

From the Editor

Keeping up with the news is always a problem, but these days more so with China. Since the post-Mao reforms, the flow of information and comment from the local newspapers has reached flood proportions and our staff here at the Centre is hard pressed to clip, file, and catalogue even just a portion of it. Some items mark a trend and command almost daily headlines; others, often mere announcements indicating changes, get buried in the back pages, their true significance only emerging with the passing of time. In our summer issue our first three offerings come from both news' categories.

The recent establishment of the Amity Foundation might not have captured front-page headlines, but as a newly founded Christian-inspired social service agency, independent of both government and church, it marks a significant beginning in terms of Christian Outreach in China. Tripod's Peter Barry interviews Dr. Philip Wickeri, Amity's overseas coordinator, for more details on this landmark enterprise.

Tripod's second interview is with Rev. Chan-Young Choi, Asia Pacific Regional Secretary of the United Bible Societies, who has just announced plans to work with Amity in building a modern printing facility in Nanjing that will produce Bibles, other Christian related literature, and general educational materials. Bibles for China is also a good study in the art of negotiation, where everyone comes up a winner.

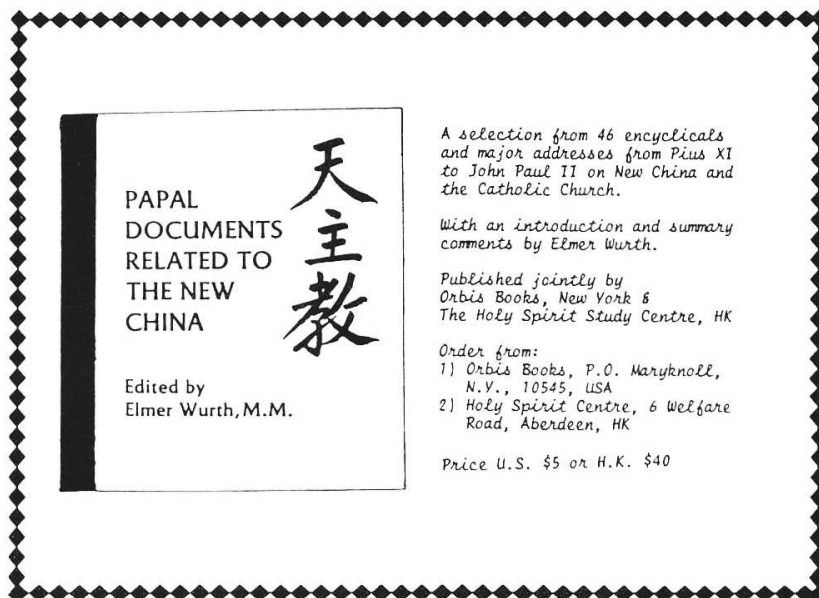
Leo Goodstadt casts an economist's eye on the problem of Economic Reform and Corruption, which is a major concern for those spear-heading the economic reforms in China, and absorbing a lot of newsprint there these days. Mr. Goodstadt, however, does not see it merely as a local problem, but rather as one that is confronting all Third World countries faced with the urgent need to modernize and so must deal with how

radical economic changes may also lead to the erosion of traditional ethical values.

In Christians in Hong Kong Harold Naylor, S.J., long-time Hong Kong resident and the Chairman of the Catholic Diocesan Ecumenical Commission, draws on years of active involvement in the movement to make some observations on the present state of unity among Hong Kong's Christian Churches. The Joint Declaration has added a new flavour to the pudding, and, it is hoped, a very positive ingredient, too, in the long struggle to become one in spirit and truth.

Jean-Yves Calvez is an internationally distinguished expert on Catholic Social Teaching and Marxism, whose book La Pensée de Karl Marx (Paris, 1956) is considered a classic on the subject. Here, in an article reprinted from Etudes, he takes a look at Marxist Thought One Hundred Years Later. He notes that the current waning influence of Marx may not be irreversible, for his strong voice of protest against the unjust conditions of his time will continue to be heard wherever and as long as such conditions continue to exist in our world.

Finally, to wrap up our summer issue, we invite all of you who enjoy living in a fog to come with Anthony Lam, one of our staff members, to the City of Fog, Chongqing. Planned as a side-trip, Anthony found a warm welcome and learned a lot about the Church's work in this famous war-time capital of China. As you plan your summer holidays, a quick dip into the fog might prove a relaxing diversion, but whether you are beach bound or fog bound, we wish you all a happy summer holiday.



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Elmer Wurth, M.M.

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Published jointly by
Orbis Books, New York &
The Holy Spirit Study Centre, HK

Order from:
1) Orbis Books, P.O. Maryknoll,
N.Y., 10545, USA
2) Holy Spirit Centre, 6 Welfare
Road, Aberdeen, HK

Price U.S. \$5 or H.K. \$40