

EDITORIAL

With this issue KOERS appears in English for the first time. In the first issue of 1974 it was announced to our readers that at least one number every year would appear as an English edition. We are glad to publish this issue as a double number. The only reason for this is to lessen the costs of handling and despatch overseas.

KOERS is administered by an editorial committee appointed by the members of the staff of the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. It may thus be expected that this periodical will bear a Christian character. It has more than once been explicitly stated, e g again in the first issue of 1974, that the editorial committee is committed to Scripture, which is the Word of the living God, as the basis of its fundamental principles applied to every single sphere of life.

To a corps of university staff this means two things. In the first place, that the two main categories of the work which is done at the University, viz teaching/educating and research, must be done in the light of the Word of God. Obedience to the Bible, to the principles which should be applied to these tasks of the University, is the way we want to tread to the greater glory of God.

Secondly, this also means that the University staff may devote themselves gladly and with joyous zeal to every aspect of scientific research by means of every legitimate method. There may be many discussions on what it means to do scientific research work in the light of the Word of God; on what science, as based on Biblical principles, must be. Authorities more able than I can better give the answer to this; and we hope to have some discussion along these lines in our 1975 issues. It may, however, never mean that science then becomes theologized or philosophized science. Neither may it mean that it turns science into a biblicistic explanation of reality — because the Bible is not meant to give scientific explanations to our twentieth century knowledge. But it must mean that the light of the Word of God illuminates every created sphere, and this is an open invitation to the Christian research worker towards exploitation, be it in the natural sciences or in the humanities.

With regard to this approach to the task of the University it is worthy of note that the Potchefstroom University for C H E has progressed in two important fields in the last few years. The one is by establishing an Institute for the Advancement of Calvinism, about which an article may be found in this issue. The other is by introducing a course of Inter-faculty Philosophy, obligatory to all students of this university, in which are taught the Biblical principles of Calvinism as a world view and as a basis for all scientific work.

This is not to say that we mean to have obtained the whole truth. On the contrary, there is a deeply felt desire to have more — much more — co-operation from everyone who is of the same conviction and belief in our country and in every country overseas. As a matter of fact, this is the reason why this issue of KOERS appears in English, and at about the same time when the Potchefstroom University for C H E is organizing an international conference on the future task of the Christian University and educational institutions in the twentieth century. There is an urgent need to communicate with Christian colleagues all over the world; to accept guidance, and to exert leadership where necessary; to unite forces in the Kingdom of God.

You may then regard this English issue of KOERS as an outstretched hand. Let us take each other by the hand, for the cause to which we are striving is too big and too high for us to ignore one another as fellow warriors in the Kingdom of God, as brethren in Christ and as "heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ . . . suffering with him in order that we may also be glorified with him." (Rom 8,17).

And if this English issue of KOERS has no other result than to stir the awareness that there are others also, often in far away countries and in hidden and obscure places, who are desirous to lead their lives according to, and to do their work in obedience to the Word of God, even then we shall be more than satisfied and rewarded.