

News from the colony

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NEWS FROM THE COLONY

UNITED SERVICE

11th December 1966

*To be What He wants me to be
To go where He wants me to go
To do what He wants me to do.*

More and more, the United Service which the Swiss Church holds once every year with the Anglican congregation of St. Mary Woolnoth, is becoming a joyful event to which both the Swiss and the English look forward to. This Service is almost looked upon as the first of the Christmas celebrations, which is also outwardly expressed by the traditional Advent wreath with its three candles alight for the third Sunday in Advent. The refreshments, too, with which the churchgoers were regaled after the Service had Christmas character.

The liturgy was shared by the Rev. Bill Allam and Pfr. Marcel Dietler; the sermon was preached by His Worship, the Mayor of Merton, Sir Cyril Black, J.P., D.L., M.P., who is known to many Swiss who attended the First of August Celebration at Wimbledon Town Hall. With Sir Cyril Black, a Baptist voice has been heard so that it can be rightly said the Anglican, the Baptist and the Reformed children of the reformation have met at a family reunion. Among those present we noticed the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Robert Bellinger, who took part in the Service quite informally as an ordinary member of the congregation. Present were also Lady Black who had accompanied her husband and Madame de Fischer.

Sir Cyril Black's sermon was based upon Acts 11,26 where we hear that the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. The contents of the sermon can be summarized as an answer to the question: "What does it mean to be a Christian?" As a first point the Mayor brought home to us the Words: "To be what He wants me to be" which the hearer could apply to his own denomination or also to his position in life. As a second point he stressed: "To go where He wants me to go"; here we might think among other things of those who knowingly or unknowingly would be with us for the last time in this particular Service. Thirdly we were admonished: "To do what He wants me to do". I believe it is more than a mere coincidence that while our guest preacher coined these words, outside the church, newspapers were obtainable in which the news could be read that the Mayor as a Member of Parliament had succeeded in being instrumental to having the further sale of another specially objectionable book stopped. Thus in our Service Word and Action proved to be one.

Marcel Dietler, Pfr.

AN APOLOGY

It has just come to our notice than an unfortunate error slipped into the Christmas number. Under Birthdays it was stated that Mrs. E. P. Locher would be 73 on 4th January. This was incorrect and should have read Mr. E. P. Locher. We sincerely apologise to Mrs. Locher for inadvertently adding a few years to her age and wish Mr. Locher many happy returns of his birthday, belatedly but none the less cordially.

COMMITTEE OF SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON

The drawing of the prizes for our Christmas Draw 1966 took place on 16th December 1966. The list of all prize winners has been distributed to the various selling centres, and all prize winners have been individually informed of the result of the Draw.

Thanks to the generosity and support of all our friends we are very pleased to announce that the sale of tickets and donations received have produced an income of about £290.

Our very active and flourishing Youth Club held their Christmas Eve celebration on Saturday, 24th December, at the nicely decorated Westminster Ball Room, 30 Strutton Ground, S.W.1.

The reading (in our three National Languages) of Christ's birth from the Holy Gospel, a beautifully decorated Christmas Tree and Cradle, little gift bags and an excellent cold supper created, amongst the 140 young compatriots, a genuine Swiss "Weihnachtsstimmung" which was greatly enhanced by the singing of our beloved Christmas songs.

Our Special Christmas and New Year Service was held at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1., at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 15th January 1967, by our Chaplain, the Rev. Father Jos. Scherer.

This service was followed by the traditional Christmas and New Year tea party for Children at the Westminster Ball Room.

Each child received a very nice present and a gift bag containing Swiss cakes, chocolates, etc., from Father Christmas.

All the tables were decorated with lighted candles. Young and old sang our cherished Swiss songs with great fervour.

Monsieur J. D. Grandjean, Counsellor of the Swiss Embassy and Madame Grandjean honoured us with their presence.

This lovely children's party which gave great pleasure to all present, was followed by a Social Evening for our Youth Club, which was attended by 250 compatriots.

*O. GROB,
Chairman.*

ADOLF SCHMID 80

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 80th birthday on 1st February of Mr. A. Schmid, Norfolk Court Hotel, 20 Norfolk Square, W.2. A citizen of Eiken (AG), he came to this country 60 years ago. He took over the Norfolk Court in 1927. Mr. Schmid is a member of the Swiss Rifle Association and of the London Swiss Philatelic Society. He owns one of the most beautiful stamp collections of early Swiss issues.

We wish Mr. Schmid and his family a pleasant day and many happy returns of it.

ANOTHER 80th BIRTHDAY

We send hearty congratulations to a faithful member of the Swiss Community in Manchester, Mr. W. Allenspach of 112 Broadoak Road, Ashton-Under-Lyne, who will be 80 on 3rd February.