

Reports

News from the Centre

In the first issue of *RCL* last year Michael Bourdeaux wrote: "Our financial appeal opened on 1 January 1972 and reached its 'first phase' target with the last post of the year. This means we have enough money assured to maintain a minimum staff – but not to subsidize this journal nor to acquire a permanent headquarters (in view of the unbelievable rise in property prices since the initial target was fixed)." Happily, the journal goes from strength to strength and now absorbs only a just proportion of our research budget. We still suffer from understaffing, but rejoice in the continual flow of demands which are made upon research and administrative staff. Our commitment to the work must be a true response to all those believers who suffer persecution for their faith.

CSRC has now acquired Keston School – a possibility mentioned in *RCL* Vol. 1, No. 6. At last our documents section and library can look forward to reasonable space for storage and ease of access; typewriters, duplicator and copier can be removed from research areas. No doubt working conditions will be much improved and this will benefit the work in general.

At the most critical time of the transaction national economic policy changes made it impossible for the Centre to get a long-term loan to purchase the school. Thus we must find £22,000 in the next six months in gifts or low interest loans until we carry through the second phase of our appeal later this year. Please make your gifts or loans payable to "CSRC, Keston College" and send them to the Rev. Michael Bourdeaux, 34 Lubbock Road, Chislehurst, Kent.

PETER FAHY

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

- May 6 11.00 a.m. Director at Bristol Cathedral School.
7.30 p.m. Director at Collegiate College of Theology, Cardiff.
12 Development Director talks to the Lithuania Society.
13 4.00 p.m. Xenia Howard-Johnston at Redcliffe Missionary Training College.
5.00 p.m. Director at St. Anthony's College, Oxford.
19 7.30 p.m. Kathleen Matchett at the Youth Fellowship, St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells.
20 12.30 p.m. Director at East London Baptist Fraternal.

- 22 7.00 p.m. Christine Waine at Zion Baptist Church, Chatham.
 26 Director addresses the BCC Conference at Swanwick, Derbyshire.
 July 10 7.00 p.m. Director at Southwark Diocese Conference Centre, Blackheath.
 21-24 Director lectures at International Congress on World Evangelization, Lausanne.
 30 5.15 p.m. Director addresses the Annual Conference of the Modern Churchmen's Union, Hoddesdon.

Director Visits Australia and New Zealand

One of the most encouraging developments in the life of the Centre to date was my visit in March and April to Australia and New Zealand.

Initially I was invited out by a small group of concerned people in Melbourne. Professor Graeme Clark had read some of my books and wanted the Church in Australia to benefit from the Centre's work. He took the idea of the invitation to the Victorian Council of Churches, which adopted it and arranged a full programme in the Melbourne area. Councils of Churches in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Queensland followed suit. In New Zealand a committee in Auckland arranged a programme which was keenly taken up by the universities throughout the country. This resulted in a rich opportunity to talk to all sorts of gatherings.

The problem was not how to raise enthusiasm for the Centre's work but how to prevent the intensity from submerging the Director for good. In my 36 days in the two countries I addressed 27 public meetings and gave 20 university and theological college lectures, with twelve sermons fitted in on the Sundays. There were no less than 40 press, radio and TV interviews. In between these I fitted in over 50 private interviews and working meals. The programme contained an average of no less than $4\frac{1}{4}$ engagements per day.

I could not have been sustained at such intensity over the five weeks there without the certain knowledge that the response was everywhere exceeding that of comparable meetings in other parts of the world. I estimated that the average attendance was double, or at universities treble, the attendance which I would have expected for similar meetings in Britain. The response, measurable in the numbers of those wishing to subscribe to this journal, was probably four times what I am used to receiving. At the moment of writing, there have been no less than 450 new subscriptions from the two countries, with more coming in all the time.