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RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE

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Calendar of Events

28th September: J. D., C. S. I. Annual Festival

SECRETARY OF CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS

Mr. Oliver L. Aboeyekera has been appointed by the Congress of Religions to fill the post of General Secretary of the Congress which fell vacant consequent on the death of Mr. S. N. B. Wijewardene.

Mr. Aboeyekera has been an Assistant Secretary of the Congress prior to his appointment as General Secretary.

GIDEON'S TRUMPET

A television presentation based on the book 'Gideon's Trumpet' by Anthony Lewis, dramatising the famous U. S. Supreme Court case pointing out the right of the individual to a fair trial, will be screened on the 16th night at 6-30 p.m. at the Lincoln Auditorium, Colombo.

WEDDING

The marriage of Mr. Walter Navaratnam, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Vetrakumaran and Nancy Rajamanohari, daughter of the late Mr. V. T. Muttunayagam Pillai and Mrs. Muttunayagam Pillai took place at the Dutch Reformed Church, Wellawatte, on Friday the 6th September, 1968, at 4-30 p.m. The solemnization was conducted by the Rev. D. K. Jayasingham, assisted by the Rev. J. R. Ratanasayagam, preached the homily. The wedding was very largely attended and a reception for the bride and groom followed at the bride's residence. The bridegroom's parents gave a dinner to relations and friends at the Pointe de Cafe, Sunday in honour of the couple.

ARTIFICIAL LIMB IS POWERED

Development of one of the world's most advanced designs of powered artificial limbs is expected to be completed in Edinburgh, Scotland, this year.

The work on an arm-implant being carried out by Dr. David Simpson at the Princess Margaret Rose Orthopaedic Hospital.

Movements of the limb are directed by position servo systems controlled by the shoulders of the wearer—a method that gives him a awareness of the position of the limbs. The arm in its present form is pneumatically powered and controlled by a hand switch that responds to shrugs of the shoulders.

Dr. Simpson says that the system will allow a hook-like artificial hand to be positioned freely in three dimensions while itself remaining horizontal so that, for example, the wearer could conveniently use cutlery. Children, he states, can be taught to use the limb in a matter of hours.

CARRIER HONOURING PRESIDENT KENNEDY COMMISSIONED

America's newest aircraft carrier—the John F. Kennedy—will head for active duty with the U. S. fleet in mid-December. The 61,850 ton vessel was commissioned one year after it was christened by the late President's daughter, Caroline Kennedy. It was four years for the building. President Kennedy's close friend and Secretary of Defense, Robert S. McNamara, spoke at the ceremony. Mr. McNamara, now head of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank), said Mr. Kennedy forged a peace that was not based on mutual hatred, but on the spirit of mutual interest... a peace that is possible. Also attending the rites were President Kennedy's widow and his son John.

MENTAL ILLNESS RISING

Mental illness is rising throughout the world at an alarming rate—and many of the thought-forms of modern living are to blame. This was a conclusion of 2,000 experts who met recently in London at an international conference on mental health. The experts dissected on most aspects of modern living and found little that was not contributing to the mental health crisis. They decided: the older generation were strangers to a fast-changing technological world; the young had their confusion aggravated by drugs, sex and pop music; the middle generation were gripped, among other things, by anxiety, neurosis and depression; insecurity among coloured immigrants bred mental strain, while their white neighbours suffered from anxiety and mild paranoia.

A NEW J. P.

Mr. A. T. Vetharatham, retired teacher of Jaffna College, Vaddukodai, has been appointed a Justice of Peace for the District of Jaffna. He took his oaths last Saturday morning before the District Judge of Jaffna.

Mr. Vetharatham had his entire education at Jaffna College, and then went to the Government Training College, Colombo, for his teacher training. On completing the course he joined the staff of his Alma Mater, after nearly 40 years of service. While on his staff, he was the Group Scout Master of the College Scout Troop, a founder member of which he was in 1916. He also was responsible for initiating and building up the Geography Department of the College. Such was his interest in Geography that he has been promoting the study of that subject in other schools too and in organizing Geography Exhibitions in several of them.

The period of 12 years when he functioned as the Chairman of the Vaddukodai Village Committee was a very fruitful one. He vigorously worked for building new roads; deepening tanks; opening Milk Feeding, Co-operative, Chole, Co-operative Textile and Weaving Centres; inaugurating Maternity and Child Welfare Centres; and Co-operative Needleworkers' Society; opening sub-Post Offices; and assisting farmers by getting them access to fertilizing wells and supplying them with free issue of seeds, planting material and farming implements.

He was the President of the Jaffna District Village Committees' Association for a period of 8 years and one of the two Vice-Presidents of the Jaffna District Village Committees' Conference for 7 years. He was the Chairman of the Reception Committee, that welcomed the delegation from the Jaffna District of the Island to the A. C. V. C. C. which was held in Jaffna College in April 1961. He was responsible for organizing Row Development Societies and Community Centres in Veigaiman West, and also for opening Wirewood Depot and Seed Centre. He functioned as Secretary of the Jaffna District Co-operative Unions Society for 3 years.

He was one of those responsible for reorganizing the Valigan West Co-operative Union in Cherkanni, in 1942, and functioned till recently as its President for nearly 23 years. We understand that plans are afoot to celebrate the silver Jubilee of his connections with this Union soon. The Union in recent years has launched a worthwhile enterprise, a Sulfur at Kallidurai. Mr. Vetharatham was the moving spirit behind the scheme and is now the President of the Committee for Industrial Development, which is managing the Sulfur as well. His plan for establishing a Power Loom project is to become a reality soon.

As President of the Jaffna Co-operative Textile Union he increased the Outcrop from 32, when he took over to 100 after 3 years when he left. As a member of the All Ceylon Handloom Textiles Advisory Board, he obtained facilities which weavers sorely needed.

Mr. Vetharatham also helped in promoting the interests of Ayurveda by enlisting the support of the Government for it, and in securing larger votes for public assistance to needy people. Food Production Campaigns too have had his enthusiastic support. He has helped the Food Production Drive by importing, acon irrigation pumps and supplying them at rates far cheaper than those that obtained in the market. He helped in organizing exhibitions for popularizing modern methods of farming, poultry keeping, health methods and food habits. For such exhibitions he invited leading members of the Government in power, public officers and members of the majority community, thus fostering unity, cordiality and good understanding between the two communities, the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

It could be well said of him that he is rich in life at many points and left rich behind in several fields. He is altogether unbiased in dealing with people, dealing all with the utmost concern and consideration, irrespective of differences of caste, creed, race or social status. He has literally spent himself in their cause.

Therefore, it is that we hail this honour which has come to offer him our heartfelt felicitations.

NAACP HEAD SEES GROWING COMMITMENT TO RACE HARMONY

The head of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (N. A. A. C. P.) believes the American people are now inclined to join together to overcome racial problems. In an interview published by the Christian Science Monitor, Roy Wilkins said "I definitely think we're on our way to a national commitment to full social justice for Negro Americans and elimination of the problems manifested by urban disorders. Our legislation has pointed in that direction," he said. "Our court decisions are pointed in that direction. Our colleges with their new awareness of the educational needs and rights of a minority are on their way. Don't forget, Mr. Wilkins told the interviewer, "we have 300 million people in America. It's pretty hard to get a commitment. It takes time and different methods."

Asked about the role of militancy in the civil rights struggle, Mr. Wilkins said he considered the N. A. A. C. P. militant in its 40-year drive "to bring the Negro under the Constitution and to get legislation that would protect him." The N. A. A. C. P., he noted, has 400,000 members and therefore speaks "for the Negro community as a whole." However, he acknowledged a need for the young militant Negroes who want to "try new things that established civil rights organizations have not tried."

These persons "have a place in the new movement," Mr. Wilkins said. "A place that does not rise up with new ideas and does not submit to change is a dead people. I don't think Negro people are dead. I think they are very much alive."

Asked to define "black power," Mr. Wilkins said the concept is nothing new. The building of economic competence within the group is not new. "The building of race pride and a better image is not new. Most people who have given any thought to this in the black minority have already embarked on these programs. Now what we need are new ways of building economic power, new ways of exercising political influence, and new ways of declaring and asserting our image. The old way of projecting our image, of course, is by demonstrating worth and competence and by evolving a moral code."

Mr. Wilkins questioned those black power advocates who would reject "middle-class American life or middle-class values." If a system of law and order has been perverted, the thing to do is to correct it—not destroy it.

VITAMIN FROM RAIN-WATER

Vitamin B-12 can be obtained from rain-water, Dr. B. C. Parker of the University of Cambridge reported that samples of rain-water he had collected from his roof contained detectable amounts of Vitamin-12. He explains that Vitamin-12, which is composed of small particles, is swept up into the atmosphere, where it could survive as the basis for cloud formation or be intercepted by fall-lies rain drops.

FROM FAR AND NEAR

THREE-YEAR TERM FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC/W. C. C. DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY APPROVED

Collaboration between the World Council of Churches and its Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace on issues of world economic development has proved so fruitful in initial stage that the joint effort will be continued.

The appointment of Father George E. Dunne as full-time Secretary of the Exploratory Committee on Socio-Economic Development and Peace has been extended for a three-year period.

Maurice Cardinal Roy, President of the Roman Catholic Commission, noted that during the first six months the joint secretariat had been in operation, remarkable ecclesiastical initiatives have begun and important plans have been evolved together for the coming year.

Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, W. C. C. General Secretary, associated himself with this application of the work of the joint secretariat and reported that the Fourth Assembly of the World Council, held in Uppsala in July, had voted that this experimental programme be continued for three years. It also suggested the following possibilities of the developing

A NOTABLE MALAYSIAN

"The life of a man is a journey; a journey that must be travelled, however bad the roads or the accommodation," says Oliver Goldsmith.

The man, who at the end of that journey can alone thank himself for the happiness he enjoys, is truly blest, more so if he can, like Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, A. M. S., J. P., look back on a life of eminence and distinction with the tranquil satisfaction of having attained the heights through his own unaided efforts, by sheer intellect and industry.

The career of Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, retired Auditor, Federation of Malaya and President, Malayan Ceylonese Congress, who celebrated his 78th birthday on 20th August, 1968, is unique.

Few can match him in his purposeful life in the service of Malaya and his community — not to speak of his kindness to people of all races. His immense help to the needy is as admirable as it is commendable.

In the early days when communalism was at its height in Malaya and rowdism was rampant in sports fields, the contribution made by Mr. Navaratnam, who was then in control of most of the games, to make sportsmen realize that they should 'play the game' had the desired effect. It can therefore, be truly said that the independence was won on the playing fields of Malaya.

To recount his services in an article will be asking the Editor space which, perhaps, he can ill-afford. There are, however, several publications in which his activities were recorded.

He has helped a good many persons of different races and faiths quietly, serving selflessly and without expectation of public recognition, and his life has been characterised by the ideals of spirit of service.

GUARDIAN

GOD AND DEVIL

According to a poll conducted by the Institut Francais d'Opinion Publique and released to the press on July 30th, 73% Frenchmen believe in God as against 77% of Englishmen, 79% of Dutchmen, 81% of Germans, 84% of Swiss. But only 25% of Germans 23% of Dutchmen and 26% of Swiss believe in Hell as against 31% of English. While the Americans' belief in God is not statistically available, they appear to have preserved a healthy fear of the Devil, for 66% of those polled admitted that he was a living reality for them!

Mental Health Conference

The World Federation for Mental Health Conference now meeting in London, is concerned with the theme "Mental health education" and is presided over by Professor G. M. Carstairs, Head of the Department of Psychological Medicine at Edinburgh University.

Rev. George Anderson, President of the Academy of Religion and Mental Health in New York, said at the Conference that organized religion can be held responsible for much of mental illness in society today. "Only God knows the amount of damage which has been done by our churches and synagogues in not understanding the limitations of human performance and aspirations. ...Religions which intensify guilt and anxiety and demand perfection in the lives of those who belong to the religious group without any assurance of forgiveness and acceptance create untold suffering and often tragedy. ...The Pope's recent statement concerning birth control will confuse the issue of sound emotional health in family planning rather than help meet the problem of family planning..." with greater self-examination among religious groups and more understanding of man and his mind, Religion could give man a sense of oneness with the cosmos and a stronger sense of community."

GUARDIAN

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the hearty congratulations of all races on his birthday and your blessings for a long purposeful life.

Kuala Lumpur, — Cor.

J. D., C. S. I.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, 28th Sept., 1968.

VADDUKODDAI

Programme:

8-30 a.m. Communion Service

Preacher: The Ven. James Amarsekera (Archdeacon, Kurunegala Diocese)

11-00 a.m. Religious Drama

12-30 p.m. Lunch

2-30 p.m. Public Meeting

Speaker: The Ven. James Amarsekera

4-00 p.m. Social and Volley-ball Match

All members of the Diocese and friends are kindly requested to be present.

K. S. Jeyasingam, Secretary.

THANKS

Mrs. Kamala Rajaratnam and children convey their sincere thanks to all those, who sent messages of condolence on the occasion of the death of Mr. A. E. Rajaratnam (alias Rajasingham of Nallur South). They regret their inability to reply individually.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNAUTHORISED COLLECTOR

Dear Sir, Prabudas Packianathan, a man who has been going under the name of 'Major Packianathan', is not an official collector of the Salvation Army, and no one should give to him.

All official collectors will carry a book bearing the name of Colonel Barton E. Pedlar, Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army.

I would be happy if you would publish this in your paper as I have heard from several people in Jaffna that this man is an embarrassment to them.

Thank you very much!

Yours sincerely,

BURTON E. PEDLAR, Colonel, Territorial Commander.

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When after several years I went to see the play recently, I realised that nothing of the kind has happened. The minorities have been treated in a shameful manner, deprived of their minimum human rights unlike the Rahabam's portrayal. This play has given the lie and is therefore not fit to be performed again this time before a Tamil-speaking audience.

PLAY - GOER

The Morning Star

13TH SEPTEMBER, 1968.

OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN CHURCH AND HOME LIFE

In Relation to our Christian Discipleship Today

Intended as a Basis for discussion with Questions for consideration

The Revd. Celestine Fernando

1. The Call to the Abundant Life

We have gathered together as people who believe in God. According to the Bible, God was revealed to us by the Lord Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life. We are citizens of God's world, and of our nation in it. We need true life for all mankind, not poverty-stricken, ignorant, weak, discriminated against, emaciated and emasculated but Abundant Life. In Christ we are promised that life: Abundant Life, Eternal Life, Life which has a quality that 'endureth unto the end' and is indestructible.

In the Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 10: 10 we read the words of our Lord:

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

And in giving us life abundant, He describes himself as one who cares for us, cares so much that He would have us live in unity with Him and with each other, cares so much that He would give His life for us:

"I am the Good Shepherd, I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep; I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock and one shepherd." (Jn. 10: 14-16)

Since the way, the truth and the life is for abundant living - it is relevant for all life, all aspects, all areas of life, for the way of marriage and the home, the way of school and the Church, the way of the nation and the world. If it is the way, the truth and the life, then it must be valid and relevant for the way of politics, the truth of politics and the life of politics and for our national and international situation too. Only, if we are to convince the world of that, then we who call ourselves believing "Christians" - a name given to the disciples of Christ in a day of both obstacles and opportunities (Acts 11: 26; 26: 28; 1 Peter 4: 16) - have a very great responsibility and privilege; to reveal to others the power of the living Christ to transform life, all life, so that His Kingdom may be realised "on earth as it is in heaven". The truth and power of the Gospel message will be realised by others only if we as Christians individually and if we in our Churches within the One Church of God show forth to the world that we are 'saved' and 'being saved', 'transformed' and 'being transformed'.

2. The Challenge to Reconciling and Redeeming love

Ours is a world created by the Spirit of love; meant to

* In the Bible, as in other books, the words must be understood in terms of the language and thought-forms of the time, and the place in which the words were written and the aims of the writer. It must then be related to our own day and need with relevance. In this respect it is in accord with all literature. All words are symbols.

who had been clamouring for intervention in Europe 30 years ago are the very people now clamouring against intervention in Asia.

We may therefore conclude our consideration of public reaction to aggression by saying that it looks as if according to popular opinion a small nation if it is to have rights must be a European Nation,

be enriched by love, saved by love - the love which created it and the love that was revealed by Jesus Christ - a patient, forgiving, redeeming love. And without such love our world is a saddened world of 'the lonely crowd' of men and women who because of the power of their minds have obtained riches and techniques. But lacking the reconciling and redeeming love of Christ, we do not know how to share our riches and our techniques with each other. We therefore suffer and make others suffer and fill our world with the misery of suffering.

"In the beginning", the Bible says is God, not man (as too many modern theologians do not seem to realise). It is when man puts himself "in the beginning" in the place of God that in the world may be considered "secular." So the first thing we have to do is to help man, every man and woman, to understand and realise in the light of the Gospel message, that the Good News for him or her is that a God of Love has created life, can redeem it, sustain it and give it abundance. But God does it on His terms, not ours however powerful and wise we may be (cp. Jer. 9: 23-24). This is why like Moses (Exod. 3: 1-6), Joshua (Joshua 5: 13-15), Isaiah (Isaiah 6: 1-5), Jeremiah (Jer. 1: 1-10) and Paul (Acts 26) we must have the heavenly vision. Where there is no vision we shall perish and a vision without obedience to it may 'pass away' from us.

In the light of the Bible, many Christians in many parts of the world, believe that Christian people are called by reason of their belief in a God who is not their private property but the God of all mankind (even though all may not acknowledge Him) to join with other men of Goodwill to work faithfully and humbly for a world of righteousness. They seek a righteousness which is not the righteousness of a redeeming Government or a redeeming party (whether Conservative or radical, bourgeois or working class) or a redeeming ethnic group but of a redeeming God. It is the righteousness that is rooted in Christ, expressed through the forgiven heart able to understand the heights and the depths, the complexities and the powers of reconciling love - where the redemption involves not merely persons but ideas and structures as well. It is a righteousness intended to lead to the sort of what in which all people or group ever believe or status together. There is here a *personal, responsible and pluralistic* society where the ideas and laws reflect and men in authority have experienced in their own lives, the joys of *unity and brotherhood, justice, freedom and order.*

Jesus said:

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God." (Matt. 5: 8-9)

There is a challenge in this for all people who believe that Jesus spoke the truth; and who have tested or are willing to test it faithfully and honestly in their lives. There is also a challenge for our international and national situation. For if these words are true then they are for life and for all life. For the world situation which is affected by Persons in Power is governed by the same basic factors that make or mar 'personalities', and persons in community are affected by the ideas, the structures, the organizations of their time and the complexity of the sin of man in them. This surely is why St. Paul warned us not to be "conformed to this world" but asked us 'to be transformed in the renewal of our minds' (Romans 12: 1-2). And the renewal has to take place with the conviction that Riches and Techniques cannot endure among Persons in Community (they are) without reconciling and redeeming love. For all persons need to be transformed if they are ever to be transformed.

Devotional

THE POWER OF SILENCE

(Taken from a Sermon by The Rev. Dr. James S. Mather)

We notice as we study the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, that He spent more of His time in silence, in waiting upon God and meditation, than in preaching or working miracles. All the sermons He preached during His ministry of about three and a half years would have taken about seven hours only. Even accepting that half His sermons are not recorded in the four Gospels, we must admit that an average minister of any of our Churches today, spent more time for preaching sermons during a period of twelve months, than our Lord devoted for a period of three and a half years, - if as most of us do today, preach two sermons every Sunday, about 25 to 30 minutes long.

In a difficult case, about which you read in St. John's Gospel 8: 1-10, you know how our Lord was silent. See verse 6. "But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground." Later, on another occasion He said to His disciples, "Hereafter I will not talk much with you, see the same Gospel 14: 30. Silence is a powerful weapon, when rightly used, as all weapons are. In the 5th Chapter of St. Mark's Gospel, we see how He used a period of silence as the antidote to the strain and tension the disciples had, when the Master was rejected by the people of Nazareth, His own home town, and when John the Baptist had his cruel death, beheaded by Herod. He said to them, "Come ye apart into a desert place, and rest awhile". At the end of His ministry, when He was accused before Pilate, by the chief priests and elders, you know how He used again His weapon of silence. Pilate asked Him many questions, but He was silent. See St. Matthew's Gospel 27: 14. Earlier, He did the same before the High Priest, see the same Gospel 26: 62-63. When He was tried before Herod, you know, He did the same, see St. Luke's Gospel 23: 9. He was silent.

You know, on many occasions He requested his followers to be silent, see Mt. 8: 4; 9: 30; 12: 16; 16: 20; 17: 9; Mk 3: 12; 5: 43; 8: 30; Lk. 5: 14. Jesus taught to the world, the Power of Silence. Today, the world is running fast, and we will do well to step aside every day, for a period, to have a breathing space, to inhale some fresh air, to listen to God, and to be silent at His feet. There are people who say, they have no time. This is the excuse of the busy housewife, as well as many a Christian minister, overburdened with administrative and other responsibilities. Think of a workman, who has no time to sharpen his tools! Surely, he will do more work, quicker work, and better work, if he found the time to sharpen his tools!

Thomas a Kempie said, "Blessed are those who are glad to have time to spare for God." Saying it, he gave the diagnosis and the prescription to many of our problems, difficulties and dangers, in Home-life and in other spheres. The greatest forces in Nature, - sun, moon, stars, - do their great work, in silence. We need to learn to be silent, and be alone with God, to know the power of silence. The Prophet Isaiah said in 30: 7, "Their strength is to sit still," and in verse 15, "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength". The Psalmist said, "Be still, and know that I am God," Psalm 46: 10. Many of us run too fast and are over-busy, rejecting the "Quiet Time", which we need every day. The result is that we get so feeble and unfaithful. Let us all wait upon the Lord regularly every day, in adoration and expectancy, and we shall know what great power it brings.

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ARE WOMEN PEOPLE?

In the light of Archbishop Loane's comments on the ordination of women, Eileen Mable poses a question to the Lambeth bishops

At the beginning of the Lambeth Conference the Archbishop of York asked the bishops to "think hard and speak clearly" about women's ministry in the Church, including the ordination of women to the priesthood. A draft resolution approving the ordination of women showed that their lordships could speak clearly, there was, however, little evidence that they could think hard.

There are numerous bad arguments why women should not be ordained; the debate added a few more. Dr. Mervyn Loane, the Archbishop of Sydney, spoke against the resolution because "if the Church is to be thrown open to women, it will be the death knell of the appeal of the Church for men". Dr. Gerald Ellison, the Bishop of Chester, whilst thinking it right that the conference should affirm that there was no theological objection to withholding the priesthood from women, asked the bishops to bear in mind the symbolism of the priesthood; female priests would, he maintained, very rapidly change the life of the Church.

Dr. John Hestable, a Congregational Church observer, asked the conference a question. "Is God masculine?"

I am going to ask another one. Are women people?

This is the fundamental question which those bishops who so strongly oppose the ordination of women have evaded; this is the question about which they will not think hard. Until they do so the basic injustice in the Church's practical attitude towards women (as distinct from its fine sentiments about us) will remain unchanged.

It is not enough to offer women a little more opportunity in one direction, a certain equality with men in another. The Lambeth conference needs to determine that sexual discrimination shall have no part in the life and ministry of the Anglican Communion.

It needs to go back to Paul's Galatians statement of Christian freedom that "there is neither male nor female for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" and to recognise and to state in unequivocal terms that the scope of women's ministry is no less than the scope of ministry itself. Nothing less will do.

Such a statement would take years to implement fully. But it would set the direction and make quite clear that the Church recognises women as persons in their own right, entitled to an equal share with men in the whole life and ministry of the Church, rather than as an inferior sub-species of the human race.

For, make no mistake, such an attitude towards women is implicit in the Church's present order, however much good manners and Christian love disguise it.

If the conference were to speak out against every form of discrimination against women within the Church and afford them equal opportunities with men in every sphere it would mean breaking with centuries of tradition; it would mean that we were no longer bound by the historical and cultural limitations of the apostolic age

(and this would of necessity give offence to some); it would mean trials and possible errors, and all the risks involved in change,

But it would also mean that the Church had returned to a basic Christian principle and was attempting to interpret this realistically in the conditions of the twentieth century.

I personally am convinced that the greatest opposition to women taking their rightful place in the Church does not arise from considerations of ecumenical or domestic expediency, nor from honestly held divergent theological views,

It is more subtle; for it is rooted in the secret fears of those Christian men and women who feel themselves threatened by any attempt to lift women out of their subordinate role and place them alongside men in a position of equality.

Men who fear women, women who fear other women (or themselves, or the uncertainty which changes in a long-established set-up can arouse in the individual) will oppose bitterly and by any argument the extension to women of that full freedom within the Church which is part of their Christian birthright.

The Lambeth debate proved this. There is no other conclusion to be drawn from the paucity of the arguments and their irrelevance to the moral issues involved than that some of our bishops are afraid to open the Church's ministry to women.

Many old arguments against the ordination of women have been refuted; but any argument is better than none to those who are determined to keep women out at all costs,

Bishops are no less subject to prejudice than the rest of us; but decisions affecting the whole life of the Church ought not to be dominated by it.

I know the power of prejudice. I have both listened to the extraordinary reactions of others towards the ordination of women and have experienced in myself the contradictory emotions which the subject can arouse. But, I remember, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth to be followed into freedom if we dare.

I ask again: are women people? Is it too much to hope that, despite human prejudices, the Lambeth bishops will yet dare to affirm, in practical terms of ministry and order, that we are?

- Church of England News

NEW DEGREE SUBJECTS FOR STUDENTS IN BRITAIN

The range of degrees that can be awarded to students from overseas studying in Britain at non-University colleges has now been increased to 35 subjects at nearly 50 such colleges, the Council for National Academic Awards has announced in London.

The Council is the only body outside the universities empowered to award degrees and their awards to students at colleges of technology and further education rank as the equivalent of university degrees.

Among the new subjects are librarianship, public administration and information science.

There are 30 separate courses in electrical engineering, 15 in mechanical engineering, 15 in business studies and chemistry, and several in such subjects as biology, computer science, pharmacy, and physics.

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