

Bishop Kevin Dunn

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of Kevin Dunn, Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle who died on Saturday 1st March 2008 at the age of 57.

Bishop Kevin was born in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire and studied for the priesthood at Oscott College, Birmingham. Members of the MCW remember him well having a Young Christian Workers (YCW) group during his time in Walsall as well as attending the YCW Chaplain's Week in Harborne Hall, Birmingham. He maintained contact with some of the MCW members during his time as chaplain to the Caribbean community in the Archdiocese of Birmingham from 1980 to 1987 where he helped develop the Credit Union and even designing some of the database software – clearly a man of many talents.

In 2005 he contacted the MCW's National Executive Committee (NEC) and asked them to plan and deliver a Lay Leadership Training Course which took place at Ushaw College in April 2006. A group of 16 lay people from various parishes across the diocese took part in this intensive weekend course on Christian Leadership.

Bishop Kevin spent the majority of the weekend fully participating in the event. In



welcoming everyone and thanking them for giving of their time he spoke about the importance of seeing lay people being rooted in the world, in the community and in politics.

We were privileged to have the full support of Bishop Kevin who took the opportunity over this weekend to announce the launch of a Lay Training Fund to mirror that of the Priests' Training Fund. This money was to support lay training across the diocese so that the laity of all ages could discover or rediscover their roles as leaven in the world; to engage in the world in a spirit of encounter, encountering Christ through transforming lives. In his short time as Bishop he made a deep impact in Hexham & Newcastle. His view of the role of the laity and the importance of their formation and support we hope will be his legacy to the Church as a whole and that other Bishops and Dioceses will follow his important initiative which places Lay People at the centre of the Church's mission to transform the world.



May he rest in peace.

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The European Seminar Barcelona 15th to 18th May 2008 was attended by approximately 70 delegates representing 38 member or observer movements and organisations. Mary Foy and Jim Dearlove represented the MCW whilst Paul Edwards attended on behalf of the World Movement of Christian Workers.



Over 4 days of open sessions and group discussions the main focus of their deliberations was 'Migration & Mobility (legal and illegal) of Workers in Europe'. This seminar was a follow-up from the Seville Declaration on Migration in Europe which was written in May 2007 at which Liz Meagher and Jim Dearlove were present.

The MCW's NEC had prepared the English delegates' contribution to the questions posed for discussion. These included 'What is the situation of migrants in your country?'; 'Are people afraid of any of these groups?'; 'How does your government tackle the view of migrants?' and 'What is the response of the Church in your country to migrants?'

Our preparation included noting that England had been a country of migration and settlement throughout its history. We also identified both the positives and negatives attributed to migration including the gaining of skills and sharing cultures whilst difficulties arose because of the strain put on current infrastructure not developed to meet the new demands of changing needs. The Catholic Bishops' Conference Policy Paper 'Mission of the Church to Migrants in England & Wales' as well as our past enquiries on the Gospel's provocation to welcome and be in solidarity with the widow, the stranger and the orphan assisted us in our contribution to the seminar's deliberations.

In addition the MCW's responsibility for providing the Saturday Morning Spiritual

Reflection focused on this challenge using readings from Deuteronomy 10:18-19; Luke 10:25-37 as well as part of a verse written from a migrant's perspective entitled 'Home is home & bush is bush' from 'Celebrating One World' booklet.

Arising out of the various discussions and presentations our delegation made three particular reflections:

- Although we were examining migration from a European perspective its worldwide context could not be ignored. Whilst some European countries spoke of the difficulties of hosting migrants it was important to remember that much poorer African countries were hosting most of the world's population of migrants.
- Much of the tension and struggle within our countries arose because our governments were failing to address the poverty and hardships suffered, many over generations, by our indigenous and settled communities whether in paid employment or without work.
- The governments of those countries from where people were migrating had to take responsibility for their own policies instead

norm for a 'hidden class' of workers in Britain'.

No, this is not a quote from the MCW's 'Reclaiming Time' report produced in 2006. However, from the message it carries it might as well have been. In fact it is a quote in The Observer (Sunday 4th May 2008) taken from the TUC's Commission on Vulnerable Employment entitled 'Hard Work, Hidden Lives'.

Brendan Barber the TUC Leader is quoted as saying 'While this commission expected to find poor treatment, its extent has stunned us all ... Worst of all, much of it took place within a legal framework that fails to prevent exploitation. Much exploitation treatment occurs because the law is not strong enough to prevent mistreatment...'

The findings contained in the MCW's 'Reclaiming Time' report are vindicated by the TUC's Commission. Both documents reflect the stark reality of many workers' lives today. The MCW's report and the enquiry booklet 'Enquiry material for use with Human Life & Work in the 21st Century' which led to its publication can be used to

its snaring or realities through the Review of Life method leads to deeper discoveries about each others' situations and enables a search for ways to work together in solidarity.

Both the MCW report and the TUC report is evidence challenging us as Christian Workers that we should use every opportunity to call for and campaign against such insecure employment and practices. As Fran Bennett, Snr Research Fellow at Oxford University says "Loopholes in the laws that are meant to protect workers must be closed."

Reclaiming Time Report is available from MCW HQ, St. Joseph's, off St Joseph's Grove, (Watford Way), London NW4 4TY.
Tel 0208 203 6290
Email: mcworkers@aol.com or order online from www.mcworkers.org
£6.00 including p&p

Hard Work, Hidden Lives can be ordered from the TUC priced at £10.00 for members and £20.00 for non-members by clicking on publications on their home page www.tuc.org.uk

Bank Accounts

Are you aware of any dormant bank accounts in the name of either Movement of Christian Workers (MCW) or perhaps in the name of its predecessor Family & Social Action (FSA)? If so, please get in touch with Jo O'Brien at National Headquarters with a view to transferring the money to the national account.

The Movement needs the money in order to grow and develop. Some extra resources would also be welcome as we plan to update and republish older social and gospel enquiry booklets to meet current needs.

Please pass this request on to other people who you think may be able to help. It could be that money may have been sitting in these accounts for years untouched and half forgotten.

Jo O'Brien: 0208 203 6290 or mcworkers@aol.com

unaddressed people who struggled and endeavoured to keep themselves and their families alive, fed, housed and in health in whatever and however way they could would remain the victim, the individual to be blamed.

The French and Portuguese delegations brought to our attention the moves afoot for the European Commission to 'harmonise legislation' on illegal migration. This they emphasised was not to protect people's human rights but to simply improve the effectiveness of expulsion. What this included was a proposal to hold people in detention as a control i.e. an internment of

to the values rounded through the reconstruction of Europe in the wake of the 2nd World War. Thus they called upon the MEPs to refuse to vote in favour of this move so as to defend the fundamental values and liberty of people. With elections for our MEPs coming soon perhaps this is one question to be posed; where do they stand on internment for migrants?

The Barcelona Declaration, a document produced as a fruit of the various and wide ranging discussions from the seminar will be available soon. Don't forget to look for it on the MCW website www.mcworkers.org

MCW's World Assembly 12-22 October 2009 in Nantes, France

Can you help to support a delegate from some of the world's poorest Movements to take part in the World Assembly?

Later in the year we will be launching an appeal to ask for donations to help enable delegates from Movements around the world to attend this meeting in 2009.

It's really important that a world assembly is just that and not only a gathering of those Movements who can afford to send someone.

We know it is a hard time currently for us all with food, petrol and house fuel bills rising seemingly day by day. However, we would ask that you could see your way to helping us help others.

Perhaps you could start now! May be putting aside each week for the next 2 months the price of a cup of coffee, or tea, or a glass of wine or pint of beer, possibly a bar of chocolate, a packet of sweets or the cost of a newspaper or magazine. You may even have some small change left over



from a previous holiday and as we all know every penny or cent does count and you can be assured that every penny contributed will be appreciated.



Date for Your Diary

Saturday 29 November 2008

MCW Annual Conference & AGM at St Bedes Conference Centre, York
(further details to follow)