possible. We still balance our budget on a razor's edge and look forward to the time when we will be able to plan a little further ahead. At the AGM I stated that our next urgent need is for a senior archivist.

My dear friend Elena Stroyeva, who emigrated from Russia with her husband, the painter Yuri Titov, found her homesickness so hard to bear that she committed suicide last September. We remember her husband and daughter (now both in psychiatric hospitals in Paris) in our prayers.

The Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Nairobi certainly brought the case of persecuted Christians in Eastern Europe into the forefront of participants' minds. The Council and staff are now discussing how Keston College should be involved in the follow-up to it.

Three Generations of Suffering the autobiography of Georgi Vins (translated by our staff member, Jane Ellis), which was published in January, has evoked world-wide interest. This remarkable book deserves a wide circulation and should be read by everyone interested in the problems of believers in communist countries. I went to Washington, D.C., for two days in November to do a television programme about Vins. The press and media have given the book considerable space. In January an extract from it was featured on Radio Four's *Pick of the Week*.

Our plans to launch a monthly newspaper are now crystallizing. Aid to the Church in Need may be able to help us with a grant to cover the launching costs over the first three years. Reactions to the first trial issue were favourable, so David Kelly now plans to go ahead with a full test issue in the autumn. The newspaper, which will probably be eight to ten pages in length, will present the news in shorter illustrated articles and should fill the need for caring people who yet do not have the time to read *Religion in Communist Lands*. We will keep you informed about progress on this.

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

Forthcoming Engagements 1976

The Ven. John Youens

Apr. 29	RACHD Centre, Bagshot Park.
Jun. 14-19	In Germany speaking to Senior Officers Course and American Army Chaplains.
Jul. 16-24	In Washington D.C. speaking to American Army Chaplains and church groups.

Alan Scarfe

Mar. 27-28	Derby. Parish weekend at St. Werburgh Church.
Apr. 24	Christchurch, Abingdon.
May 11	Bromley Methodist Church at 8.00 p.m.
16	Orpington Parish Church at 6.30 p.m.
18	Kenley, Surrey at 8.00 p.m.
22	St. Luke's, Eltham, Garden Party at 2.30 p.m.
Jun. 14	Trinity College, Bristol at 4.00 p.m.
Jul. 8	Royal Grammar School, Guildford at 2.15 p.m.

Jane Ellis

Mar. 31

Brockenhurst at 2.30 p.m.

Apr. 9

Christ Church Bromley, Youth Club at 8.00 p.m.

14

United Bible Society Missions meeting.

Memorandum

Religious Broadcasting into the Soviet Union

There has been a great deal of publicity resulting from the report on Religious Broadcasting into the Soviet Union which we published in *RCL* (Vol. 3, Nos. 4-5, pp. 43-48) this year. The purpose of the report seems to have been widely misunderstood and I am issuing this statement to clarify the situation.

Some of the publicity in the press has given the mistaken impression that Keston College has conducted a survey on Christian radio broadcasts and found them inadequate. This impression is totally untrue. We have begun to collect evidence but do not yet have a sufficient basis to draw conclusions one way or the other. The introductory paragraph of our report makes this clear, stating that the work has only "begun" and that the report which followed was only a "summary" of the very limited progress made so far.

We undertook the survey in response to a strongly-felt need expressed to us over a period of time by people involved with religious broadcasting. The report set out the brief on which we had undertaken it. This included the collection of "official" and "unofficial" Russian reaction to the broadcasts, obviously a point of great importance to the broadcasting stations themselves. It was our publication of our first findings on their reactions which has provoked the most critical comment.

We should have made the purpose of publishing at this stage clearer.

1. We wished to stimulate discussion and reaction from the radio stations and sponsors of religious broadcasts. Progress in the first part of the research was hampered by the limited response which we received to our initial enquiries. This discussion has now at last begun, though we regret that some have taken the interim report to be the finished product.

2. We had reached an impasse in the project. The initial enquiry was conducted by one member of staff on a part-time basis. The reason for this was quite simply the continued lack of support for any serious research into Eastern Europe from which Keston College has suffered since its birth. Nevertheless, I was so impressed with the work done by Jane