

## PREFACE

INTEREST in Roland Allen's work has not ceased to grow; if anything, it has intensified since the publication in 1960 of *The Ministry of the Spirit*, most notably among Roman Catholic missionary leaders.

The present volume may be regarded as a companion to *The Ministry of the Spirit*. In that volume there were re-printed a selection of the more important of Allen's out-of-print writings, to which a biographical memoir was prefixed and a bibliography appended. (In the second edition errors in the memoir were corrected and the bibliography substantially amplified.) In this present book, with one exception, the material by Allen has not been previously printed, and has been selected from his papers. The one exception consists of the two very early articles, which show the stage that his ideas had reached before the period of intense study and reflection which produced *Missionary Methods*.

In addition to making available these unpublished letters and writings of Allen himself, we have sought to enable the reader to place him in his historical context. Sir Kenneth Grubb has kindly provided an account of the history of the Survey Application Trust, and Professor Noel King of the University College of East Africa at Makerere an account of Allen's last years in East Africa. In addition, I have picked out from his papers a diary and some letters which show how he sought to advance his views on the question of voluntary clergy and which illustrate his relations with other men of the time. Editorial notes are marked throughout by square brackets and are my responsibility.

The papers left by Roland Allen, from which this small selection has been made, have, by agreement between Mr John Allen and Miss Priscilla Allen and the authorities of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, been deposited in the archives of the Society at 15 Tufton Street, London, S.W.1,

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where they are available for study. There is also there a collection of Allen's printed writings. A complete set of the publications of the Survey Application Trust (World Dominion Press) will be found in the Evangelical Library, 78A Chiltern Street, London, W.1.

We have given to this book (which is almost as much Sir Kenneth Grubb's and Professor Noel King's work as my own) the title *Reform of the Ministry*. This reflects Allen's preoccupation in his middle years, with which much of the book is occupied; and it was, of course, also convenient to find a title not already in use. But, in a deeper sense, the reform of the ministry was what Allen was about all his life. He sought to remove the ministry from a professional class and return it to the Church as a whole; and in the end, to judge from the final paper to which we have given the title 'The Family Rite' and which was written when he was over seventy, he came to believe that the celebration of the Eucharist was the proper function of the Christian head of the Christian family, and its proper *locale* the family board.

One hundred years after his birth, the ideas of this lonely and once neglected man are now, not only widely of interest, but have even become the springs of action. In this final volume, in whose preparation we have had the assistance of many friends, we have not done more than provide the Christian community with some further pieces of his work and a few aids to understanding him, hoping that both we who write and those who read are doing something better than building a seemly tomb for a discarded prophet.

DAVID M. PATON