

Inleidingsartikel:

Kerk en Nywerheid

Die Christenraad van Suid-Afrika moet geluk gewens word met 'n lofwaardige poging om die eerste belangrike aanvoorwerk te doen i.v.m. die taak van die Kerk in die nywerheid deur die organisering van 'n kursus oor dié onderwerp. So 'n kursus is gedurende Februarie vanjaar te Wilgespruit gehou en hierdie uitgawe van ons blad word spesiaal gewy aan die tema van Kerk en nywerheid wat daar behandel is.

Nie alleen uit die opsommende verslag van die kursus wat elders in ons blad gegee word nie, maar ook uit al die artikels blyk die dringende noodsaaklikheid dat alle kerkgenootskappe in Suid-Afrika kennis sal neem van die ontnugterende ontdekkinge wat die Kerk in alle ander lande gemaak het oor die uitwerking wat die snelle proses van verstedeliking en industrialisering op die denke en lewe van die gewone lidmaat gehad het wat in hierdie proses ingetrek is. Besonder insiggewend is ook die navorsing oor die metodes wat kerke en Christene in verskillende lande aangewend het om die boodskap van die Evangelie toepaslik te maak in die wêreld van die moderne nywerheid en fabriekswese en die mate van sukses wat behaal is.

Vir die Kerk van Christus in Suid-Afrika is hierdie ontwikkelinge in ander lande van die grootste belang. Ons land beleef 'n buitengewone, ja, byna *fantastiese nywerheidsontwikkeling* — iets waarvoor ons God gedurig moet dank. Maar gepaard met en as gevolg van hierdie ontwikkeling word nuwe sosiale vraagstukke geskep wat die Kerk voor die geweldige uitdaging plaas om die stadsmens met die nuwe en vreemde situasie waarin hy hom tans bevind te help om homself te vind. Veral is dit noodsaaklik om 'n suiwer interpretasie aan Christene te gee van die verband tussen hulle geloof en hul daaglikse werk en dit te laat opvolg deur praktiese voorligting oor die beste wyse waarop Christelike oortuiginge en lewenshoudinge in die moderne nywerheidswêreld uitgelooft kan word.

Oorvloedige getuigenis is reeds gelewer dat leiers in handel en nywerheid, nie net in baie ander lande nie maar ook in Suid-Afrika, intens belangstel en hulle morele steun sal gee mits die kerke wat die leiding neem, dit op die regte wyse doen. Uit die ervaring van die Kerk in ander lande het duidelik geblyk dat daar drie basiese voorwaardes is waaraan die kerke sal moet voldoen om die steun van die nywerheid te verkry:

- die taak sal op 'n interkerklike basis onderneem moet word
- die Kerk sal eers die bewys moet lewer van sy erns deur self die nodige mannekrag en fondse vir die aanvanklike arbeid te voorsien
- die gewone lidmaat wat homself in sy bedryf en beroep as leier onderskei het, sal baie meer geleentheid gegee moet word om die Kerk voor te lig op 'n terrein vir die Kerk tans nog grotendeels onbekend.

(Vervolg op bladsy 10)

Editorial:

Church and Industry

We congratulate the Christian Council of South Africa on a praiseworthy attempt to break the first important ground in connection with the task of the Church in industry by organising a course on this subject. Such a course was held during February this year at Wilgespruit and this edition of our journal is devoted to this theme "Christ and industry", dealt with at the course.

Not only from the summary report on the course, which appears elsewhere in this journal, but also from all the articles it is clear how urgent and important it is that all denominations in South Africa should take note of the sobering discoveries made by the Church in other countries, on what effect the rapid process of urbanization and industrialization has had on the way of thinking and living of the ordinary church member, drawn into this process. Particularly enlightening is the research done on methods used by churches and Christians in different countries to make the message of the gospel relevant in the world of modern industrial and factory life, and the measure of success achieved.

These developments in other countries are of the greatest importance to the Church of Christ in South Africa. Our country is experiencing an unprecedented, almost fantastic period of industrial development — something we should thank God for daily. But accompanied by and as a result of these developments new social problems are created, placing before the Church a tremendous challenge to assist urban man in his strange and new situation and to help him to find himself. It is particularly important to present to Christians a true interpretation of the relationship between their faith and their daily work, and to follow this up with practical guidance on how Christian convictions and attitudes to life should find expression in the modern industrial world.

Abundant evidence has been given that leaders in commerce and industry, not only in other countries, but also in South Africa, are intensely interested, and that they will lend their moral support provided that the churches, taking the lead, tackle the problem correctly. From the experience of the churches in other countries it is clear that the churches should comply with three basic conditions to obtain the support of industry:

- the task should be undertaken on an interdenominational basis
- the Church will have to show her sincerity by supplying the initial personnel and funds for the preliminary work herself
- the ordinary member, who has distinguished himself as leader in his own field, will have to be given a much greater opportunity to guide the Church in a terrain at present still largely unknown to the Church.

(Continued on page 10)

The Church as Yeast in Industry

(Continued from page 9)

ment in all this than with the prosperity of society as a whole.

They also want men to find fulfilment in their job, or to be truthful, they want self-expression and satisfaction for themselves in their job. They also want co-operation, or to be truthful, they just want 'no unpleasantness' to disturb their hours at work. They want a shadow of what God wills but they want it for mainly selfish reasons. **And, God indeed works through them despite their sinfulness to work out his purposes steadily.**

But committed Christian laymen by their faith, their worship, by the love and understanding Christ has awoken in them, have a great contribution to make to see that industry really fulfils God's deepest purposes for it. Consider a Christian personnel officer. He will be concerned that the factory will truly work well, 'subdue the earth', produce successfully, so that all may prosper. He won't be wanting to get the best out of the men only for his own fame and gain. He will do his utmost to find the best creative channels for the men to allow them to find fulfilment in serving well. He will sincerely help to get co-operation between all in which love may find expression. All of this he will pursue with a deep sense of responsibility. **Because life and work are meaningful to him he will pursue it all with zest and with study. And consider the far-reaching effects of his offering all of this to God in prayer!**

I wish I had space to show the same for the Christian as manager, foreman, fitter, labourer, and so on. The Christian as a fitter, e.g. will be concerned to serve Christ well in the factory. He will be really concerned to see that the section of machinery he looks after is kept in tip-top efficiency and safety. He will be concerned that he and his labourer should find interest and satisfaction in their work together. His approach in worker politics will be towards co-operation, reconciliation: justice, — yes — but not war for selfish advantage.

Christians in industry because they begin to see God's purposes in

it all, will take a lively and responsible interest in the many sides of modern industry: — management — worker relations, the structure of industry and the economics of it, communication along lines of authority and between departments, automation, computer control, race and group relations, training, safety, overtime, rates of pay, etc.

ROLE OF THE CLERGY

In all this laymen will find great inspiration and guidance if the Church as a whole organises a wide-reaching industrial mission with keen, suitably trained clergy leading them. **These clergy should concentrate on raising up and training the needed Christian laymen — who may come from industrial workers already in the Church ranks, and from those with no previous organic connection with the Church (who will thus be won to the Church).**

But these clergy should also give a lead to the leavening in the factories as they gain entrance and the confidence of the people concerned, i.e. lead in personal and group conversation. And further they should organise courses, groups and whatever is most helpful to train the institutional church, and especially young men becoming clergy, to become deeply concerned with men in their working life and daily affairs, so that these clergy may in turn equip their flock to follow Christ in their daily life in industry, commerce and so on.

PRESENT WORK IN S.A.

What has been attempted in this direction so far in South Africa? I don't think anyone knows the full picture. There is a mission to miners. The D.R.C. have a chaplain to railway workers. D.R.C. ministers and others minister to various staffs e.g. Post Office and nursing staffs. The Catholics have 'The Grail', in which young women live with fine spiritual devotion and discipline and go out to apply it in daily affairs. I have known of one or two men functioning more or less as 'worker priests' on their own. **And let us not overlook that thousands of Christian laymen throughout the country are striving to live out their Christian faith in industry.** But clearly the work so far in this way has not been adequate.

1. As an organised effort of evangelism it has been limited to certain small sections of the Church.
2. It has been severely limited to certain sectors of industry as e.g. mine compounds.
3. And not enough emphasis has been placed, as far as I can gauge, on helping industry to fulfil its own finest purposes in God's eyes.

In a following article I hope to consider the Church as yeast in communal affairs. Later I hope to return to industry in South Africa — its distribution, its particular opportunities and problems, and the specific steps industrial mission should take to leaven it.

(Vervolg van bladsy 5)

KERK EN NYWERHEID

Daar wag 'n groot taak op die hele Kerk in Suid-Afrika om in geloof, met visie en met nugterheid die uitdaging van hierdie industriële tydperk te aanvaar. Mag die hele Kerk in Suid-Afrika, soos verteenwoordig deur alle denominasies, en deur alle gelowiges (leraars sowel as lidmate), die roepstem van God hoor soos dit ons toeklink uit die gewoel en gewerskaaf van kantore en besigheide, fabriek en myne. Want ook daar — ja, juis daar — wil Christus sy koningskap oor die menslike lewe met vreugde laat geld.

CHURCH AND INDUSTRY

A big task awaits the whole Church in South Africa, to accept the challenge of this industrial age in faith, and with vision and clear insight. May the whole Church in South Africa, as she is represented by all denominations and by all the faithful (clergy as well as laity), hear the call of God as it comes to us in the hustle and bustle of office and business, factory and mine. Also here, particularly here, Christ wants to realize his kingship with joy.