

S T. U R S U L A ' S C H U R C H

B E R N E

The financial year is drawing to its close, and once more we venture to appeal to you for your generous support to enable the Church to carry on.

Much has been achieved thanks to you during the last twelve months; the walls of the Church are clean, the sanctuary enriched, the altar is cared for, a supply of flowers assured, the choir has increased its numbers, and the new organ, which is still only on loan, may eventually belong to us completely.

Offertories have greatly increased, but we still need Frs.5000.— to enable us to cover the Chaplain's stipend and the permanent running expenses of the Church. Our difficulties this year have been greater than usual as exchange regulations have prevented transfers from our account in the United Kingdom.

For these reasons, we ask you again to help us with your subscriptions which may be made on the enclosed postal cheque form (account No. III 4416) or in cash to the Church Warden.

Accompanying this appeal is a message from the Chaplain concerning the proposed building of a Church House on the ground behind the Church. Should the S.P.G. consent to the land being used for this purpose, we hope that the Padre will be able to realise his plan.

Jackson Smith

E. B. Dawson-Moray

Leland Harrison

U.S. Minister

Church Warden

Chaplain's Warden

Clifford J. Norton

H.B.M. Minister

Lees Mayall

Chairman of St. Ursula's Church Council.

October, 1943.

From the Rev. George Moore
British-American Chaplain

BERNE
Steinerstrasse, 47
Tel. 3 08 78

I am grateful to have the privilege of adding this pastoral letter to the Churchwarden's Appeal, and to have so good an opportunity of sharing with you my plans for the immediate future. We are concerned with a much deeper issue than keeping the English Church from closing down; it must open up, extend its work, bear vital witness to our resolve that Christian principles shall survive. Two world wars in a quarter of a century are but a poor advertisement for our much vaunted progress, and it is clear that man without God cannot build a world worth living in; we therefore, who in our various ways are on the side of God, determine that the Faith of Christ shall survive, knowing that when that goes, the way of life based upon it will soon follow. That danger of course threatens, but we, who at the moment can do little else, can at any rate not only hold our bit of the line, but go forward, as indeed we must.

St. Ursula's is playing its part in training an increasing band of vital Christians for the task which claims our generation, that of creating human fellowship on the basis of life in Christ . . . there is a stirring of new life, and more than that : people are meeting, thinking, discussing, worshipping, uniting in a corporate effort to make the Church a "lively" force in our community and to do the work which is entrusted to us here.

As I see it, the great need and first claim upon us at this juncture is the building of St. Ursula's House. It is no longer possible to envisage the chaplain's job as taking a service or two on Sunday, and then disappearing from public view for the rest of the week; he must be available as friend and adviser, be able to dispense a modest hospitality and carry on his work as educator in Christian principles : the children must be able to find him in a house where they can be noisily happy on occasion, the Church's activities going on all the week round, in a house with an ever open door. Here would be held the classes, discussions and meetings which I am trying to carry on in conditions of most

hampering difficulty in my tiny flat... here would take place the concerts, plays, dances, singing practices; here would come the youths and maidens to spend their off duty time in the evenings, many of whom have nowhere at the moment except often lonely "digs". I see a building on the plot of ground behind the Church which shall be the social and religious centre of every kind of cheerful activity. It will give the chaplain not only a modest billet, but also a workshop where contacts can be made, and Christian work go forward unhampered by the limitations of my present quarters, which are considerable. It is a fact not without a certain ironic significance that every "Minister" here in Berne is provided with house and equipment for the effective carrying on of his work, except the "Minister" of Almighty God! Yet there is an immense amount of vague goodwill for the particular ministry which I am commissioned to exercise here, and of course no lack of the money needed to make that ministry effective.

To that end, a church house, manse, presbytery, call it what you will, is simply an essential piece of equipment. Such a house is already planned; a one-storey bungalow, with four or five rooms, one of which is a very large common room (a scale model of it awaits your inspection in the Church), the Town Council have accepted the plans, we await only the "nihil obstat" of the S.P.C., and with your co-operation the thing can be done.

When we start upon it we begin with the clear advantage of having already the site upon which to build—it was doubtless part of the plan of the original builders of the Church—so there is no ground to buy, only the cost of the building to raise—at the most 50,000 francs—a tiny sum when you consider that it represents the cost of approximately one large bomb! Many a small town in England has raised the price of a bomber, surely we in Berne could find enough to pay for a bomb!

The venture may well be our War memorial: if you will, an indication of a revived interest in Christianity, our Thank-offering for four years of peace in the midst of Europe at war.

Our homes are intact what time one house in every five in England has been "blitzed". It has surely been worth a franc a week to have a sound roof

over one's head, and if roughly 250 people would give that for every week of the four years of the war, the new building could be put in hand tomorrow!

But this letter does not ask for money at the moment; though I should be immensely grateful for promises of financial help when the scheme can go forward; rather it seeks your prayers, your suggestions, your offers of help in planning and formulating the scheme.

Would you consider the various ways and means of helping. Please cross out what does not apply on the form below and return to me (The Rev. George Moore, British and American Chaplain, Steinerstrasse 47, Berne).

I approve of this scheme.

I will volunteer as Organising Secretary of an Appeal.

I will serve on a Committee.

I will pay the cost of the building myself. I will give it in memory of, to whose memory it will be dedicated.

Your friend and servant in Christ,

George Moore.