N-N EXCLUSIVE REPORT

What's shaking our Churches?

Every paper you pick up tells you of new and surprising changes in religion, churches, clergy. But few people see that churches everywhere are being shaken to their foundations by the swift advance of Socialism, by the victories scored by the USSR's drive for lasting peace.

What is the Soviet view of all this?

You may not agree with them, but here are facts you need, to arrive at a sound opinion.

● **Religion is weakening in North America.** So finds the Gallup Poll . . . a steady decline over the past 8 years. This same trend is even clearer in most European countries. And although our papers try to hush up this **basic** feature of the changing churches, the evidence is strikingly clear.

—**Catholics.** Take Keating's shocking book ("The Scandal of Silence"). This noted Catholic editor calls his Church "a sickly monster — too weak to live and too strong to die". He blasts R.C. schools and culture in terms few Protestants would dare to use.

—**Protestants.** Every Church in this group is in grave need for more clergymen. But young men won't go into the Church . . . certainly not the best youth who once were attracted to the pulpit. Reason: people realize that religion no longer plays a central part in life.

—**Jews.** Crisis here is very serious because religion was a major influence in preserving the Jewish community and culture. Now powerful voices are raised, condemning this link between modern Jewish life and ancient doctrines of Judaism . . . the synagogue's influence is declining.

● **Science and Modern Production.** No question whatever, Man's conquest of death, hunger, cold, poverty (in many lands this victory is still only a promise) has drastically weakened the age-old human dependence on super-natural forces. Man out in Space has shaken the faith of many millions. Science and technology are showing vast masses of people that **the most urgent problems** of their lives can be solved by **their own actions.**

This remarkable confirmation of Lenin's forecast. Long ago he predicted that **modern science-and-production** would weaken religion far more than high-powered atheist propaganda.

● **Church, Bomb, Peace.** Just read Church publications and you'll see how tremendous has been the power of **the people's peace fight,** in changing religion. Not only because of the peace movements, but also because the Church itself would be **exterminated** in a thermo-nuclear war, clergymen right up to the Pope have been compelled to take action against catastrophe.

This has had **an amazing result:** because Peace means peaceful coexistence with the USSR and Socialism, all major religions have had to **play down their vicious anti-Soviet propaganda,** and even to develop "left wing" groups of clergymen . . . who now say "Marx and Lenin weren't **all** wrong!"

Because they **cannot avoid it,** even Roman Catholic leaders now support "peaceful coexistence with Communists" — many millions of their church members **vote** for Communists anyway (Italy, France).

● **The Faiths themselves are changing.** In a way no one would have dreamed possible, Church leaders **themselves** are attacking the fundamental teachings of religion. Above all (in order to "accept" the discoveries of science) they are rejecting the Bible as "the word of God" and describing it as a collection of ancient mythical tales, not to be taken too seriously.

Thus you see a "revolution" in the Catholic Church, with Mass being said in **the native language** rather than Latin. Then, noted men like Prof. John Buell (Loyola College) are vigorously attacking the Church for not **militantly** leading the fight for peace. Finally, you get the almost unbelievable views of some Protestants . . . Dr. R. J. Woodman now says that Christ Himself never existed and is a myth that will "die with the passing of the present era"! He tries to reconcile his new doctrine with Christianity . . . "Christ fulfills in reality what men have always struggled to achieve in myth", whatever that may mean.

To their very core — to belief in God, even — the Churches are shaking. What is this: a collapse of religion, the disappearance of faith?

Church people are widely (and sometimes wildly!) disagreeing. So it is interesting to get the view of Soviet observers. Long ago the USSR was established as an absolutely non-religious state; but at the same time people were guaranteed full freedom to practice religious beliefs. Well?

● **Religions are not giving up.** That's the opinion you find in the Soviet Union. On the contrary, there is a world-wide effort to "modernize" the Churches in order **to strengthen their influence.**

—They're convinced they must "streamline" their dogmas in order to hold believers in our modern, scientific times; to achieve this they may even discard the most sacred beliefs of the past.

—Western Churches are desperate to get rid of the shameful reputation they have (from colonial days) in the rising nations of Africa, Asia.

—Finally, Catholics and Protestants must abandon much of their faiths if they are to come closer (and some day unite); this they realize must be done to save what is left of Church influence; and some clergymen are even considering "unity" with Jewish, Buddhist, Mahommedan faiths!

● **Churches are far from disappearing.** And it was Karl Marx who long ago pointed out the source of strength of religion, in Capitalism. In religious beliefs the people express **two things:** the **evils** of the system and their **protest** against them!

And there you see why the most advanced Church leaders are **vigorously entering the struggles of the people today** — for peace, for racial equality, for economic and political reforms.

But at this point you will find that observers in the USSR **part company** with many progressive people in Canada, USA, Britain, Europe.

Soviet view: history shows that Churches many times have swung away from "black reaction" over to "social progress", but in every case their influence has been **negative** — the clergy have **dulled the edge** of the people's struggles and have often diverted the fight away from its true goal.

Is this what is happening now? Or, are Churches giving strength to broad people's movements?

NN welcomes your personal views! Here's a vital subject, and we very much need your opinions.

The "Ten Commandments" of the Soviet People

"How does Russia do it?" asks Dr. Martin Essex, noted U.S. educator. His answer: The Soviet "miracle" is due to universal education, which enabled them to do in 40 years what the West needed 400 years to accomplish.

You won't have trouble exposing the professor's grave error, when you keep in mind that Soviet children are brought up with much more than "book learning." Here are Socialism's Ten Commandments. Not handed down from on high, but created by the working-people, and known to every Soviet youngster from Grade One on.

1. "Thou shalt earn thy living only by working for the good of Society."

This you find is the supreme moral guidance for life in Socialism, the system which ended, forever, the privilege of a few to live on the backs of people.

But unlike mere "commandments" this Socialist principle is actually part of their system — it is not possible to live on profits, or rent, or shares, in the USSR, but only by working usefully.

2. "Thou shalt be to every person a friend, comrade, and brother."

Your common-sense tells you that a principle of this kind cannot be "enforced" by economics or law. But even so Socialism, for the first time in history, gives all members of society a reasonable and practical basis for behaving towards others this way.

Having eliminated private-profit, Soviet people have done away with the gain which other systems offer to those who are ruthless towards their fellow man.

3. "Thou shall protect and improve thy health as a most precious possession."

The USSR and other Socialist nations are the only lands on Earth where the perfection of health is taught as a moral principle . . . and where this splendid goal is made fully possible to all by the world's finest system for the prevention-of-illness, with society bearing the entire cost of upbuilding health and treating sickness.

4. "Thou shalt never cease to learn through all the years of thy life."

This is one aspect of Socialism which did impress the USA educator, Dr. Essex. But he apparently missed the wonderfully inspiring truth discovered by people in Socialism: the scientific fact that there is no limit to the heights ordinary people can reach, if only they continue to learn, and learn, all life long.

This individual passion for learning has become one of the great social forces of the Soviet system.

5. "Thou shalt never tolerate race hatred or national prejudice, but despise these evils as the most cursed obstacles to the brotherhood of Man."

Children the world over are born without racism and nationalism. But only in Socialism can you find all children growing up in an environment where these inhuman blights have no social encouragement.

Victims of racism, from other lands, experience wonderful inspiration as they see the multi-nation Soviet people living as "one great family new and free".

6. "Thou shalt increase and preserve the public wealth above thine own private possessions."

True, this is a "commandment" that still is not always followed by all Soviet people. But what's most important to see is that the individual, in Socialism, does not "sacrifice" his own interests by paying first concern to society's riches . . . individuals prosper most rapidly the faster their nation's wealth increases.

This rule comes into force through education, in life.

7. "Thou shalt never close thine eyes to dishonesty, injustice, money-grabbing, careerism, or any behaviour harmful to Man's progress."

Especially in recent times has there grown strong in Soviet people a new sense of social righteousness.

This is not any pious virtue. It arises from the increasing moral strength of many millions of individuals in the Socialist system. And it is not practiced by "pointing the finger" at others only . . . the striving for Socialist character begins with oneself.

8. "Thou shalt always seek to overcome difficulties by collective action, for in Socialist life the Golden Rule is One for All and All for One."

The immense powers of the group, in contrast with the lone individual, have been known to Man since time immemorial. But the "group" was always a strictly limited number until Socialism began.

Today in the USSR at all levels of activity the collective is everyone. And on a national plane the group is the entire people united — a colossal force!

9. "Thou shalt never cease to expose and to defeat the worst of Man's foes: the enemies of Peace."

While the majority of the world's people oppose war sincerely, their efforts are blunted by the propaganda of those who amass vast wealth through armaments.

But the peoples of Socialism have not only endured the most frightful wars; they also live in a system which enriches not a single soul by arming. Hence their blazing devotion to Peace.

10. "Thou shalt love thine own country and likewise cherish the peoples of the whole world."

No children in any other land are taught so much about all the peoples of the Earth as are the boys and girls in Soviet schools. And nowhere else do grown-ups read so many thousands of books, stories, poems, novels, about the inhabitants of lands remote from them.

This is not curiosity. It is an ancient human urge coming true on a mass scale — to know and to respect and then to love all on our planet without exception.