



The Sceptre of God

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-VARSITY
FELLOWSHIP OF EVANGELICAL UNIONS, 1956-57



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The Sceptre of God

IN a 'Prefatory Address' to the King of France, Calvin states the original aim of his *Institutes* : 'My intention was only to furnish a kind of rudiments, by which those who feel some interest in religion might be trained to true godliness . . . But when I perceived that the fury of certain bad men had risen to such a height in your realm, that there was no place in it for sound doctrine, I thought it might be of service if I were in the same work both to give instruction to my countrymen, and also lay before your Majesty a Confession, from which you may learn what the doctrine is which so inflames the rage of these madmen who are this day with fire and sword troubling your kingdom.' He wrote as a result the volume which brought so much light to Western Europe. *The Institutes* has a dual purpose — it provides the 'rudiments', but it also defends the early Huguenots by a magnificent exposition of biblical doctrine.

The writer continues : 'The cause is worthy of your ear, worthy of your investigation, worthy of your throne. The characteristic of a true sovereign is, to acknowledge that, in the administration of his kingdom, he is the minister of God. He who does not make his reign subservient to the divine glory, acts the part not of a king, but a robber. He, moreover, deceives himself who anticipates long prosperity to any kingdom which is not ruled by *the sceptre of God*, that is by His divine word.'

In the phrase 'the sceptre of God' lies the key to the Reformer's whole outlook. Throughout his writings are many such gems of short statement. None, however, is so felicitous and none so illumines the place of the Bible amongst us as this. We need to be reminded that the mind of Christ is expressed to His Church through the words of the Bible. It is as it were His Sceptre, His royal Law, His kingly Word. Yet, today, whatever may be the theory and however much lip service is paid to the Bible, many Christians have in practice allowed it to be displaced by lesser authorities. 'The Church', 'worship' (often meaning simply additional colour, music or drama), philosophy (even 'Christian Philosophy'), 'modern thought' and varieties of religious entertainment all take their toll. Even the truth concerning the Holy Spirit as the Viceroy of Christ in the Church, may be so taught as virtually to supersede the objective

statements of the Bible. Such a state of affairs was never intended and any weakening of the untrammelled Word of God always brings danger to His people.

Nowhere today are these considerations of such importance as in University, Theological College and Training College. Amidst the uncertainties, the hesitations and the flux of our transitional era, the student world continues to grope its way towards some valid authority. The early leaders of the I.V.F. originally set out, like Calvin, 'to furnish a kind of rudiments, by which those who feel some interest in religion might be trained to true godliness.' Such an endeavour has met in some quarters the same kind of resistance and criticism as beset the path of Reformer, Puritan, Methodist or nineteenth-century Evangelical. Some who should know better would leave no place for such 'uncritical Fundamentalism' in the Church. The I.V.F.'s reaction must be like that of the Reformer. It must make even more clear and spread ever more zealously the doctrine with which it is entrusted — always so long as its authority is derived from 'the sceptre of God'. For the fact is that 'no one can understand the smallest part of true and saving doctrine unless he be a student of Holy Scripture'.

IN THE UNIVERSITIES

FROM a long-term point of view there can be no doubt that the most important activity of a Christian Union is Bible Study. Such activity is occupying an increasing place in the thought and planning of the Christian Unions. It feeds the spiritual life, stimulates their evangelistic activity and sets the standards of their conduct. This is not to say that direct evangelism is neglected. Several Unions have found that informal 'Group Bible Studies' or 'Bible Readings' led by invited speakers attract the non-Christian more than evangelistic meetings. Some of the London Colleges have in this way influenced many non-members by lunch-hour expositions of the Bible, whilst 'Group Bible Studies' led by students in the Halls of Residence and in Faculty Groups have also been effective. An encouraging number of non-Christians have attended such studies, have become Christians and entered the fellowship of the Christian Unions.

To speak to such a midday meeting may be a novel experience for the graduate speaker. Crossing the City after an early lunch, he has to push his way along the corridors, through a surging mass of students, until he eventually finds the large

lecture theatre. Numbers are beginning to gather whilst two women members at the door are busily selling packets of sandwiches, cake and fruit, which have been brought from the refectory for those members who have not been able to feed. Soon the theatre is almost full and the student chairman of the meeting — usually the President — gives out the notices, leads in prayer and launches the speaker into his exposition of the announced Bible passage. The sandwiches begin to emerge from their packets, the speaker reads the most relevant section of the passage from his Bible, and — to the accompaniment of surreptitious chewing on the part of nearly half his audience — warms to his theme. Gradually he is aware of fewer transitions from the rustling papers to sundry mouths, the munching movements grow less, the room grows quiet — 'if only that girl there would stop folding that paper!' — and everyone seems to be following carefully every word. He comes to his final words. He summarizes the main message of the chapter. He closes with prayer. He is encouraged as the first thing the leader may say to him after the meeting is: 'Thank you for that message; there were over one third non-members here today.'

For the inexperienced student leaders of the smaller college groups, some training in method is needed. This is where one part of the Leaders' Training Course, which is held each September, can help them. The members of committees and other college representatives, that is all those likely to be called upon to take a lead in their colleges, are provided with practical experience of leading a Bible study at the Conference. However uncomfortable such leaders were made at the time by the questionings and the criticism of their technique by seniors, numerous grateful acknowledgments are received each year saying how much has been gained from the experience. At the same time it is good for every leader of a study to be asked: 'Yes, what you say is all very good, but did the Bible writer mean to say *that*?'

The important point in leading a group study is for the leader to be ready with relevant questions to bring out the meaning. The members should do most of the talking. They learn much more and remember more if they have to think actively. Such a method needs preparation, skill and tact. The questions must be constant: 'What is the aim of this Epistle as a whole? To what part of the writer's argument does this chapter belong? Why is the point introduced in this way? To what conditions at the time of writing does that phrase allude?' The aim is always the same. We must constantly endeavour, with the Reformers, to make it 'the first business of an interpreter to let

his author say what he does say instead of attributing to him what we think he ought to say'.

Such meetings are one of the chief means of encouraging young Christians to talk about spiritual things. Following a Mission, one college C.U. changed over a weekly meeting to group discussion of the Bible. They soon found that newcomers joined in freely. Once they had begun to talk they continued to ask questions and to comment and eventually entered more deeply into the fellowship. Attention is focused on some aspect of the basic teaching of the Bible. But the young Christian may ask an unusual question. 'What does St. Paul mean by that? I always thought that Christ opened the door and then one had to add one's good works to achieve salvation.' Such a question at once throws into relief the place to which the apostle actually did mean to assign good works. As far as possible, the whole study must be controlled by the context under review.

Perhaps one of the best results of good Group Bible Study is the stimulus to students to pursue their own personal daily reading. One who had been deeply interested in a Study Group in a Hall of Residence writes: 'I never knew that there was such thrilling material in the Bible. I realize now how little I know about the basis of my salvation and its place in God's eternal purposes. The group study which I had to lead taught me so much. Now I have an idea of how to study a subject right through the Scripture.' Another writes of the graded studies: 'I have finished *Light on the Way* and *Hold the Faith* and I am now on the *Search the Scriptures* course. I could not do without my Bible Study now . . . several of my friends have promised to start also.'

It is not easy accurately to generalize over a whole year's work in thirty different universities. There has been steady work done. In some places there has been a considerable increase in membership. In Reading, for instance, nearly one tenth of the University came to the weekly Sunday night meeting and sometimes considerably more for special occasions. Many of the Christian Unions have a high proportion of their membership amongst those who have come to a personal faith since starting at the university. In some cases it is a third, or more, of the C.U. Such a fact underlines the great need for doctrinal teaching and a real grounding in the Bible. The Travelling Secretaries have spent much time in helping young Christians and showing them how to solve their own problems in the light of the Bible.

The City Campaigns and the 'local activities' of the Christ-

ian Unions have played a large part in helping young Christians to begin to use their Christian knowledge and to bear witness. The September 1956 Campaigns were on the largest scale yet. The variety of experience represented in the C.U.s, however, challenges the teaching and leading powers of the youthful committee. Fortunately in many places, sympathetic members of University staffs reinforce them with much valuable aid and the services of the Travelling Secretaries are much in demand. It remains the case, however, that there is need for a greatly increased outreach to the large number of students who are still apparently indifferent.

The continued expansion of the Universities remains a challenge. The figures for 1955-56 (which are the latest issued by the University Grants Committee) were 85,194 students. Of the full-time students 27.5 per cent lived in Colleges and Halls of Residence, 44.7 per cent in lodgings and 27.8 per cent at home. 5,536 (and 2,068 part-time) came from Commonwealth countries and 3,750 full-time (and 1,756 part-time) students from overseas countries. To this, 16,300 part-time students need to be added to make the total complete. Sir James Mountford, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool, writing in the *Manchester Guardian* (16th May, 1957) shows that from the 85,194 full-time students at Universities and Colleges in receipt of a Treasury Grant, the numbers will grow to a 'plateau' of 106,000 by 1960, but the plateau is already being reconsidered and the likelihood is a *permanent* increase to 120,000 in 1965.

IN THE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES

THE experience of students in Theological Colleges of all persuasions is that, when the Bible is constantly being used simply as an academic text-book, it imperceptibly loses its unique position in their minds as being a personal message from God. Personal study of it becomes harder and the spiritual life suffers. It is also fatally easy to imagine that the ideal aim of theological study is to produce professors rather than preachers, and a professional attitude creeps in. In some of the Colleges serious or personal conversation on spiritual matters is regarded as 'talking shop'. The Theological Students' Fellowship has a big responsibility in helping to meet a real need. Activities are held for group Bible study and prayer, as well as to discuss spiritual problems. The Conference held last New Year attracted a larger number than in earlier

years. The Theological Students' Newsletter has been expanded to twelve pages of small print. Such short articles as 'The Servant Songs', 'The Unity of Isaiah', 'Dating the Epistles' and 'Kenosis Theories' have proved of much value.

In most of the Colleges an orthodox biblical faith is still regarded as intellectually disreputable. There are some where certain lecturers continually attack, and occasionally ridicule, beliefs which have been the treasured heritage of evangelical Christians in all ages of the Church. It is nothing new, but it sometimes becomes painful to a student who is isolated from students of similar outlook to himself. During the past year the opposition has increased — partly because of an awareness that there is a determined, and sometimes well-informed, resistance. It must be irritating to a lecturer to find — as occasionally happens — that a man has become more clear-sightedly conservative under hostile influences. It is tragic that some theological tutors will even charge conservative students with 'disloyalty' to themselves, or the denomination, when the very college in which they lecture often has a trust-deed embodying precisely these evangelical biblical doctrines and was built from money supplied by nineteenth-century Christians who really believed these doctrines.

There is, moreover, an almost pathetic desire to reinstate the Bible, whilst retaining the 'fruits of a century of criticism'. The Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales is reported in the *Manchester Guardian* (14th May, 1957) as saying that people have 'become ill-at-ease about the Bible and uncertain how to use it' and that it was important that the Churches should get them out of this predicament . . . but to accept 'every single statement of the Bible is neither possible nor desirable'. A learned Bishop writes in an article attacking 'Fundamentalism' in the *Journal of Education* (September, 1956): — 'And let's admit quite frankly that very often the members of the Inter-Varsity Fellowship, or whatever it may be, do appear to have more cutting edge in their impact on their fellow students than those of us who have grown up in a different tradition. The very fact that we perhaps see more difficulties, that we tend to take a rather longer way round, are rather more tolerant, may seem at times to take something off the bite and drive of our work. Yet I entirely refuse to believe that it is not possible to produce the same drive and vigour from what I regard as a more intellectually enlightened faith.' It depends what the last phrase means. It is certain that humanistic enlightenment is no substitute for humble acceptance of the sceptre of God.

IN THE TRAINING COLLEGES

EVEN in a college where there is freedom to invite an outside speaker, lack of time (and funds) usually curtails the weekly activities. Group Bible Study is central. The larger Unions have found it best to divide into several smaller groups which meet later to share their findings. A secretary writes: 'Such an arrangement compels most, or all, of those present to take an active part.' A graduate called upon to lead a fairly large group recently commented on the previous day's meeting: 'There were twenty-five present. About ten of them took part, but all seemed interested. I feel the interest is really deep.' From a college where one third of the students are members of the C.U. comes the comment in a letter: 'Two girls had been on the point of giving up their Christian faith. They have now found real assurance in the Lord. They are each week doing some Bible Study with A——, and finding it a real help.'

God has used the studies of groups who are not allowed to form an official Christian Union. From such isolated circles come such messages as: 'Our weekly Bible Study has recently attracted one or two outsiders. It is a long time since the situation has been so encouraging here.' 'Ten came to the first Bible Study of term, two of whom openly said that they were "seekers".' 'There are several genuine "seekers" among those who attend the Bible Study, and there are increasing opportunities for witness.' 'Our studies have deepened our fellowship with Him and with one another.'

Two major difficulties encountered by the study groups are the virtual absence of experienced leadership and insufficient preparation by members. Sessions on 'How to lead Group Bible Study' have therefore become a regular feature of the Leaders' Training Courses. Not all colleges, however, can be annually represented. Hence, the Travelling Secretaries are constantly being asked for assistance on this particular problem. But, particularly, while the majority of colleges run only a two-year course, there is scarcely time to grow a mature leadership. The constant refrain occurs in letters from various committees: 'The Bible courses we have followed have been very helpful, but we have felt that individual preparation has not always been as thorough as we would have liked. They would be improved if all members could prepare more thoroughly.'

IN THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES

THE accent everywhere is on progress and advance. Buildings are going up like mushrooms, new wings are being added, residential halls built and numbers increased. Vast sums of money are being spent and courses lengthened, such is the Government's view on the importance of technological education. It is against the background of this that the work of the Christian Unions in the Technical Colleges is steadily going ahead.

Generally speaking, with a few notable exceptions, the work is not spectacular. But the overall picture has been one of a growing movement. The Agricultural Colleges, being almost entirely residential, have the greatest opportunity, but they have the problem that two thirds of them offer only one-year courses to their students. The Art Colleges are more fortunate in that some of them offer courses which last for four years. Yet with eight hours of lectures and practical work a day the students have little time left for additional activities or, indeed, the reserve powers of concentration. One stands on the steps of a Technical College at 5 o'clock at one's own risk as a flood of humanity sweeps down the steps. In fact, one would be forgiven for imagining that the building must be on fire. The student mind seems bent on one thing — 'to get out at all speed'. It is little wonder, therefore, that the Christian student finds it difficult to persuade his friends to stay for C.U. meetings. In spite of this, the lack of cultural background in many of the more technically minded, and the absence of other societies, the Christian Unions continue to grow. Indeed, in some Colleges they are the only student society of any sort. On the other hand, in one College, where the C.U. consists of five members, over 200 came to one of the meetings. 'We were so out-numbered we did not know where to put ourselves', wrote the secretary.

Over the past year new groups have been started in Portsmouth, Scarborough, Cheltenham, Coventry and about ten other places, bringing the number of Colleges with C.U.s or contacts to approximately 120. The Regional Conferences have helped in this and have been held this year for the Scottish, Northern, South Western (Bournemouth) and London Regions, as well as the Annual Conference in Birmingham. In addition, a Midland Leaders' Training Course, 'a commando course in spiritual warfare', was held for the first time.

To small groups a Conference means a lot — and often proves an 'eye-opener'! In order that members may take away some definite knowledge and not just ideas or recollec-

tions of a happy time, the Bible readings and Bible studies occupy a prominent place within the activities of the Conference. The imparting of Bible knowledge is one thing, but the imbibing and actual study of it call for concentration and some degree of system. Thus members are encouraged to develop a regular system of Bible Study and return visits to the Conferences often reveal the very real progress that has been made. Many College groups, working under great difficulties, owe their stability to their regular Bible studies together; whereas other groups with a different emphasis have ceased to function at all. Attendances may be low sometimes but, as a well-known speaker recently said, 'It is not surprising that the groups are small — it is surprising that there are groups at all.' Yet considerable ground was won during last year.

IN THE CHURCHES

IN the nature of the case, the direct services which the Christian Unions can give to the churches is limited. The City Campaigns certainly provide one of the main openings and, year by year, these have done much to give C.U. members a renewed vision of Christian service in the local church. It has not seldom been a major factor in a call to the ministry. Many C.U.s also have accepted responsibilities in connection with Sunday Schools and Youth Organizations in nearby churches. The task of 'Local Activities Secretary' in the larger C.U.s is quite an onerous one.

Since, however, most students live away from home during term it is hard for them to help regularly all the year round. Their activity in church work can really begin in earnest only after their studies are complete. Many graduates are now running or playing an important part in the Group Bible Studies in their own churches. They learnt their art in the Universities. To get Bible Studies going has been a problem to many a minister. Some have no special gift or available time left for giving really interesting Bible readings, and many congregations would not accept leadership in such a matter from any but an ordained minister. But in the discussion type of meeting different people can take it in turns. Hence an increasing number of churches now have come to run extremely useful Bible study groups which are led by Graduates' Fellowship members on discussion lines. Prepared study outlines for such groups are being widely circulated. A Research Student in one church, for instance, has played a large part in gathering a

group of about twenty, who are now more active than ever in the work of the church.

IN EDUCATION

THE Schools' Section of the Graduates' Fellowship has been renamed 'The Christian Education Fellowship' and hopes to extend its work amongst the members of the profession. One of these developments is the organization of a course which, in conjunction with the Tyndale Fellowship, is being held at Cambridge next year. It is designed for those interested in the more theological aspects of the teaching of Scripture. In such ways some of the results of the research work carried out by the Tyndale Fellowship can be translated into the teaching in the form room. The usual Easter course for teachers of Scripture has been held this spring. The great value of the practical emphasis given in this course has been remarked on by several of those who attend. The course is recognized by the Ministry of Education and those who attend are therefore entitled to receive the Ministry's grant.

A number of teachers are increasing their qualifications for the teaching of Scripture by taking one of the correspondence courses run by the London Bible College for the Certificate of Religious Knowledge or the Diploma of Theology of London University.

AMONGST THOSE OF OTHER RACES

ONE of the most encouraging features of work amongst overseas students has been the effectiveness of their witness when they return to their homeland. It is clear that Christian nationals returning to their own country to witness for Christ are far and away the best instruments to aid the missionary cause. They are accepted by their fellow-countrymen. There is no colour or racial prejudice. They speak the language and know the customs perfectly. They are often looked up to because they possess the advantages of a British education. Also, they are not 'professionals' paid to do the job. The following, from accounts of some who have returned to their homeland in recent months, gives evidence of this.

From Nigeria, we hear of two doctors who were both converted in England through the consistent witness of other Christians and through the personal friendship of two members

of the Graduates' Fellowship. They returned to work in a Government Hospital in Nigeria. We now learn of others being won for Christ by their witness. Both were officers at a recent boys' camp and were able to win the confidence and friendship of the boys very easily.

Another account mentions a man who became a Christian on his way to England and who has returned to work in Government service in Northern Nigeria. Here he has been instrumental in starting a local Scripture Union branch and has organized the building of a local church. He is now agent for the Scripture Union and has a group of friends who take the Daily Notes. Two other Nigerians who, whilst in this country, regularly attended Christian Union meetings, are now back doing teacher training and have started Scripture Union meetings in their schools. One is using *Search the Scriptures* as a guide to his Sunday morning Bible Class. From Ghana, also, we hear of a husband and wife, both of whom were converted at the I.V.F. Camps at Keswick. They now act as officers at the inter-college camps held each year with such fruitful results.

An Indian engineer, a Hindu, on arriving in England was introduced to a Christian family. Week after week he visited them and asked questions. He watched their lives until the light of the gospel gradually dawned on him. He has since not only been the means of influencing a close Hindu relation of his, who is now confessing Christ boldly in London University, but he himself has returned to India as a most zealous Christian witness. He recently asked for prayer that the present restriction in his area on open-air preaching should be lifted! His astonishing growth in the Christian life is to a great extent attributable to his love for Bible study.

From other parts of the world comes news of an air pilot trained in England, a meteorological officer and a labour officer, all converted or greatly helped by fellowship in their C.U.s here — all of whom are seeking to witness to their friends. A Chinese medical student, converted during a University mission in England, has become deeply interested in the millions of Chinese refugees who are scattered over the Far East. He uses his vacations to return to the East to help as far as he can in work amongst them both as a doctor and as a Christian witness. A student from Sierra Leone came to this country to study engineering. He has returned to take up a theological course in order to enter the Christian ministry of his country.

Such things are not, however, restricted to those who are nationals. During the past year, many members of the Gradu-

ates' Fellowship have gone abroad to work in Government posts or in other channels not directly connected with missionary societies. Numbers of these have started little groups for Bible study amongst the educated and, in most cases, English-speaking nationals in places to which they have been posted. They too are able to make a favourable impression because they are not 'paid to preach'. A Government medical officer had under him for two years' training a number of 'dressers' who man the 'First Aid' posts all over the country. Some come from parts of the country which are normally closed to missionaries. He has, however, been able (and, in fact, encouraged) to hold Sunday Services for these dressers. Some of them will return to their stations as unofficial missionaries to witness amongst their own people. A white missionary would not be permitted to enter the area.

A very moving account comes from a forestry officer of how he was transferred from the delights of safari in the forests to the dull routine of teaching in a forestry school. God greatly blessed his witness in this school, however, and a number of boys were converted. This was much to the surprise of the Principal. It was a new experience for him to have boys coming in order to return goods stolen from the school store! A man and his wife, working for one of the oil companies in the Far East, have found many opportunities for witness amongst students. They have been able to open their home for Bible studies and other meetings. The Principal of a boys' secondary school in Africa was himself converted on holiday on the continent, through the prayers of his family and as a result of reading through the New Testament in one week. He has been able to ensure that there is a strong Christian witness in his school.

And so the story could go on. We must, however, remember those who during the past year have gone overseas to begin a lifetime of dedicated service as full-time members in one of the missionary societies. Some are moving up to the pioneer mission fields to help in the opening of new stations because of the value of their medical training. Others are beginning to train pastors or the future clergy in Theological Colleges and Bible Schools. Others have gone to do village evangelism, or to teach in a mission school. In all these spheres the Bible plays an important part in maintaining the spiritual life of the missionaries. The various aids to Bible study have often proved invaluable. *The New Bible Commentary* has been of immense help to those overseas who are away from library and reference books. Some of them have been able to raise funds locally to subsidize its sale to the theological students in their area. One

student who had been persuaded in this country to commence the I.V.F. Bible study course recently wrote: 'Today I finished Genesis in *Search the Scriptures* with a great joy. This is indeed a wonderful method, although usually it takes for me more than half-an-hour a day!'

IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE I.V.F. has during the year maintained its interchanges of delegates between the various evangelical students of Europe, receiving seventeen delegates at the Swanwick Conference and sending six delegates to the European Summer Camps and Conferences from which invitations were received. In the past much valuable stimulus and progress have come from such visits. As if to anticipate the question 'Is it worth the cost?' the following was received recently: 'Perhaps you thought that your conference had no influence upon my life. On the contrary it meant much to me and I have learned very much from it. Especially the great happiness of your members, their rejoicing in the Lord made a great impression on me. The great blessing which is given by the Lord on your evangelistic work was surprising and gave me much to think about. I believe that the secret of the I.V.F. is the keeping of the Quiet Time and obedience to the Lord's commandment to preach the gospel to everybody.'

In addition to such connections with Europe, the I.V.F. has endeavoured to play its full part in the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. A delegation of five led by Dr. Lloyd-Jones (Chairman of the I.F.E.S. Executive Committee and a speaker at the Conference) was present at the I.F.E.S. triennial General Committee and International Conference held at Glen Orchard, Ontario, Canada. It was heartening to all to see the progress of the international movement, to welcome three new member movements (and receive an application from a fourth to be taken up at the next General Committee) and to hear of three areas in the world where the students in big numbers are very interested in the gospel.

IN THE PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

TO many Christians throughout the world the imprints Inter-Varsity Fellowship and Tyndale Press spell help in studying the Bible. During the past year over 300,000 books and

pamphlets were distributed. Many of these were Bible study aids of one kind or another ranging from the short, simple introductory course for new converts, *Light on the Way*, to the big *New Bible Commentary* which has now established itself as one of the most popular conservative reference works.

One-volume commentaries, however, have their limitations — of space if of nothing else ! For a detailed study of a book a more thorough and lengthy treatment is often required. This need is now being met by the new Tyndale series of individual commentaries, the New Testament contributions being edited by Professor R. V. G. Tasker, and those on the Old Testament by Professor E. J. Young. The first two titles — *James* by Professor Tasker and *Thessalonians* by Dr. Leon Morris appeared towards the end of 1956. High praise for the latter was given in *The Expository Times*, where Dr. Vincent Taylor wrote : ' This commentary is worthy to stand side by side with those of Milligan, Frame, Findlay, and Neil, even though it is written to a smaller scale.' Both books have been very warmly welcomed. Part of their appeal obviously lies in their combination of scholarship with *readability*. This latter feature is, as Dr. Taylor points out in the review already mentioned, ' a characteristic rarely found in the numerous short works of the kind which at the moment appear to be so much in demand '. Such a feature is probably one of the fruits of Professor Tasker's determination to avoid the two extremes of unhelpful brevity on the one hand and undue technicality on the other. Present plans provide for publication before the end of 1957 of Mr. Donald Guthrie's commentary on the Pastorals and that of Professor Young on Genesis early in 1958.

One side of this work which is little publicized is the provision of *Outlines for Group Bible Study*. These are prepared primarily for the use of student groups, but obviously they have a much wider potential usefulness. Sixteen different sets are at present available in either printed or duplicated form. They cover selected passages, whole Epistles, character and doctrinal studies.

There is a growing awareness at home and abroad of the value of Christian literature not only in evangelism but also in building up the young convert. Again and again students and others describe in their letters the great benefit which they themselves have derived from the books published by the I.V.F. and express their determination to introduce them to their friends. For those in English-speaking lands this is simple. But elsewhere it is a different picture. Requests for permission to translate major works such as the *New Bible Commentary*, the *New Bible Handbook* and *Search the Scriptures*, to

mention just three titles; are an indication of the vast need in other lands which still has to be met. It is not an easy task, for example, to translate a commentary of 1,200,000 words into Japanese or Chinese.

So as we praise God for the way in which He has signally blessed the publishing work of the Fellowship during the past twenty-five years, and seek His help for those who write and publish and distribute, may we also remember the work of writers, translators and publishers in other lands, that native pastors, teachers and young converts may also be given the literature they so badly need.

Changes of Personnel

President

At the General Committee during the Inter-Varsity Conference at Swanwick, Professor Norman C. HUNT, B.Com., Ph.D., of the Economics Department of Edinburgh University, was elected President for 1957-58. Dr. Hunt is well known in Scotland for his evangelical faith and readiness to assist various Christian enterprises. The Christian Unions, particularly those in Scotland, look forward to closer acquaintance with Dr. Hunt. The retiring President, Dr. W. J. MARTIN, of the Department of Semitic Languages in the University of Liverpool, has from his student days shown a close interest in the Fellowship. Many graduates are grateful for his consistent advocacy of the theme which he elaborated in his Presidential Address concerning the vital need of Christian Scholarship. It will not be the fault of Dr. Martin if Evangelicals should fail to produce a sufficient number of the necessary biblical scholars from amongst their ranks.

Vice-Presidents

It was with great regret that many members, particularly the medical graduates, heard of the death of Dr. Frederick W. PRICE who was one of the I.V.F.'s original Vice-Presidents. He was well known as a leading Harley Street cardiologist, but also to many generations of London students by ' Price's Text-Book '. The latter has been one of their main sources of inspiration, awe and twinges of conscience. Converted from a cynical agnosticism in his student days in Edinburgh through

one of Prof. J. Y. Simpson's Sunday afternoon Bible Classes, Dr. Price was a constant and enthusiastic supporter of the Medical School Christian Unions. In him the I.V.F. has lost one of its long-standing and greatest friends.

The General Committee recently welcomed as Vice-President the Rev. John STOTT, M.A., Rector of All Souls' Church, Langham Place. Mr. Stott has won for himself a strong place in the respect and affections of many students through his ability as a teacher from the Bible and by his able conduct of recent University Missions. In fact, he accepted the invitation to allow his name to go forward for election on returning from a four months' tour as Missioner in ten of the leading universities in Canada and U.S.A. We shall look forward with confidence to his further help and inspiration for the student world.

Committees

This Report provides an opportunity to offer the sincerest thanks of the central committees of the Fellowship to all the many loyal students and graduates who have continued to give much valued and indispensable service during the year 1956-57. We must stress that this reference is not introduced simply as a formal matter. A very great debt has been owed from their very inception by the I.V.F., in all departments and by all individual college Christian Unions, to the many graduates who have so willingly preached for, or spoken to, and supported in a variety of ways, their many activities.

Mr. John SKINNER (University of Bristol and Tyndale Hall) vacates the Chair of the Executive Committee and has been succeeded by Mr. Robert HORN (Downing College, Cambridge and Regent's Park College, Oxford). Mr. Skinner may be assured of the best wishes of the Fellowship as he takes up his work as a curate in Exeter. We regret that Mr. W. G. NORRIS has, through ill-health, retired after a number of years of valued support and service as a member of the Business Advisory Committee. We are glad to hear that he will still be able to continue in his important position as Chairman of the C.S.S.M. Council.

Staff Changes

There have been during the year a number of Staff changes. Miss Rhoda BASSETT returns to Swansea University for the education year, Miss Elisabeth EARNSHAW-SMITH returns to teaching, Mr. Michael GRIFFITHS and his wife go to missionary service in Asia in connection with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship of the China Inland Mission, and Mr. Andrew

WALLS to the Department of Biblical Studies in Fourah Bay University College, Sierra Leone. The Committees wish them God-speed in their new work. Up to the time of writing the Fellowship was in process of welcoming replacements for the first three of the above-named workers by the coming of Miss Mary CLEE, B.A. (University of Wales, Cardiff), Miss Mary HAUPT (Hockerill Training College, Bishop's Stortford) and the Rev. Roy HENDERSON, M.A. (Brasenose College, Oxford and Ridley Hall, Cambridge). Mr. Norman RICHARDS, B.A. (Emmanuel College, Cambridge) has accepted an invitation to assist for one year in the Publications Department. We welcome all these new members of Staff.

The Fellowship also regrets the loss of the wide experience of Miss Norah NIXON. She has served at one time or another on most of the Committees. She will be specially missed by the Graduates' Fellowship and Publications Departments. Space here does not permit full justice to be done to what the Fellowship owes to Miss Nixon's twenty years of work as Travelling Secretary, and, later, as Assistant Secretary to the Graduates' Fellowship. Several sections of the Fellowship were able to call on her from time to time, as, for example, the Tyndale House Summer Schools, and the women's side of the work in the City Campaigns. She spent her time with prodigality to assist the large numbers of women graduates and women overseas students who sought the benefit of her experienced advice and spiritual counsel. Always quick to serve, Miss Nixon, on being for the first time free to give direct missionary service, speedily made her way to help her sister at the Kinnaird High School, Lahore. The united best wishes of the Fellowship are with her, and prayers for her full recovery from her recent illness of a tropical origin.

The loss from Tyndale House of Mr. Andrew Walls to his new lectureship has meant that considerable thought has had recently to be given to the staffing and further developments there. Mr. Walls has worked very hard and during each stage of further growth he has combined several tasks, which were not easy to handle at the same time. In particular, tribute must be paid for his scholarly and accurate work in articles, book reviews, editing the Tyndale House Bulletin and organizing the Summer Schools and Reading Parties. Also his wide knowledge of relevant literature has been of invaluable aid to numerous other postgraduate workers.

Comparative Summary of the General Income and Expenditure Accounts for 1955-56 and 1956-57

(The full accounts were certified by Messrs. J. Dix Lewis, Caesar, Duncan and Co., Chartered Accountants)

Year to 30 Apr. 1956	Year to 30 Apr. 1957	Year to 30 Apr. 1956	Year to 30 Apr. 1957
Administration Expenses (including office rent, salaries, printing, postages)	10,203	10,990	Subscriptions and Donations
Travelling and Accommodation Ex- penses	192	259	Interest and Sundries
Subsidy to Conferences	—	22	Balances on Special Departments T.C.C.F.
Special Departments (including G.F. T.F., Scotland, Ireland and Inter- national activities)	2,289	43	Evangelical Quarterly
Subsidy to T.C.C.U.	147	—	Scotland
Subsidy to T.C.C.F.	229	—	Surplus on Conferences
Subsidy to Inter-Varsity Magazine (including overhead charges) ...	189	1,459	Excess of Expenditure over In- come
£12,773	£13,249	£12,773	£13,249

Hon. Treasurer : B. M. HARRIS, M.B.E., M.A.
Hon. Senior Treasurers : IVOR CROUCH, C. H. M. FOSTER, M.A.
Auditors : Messrs. J. DIX LEWIS, CAESAR, DUNCAN & Co. (Chartered Accountants).
Solicitors : Messrs. GOODMAN, BROWN & WARREN.

Financial Report

A glance at the summary of Accounts on page 18 will show that, as compared with the previous year, the debit balance on the General Account was reduced by £838 to £621. In addition, the amount available from the Legacies Fund rose from £241 to £1,404 so that not only was it unnecessary this year to draw from the Literature Reserve Fund to balance the accounts, but a credit of £783 remained to be carried forward. This is a result which calls for profound thanksgiving.

In comparing totals for the two years, allowance must be made for a change in their presentation. Direct contributions received towards the salaries of Travelling Secretaries have this year been included in 'Subscriptions and Donations', whereas last year they were shown as reducing 'Administration Expenses'. To arrive at a true comparison, £1,525 should be added to both items in the 1955-56 Accounts (£1,000 of this was the exceptional contribution referred to in last year's report). If this is done, it will be seen that whilst Administration Expenses have risen by nearly £1,000 Subscriptions have fallen by £240.

We have to turn to Special Departments for the main improvement, although Conferences (including the Annual Meeting) did better by £262. This year the Scottish Account, the G.F. Account, and the Tyndale House Account have all required considerably less help from the General Funds. This is also true of the T.C.C.U. Account where the subsidy is shown separately. Mainly by increased activity, the Technical Colleges converted a credit of £22 into a debit of £229, the expenses having increased and contributions decreased. This is disappointing and it will be a real matter for regret if the opportunities in this field cannot in future be fully utilized because of lack of financial support.

Tyndale House

This was the first year in which twelve new study bedrooms in the New Wing were available and the general financial advantage of increasing the number of residents in the house has already been felt. The cost of maintaining the Library, however, amounts to about £1,000 per annum and there is an urgent need for more research grants in order to make it possible for research workers, who have no other such sources of income, to make use of the excellent facilities of the House. Reference was made in the last report to the fact that the New Wing had been

financed largely by loans. The amount which is now required to abolish these is some £4,500.

Literature

It has been the policy of the Fellowship for many years to keep the prices of books as low as possible in order that they should find a wide distribution amongst students. During the year under review no price increases were made in spite of sharp rises in the cost of material and production. This was possible (i) because of an increase in turnover of about 9% and (ii) because the growing market for I.V.F. and Tyndale Press publications enables many of the books to be printed in larger quantities than would ordinarily be undertaken.

Main Activities in the Past Year

T.C.C.U. Leaders' Training Course, August 31-September 4, 1956
I.V.F. Leaders' Training Course, September 5-10
T.C.C.F. Annual Conference, September 5-10
I.V.F. City Campaigns in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Risca and
Larbert between September 13 and October 1
I.V.F. Annual Public Meeting, London, September 28
Day of Prayer for Students, October 21
Northern Clinical Medicals' Conference, October 26-29
Graduates' Fellowship Reunion, London, November 17
Clinical Medical Students' Conference, November 23-26
Irish Conference, December 27-31
Graduates' Fellowship Study Conference, December 27-31
G.F. Scottish Conference, December 28-31
Theological Students' Conference, December 31-January 4, 1957
T.C.C.F. London Regional House Party, January 3-7
Graduates' Fellowship Reunion, London, January 5
Scottish Training and Technical Colleges Conference, February 8-11
Southern Missionary Conference, February 9-11
Northern Missionary Conference, February 16-18
Therapy Students' Christian Fellowship Conference, March 8-10
T.C.C.F. Northern Regional Conference, March 8-11
Scottish Inter-Varsity Conference, March 15-20
Inter-Varsity Conference, April 2-8
T.C.C.U. Conference, April 10-15
South West Graduates' Fellowship Conference, April 12-15
T.C.C.F. South West Regional House Party, April 25-28
Irish Graduates' Fellowship Conference, April 26-29
Graduates' Fellowship Reunion, London, May 14
Tyndale Fellowship Summer Schools and Study Groups, June 28-July 8
North West Graduates' Fellowship Conference, July 6
Inter-Varsity Overseas Fellowship Conference, July 5-8
Keswick Convention, I.V.F. House Party and Camps, July 13-20
Welsh Inter-Varsity Conference, July 22-27

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