

CMI NEWSBRIEFS

THE RENEWAL OF SOCIETY THROUGH THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH • CHURCH RENEWAL THROUGH
RENEWAL OF THE FAMILY • FAMILY RENEWAL THROUGH RENEWED INDIVIDUALS



“Christ’s good news, about leadership, to leadership, for leadership, is CMI-Laity Lodge ministry.”

“North American Congress of the Laity will be the first major undertaking of its kind.”

“After two years of planning and discussing with the Council of Southwest Theological Schools, a new approach to lay theological education has become a major CMI project.”

“Creativity and Christian Lifestyle retreats at Laity Lodge feature Bible studies and release of creative energies.”

“Family values from a Christian perspective will be a major Laity Lodge Youth Camp theme.”

“CMI Newsbriefs will be published quarterly as information service.”

A NEW LEADERSHIP STYLE REQUIRED

Watergate is the judgment of God calling America to a new style of leadership. Will we heed the Watergate judgement? Will we hear the Watergate call? Will I? Will you?

The vision for many years behind our lay-ministries has focused on the distinctive significance of Christians in leadership. Never before have I sensed our vision so timely as now.

- What does it mean to be a leader who leads only to serve those he leads?
- What does it mean to be a leader who "walks in the light" of openness?
- What does it mean to be a leader who sees himself, first, as "Christ's servant"?

These questions, the real Watergate issues, the spiritual kernel, the theological questions of leadership, demand a clearly-defined theology of the laity. What does it mean to *be* the church in the world? As the *laity*? To be servant-leaders?

Richard Nixon's Watergate left his style of leadership revealed. The judgment of God is just that: undeleted unexpurgated unedited revelation. I doubt that history ever before exposed, to the white light of public scrutiny, so mercilessly naked, the unseen inner workings of contemporary political power. A combination of constitutional institutions, adversary media, modern electronics, free communications, and fortuitous circumstance made Watergate unique.

But was it?

Was Watergate all that unique? Was Watergate all that unusual? I don't mean the break-in, the arrests, the cover-up, the revelation; I don't mean politically. I mean the way people in leadership—all of us—think. Not just in Washington. Everywhere. How do leaders everywhere see themselves conceptually, intellectually, rationally? How do we, as leaders, think?

In Watergate, God spoke not only to Richard Nixon, not only to politicians, not only to Repub-

licans, not only to Congresses, not only to Wayne Hays. In it God spoke to us one and all. Watergate is the voice of God about leadership. To me and you. Christ's good news, about leadership, to leadership, for leadership, is our CMI-Laity Lodge ministry. With this issue, we launch News Briefs to keep you informed. Most of you receiving it have been our friends for years. To others of you we are new. In issues to come I hope to spell out for you our plans, our directions, our strategy. Our rationale. Why do we aim for "the up and out"? Is there a place in the Church for a para-ecclesiastical organization like ours which focuses on leadership? For such a ministry, what is our biblical base? What do we mean by leadership? How broad is it? How do we relate our leadership to the churches? What about leadership in the family? In what sense is leadership psychological? In what sense institutional? Does concern for leaders mean we do not care about the poor?

Or is your concern for leadership the fastest, most practical, most enduring way you can help the poor and oppressed?

We believe it is.

To periodic visits with you in these pages, I look forward.

Howard Butt

NEWSBRIEFS TO BE PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

As a way of keeping friends informed on lay ministries directed by Howard Butt, a CMI Newsbriefs will be published quarterly. Two of the issues will be primarily concerned with the Laity Lodge Adult Conferences and the Laity Lodge Youth Camps. Newsbriefs are sent without cost to interested persons. Should you want friends to receive the information, please send their names and addresses to the Kerrville Office.

NORTH AMERICAN CONGRESS OF THE LAITY SCHEDULED FOR 1978 IN CALIFORNIA

After 20 years of programming the Layman's Leadership Institutes, the CMI staff has taken a bold new step in leadership services by planning a North American Congress of the Laity to be held in Los Angeles in 1978.

Dr. James M. Houston, principal of Canada's Regent College, visited Howard Butt three years ago and encouraged him to sponsor a Congress for North American lay Christian leaders and selected clergy. Knowing this would be a significant departure from the LLI's which have meant Christian growth for many men and women across the nation, Howard Butt consulted with lay persons, educators and clergy to determine if this should be a CMI undertaking. Sensing God's leadership, the decision was made a year ago to sponsor the Congress and discontinue the Layman's Leadership Institutes.

Sam Fore, who joined the CMI staff in 1974 as National Director of Leadership Services, was named coordinator for the Congress. He described the LLI's as "a gift from the past" and the North American Congress of the Laity as "a vision for the next step" in effective cultural penetration through new creative areas of Christian leadership.

Dealing with the theme "Divine Creation: Human Creativity in Relationships, Work, and Leisure" the Congress will consider Christian alternatives to the status quo, combining authentic spiritual rootedness with personal, social and institutional change.

Claremont School of Theology, Fuller Theological Seminary and St. John's School of Theology will be hosts for the Congress.

Convenors of the Congress are Howard and Barbara Dan Butt, Gary Demarest, Sam L. Fore, F. Willard and Joan Robinson and Tedd Smith.

The Congress's Advisory Board is Ronald Anderson, Frank Bates, Clayton Carlson, Jeanette Clift, William Dyal, Jr., Jean Eckstein, Martha Edens, Virgilio P. Elizondo, John Grindel, Richard Hal-

verson, James Houston, David Hubbard, Vester Hughes, William Lawson, Edward Lindamann, Martin Marty, Jarrell McCracken, Gordon Michalson, Donn Moomaw, Armand Nicholi, Jr., and Tom Reavley.

This major CMI program, which will require more than two years to plan and implement, will be the first major undertaking of its kind in North America.

This will be an invitational meeting for strategically selected men and women participants representing a broad spectrum of various groups.

The Layman's Leadership Institutes which were started at Louisville, Ky., in 1956 can be reintroduced regionally if funds become available for expanding the CMI staff.

CMI BEGINS LAY THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION PROJECT

A new approach to lay theological education has become a major CMI project. After two years of planning and discussions with the Council of Southwest Theological Schools, the first in the new series of seminary education offerings was held at Laity Lodge in October. Lay persons from two Episcopal churches met at the Lodge for a week-end of studies on "Salvation in Scriptures and Experience."

Howard Butt and the CMI staff met several times with deans and professors from 11 theological schools to come up with a basic plan for taking seminary studies to communities and other strategic places such as Laity lodge.

Dr. and Mrs. F. Willard Robinson joined the CMI staff in January to direct the Lay Theological Education studies. Dr. Robinson is a distinguished educational administrator and was principal of the Beverly Hills High School for 17 years. Joan Robinson was administrative director for the Fuller Theological Seminary extension programs in Los Angeles.

Lay Theological Education projects are now scheduled for Corpus Christi and Waco, Texas. Long range planning includes the possibilities of taking study programs to other communities throughout the Southwest.

Southwest Theological Schools participating in the two cities project are:

Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University
Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest

The Institute of Religion
Oblate College of the Southwest
Perkins School of Theology,

Southern Methodist University
School of Theology,
University of St. Thomas

Dr. and Mrs. Robinson said, "We are keenly aware of the impact that this new outreach of CMI can have in the development of new depths of effectiveness within the work of the Christian community and are enjoying becoming involved with lay and clerical leadership in Texas communities."

LAITY LODGE ATTRACTS PARTICIPANTS FROM 28 STATES

Laity Lodge is the adult Retreat Center located on the H.E. Butt Foundation Camp property. The program is sponsored by Christian Men, Inc. and Bill Cody is director. More than 1,900 different people from 28 states participated in one or more of the sessions last year. The Lodge is open year round and features different types of groups and styles of retreats.

From September to May, most retreats are held on the weekends. Many are parish or congregational groups. However, special weekend retreats are also scheduled for single adults, adults under thirty years of age, Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-

Anon, and professional groups such as dentists and their wives, physicians and ministers, clergy and women's groups. The programming at Laity Lodge provides a kind of flexibility that makes for a creative ministry.

The summer program from June to August offers a tremendous amount of variety. Weekend conferences with special themes draw from parishes, congregations or communities. Week-long study retreats have a faculty including a Bible Study leader and a psychiatrist or a clergyman trained in pastoral counseling. These retreats integrate insights from Scripture and behavioral sciences and enable guests to live out this insight in small group situations.

A contemplative style retreat focuses on meditation, silence, journal-writing and personal spiritual growth.

One of the most exciting new approaches developed by Laity Lodge is the retreat called "Creativity and Christian Lifestyle." These retreats feature Biblical Studies relating to the Christian commitment and the release of creative energies. Instruction is offered in painting, jewelry making, creative writing, guitar, stitchery, needlepoint, photography, pottery, batik, and tennis. Each guest is encouraged to experiment with a new kind of behaviour by trying something he or she has never done before; as well as, getting advanced instruction in an area which he may already be working.

SUPPORT REQUESTED

During the next twelve months, \$574,000 will be needed for various CMI programs. Approximately \$350,000 of this amount will be given by the H.E. Butt Foundation and family. Registration fees will account for \$124,000. This leaves \$100,000 which must be secured by gifts from interested friends. Small and large gifts will be gratefully appreciated. They should be sent directly to CMI Offices in Kerrville.

FAMILY VALUES EMPHASIZED IN LAITY LODGE YOUTH CAMPS

Family values from a Christian perspective will be the major theme for cabin discussions and round-ups at the summer of 1977 Laity Lodge Youth Camps.

A staff of 52 young adult counselors and program leaders will help teenagers and junior aged campers to have the greatest times of their lives and they also will be equipped to spend considerable time discussing Christ's truth and positive relationships in family living.

The LLYC, located on the H.E. Butt Foundation Camp, is in its 11th year of providing a unique Texas Hill Country place and programs for youngsters wanting memorable Christian camping experiences.

James "Frog" Sullivan is the first full-time executive director of the Laity Lodge Youth Camps. He was a key Young Life staffer for 23 years and has worked part time in the LLYC since they were first organized.

After last summer's camps, a youngster wrote Frog, "Remember how you told us not to leave Jesus behind when we went through the gate to go home. Well, I didn't. I feel Him with me and walking with me like a best friend and it is so great because I can tell Him something without Him telling anyone else."

The camps are scheduled for two-week periods beginning June 12. They are for youngsters age 8—12 and 13—17.

THREE ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE STRUCTURES FOR LAY MINISTRIES

Christian Men, Inc., the H.E. Butt Foundation and Laity Lodge Foundation provide a variety of lay leadership and educational programs directed by Howard Butt. The programming organization is Christian Men, Inc., which is a tax deductible public charity. The H.E. Butt Foundation employs key staff personnel, provides a limited amount of operational funds and the properties for the Laity Lodge

adult center, the youth camp, and offices in Kerrville. Laity Lodge Foundation, also a public charity, is the financial structure for the Laity Lodge Youth Camps and future family camping programs.

CMI was organized 17 years ago by Howard Butt and a few business and professional friends to program the Layman's Leadership Institute and to initiate new leadership and educational lay ministries. Leonard Holloway is administrative coordinator for the organizations.

TAPES AND BOOKS AVAILABLE THROUGH KERRVILLE OFFICE

To make addresses and witnesses from the Lay Leadership Institutes and Laity Lodge available to a broader public a new tape series was started approximately a year ago. Content material from 17 speakers has been recorded on 12 Laity Lodge tapes. Speakers now available are Hull Youngblood, Tom Landry, Roger Staubach, Don Cockroft, Governor Jimmy Carter, Senator Mark Hatfield, Howard Butt, Dennis Ralston, Bill Milliken, Dr. Armand Nicholi, Dr. James Mallory, Dr. Ralph Berkeley, John R. Claypool, Dr. John Mebane, Robert Slocum, and Norman Vincent Peale.

CMI Offices are also distributing copies of Howard Butt's book, *The Velvet Covered Brick*. These are available with a study guide by Bill and Betty Anne Cody. There is no cost for the study guide when it is ordered with the book. The cost of the book is \$6.95, and the tapes are \$4.95. Both the books and the tapes are owned by CMI. The books and tapes are available through the Kerrville Office.



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Kerrville, Texas 78028

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