

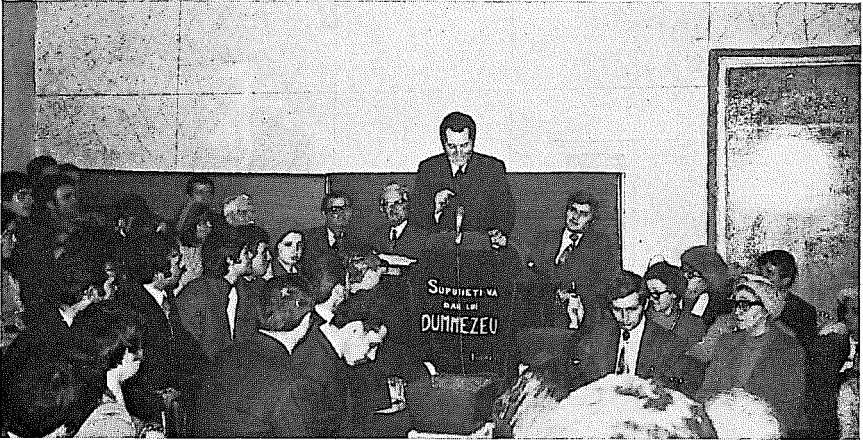
## News from Keston College

I have recently returned from another visit to the Soviet Union, even more exciting in its way and certainly more exhausting than my previous one in February 1975. This time I was accompanied by Sir John Lawrence, our Chairman, and Victoria Watts. Sadly, however, Xenia Howard-Johnston, our Editor, failed to gain entry for the second consecutive time. She has, in fact, been six times in the past, without on any occasion coming into conflict with the Soviet authorities, so it is strange that she is now singled out in this way.

As on the former occasion, I was able to make a wide range of contacts with the Churches, both on official and unofficial levels. This time, however, my week was spread evenly between Leningrad, Kiev and Moscow, which broadened the scope very considerably, even if it added to the wear and tear. I had not been in Leningrad since 1964 and in Kiev since 1960, so to revisit these old haunts meant a very great deal. The work of Keston College continues to be received there with joy and open-heartedness. This time, however, people were better informed about it through the recent publication of the second edition, greatly expanded, of an atheist book entitled *Diversion without Dynamite*, which includes about 12 pages on Keston's work and me.

I am now preparing for yet another major journey – to the United States and Canada again, where I shall spend about two weeks from 21 April. The main purpose is to develop our relations with the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and to secure a financial basis for this. Then I have been invited to submit information to the departments of the American Government dealing with the Helsinki review conference in Belgrade and there will be personal meetings connected with this. I am offering the rest of the time to my Lithuanian and Ukrainian friends, hoping that ultimately this will lead to the establishment of permanent staff work on both countries here at Keston.

I am not the only staff member who has been travelling. Alan Scarfe went to Romania at my request and had the remarkable experience of attending the Baptist Congress there (see his article, pp. 94–98), renewing



*Above:* Josif Ton, a Romanian Baptist pastor, preaches in the Mihai Bravu church. A document written by members of the Mihai Bravu church is printed on p. 103.

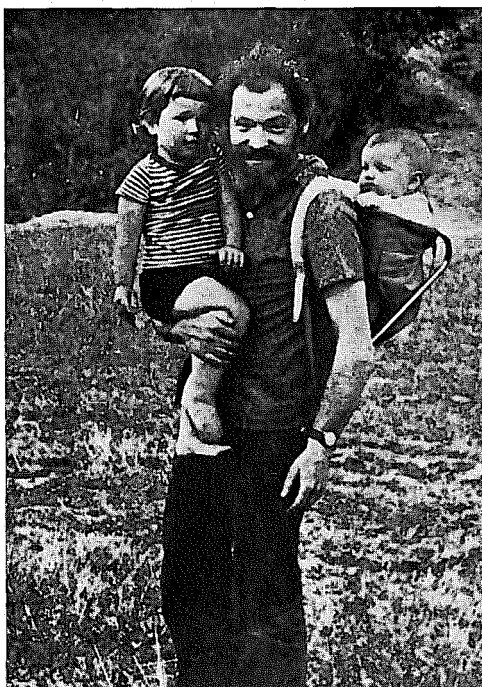
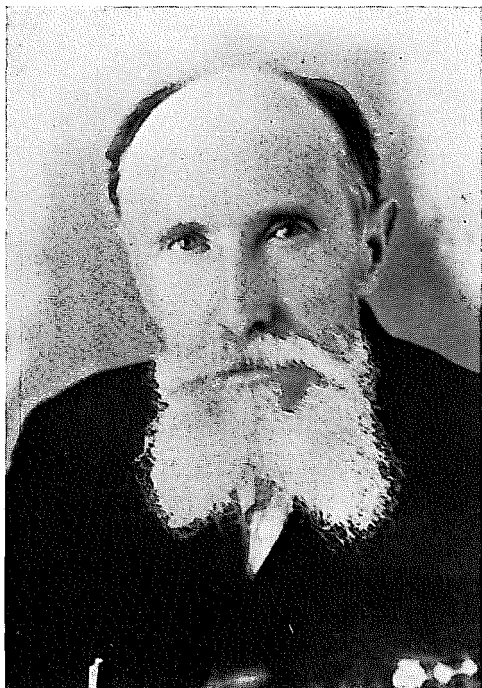


*Left:* Pavel Nicolescu, a Romanian Baptist pastor, preaching.

*Below:* Baptist pastors attending the Romanian Baptist Congress. Front row (left to right): Pavel Barbatei, Pastor Lucaciu of USA, Cornel Mara, Dr. Claas and Director Sorin of the Department of Cults. (See article and documents pp. 94-104.)

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Above left: V. A. Shelkov, who has spent 19 years in prison, is the leader of the "Seventh-Day Adventists of the True Remnant" (see article pp. 88-93), a virtually outlawed wing of the Adventist sect in the USSR.

Above: Dr. Yuri Orlov, chairman of the Public Group to Promote the Observance of the Helsinki Accords in the USSR. This small organization, sometimes known as the "Helsinki Monitoring Group", and its sister body in Lithuania (see *News in Brief* pp. 126-7) have taken up the cases of, for example, persecuted religious groups such as unregistered Adventist, Baptist and Pentecostal groups. Dr. Orlov was arrested on 10 February, 1977.

Alexander Ginsburg, an Orthodox believer, with his children. He is also a member of the "Helsinki Monitoring Group" and was arrested on 3 February, 1977.

many personal contacts. The detention in the last few days of a number of leading Romanian Baptists is an act of ham-handedness, threatening to destroy the great wave of public sympathy for that country evoked by the earthquake. This act should increase our devotion to the people, but it seriously harms the image of the government, which has proclaimed itself as one of the more liberal towards the Churches in Eastern Europe.

I have spent a great deal of my administrative time this year so far planning what will be – if we can finance it – a major improvement in our news output. This journal will not be affected, but we aim to put out much more news and background information more quickly, developing the work begun with *Keston News Service*. These new ideas replace, at least temporarily, those of last year, when we considered establishing a more popular newspaper. Costs prohibited this, but before the end of 1977 literally millions of new people should come into contact with our work through reading our information in the world's press.

Finally, we have just welcomed two new staff members, Michael Rowe and Venetia Cross. Both are working on the research side. The former comes to us after completing his doctorate on Soviet Pentecostals at Glasgow University; the latter is a graduate in Russian from Exeter University.

MICHAEL BOURDEAUX

April, 1977.

### Forthcoming Engagements 1977

- May 11 Alan Scarfe. Sittingbourne and District Council of Churches at 7.30 p.m.
- May 12 Victoria Watts. West Wickham at 8.00 p.m.
- May 15 Alan Scarfe. St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate at 6.00 p.m.
- May 17 Jane Ellis. Ladies' afternoon meeting, Chislehurst.
- May 18 Marite Sapiets. Civil Service Christian Union, Croydon, at 1.15 p.m.
- May 24 Alan Scarfe. Sussex Baptist Association. Day Conference.
- June 21 Alan Scarfe. Christ Church, Chislehurst at 8.00 p.m.
- Oct. 3 Jane Ellis. Mothers' Union, Shortlands, at 8.00 p.m.
- Oct. 9 Michael Bourdeaux. Salisbury Cathedral at 11.30 a.m.
- Oct. 10 Michael Bourdeaux. The Guildhall, Salisbury at 7.30 p.m.