



ISSUE No.13 WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 1998

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE 1998 LAMBETH CONFERENCE

Staff front up in full colour

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TODAY'S KEY EVENTS

7.15am Eucharist
9.30 - 11.00am Morning Prayer and Bible Studies
11.30 - 1.00pm Plenary Session
1.30 - 3.00pm Spouses': Rehearsal for 'Crowning Glory'
3.30 - 5.30pm Plenary Session
5.45pm Evening Prayer
7.30pm Spouses': Evening at the Old Palace
7.45 - 10.00pm Spouses': Rehearsal for 'Crowning Glory'

Spirit of Michael Ramsey lives on

Page 3

Mothers' Union alive and kicking

Page 4

Telling it how it is in Swahili, Japanese, French...

Man of many tongues

by Carol Barnwell

One and a half hours of spontaneous interpretation leaves the Rev Daniel Mwailu exhausted.

"You have to translate not only the words but the expression of the words and anticipate what is coming next," Mr Mwailu says.



Daniel Mwailu

Forty-one interpreters are working in Japanese, Arabic, Portuguese, French, Spanish, Swahili and English, says Donata Coleman, who spent two-and-a-half years gathering the group.

During an impromptu conversation at breakfast, Mr Mwailu shared his experiences as one of the Swahili translators.

Translating into Swahili presents unique problems because it is not "a technical language," he said. "It does not have a word for something like 'intercollegiate' but focuses more on daily life."

Sometimes it takes five words to explain one. Additionally, time is perceived very differently. Six

Please see **Translators** page 3

'Sabbath principle is a life principle'

Church should lead on ecology, bishop says

by Nicola Currie

"The Sabbath principle is more than just a religious principle; it is a life principle," says Bishop George Browning (Canberra and Goulburn, Australia) who is heading the subsection on environmental issues.

"Built into the whole created order is the principle of rest and refreshment—the land needs it, plants need it...We are appealing to the Church to appropriately reclaim that principle," Bishop

Please see **Ecology** page 2



Their aim: never to be stuck for a word

by Carol Barnwell

Teams of interpreters spent their "free weekend" working through the small hours to interpret resolutions into French, Spanish and Japanese, says Donata Coleman, coordinator of the 41-strong team assembled for the Lambeth Conference.

Her calm demeanour never wavers as nine people rush into her tiny office to drop off or pick up more papers. Many accents make enquiries in English, then are gone as rapidly as they arrived, to finish their assigned tasks.

With discussions and debate rising on the interpreters' horizons this week, one concern becomes apparent: the pace of business and



'Heroes' at work. Photo: Anglican World/Anne Wetzel

voting.

"We are relying on the chairpersons to take it slowly," Mrs Coleman says, explaining that bishops using interpreters will be voting on the previous question if the process moves too rapidly.

The pacing of business is important to minimise confusion for the more than 100 bishops using the translation services.

Please see **Interpreters** page 3

Lambeth section report on sexuality charts middle course

by David Skidmore

After two weeks of closed-door discussions, sexuality moves to the public forum of a full Lambeth Conference plenary this afternoon as the bishops consider the draft report and resolutions of Section One.

The two debatable resolutions from the section address sexuality (I.10) and euthanasia (I.14). The plenary also is scheduled to consider resolution IV.26 from Section Four, which also deals with sexuality.

At two pages—the shortest of any of the six subsections in the 36-page main report from Section One—the sexuality report stakes out a middle-ground position, affirming past Lambeth Conference statements on the

Please see **Sexuality** page 4

Sexuality resolution: back to original text

by David Skidmore

The human-sexuality resolution originally published in the Conference's blue 'Proposed Resolutions' booklet is the text to come before bishops in this afternoon's plenary.

Confusion about which resolution to bring to the plenary sparked protests during the closing moments of the Conference's first business plenary yesterday afternoon.

Please see **Resolution** page 4

'Credible witness requires that Christians be united'

Spirit of unity descends on ecumenical plenary

by Susie Erdey

The first Conference plenary to consider debatable resolutions proceeded with such a remarkable spirit of consensus yesterday afternoon that bishops completed their scheduled work on resolutions from Section Four ("Called to be One") and moved on to the reports and resolutions of Section Two.

The material from Section Four dealt with ecumenical relations between the Anglican Communion and other churches throughout the world.

Bishop Jabez Bryce (Polynesia), the moderator of Section Four, introduced the section report by stating: "We affirm...that every Lambeth Conference has had a deep concern for unity both of the Church and the unity of human community.

"Section Four hopes that the provinces of the Anglican Communion will in the next 10 years respond with fresh enthusiasm to our ecu-

menical vocation in a spirit of humility, patience and loving tolerance."

Bishop Bryce noted three main themes in the report, identified from regional responses and from direct experience of contemporary ecumenical engagement.

- The first theme "reviewed the complex economic scene with its mixture of signs of hope on the one hand and setbacks on the other. Do Anglicans still share a common commitment to visible unity and is there behind the many ecumenical endeavours a shared vision of that unity which is God's gift to us and our vocation to play our part in bringing into being?"

- The second theme reviewed "the progress made in bilateral and multilateral conversations at international and national levels and reflected on some of the issues concerning coherence, common vision, response and reception."

- The third theme "took the Please see **Unity** page 3

Busy day with two plenaries

In one of the heaviest business days for the Conference, bishops will take part in two plenary sessions today.

Morning Plenary

The 11.30am plenary session will continue to consider the draft report and resolutions submitted by Section Two on the topic "Called to Live and Proclaim the Good News." When action on Section Two items concludes, discussion of Section One, "Called to Full Humanity," will begin, with consideration of human-sexuality topics reserved for the afternoon plenary.

Archbishop Robert Okine, of West Africa, will chair the morning plenary. Prime Bishop Ignacio Soliba (Philippines) will be vice-chair.

Bishop Rowan Williams (Monmouth, Wales), chair of Section Two, will speak to his section's report. Debate will follow on the section's three resolutions:

- Resolution II.6 on "Future Priorities in Mission" urges the Church to emphasise mission and evangelism in various ways. Bishop John Sentamu (Stepney, England) will respond to points raised in the debate.

- Resolution II.7 on "Urbanisation" emphasises mission in cities, calls for support of the Anglican Urban Network, and for the establishment of a "Faith in the Urban World" commission. Bishop Roger Sainsbury (Barking, England) will respond.

- Resolution II.8 on "Youth" proposes several measures to "give more attention to the furtherance of ministry" to young people. Bishop Ben Kwashi (Jos, Nigeria) will respond.

The plenary also will consider resolutions submitted by Oceania (Resolution 14), South Asia/Middle East (Resolution 19), and the Middle East/South Asia (Resolution 20) regions.

Section One Plenary

At 3.30pm the bishops will begin by considering the resolution submitted by the Section One subsection on human sexuality. The plenary also will consider resolutions on sexuality submitted by other sections.

Archbishop Robin Eames of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland, will chair the plenary. Bishop John Takeda of Tokyo, Primate of Nippon Sei Ko Kai, will be vice-chair.

Ecology Continued from page 1

Browning says.

Resolutions on the environment (in Section One) are not scheduled for debate, and ecology is not dominating the Conference agenda. But Bishop Browning warns that when it does top the agenda, it may be too late.

"I think the Church is mirroring world governments where the pres-

sure of the immediate is so great that we have to focus on what appear to be the critical issues and they are almost always humanity-based.

"The last Conference focused on women's ordination, this one on debt and sexuality, human dignity and human rights. But at the heart of the matter we need to relate to the whole created order—we need to relate to the world that God has made."

Ecological issues are spiritual issues, he says. "That's why increasingly a number of people outside the Church are looking to us to take a lead, and sadly we are not responding."

Bishop Browning outlines four ways in which the Communion could work in this area:

First, convince the Church:

The subsection report provides a theological statement which is both news and "good news" for many people: "If this theological paper commends itself to the Church at large, perhaps the Church will see that in the environmental issue we do have a foundation for evangelism, for teaching and for renewal. For young people an entry into spirituality is through the environment."

Second, the acts of individuals count: The contribution of every individual is important on this issue, the subsection maintains. The houses we build, the form of energy we use, to how we dispose of our rubbish—all have ecological consequences.

For Bishop Browning, ecological commitment includes collecting

and recycling rubbish he finds on his daily morning run, as well as his household waste. He admits that using a bicycle instead of a car poses problems for a 300km journey.

"in the environmental issue we do have a foundation for evangelism, for teaching and for renewal. For young people an entry into spirituality is through the environment."

If a third of the world's population is Christian, the changes that these millions of people could effect could make a huge difference. "We are encouraging the bishops to see that ecological issues are as fundamental to their episcopate as the way they manage their administrative and more traditional aspects of Church management."

Third, influence governments and companies: Environmental issues are not necessarily a popular stance in government because of the cost of imposing

ecological restraints. But this advocacy role is essential for the Church, Bishop Browning says.

The subsection's report provides a theological statement showing how environmental concerns are a core part of the Gospel, and the subsection hopes this will provide the impetus for people in the Church to move on to practical programmes in their own nations and communities.

Fourth, establish an Anglican coordinator for the environment: The subsection is calling for the appointment of an Anglican coordinator for the environment in the same way that the Communion has officers for other areas of the Church's world.

It is demanding not necessarily an officer in London or Washington or Sydney but a person who can use the new technologies to network with people working in this field and provide the Communion with someone "who will ginger us and disturb us within the Church."

The appointment of such an officer might ensure that environmental issues are more prominent on the Conference agenda in 2008.



From a distance ... the wonder of the world God made

Daily Quote

"If our witness is to be credible it requires that Christians are united."

Bishop Jabez Bryce (Polynesia)

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The Lambeth Conference 1998

Meeting in residence at The University of Kent, Canterbury, England

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Daily Voices**Letters****Clarification on the benefit of Saturday's Golf Rounds**

'Play a round with a Bishop': Regarding your report in Tuesday's Daily did not make clear that this event was in support of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and was a fund-raising event to support the society's partnership with the worldwide church. It was an event in mission itself. Many players were laypeople who paid to play with the bishops—and many I know were touched by God's grace during the day. By the way, it was held on Saturday, not Sunday!

(The Rt Rev) **Peter B. Price**
Bishop of Kingston
Former General Secretary
of USPA

Enough!

Enough is enough! Your issue number 12 included a free advertisement for a crosier on sale in the Market Place for £1900. As the design includes the Compass Rose, it must be intended for one of us, a member of a Conference which will soon be calling for the cancellation of the debt of the poorer countries in the world. Paradoxically "the truth shall make you free" is highlighted in silver gilt. Guilt?

Think again, fellow bishops. We have no problem with appropriate and reasonable trappings of episcopal office, but there is a limit. The £1900 crosier and a number of the other crosiers, mitres, copes, pectoral crosses, etc, on sale in the Market Place are an extravagance without which the Anglican Communion can do.

(The Rt Rev) **Christopher Gregorowski**
—on behalf of Bible Study Group E1S9
Suffragan Bishop of Table Bay
Cape Town, South Africa

*jViva, Mothers' Union!**jViva, Lady Eames!**jViva, Dios!*

A note of appreciation for the Mothers' Union Presentation of July 27. It was encouraging to hear that Mary Sumner House is still a beacon of hope for the Mothers' Union worldwide. Slogan: '*Phambili, Mary Sumner House, Phambili.*'

What can I say about the Central President, Christine Eames? She is a leader who wears an all-embracing smile which like a sweet-smelling fragrance remains with those with whom she has come into contact. Slogan: '*jViva, Christine Eames, Viva!*

And: Long live the Mothers' Union worldwide!

Lastly, and most importantly:
jViva to God Our Creator; Viva!
(Mrs) **Maggie Nkwe**
Diocese of Klerksdorp
South Africa

Daily Question

What have you learned from reading the Section reports?



**Bishop Leo Frade,
Honduras**

"I feel that the issues are making the church more relevant to today's world. There are many different issues that will help the Church to communicate better with the world. It is a good chance to get a clearer message across."

Interviews and photos by Harriet Long



**Bishop Thavaraj
David Eames, Muduri,
Ramnad, Church of
South India**

"I feel that some of the solutions for the reports seem to be applicable only to the Western world. I think we need to judge them according to each situation. However, they have been generally very helpful."



**Bishop Neff Powell,
Southwestern Virginia
(US)**

"There has been a lot of hard, thoughtful work going into the reports, but I feel we are a long way off from solutions. I'm concerned that there is too much of a rush to reach these solutions. However, my daily prayer is for grace, insight and wisdom as we work through this."

those who had prayerfully prepared for the Lambeth Bishops' Pilgrimage.

(The Rt Rev) **Nathaniel Uematsu**
Bishop of Hokkaido
Nippon Sei Ko Kai

A short reflection on the Lambeth Conference 1998:

Our Divergences:
*Colour and Contour
Culture and Context*

Our Convergences:
*Faith in God's redemptive acts;
Freedom of praise and prayer;
Fervour in nurture and witness.*

Our Difficulties:
*Ignominies
Ideologies
Idiosyncrasies
Ignorances*

Our Unity in Diversity:
A PERSON TO SHARE.

Our Message to Tell:
'We remember Christ's death,
We PROCLAIM Christ's resurrection
We await his coming in glory!'

(The Rt Rev) **Bart Espartero**
Obispado Maximo,
Philippine Independent Church
(which celebrated its 96th anniversary on August 3)

This issue of
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Daily Lives

Spirit of Dr Ramsey lives on at Kent

Robin Gill serves campus as professor of modern theology

by Margaret Rodgers

When Michael Ramsey died, Archbishop Robert Runcie was determined there should be a substantial memorial to his much-loved predecessor.

Thought of a building, monument or stained-glass window was rejected out of hand. The decision was to found a chair of theology as a fitting memorial to the scholar-theologian.

The appeal was quickly approved and supported throughout the Anglican Communion for Dr Ramsey had been the first Archbishop of Canterbury to travel widely to provinces.

The Michael Ramsey Chair of Modern Theology was established at the University of Kent in 1991, and the foundation professor, Robin Gill, was interviewed for the position the day after Dr George Carey was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury.

A theologian and ethicist, Professor Gill previously held a chair at

Newcastle University, and prior to that taught for 16 years in Edinburgh.

As Ramsey Professor of Modern Theology, he is also an adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury in theology and ethics, medical ethics particularly. He chairs Dr Carey's medical ethics advisory group.

Theology is a small department of the University of Kent and plays an important part in inter-disciplinary work at the university.

"The medical and scientific faculties recognise the contribution of theology to the ethical issues and dilemmas encountered in their research," Professor Gill says. "They are aware that answers are required from other than scientific areas, and they see theology as relevant to their enquiry."

He teaches courses in Christian ethics and in science and theology for the religious studies degree. Most students come to the department to study at post-graduate level. There is an MA in Applied Theology, and in the past six years

students have come from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Africa, India and Korea.

Professor Gill explains that many are sponsored by their provinces, and he would welcome enquiries from bishops while they are at Lambeth.

"We can and should bring serious, intelligent reflection to our faith," Professor Gill says. "We must not be closed to new knowledge but address it, in the spirit of Michael Ramsey."

"We encourage this university to be seen as a place where younger priests who are going to make a theological contribution to their province can come and study."

"This Lambeth Conference underlines yet again the importance of careful and sustained theological study."

Professor Gill is expected to teach for two terms each year in the university, and in the summer term to travel and teach round the Anglican Communion.

In recent years he has visited



Robin Gill

Photo: Anglican World/Harriet Long

South Africa, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia, and he goes to the United States at least once every year.

Professor Gill is married to Jenny, a doctor who is a regional director of primary care. Their home in Canterbury was built in 1570, in Tudor times, and it has a beautiful rose and herb garden that they care for themselves.

Their house was originally the servants' home for the big house in St Dunstan's Street, where Thomas Tallis is thought to have lived. It is close to St Dunstan's Church, where the head of Sir Thomas More is buried.

Interpreters Continued from page 1

Interpreters have not only worked in the plenaries and sections, but nearly all attended the Bible studies and small groups to help individual bishops.

Neither the resolutions nor small groups were part of the original commitment by the mostly volunteer staff but "they rallied round to fill in all the gaps," Mrs Coleman says.

French interpreter Robert Faerber says his team is preparing regional and interfaith resolutions, as well.

"You're great heroes!" chimes Mrs Coleman.

Mr Faerber adds: "We want all the bishops to be able to participate and to speak in the fullest context."

He expresses concern that pre-Conference papers were printed only in English and hopes future meetings will consider translating even more documents.

Jerome Moriyama, in charge of the Japanese interpreters, says all Japanese bishops required interpreters in 1978. "This time four out of eight don't need any help."

Mr Moriyama says the lack of pre-issued texts has made the interpreters' task a challenge but bishops and spouses have been very appreciative of all their efforts.

The Burmese interpreter arrives at the office door and doesn't have time to put down her bags before being whisked off to work.

The phone rings and a line is forming at the door, people clamouring for Mrs Coleman's attention. Interpretation: back to work!

Unity Continued from page 1

Conference into uncharted waters with a consideration of the pastoral and ecumenical issues which arise out of Anglican experience of new churches and independent Christian groups."

Drawing further from the Section Four report, Bishop Bryce noted: "In each theme we were aware that our ecumenical vocation is carried out in the context of the encounter with people of other faiths and none. If our witness is to be credible it requires that Christians are united."

He continued: "As we receive God's gift and respond to God's call our mission will be more credible

and the praise of God become a united chorus increasing in thanksgiving to the glory of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Two of the three resolutions presented for debate—IV.1, on commitment to full, visible unity, and IV.3, on an inter-Anglican standing commission on ecumenical relations—passed by vote of hand with no debate and no visible objections.

A third resolution—IV.13, on unity within provinces of the Anglican Communion—also passed, after Bishop Wilson Mutebi (Mityana, Uganda) tried to add an amendment clarifying the role of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The amendment failed, and the resolution was approved overwhelmingly as origi-

nally submitted in the Section Four report.

All 20 resolutions presented by Section Four for assent were passed by votes of hand, with no requests for resolutions to be transferred from the assent list to the debate list.

Moving to Section Two, the plenary received the section's report, approved the list of four resolutions on the "agreed list," and adopted an amended version of Resolution II.6, which addresses future priorities in mission.

Bishop Christopher Mayfield (Manchester, England) submitted a successful amendment adding language that emphasises the need to pursue mission in partnership with Christians of "all traditions."

Translators Continued from page 1

o'clock in the morning actually translates to one o'clock because it is the first hour of the day, after the sun comes up.

Especially challenging are presenters who speak rapidly. "Different ones are like rabbits," he said; "you have to chase this way and that."

He believes slow speakers are better communicators, especially with those for whom English is not a first language. "When you go fast, you are

speaking to yourself."

Originally from Kenya, Mr Mwaili has lived in York since the late 1970s and serves as assistant priest to three congregations.

Kenya has 43 tribal languages, and Swahili overlies them all. English is taught in school so students necessarily speak three languages, "usually picking up several more."

As a classics scholar Mr Mwaili also speaks Greek and Latin. "I live in a world of languages," he offers simply.

Keep smiling... Conference photographers will continue bishops' portraits today

Conference photographers will this afternoon continue to take individual portrait photographs of bishops in attendance at the Lambeth Conference. Photographers will be available outside the plenary halls from 2pm to 5pm today and tomorrow. Photos will

update the Anglican Communion Office archives and serve practical purposes for use in Communion publications and the like. Bishops are asked to wear clerical collars; cassocks are not necessary since the photographs are "head-and-shoulders" shots.

Daily Events Tomorrow

Thursday August 6 • Feast of Transfiguration

7.15 am	Prayer Time (Province de L'Eglise Anglicane du Congo) followed by Bible Study video with Nathaniel Garang, Bishop of Bor 2 Cor 11:16-12:10
8.15 - 9.15 am	Breakfast
9.30 - 11.00 am	Morning Prayer and Bible Studies
11.00 - 11.15 am	Coffee
11.30 am	Feast Day Eucharist
1.00 pm	Spouses: Gentle Keep Fit Exercises to Music
1.00 - 2.30 pm	Lunch/Free Time
3.00 - 3.15 pm	Tea
3.00 - 4.00 pm	Spouses: Workshops
3.30 - 5.30 pm	Plenary Session: Discussion and debate including voting on resolutions
3.30 - 5.30 pm	Spouses: to lead Evening Prayer
5.45 pm	Evening Prayer (Group: Bishops' Spouses) followed by Bible Study video with John Austin, Bishop of Birmingham
6.30 - 8.00 pm	Dinner
8.30 pm	Transfiguration Presentation 'Crowning Glory'
Mark the Date:	
Re-scheduled Songs of Praise will be shown August 6 at 12.30pm following the Eucharist	

Internet resources: Conference participants may collect from the Enquiry Office a free information pack detailing the work and ministry of the Church Pastoral Aid Society. Each pack includes a CD containing useful information about accessing the World Wide Web, and details about related Christian directories.

Bargain for Bishops: What makes Anglicanism special? Answers from scholars all around the Communion are given in *Anglicanism: A Global Communion*, a major new work published just last month. Copies—available at up to

75 percent off the published price—can be obtained from the CEFACS stand in the Market Place. Books are priced at £5 for bishops from developing world nations; £15 for others (Post-Lambeth price: £20).

Beer for Bishops (today...while stocks last): Local brewery Shepherd Neame is teaming with SPCK to celebrate 300 years; each enterprise was started in the year 1698. Conference participants are invited to visit the SPCK bookstall at 6.15pm today in the Market Place to sample one of the local brews: "Bishop's Finger."

'Compass Rose' available for church, home gardens

Why not plant in your church or home garden a permanent reminder of the Lambeth Conference? The Compass Rose—a new rose specially named and grown by one of the UK's specialist rose-growers—can be ordered at the Conference Shop in Giles Lane for despatch later in the year to anywhere in a UK or EEC country. Orders may also be placed at the Cathedral Gift Shop in Canterbury for this highly scented, repeat-flowering shrub rose. Orders in Canada and the United States are being filled by Grenier Nurseries in Ontario, Canada; further information may be obtained from the Conference Shop.

'Women have gifts that must be incorporated into the Church'

Mothers' Union revels in multitude of ministries

by Liz Knowles

If you teach a man, you teach a man. But if you teach a woman, you teach a family. And if you teach a family, you teach a community.

The Spouses' Home Tent was packed for a presentation on the work of the Mothers' Union last Monday evening.

The Worldwide President, Lady Eames, gave a brief history of MU. Since its founding 122 years ago by Mary Sumner in her local parish, the society has spread worldwide and now claims more than three quarters of a million members.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Angela Ridler, spoke of Mary Sumner House, the administrative centre in London. The building was funded by member subscription, and at its heart is a chapel where midday prayers are said every working day.

Mrs Lydia Gladwin, from Guildford (England), described the Action

and Outreach Unit, the mission and ministry branch of the society, which is involved in government social issues and many local projects—from providing caravans for much-needed holidays to making gowns for stillborn babies.

Much of the work of the Mothers' Union is aimed at empowering and enabling women through education and training. Mrs Juliana Okine described work in Ghana which stretches from education on HIV and AIDS, widow inheritance and female genital mutilation to soap-making, subsidising school lunches, marriage counselling, and assisting with the training of ordinands. "Women have gifts," she declared, "that must be incorporated into the whole ministry of the Church."

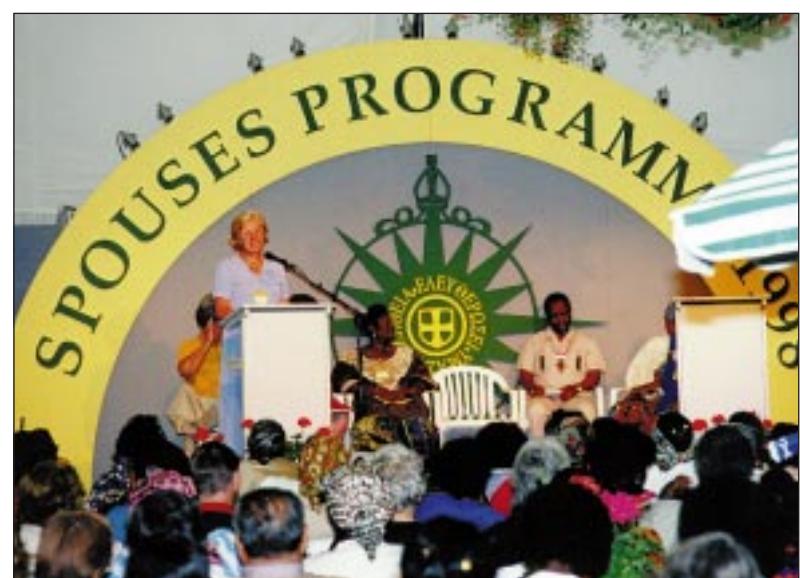
Mrs Miriam Ntiruka, from Tanzania, described a vibrant, growing society dealing not only in the spiritual but also in raising chickens, pigs, goats

and cattle to assist family economies. She mentioned that there are far more women than men in Tanzania: "Surely enabling women is of utmost importance in such a situation."

Mrs Joyce Ngoda, also from Tanzania, described the training efforts of MU. Where few women read or write, visual aids are vital, and since women are first to wake up and last to go to bed their time is also at a premium.

She described how women are encouraged to get involved in decision-making. Women are the majority in church congregations and therefore give most in stewardship, but financial and administrative committees consist of men!

"Stewardship is not only in financial terms—your offering might be in maize or cabbage," she said. "Projects and dioceses need to work on self-sufficiency, as central funds are not infinite." The audience murmured approval when she stated that male



Lady Eames leads Mothers' Union presentation in Spouses' Programme home tent.

Photo: Anglican World/William Killough 111

domination causes female oppression.

Bishop Dinis Sengulane (Lebombo, Mozambique) was the last speaker. He described the Mothers' Union as a "precious instrument of God's work."

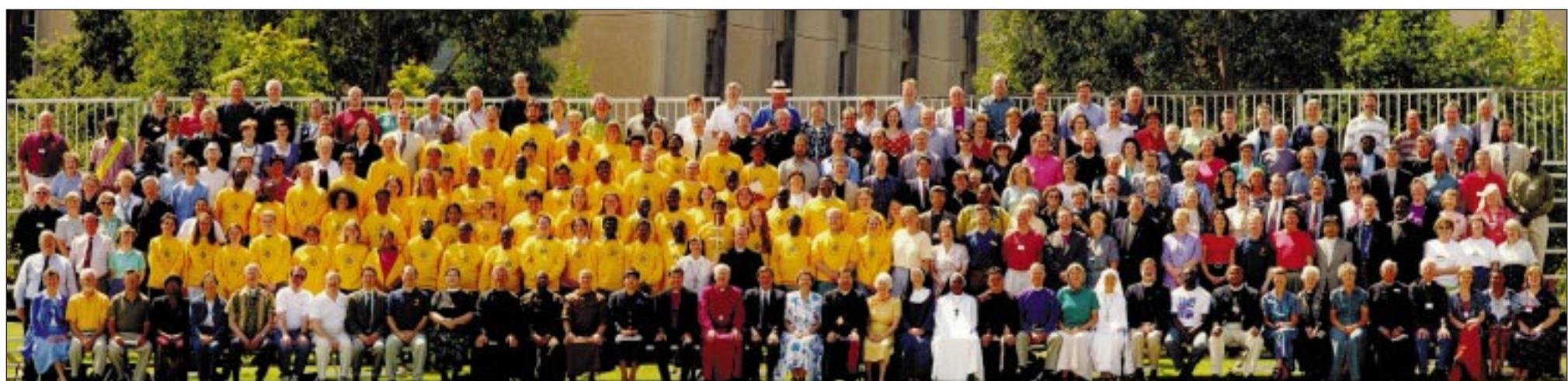
He spoke of his 85-year-old mother who was a first-generation MU member. "The Mothers' Union should continue to grow upward, onward and outward," he added, "as Jesus grew in stature, wisdom and grace."

He praised the dedication of members who were always ready for

church services, their singing reaching ears and hearts and hands and feet. He referred also to their pastoral care and commitment, and pointed out that women are towers of strength in prayer and fasting. After all, if the mother doesn't cook, the whole family fasts!

He finished by directing the attention of Mothers' Union to the rising numbers of professional beggars on the streets—a new challenge.

The Mothers' Union is very much alive and kicking. And singing, shouting and dancing, too.



Many hands make light work: Conference staff members smile from playing field on Saturday July 25.

Sexuality

Continued from page 1
sanctity of marriage but also opposing homophobia and "any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

The report declares that sexuality, as understood by scripture and Christian tradition, is "intended by God to find its rightful and full expression between one man and one woman in the covenant of marriage." Holy matrimony, the report continues, is "a life-long, monogamous and unconditional commitment between a man and a woman."

While affirming marriage as the only acceptable means for sexual expression, the report recognises that gays and lesbians are loved by God, and that all baptised members of the Church, regardless of their sexual orientation, "are full members of the Body of Christ."

Strong support

The report, which tackles five key social issues in addition to sexuality (human rights and human dignity, environment, modern technology, euthanasia, and international debt), received overwhelming support from the section's 200 bishops.

According to the report, some forms of sexual expression are "inherently contrary to the Christian way

and are sinful," including adultery, incest, paedophilia, promiscuity, prostitution, female circumcision and rape.

Homosexuality, though, is not included in the list. "We must confess that we are not of one mind about homosexuality," acknowledges the report. The report also urges churches to encourage young people to abstain from sexual activity.

According to the report, bishops generally subscribe to four main perspectives on homosexuality: those who see homosexuality as a disorder but subject to healing; those who see genital sexual activity by homosexuals as going against scripture and the Church's teaching and, if unrepented, serving as a barrier to salvation; those who regard committed homosexual relationships as outside biblical norms but preferable to promiscuity; and those who advocate the ordination of homosexuals and the blessing of same-sex unions.

Most bishops are not ready to bless same-sex unions or ordain non-celibate homosexuals, the report observes, and many bishops support a moratorium on these actions.

Lacking a consensus on the scriptural, theological, historical and scientific questions surrounding homosexuality, the bishops are asking the pri-

mates and Anglican Consultative Council to develop a way to monitor the Communion's work on these issues, the report said. Exactly how this procedure should be developed was unclear.

Resolutions address sexuality

Section One's resolution on sexuality (I.10) calls for the Church to "minister pastorally" to all people regardless of their sexual orientation, and to condemn homophobia, domestic violence and the commercialisation of sex.

It also echoes the section report recommendation by requesting that the ACC and the Joint Standing Committee of the Primates monitor any work done in the Communion on sexuality, and see that the information is shared among the provinces.

The resolution from Section Four (IV. 26) would have the Conference endorse the Kuala Lumpur statement on sexual morality, to "have and promote credibility with our brothers and sisters in new churches and independent Christian groups."

The Kuala Lumpur report was issued after the second South-South Encounter meeting of 80 bishops in Malaysia in February last year and calls the ordination of non-celibate homosexuals and the blessing of same-sex unions "unacceptable."

Resolution

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The chair of the subsection on human sexuality, Bishop Duncan Buchanan (Johannesburg, South Africa) had presented a revised version of the resolution at the morning press conference.

But after hearing Bishop Michael Nuttall, chair of the Resolutions Committee, announce at the plenary that the original form of the resolution released on Monday would be considered instead, several bishops demanded that the revised version take its place.

The revised version takes a harder line on homosexuality by opposing "the legitimising or blessing or ordaining" of persons in same-sex unions, and substitutes the word "chastity" for "celibacy" as the only appropriate choice for single people.

At the same time it states that homosexuals are "full members of the body of Christ" and deserving of the Church's pastoral ministry.

The bishops argued that the resolution appearing in the booklet was never reviewed and approved by the subsection, much less voted on by the whole section.

Because of the pressure to produce the final section report on sexuality, the group never got around to drafting a resolution, Bishop Harry Goodhew (Sydney, Australia) said.

Bishop Buchanan, he said, took it upon himself to draft a resolution and submit it on behalf of the section.

"In terms of procedure it was more appropriate to have the resolution the group agreed on," Bishop Goodhew said, earning a round of applause from the bishops.

Bishop Richard Harries (Oxford, England) expressed "great disappointment" with the Steering Committee's decision. The revised resolution, he said, is a "very finely balanced" approach resulting from two weeks of agonising work.

Bishop Nuttall said the Conference Steering Committee had made the decision to use the original version as the lead resolution. The revised version could be submitted as an amendment.

The Steering Committee, he said, took into account that the original version had not been discussed or voted on by the full section.