

Pastoral Epistle

IAN BARNES.

With 1966 almost gone and exams only a few weeks away, it is time to consider what will be doing in our summer vacation and in 1967.

Firstly, what is being organised by E.U.? At the moment tentative arrangements are being made to conduct a mission to the University. If it comes off we shall attempt by this mission to draw the attention of the whole Uni to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This necessitates a fair degree of organisation, publicity, money, and most importantly an attitude of prayer, and continual obedience on our part. Very vaguely, a mission would involve about a week long series of public meetings, series of coffee evenings, seminars and an intensive publicity campaign. It would probably be held in the middle of second term. At the moment the search is on for a possible speaker - someone who can clearly present Christ to University students. Please pray for guidance in this task and in the overall planning that a mission involves.

Six Training Weekends are under way for 1967. Most of the organisation and preparation will be done during the long vacation. It has been found in other Uni.'s that as training weekends lead to a deeper insight into Scripture, so there has been corresponding growth in the Christians involved. Let us pray that these training weekends will produce a similar effect.

From Jan. 6-14 the IVF Conference will be held in South Australia. It is still possible to plan to go. This year the main speakers will be Don Robinson of Moore Theological College, and P.T. Chandapella of the Union of Evangelical Students in India.

Summer vacation has the advantage of no pressure from examinations to concern us. It also has the disadvantage of cutting us off from the friends we have come to know and pray for during the year. In planning our vacations let us seek to put ourselves in situations where God can use us effectively. Also we can take the opportunity to form new friendships, deepen our study of scripture, and broaden our general reading. The idea is not to go to school.

19/66.

Pastoral Epistle (cont.)

Meanwhile exams loom up before us. Remember that the quality of our results goes to an extent reflect our general attitude to life, and this in turn governs the effectiveness of our witness within Uni.. It has been very pleasing to see a number of prayer cells started up this term. I hope these continue and will result in a more effective presenting of Christ.

Editorial.

JONATHAN NELSON.

It is probably not the editors job, in a christian magazine to come out for or against issues that concern the membership as a whole. However the following comment is within my rights. Why weren't the members as a group consulted before the decision was made to go ahead with planning for a mission. As I see it a committees task is to put into effect the wishes expressed by the body of the club as a whole. Of course trivial details are left to the discretion of the Committee but the general lines of activity should be determined by all the members. I was encouraged when I saw the response to the Special General Meetings held to determine whether a delegate should be sent to IVF Conference, or not. A mission is a matter of greater import even than the IVF Conference.

Included in this Apologia is the current OCF program. Do show your interest in the work amongst Overseas Students by going along - especially after Exams are over. So far the editor has received no letters - he is disappointed - he loves constructive criticism. Articles printed in Apologia are cut as little as possible. Far be it from me to detract from the unique flavour each author gives to his work.

CURRENT E.U. PROGRAM.

October 3 "The Church" Rev. Bryan Hall
10 "The New Creation" Rev. Michael Dennis.

E.U. HANSARD.

Committee Meeting 1/9/66.

1. Training weekend leaders have been obtained for all the 1967 training weekends.
2. A letter from Rev. S. Skillcorn was received, thanking the E.U. for the gift of books to the U.E.S. of India.
3. A new membership statement of the Missionary Fellowship was received (in this issue of Apologia).
Financial report : General A/e \$32, Camp A/e \$77.75, Donations to O.U.F. are $\frac{1}{2}$ of last year's donations.
5. Committee Retreat 26th-27th November.
6. Deputy delegate to Societies Council is Tom McMath.
7. It was decided to send E.U. delegates to address school C.F. groups, if possible, in third term.
8. E.U. accepted the O.C.F. invitation to participate in their barbeque on December 30th (see O.C.F. program).
9. Anne Meyer is the new E.U. librarian.

Special Committee Meeting. 15/9/66.

It was decided to hold a mission in 2nd Term, 1967, depending on the availability of a speaker.

An alternative that was considered was a series of special meetings in 1967 and a mission in 1968.

Points considered were, time available for organisation, scope of the mission, cost in time and money to E.U. members, possibility that committee in 1968 mightn't want a mission, and the possibility that Billy Graham might be coming in 1968.

* * * * *

When Christ left His final command with His disciples - "you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 R.S.V.) - He spoke to every Christian. Each of us has our part to play in this missionary programme whether we are in our 'Jerusalem' or in a society distinct from our own. Yet how much do we know of the biblical basis of missionary endeavour? or of the problems that face Christians in their efforts to reveal God to peoples in other parts of the world? Even if the task of going overseas ourselves does not fit in with God's plan for our lives, we all have the responsibility of praying for and giving to those who have gone.

The I.V.F. Missionary Fellowship was formed with the aim of providing I.V.F. members with information about missionary activities and to unite in prayer those for whom this work is a concern. At the last I.V.F. General Committee, the basis for membership of I.V.F.M.F. was revised and is now as follows :

INTER-VARSITY FELLOWSHIP MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

Aims of the Fellowship

To unite in a fellowship of prayer I.V.F. members whose particular interests are serving Christ outside their own community and in the problems involved. To provide help and advice in those matters to those who need it. To assist members to foster missionary interests in their affiliated branches of I.V.F. by informing them of current missionary thinking and activity.

Membership

Membership is open to all members of I.V.F. who are in agreement with the aims and desire to foster one or more of them: membership may be renewed at the end of each four-year period.

Membership Means - in accordance with the aims

That you are seeking guidance for your future which may well involve you in purposeful witness of Christ in another culture; or that you are preparing for or have already taken up such a vocation.

That you are preparing yourself for God's call by studying the basis for and problems involved in such service and in personal evangelism.

That you will support in prayer and giving those who have gone before you into God's service in this way.

That you help others in making similar decisions by passing on helpful information and advice to them.

That you will assist or participate where possible in missionary activities in your I.V.F. branch.

Membership Declaration

In accordance with the Fellowship's aims and basis of membership, I declare that I regard as my personal responsibility the furthering of Christian witness in communities outside our own.

In providing information about missionary activities and problems today, a series of ten studies has been prepared especially for I.V.F. by the Rev. N. Anderson - "The World Missionary Situation" - which is available to all I.V.F. members for \$1.00 and is sent automatically to all I.V.F.M.F. members (who may contribute to the cost if they so desire). This series provides very comprehensive and up-to-date information on the present missionary situation, including such topics as ; Studies in Other Religions, Church and Culture, Communication and Linguistics, Is Christianity Unique?

Request forms for this series (two studies posted every two months) and I.V.F.M.F. membership forms are available from the Missionary Secretary, Pam Minchin.

Please think this over and act NOW!

Christian Reflections on a Christian Mission

G.R. STONE.

In preparing a mission, or in your case, preparing for a mission, one needs to ask certain fundamental questions, being :

1. Why have a mission?
2. What should such a mission comprise?
3. What should our part in such a mission be?

Why should we have a mission? We should, indeed must, have a mission to reach students for Christ, and the reason that we must have a Mission as such is because we are not having sufficient influence for Christ. By this I do not mean that our meetings are malfunctioning or that we are insignificant as a club - far from it - but by and large our lives are not demonstrating the truth for which we claim to stand - namely Jesus Christ. If this were not so, the influence of Christians would have permeated the university populace as a vital, living reality rather than a source of "sourserism".

What should such a mission comprise? It is my sincere hope that those organising this mission will be conscious of the need of each student to receive "the saving life of Christ" (See Romans 5:10), having been raised to "newness of life" (See Romans 6:4) by faith in Christ. That a series of intellectually satisfying apologies for the Christian faith might convince some of its internal consistency may be true, however such a series would do little to arouse within these same people a desire to make a commitment to Jesus Christ. As I see the matter, such a mission must be geared to acquainting souls "dead in trespasses and sins" as Ephesians so neatly phrases it, with the fact that Christ came to give them life.

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"

John 10 Verse 10.

Not that I would encourage the abolition of an intelligence of presentation of this revelation, nor would I encourage individuals to mould their own thinking in a haphazard way, but rather than the emphasis on the intellectual respectability of Christianity both within ourselves on the personal love-relationship between God and man. To this end we should be willing to discard purely intellectual debates or "theological chatter" on portions of the Christian dogma, and form our theology on a basis which admits only that which implies a responsibility to action on our part.

Which brings me to my concluding point, namely what should our part be in such a mission? Bearing in mind the first paragraph, I would make the following observations. First, the reason a person fails to influence others for Christ is that he or she is not sufficiently influenced by Christ: we have insufficient grasp of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives; we are not sufficiently concerned about cultivating obedience and devotion to Him. It is my contention that this lack of obedience and devotion stems from a lack of love of God, and we have been enjoined in scripture to love the Lord our God with all our hearts and minds and strength. In this context let me quote:

"The love with which man loves God and his neighbour is the love of God and no other, for there is no other love.... Being loved by God implies loving God."

We must love God because we are loved by God; for the same reason we must love our neighbour as ourselves. If we are willing to love God on the above terms; if we are willing to restore a lost devotion to Him, and if we love our neighbours as we love ourselves, the 1967 mission will be worthwhile. If we do not meet these terms then we are reminded.:

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love I AM NOTHING" I Cor 13.

and "Without this love everything falls apart and everything is unacceptable, but in this love everything is united and everything is pleasing to God."

Without this love our mission will fall apart and be tragically unacceptable to God; but if we have this love in us we may expect God to work in an unprecedented way. What, then is our part to play? To become less like the church at Ephesus and more like the church of God! And when shall we do it?

Notes 1

I would like to explain that this was not written from an official standpoint, nor is this material my own thought, but a collation of thoughts received while speaking to others of the E.U.

2. Quotations not from scripture are from DIETRICH BON - HOFFER: "Ethics."

The Difference Between Intellectual Assent to certain Dogmas and Belief in the Truth who is Jesus Christ.

David Brown.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, soul and strength. Not exclusively with (or without) the mind.

Certain doctrines need special emphasis because it is the truth which makes men free :

1. The sovereignty of God who is Jesus Christ.
2. The Holy Spirit.
3. The power of the authority of the Scriptures in action.

(Preach the word; My Word shall not return unto me void but shall accomplish etc; Sharper than any two edged sword; These things are written that they may hypothesise concerning the nature and infallibility of those writings and so on.)

According to some notions, Apologetics is one of the greatest curses which has ever plagued the church. But the greatest apologetics of all was not the cold legalism of creeds and statements, but rather the observation of the world that : -

"My, how these Christians love one another." A tree will be known by its fruit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...

Apologetics is necessary because the Christian should be able to give an answer for the faith which lies in him. But Apologetics should be followed by dogmatics, not by unthinking bigotry.

e.g. "Who is God?"

"God is Jesus Christ, our Creator and our risen Lord."

Words are important because they communicate the life inside to the world around. But they can only effectively communicate belief (the word belief means "by-live" or "live-by".)

However we are not called merely to accept a certain theological position, the devils do this and it has precious little effect on them. We are called to accept a theology - Jesus Christ the Righteous, and Him crucified.

Compare : "I know what I have believed and am persuaded.",
with
"I know whom I have believed...."

The standard is high. Entailed in belief in Christ is acceptance of His teaching. But His teaching is not vague intellectualism, it is the commandment, "Thou shalt love your neighbour as yourself." If you don't then you are not a follower of Christ. Be warned. Philosophising and hypothesising will not save you. Your soul happens to be covered with green and gangrenous wounds and pussy carbuncles. Little quibbles on how many angels can balance on the end of a pin, or a nice game with the word "infallible" may fill in the time, but will not alter the facts of life. You need Jesus Christ. He is your Creator. If you therefore allow Him to mend your loathesome condition you will become a human being and the Holy Spirit of God will breathe into your existence the inspiration of His life. This is neither speculative nor blasphemous. It is stamped with the authority of the Scriptures.

Training Weekends

Another series of training weekends is going to be held in 1967. To obtain the maximum benefit from them adequate preparation is needed by all members taking part. That is why they are being organised this term, so that you may have the long vacation to catch up on the reading that we find so difficult once Uni begins.

Topics :

The Person and Work of Christ.
 Prayer and the Sovereignty of God.
 The Holy Spirit.
 The Second Coming.
 The Scriptures.
 The Church.

PREFERENCES

1.
2.
3.

NAME PHONE

OPERATION WELCOME

During the first few months of next year many overseas students will be arriving in Perth for study next year. E.U. is planning, as in previous years, to participate in meeting these people and taking them to where ever they will be living. If you would like to help in this task by being available with a car in afternoons or at nights would you please give your name, address, phone number, and times when you are likely to be available, to
 ✓ her

Brian Hutchison	28.1590
Tom McMath	30.4699 before the end of term.

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O.C.F. 3RD TERM PROGRAM

Except where stated otherwise there are Friday night meetings at Central Methodist Mission Hall, 283 Murray Street, Perth. Time 7.30 p.m. The entrance is a few yards up Murray Street from the South West Corner of Murray and William Street.

- Sept 30 "The Christian and his responsibilities at home," Mr. G. Wood.
- Oct. 14 "Lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes," Mr. Simpkins.
- Oct. 21 Topical Bible Study, at 16 Hammond Street, West Perth by Rev. J. Harrold.
- Oct. 28 - Nov. 25 No meeting.
- Dec. 2 Games Evening - Organiser : Geoff Lilburne
- Dec. 9 "Is God Dead?" Mr. G. Wood.
- Dec. 16 Fellowship Tea at St. Margarets Church, Nedlands.
- Dec. 23 Christmas Gathering.
- Dec. 30 Bar-b-q evening at 20 Cedar Place, Woodland.

Correspondence to : Evangelical Union,
C/- Guild of Undergraduates,
The University of Western Australia,
NEDLANDS.

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