CHINESE NAMES FOR GOD

In the course of research at the Alliance School of Theology and Missions, New York, Mr. Paul L. King has made a survey of 161 native speakers of Chinese, resident in New York City, Hong Kong and Taiwan, in order to discover their reactions to various names for God. Respondents were classified according to geographical area, sex, age, education in and outside China, occupation and religion, and departures of 10% or more from the norm or median were considered significant.

Mr. King concludes that "for Bible translation, or for the use of divine names in the church, there are no new suggestions", and that "by and large, the status quo" of current usage "was vindicated": Shang-ti, Shen and possibly Tien-fu Shang-ti being used by Protestants, and Tien-chu by Roman Catholics. Tien-chu also received a normal response from Protestants interviewed; however, Mr. King considers it "highly unlikely" that both Protestants and Roman Catholics will come to use the one term for God, since Tien-chu is also the Chinese name for Roman Catholicism.

Mr. King's research has not yet been published, but readers interested to know more of his methods or conclusions may write to him at 114 Catherine Street, Ithaca, NY 14850, U.S.A.

NOTES AND REVIEWS

The Sixth International Congress on Biblical Studies. Oxford, 3–7 April 1978.

During the five days of this congress, 166 papers of various kinds were presented. Most of these are to be published during the next two years in the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*, or in a "projected sister publication devoted to the New Testament". A few of the papers were wholly or partly concerned with translation.

Among major lectures, B. M. Metzger discussed "Problems Old and New in Bible Translating", referring among other things to new (mainly Hebrew) lexicographical evidence from cognate languages; to the unresolved text-critical controversy over "rigorous eclecticism" in the New Testament; and to the current avoidance of so-called "sexist" language, especially in American English. P. J. Spicer of the Oxford University Press expressed the opinion that the Bible market was probably saturated, at least in the United Kingdom, and that if new versions were published, they would probably only take away sales from existing translations. Dr. G. Vermes outlined "The Present State of the 'Son of Man' Debate", suggesting that although there was still vigorous discussion of whether (as Vermes himself believed) "Son of Man" was a