



Association for the Pastoral Care of the Mentally-Ill

c/o Holy Cross Centre, The Crypt, Holy Cross Church
Cromer Street, London, WC1H 8JU
National Telephone Contact : 01483.38936

Newsletter - September 1995

This is not a proper newsletter - it is an apology !

The National Committee have been struggling to find someone to take over from Douglas Stevens in Peterborough, our last editor, who has been asked by his Bishop to take on two parishes with all the extra work that entails. The Guildford Branch have journalists ready and waiting ; but in an Association like ours, experience and energy do not always coincide. So we have arrived at a month before the Annual General Meeting without any credible communication to you, our members.

However, the Association has not been idle, as you will see from the Chairman's Report attached. We have made excellent connections with other church organisations with aims overlapping with our own, and in the long run this will have much more effect in raising awareness amongst the Christian communities nationally, than if APCMI had tried to go it alone.

You will see that we are very pleased to have a senior Bishop and a senior Psychiatrist as our principal patrons. In the coming year we hope we can persuade all our patrons and consultants to come together for an occasional Council to present a much more powerful and authoritative voice at all levels. On October 20th 1996 we will be celebrating 10 years of the Association's life with a special Service in Southwark Cathedral when the preacher will be our patron, Bishop Stephen Sykes, the Bishop of Ely.

The NAME - Yes ! there continue to be many suggestions

- KENOSIS - expressing the sufferer's identity with the self-emptying of Christ on his path to glory ;
- CAMH (Christian Association for Mental Health), pronounced "Calm" - expressing objectives of enabling more serenity in the lives of mentally-ill people ;
- PACEM (Pastoral, Association, Christian, Ecumenical, Mental Health) - again expressing, like CALM, the ethos we are striving for ;
- METANOIA - expressing the change of situation which would enable mental health sufferers to find renewed hope

However, within the Committee, there is a growing conservatism for the retention of APCMI. We have managed to launch ourselves into Community Care and Church networks with this distinctive label, and are beginning to be recognised for our unique niche in the "market". All the options will be given a hearing at the A.G.M., and then happily a decision made, and the name-game can be laid to rest for a while.

But, going back to the newsletter/magazine scenario, there are some excellent ideas for producing a special Mental Health/Pastoral Magazine, full of articles and poems and personal stories, to distribute to a much wider readership than APCMI members alone. Such a Magazine could well take on one of the titles as its brand-name.

**Let the Editor of such a magazine step forward -
APCMI NEEDS YOU !**