

## Forward Movement Publications

At this General Convention the Forward Movement observes its 45th anniversary. It is indeed something to celebrate. Begun as an act of faith during the Great Depression, authorized anew by every succeeding Convention, without subsidy or endowment from national church funds, sustained over the years by the goodwill of the clergy and a host of faithful friends, through good times and bad, the Forward Movement has been able to continue and to grow in service. *Day by Day* and other FM publications are familiar to nearly all Episcopalians and have become an accepted part of our life and ministry. Hundreds of titles, comprising millions of pages, have touched countless lives with the stimulus and the comfort of the Gospel.

As a publishing agency our aims have been modest, our staff minimal, overheads low and profits non-existent. But the results have been phenomenal. And we are still solvent, despite inflation and the problems of cash flow experienced by any business whose capital is tied up in inventory in a time of rising prices and a level or declining volume of sales. During 1978 alone the cost of paper increased 35% and the cost of postage and shipping nearly 100%. Price increases for our publications were inevitable, but we are grateful to report that the volume of sales did not go down as a result, and we were able to end 1978 "in the black" for the first time in four years.

The past triennium marked several important transitions in the long history of the Forward Movement: The Rt. Rev. John M. Krumm, Bishop of Southern Ohio, became Chairman of the Executive Committee, succeeding Bishop Hobson, who had been the founder and Chairman for the previous 42 years!

In January, 1978, the Rev. Dr. James W. Kennedy retired as Director and Editor after thirteen years of creative and energetic leadership, and was succeeded by the Rev. Charles H. Long, of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Dr. Kennedy introduced the publication of FM paperbacks, standardized the size of FM books and booklets for easy display on literature racks, made available many new titles for pastoral care and evangelism, and increased the service of Forward Movement Publications beyond the Episcopal Church, to Canadian Anglicans, to the Anglican Communion as a whole and to the Ecumenical Movement. During his editorship, FM Publications reached its highest volume of sales and longest list of titles in stock; he had also the difficult task of leading a strategic retreat, maintaining services and financial viability in a time of declining membership (and sales) and controversy in the church. The current editor is grateful not only for his example but for his continued wise advice and assistance.

In 1978, for the first time, all aspects of our operation were consolidated in Cincinnati. This meant the termination of printing, storage and shipping arrangements with Arcata Graphics, Inc. of Depew, New York, with whom we had enjoyed many years of fruitful cooperation.

The triennium saw the introduction of an annual volume of intercessions for the bishops and dioceses of the Anglican Communion, called *Partners in Prayer*. Based on the "Cycle of Prayer for Anglican Use," a brief calendar published in England, it was intended to link the entire Anglican Communion in daily prayer and to replace an earlier FM publication, *Response*, which focused on intercessions for the mission of the church. As a daily devotional guide, *Response* had appeared to compete with *Forward Day by Day* and never achieved sufficient circulation to cover its real costs. *Partners in Prayer* 1976, 1977 and 1978 has been well received wherever the books have been used and has been commended by the Anglican Consultative Council. Yet sales continue to decline, especially in overseas dioceses, where both poverty and currency restrictions make the import of American literature difficult. We continue

to recover our printing costs, but regret that a devotional resource of great potential value has not yet reached as many clergy and parishes as it should.

With the advent of a new Director and Editor in 1978 a special consultation of Episcopal communicators, representatives of lay movements and other knowledgeable persons was convened in Erlanger, Kentucky, on the theme, "Which Way Forward?" Many useful suggestions were received for editorial policy, innovations in marketing and for keeping abreast of the ever-changing needs of the church for the type of materials we can produce. Two themes kept recurring in the discussion and in the advice of those present: "Keep on doing what the Forward Movement has always done well - *Forward Day by Day* and a selected list of really useful booklets for evangelism, adult education and pastoral care." And, "Concentrate on new resources to assist the *laity* in their ministry and personal devotions." We are encouraged by those words and look forward to the continued advice of these consultants in the years ahead.

We are grateful also for the guidance and support of the Forward Movement Executive Committee, headed by Bishop Krumm. During the triennium, Stanley M. Rowe, Jr. retired, after serving on the committee almost from its beginning. We welcomed as new members N. Beverly Tucker, Jr. and Charles Powers. The Director and Editor and two other laymen, Glenn A. Biggs and Paul D. Myers, make up the rest of its membership.

Forward Movement Publications is indebted to the support of the clergy for its continued existence. We try to keep them informed and up-to-date through three yearly announcements of new publications and the newsletter, *Forward Notes*.

### **Resolution # A-50**

***Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the Presiding Bishop be authorized to continue Forward Movement Publications under his supervision, and to appoint such staff members and committees as may be required to maintain its work.**

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Long  
Director and Editor