

News from Keston College

We have been encouraged by the increase in the number of subscribers to *Religion in Communist Lands* and the evidence of its value and use as an important source of reference. At the same time we must apologize for the late despatch of the spring number. Although this was due to circumstances outside our control, we nevertheless appreciate the disappointment – and even anger – experienced by our regular readers who had to wait for the first issue for 1978.

It is a pleasure to announce that, due to the unexpected generosity of friends at the time of our Annual General Meeting and afterwards, a start has been made on our urgently needed building development. The old disused school canteen has been transformed into four new research rooms, a small staff canteen/common room, and three new toilets. Coming at the end of a dreary winter when burst pipes and leaks have caused much inconvenience and discomfort, this small achievement has cheered both staff and visitors.

In addition to Keston's current research and the normal service of answering specific enquiries daily from the media – and individual people – members of the Soviet and East European Departments have been engaged in research to aid the production of television programmes on "prisoners of conscience" and "believers in the USSR".

Mrs Doreen Young is proving a very efficient Financial Administrator, having succeeded Mr Richard Ablitt who left in February to take up a legal career. Mrs Elizabeth Evans has quickly grasped the subscription and mailing list, which was so well organized by Mrs Young.

Due to pressure from various quarters, matched by specific financial aid, we are able to announce the appointment of an Information Officer and the first steps in the expansion of our News and Information Service, forecast well over a year ago. More details will be given in the next issue.

BERNARD TIDBALL

April, 1978