Man of many tongues

by Carol Barnwell

One and a half hours of spontaneous interpretation leaves the Rev Daniel Mwailu exhausted. "You have to translate not only the words but the expression of the words and anticipate what is coming next," Mr Mwailu says.

Forty-one interpreters are working in Japanese, Arabic, Portuguese, French, Swahili and English, says Donata Coleman, who spent two-and-a-half years in the Swahili translators.

Translating into Swahili presents unique problems because it is "a technical language," he said. "It does not have a word for something like 'intercollegiate' but focuses on daily life."

Sometimes it takes five words to explain one. Additionally, time is perceived very differently. Six pages per page is usual, but can go up to 10 per page.

Their aim: to never be stuck for a word

by Carol Barnwell

Teams of interpreters spent their “free weekend” working through the small hours to interpret resolutions into French, Spanish and Japanese, says Donata Coleman, coordinator of the 41-strong team assembled for the Lambeth Conference.

Her calm demeanour never wavers as nine people rush into her tiny office to drop off or pick up more papers. M any accents make enquiries in English, then are gone as rapidly as they arrived, to finish their assigned tasks.

With discussions and debate rising on the interpreters’ horizons this week, one concern becomes apparent: the pace of business and translation services.

Lambeth section report on sexuality charts middle course

by David Skidmore

After two weeks of closed-door discussions, sexuality moves to the public forum of a full Lambeth Conference plenary this afternoon as the bishops consider the draft report and resolutions of Section One. The two debatable resolutions from the section address sexuality (I.10) and euthanasia (I.14). The plenary also is scheduled to consider resolution IV.26 from Section Four, which also deals with sexuality.

At two pages—the shortest of any of the six subsections in the 36-page main report from Section One—the sexuality report stirs out a middle-ground position, affirming part of Lambeth Conference statements on the sexual identity of God.

Sexuality resolution: back to original text

by David Skidmore

The human-sexuality resolution originally published in the Conference’s blue “Proposed Resolutions” booklet is the text to come before bishops in this afternoon’s plenary.

Confusion about which resolution to bring to the plenary sparked protests during the closing moments of the Conference’s first business plenary yesterday afternoon.

The plenary also will consider resolutions submitted by Oceania (Resolution 14), South Asia/Middle East (Resolution 19), and the Middle East/South Asia (Resolution 20) regions.

Section One Plenary

At 3.30pm the bishops will begin by considering the resolution submitted by the Section One subsection on human sexuality. The plenary also will consider resolutions submitted by other sections.

Archbishop Robert Williams (Monmouth, Wales), chair of Section Two, will speak to his section’s report. Debate will follow on the section’s three resolutions:

• Resolution II.1 on “Youth” proposes several measures to “give more attention to the furtherance of ministry” to young people.

• Resolution II.6 on “Future Priorities in Mission” urges the Church to emphasize mission and evangelism in various ways.

• Resolution II.8 on “Racial Harmony” will deal with reports of the bishops in the four countries represented.

The plenary will continue to consider the draft report and resolutions submitted by Section Two on the topic “Called to Live and Proclaim the Good News.” When action on Section Two items concludes, discussion of Section One, “Called to Full Human Unity,” will begin, with consideration of human-sexuality topics reserved for the afternoon plenary.

Archbishop Robert Williams of West Africa, will chair the morning plenary. Prime Bishop Ignacio Soliba of the Philippines will be vice-chair.

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Archbishop Robert Williams of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland, will chair the plenary. Bishop John Takeda of Tokyo, Primate of Nippon Sei Ko Kai, will be vice-chair.
Ecology is an issue that Bishop Browning says is a necessity for the Church. He outlines four ways in which the Communion could work in this area:

First, convene the Church: The subsection provides a theological statement which is both news and "good news" for many people. "If this theological paper were to be circulated to the Church at large, perhaps the Church will see that in the environmental issue we do have a foundation for evangelism, for teaching and for renewal." For young people an entry into spirituality is through the environment.

Second, the acts of individu-als count: The contribution of every individual is important on this issue, the subsection maintains. The houses we build, the form of energy we use, to how we dispose of rubbish—all have ecological consequences.

For Bishop Browning, ecological commitment includes collecting and recycling rubbish he finds on his daily morning run, as well as his household waste. He admits that using a bicycle instead of a car poses problems for a 30km journey.

"In the environmental issue we do have a foundation for evangelism, for teaching and for renewal. For young people an entry into spirituality is through the environment."

If a third of the world’s population is Christian, the changes that these millions of people could effect could make a huge difference. "We are encouraging the bishops to see that ecological issues are as fundamental to their episco-pate as the way they manage their administrative and more traditional aspects of Church management."

Third, influence govern-ments and industries: Environmental issues are not necessarily a popular stance in government because of the cost of imposing ecological restraints. But this advoca-cy role is essential for the Church, Bishop Browning says. The subsection’s report provides a theological statement showing how the environment is a core part of the Gospel, and the subsection hopes this will provide the impetus for people in the Church to move on to practical programmes in their own nations and communities.

Fourth, establish an Anglican coordinator for the environ-ment: The subsection is calling for the appointment of an Anglican coordinator for the environment in the same way that the Communion has officers for other areas of the Church’s work.

It is demanding not necessarily an officer in London or Washington or Sydney but a person who can use the new technologies to net-work with people working in this field and provide the Communion with someone “who will ginger us and disturb us within the Church.”

The appointment of such an officer might ensure that environmental issues are more prominent on the Conference agenda in 2008.

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**Daily Quote**

"If our witness is to be credible it requires that Christians are united."  
Bishop James Bryce (Polaris)
**Daily Events Tomorrow**

**Thursday August 6 • Feast of Transfiguration**

7.15 am Prayer Time (Province of the Englighe Anglihhe of Congn)
folowed by Bibile Studie with

1.00 - 2.00 am Church Time

3.00 - 4.00 am Tea

3.30 - 5.30 pm Special Time: Discussion and devote including voting on resolutions

3.30 - 5.30 am Spouses to leaad Evening Prayer

5.45 pm Evening Prayer (Group: Bishops' Spouses) followed by Bible Study video with John Austin, Bishop of Birmingham

6.00 - 8.00 pm Dinner

8.30 pm Transfiguration Presentation "Crowning Glory"

**Mark the Date:**

Re-scheduled Songs of Praise will be shown August 6 at 12.30pm following theEucharist

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**Spirit of Dr R Amey lives on at Kent**

**Robin Gill serves campus as professor of modern theology**

by M argaret R odgers

W hen Michael R amey died, Archbishh Robin Runcie was determined there should be a substantial memorial to his much-loved predecessor.

Though no building, monument or stained-glass window was rejected out of hand. The decision was to found a chair of theology as a fitting memorial to the scholar-theologian.

The appeal was quickly approved and supported throughout the Anglican Communion for Dr R amey had been the first Archbishop of Canterbury to travel widely to provinces.

The Michael R amey Chair of M odern Theology was established at the University of Kent in 1993, and the foundation professor, Robin Gill, was interviewed for the position the day after Dr George Carey was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury.

A theologian and ethicist, Professor Gill previously held a chair at Newcastle University, and prior to that taught for 16 years in Edin-

burgh.

As a R amey Professor of M odern Theology, he is also an adviser to the Archbishh of Canterbury in theology and ethics, medical ethics particularly. He chairs Dr Carey's medical ethics advisory group.

Theology is a small department of the University of Kent and plays an important part in inter-disciplinary work at the university.

"The medical and scientific fac-

ulties recognise the contribution of theology to the ethical issues and dilemmas encountered in their various specialties," Professor Gill says. "They are aware that answers are required from other than scientific areas, and they see theology as relevant to their work."

He teaches courses in Christian ethics and in science and theology for the religious studies degree. Most students come to the department at PhD level. There is an M A in Applied Theology, and in the past six years students have come from Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Africa, India and Korea.

Professor Gill explains that many are sponsored by their provinces, and he would welcome enquiries from bishops while they are at Lambeth.

"We can and should bring seri-

ous, intelligent reflection to our faith," Professor Gill says. "We must not be closed to new knowledge but address it, in the spirit of Michael R amey."

"We encourage this university to be seen as a place where younger priests who are going to make a theological contribution to their province can come and study."

"This Lambeth Conference underway yet again the import-

ant role of local and sustained theo-

logical study."

Professor Gill is expected to teach for two terms each year in the university, and in the summer term to travel and teach round the Anglican Communion.

In recent years he has visited South Africa, New Zealand, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia, and he goes to the United States at least once every year.

Professor Gill is married to Jenny, a doctor who is a regional director of primary care. Their home in Canterbury was built in 1750, in Tudor times, and it has a beautiful rose and herb garden that they care for themselves. Their house was originally the servants' home for the big house in St Dunstan's Street, where Thomas Tallis is thought to have lived. It is close to St Dunstan's Church, where the head of Sir Thomas M ore is buried.

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**Briefly**

Sculptor William Fairbank will speak tomorrow at 7.30pm at a Canterbury historic Eastbridge Hospital, where an exhibition of his woodcarvings, "The Forest Stations," is currently displayed. The event will be opened by the Bishop of Welmington.

**Unity**

Continued from page 1

Conference into uncharted waters with a consideration of the pastoral and ecumenical issues which arise out of Anglican experience of new churches and independent Christian groups."

Drawing further from the Section Four report, Bishop Bryce noted: "In each theme we were aware that our ecumenical vocation is carried out in the context of the encounter with people of other faiths and non-believers. Our witness is to be credible it requires that Christians are united."

He continued: "As we receive God's gift and respond to God's call to the mission of the church, awareness that our ecumenical vocation is carried out in the context of the encounter with people of other faiths and non-believers. Our witness is to be credible it requires that Christians are united."

and the praise of God become a united chorus increasing in thank-

giving to the glory of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Two of the three resolutions pre-

sented for debate — IV.13, on commit-

ment to full, visible unity, and IV.3, on an inter-Anglican standing commis-

sion on ecumenical relations—passed by vote of hand, with no requests to be transferred from the assent list to the debate list.

Moving to Section Two, the ple-

nary received the section's report, approved the list of four resolutions on the "agreed list," and adopted an amended version of Resolution II.6, which addresses future priori-

ties in mission.

As a classics scholar Mr Mwailu also speaks Greek and Latin. "I live in a world of languages," he offers simply.

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**Compass R osé available for church, garden homes**

W hy not plant in your church or garden a permanent reminder of the Lambeth Conference? The Compass Rose—a new rose specially named and grown by one of the UK's specialist rose growers—is on sale at the Conference Shop in Gars Lane for despatch later in the year to anywhere in a UK or EU country. Orders may also be placed at the Cathedral Gift Shop in Canterbury for this highly scented, repeat-flowering shrub rose. Orders in Canada and the United States are being filled by Grenier Nurseries in Ontario, Canada; further information may be obtained from the Conference Shop.
‘Women have gifts that must be incorporated into the Church’

Mother’s Union reveals in multitude of ministries

by Liz Knowles

If you teach a man, you teach a man. But if you teach a woman, you teach a family. And if you teach a family, you teach a community. And if you teach a community, you teach a nation. And if you teach a nation, you teach the world.

The Spouses’ Home Tent was packed for a presentation on the work of the Mother’s Union last Monday evening.

The Worldwide President, Lady Eames, gave a brief history of MU. Since its founding 122 years ago by Mary Sumner in her local parish, the society has spread worldwide and now claims more than three quarters of a million members.

The Chief Executive, Mrs Angela Riddler, spoke of Mary Sumner in her local parish, the Eames, and the work of the Mothers’ Union last Monday evening.

Mrs Miriam Ntwika, from Tanzania, described a vibrant, growing society dealing not only in the spiritual but also in raising chickens, pigs, goats and cattle to assist family economies. She mentioned that there are far more women than men in Tanzania. “Surely enabling women is of utmost importance in such a situation.”

Mrs Josephine Waldia, also from Tanzania, described the training efforts of M.U. Where few women read or write, visual aids are vital, and since women are first to wake up and last to go to bed their time is also at a premium.

She described how women are encouraged to get involved in decision-making. Women are the majority in church congregations and therefore give more in stewardship, but financial and administrative committee positions.

“Stewardship is not only in financial terms—your offering might be in maize or cabbage,” she said. “Projects and dioceses need to work on self-sufficiency”, as central funds are not infinite.” The audience murmured approval when she stated that male domination causes female oppression.

Bishop Dinis Sengulane (Lembombo, Mozambique) was the last speaker. He described Mother’s Union as a “precious instrument of God’s work.”

He spoke of his 85-year-old mother who was a first-generation M.U. member. “The Mothers’ Union should continue to grow upward, onward and outward,” he added, “as Jesus grew in stature, wisdom and grace.”

He praised the dedication of members who were always ready for church services, their singing reaching ears and hearts and hands and feet. He referred also to their pastoral care and commitment, and pointed out that women are towers of strength in prayer and fasting. After all, if the mother doesn’t cook, the whole family fasts. He finished by directing the attention of the Mothers’ Union to the rising numbers of professional beggars on the streets a new challenge.

The Mothers’ Union is very much alive and kicking. And singing, shouting and dancing, too.

Many hands make light work: Conference staff members smile from playing field on Saturday July 25.

Resolution Continued from page 1

The chair of the subsection on human sexuality, Bishop Duncan Buchanan (Johannesburg, South Africa) had presented a revised version of the resolution at the morning press conference.

But after hearing Bishop Michael Nuttal, chair of the Resolution Committee, announce at the plenary that the original form of the resolution released on Monday would be considered instead, several bishops demanded that the revised version take its place.

The revised version takes a harder line on homosexuality by opposing “the legitimising or blessing or ordaining of persons in same-sex unions and substitutes the word ‘chastity’ for ‘celibacy’ as the only appropriate choice for single people.

At the same time it states that homosexuals are “full members of the body of Christ” and deserving of the Church’s pastoral ministry.

The bishops argued that the resolution appearing in the booklet was never reviewed and approved by the subsection, much less voted on by the whole section.

Because of the pressure to produce the final section report on sexuality, the group never got around to drafting a resolution, Bishop Harry Goodhew (Sydney, Australia) said.

Bishop Buchanan, he said, took it upon himself to draft a resolution and submit it on behalf of the section.

“In terms of procedure it was more appropriate to have the resolution the group agreed on,” Bishop Goodhew said, earning a round of applause from the bishops.

Bishop Richard Harries (Oxford, England) expressed “great disappointment” with the Steering Committee’s decision. The revised resolution, he said, is “a finely balanced” approach resulting from two weeks of agonising work.

Bishop Nuttal said the Conference Steering Committee had made the decision to use the original version as the lead resolution. The revised version could be submitted as an amendment.

The Steering Committee, he said, took into account that the original version had not been discussed or voted on by the full section.

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