

Church should invest more in SA-priest

11/4/1974

By a Staff Reporter

THE Methodist Church should not withdraw its investments from South Africa, but should rather invest more for the good of all the country's people, the Rev Leslie Marsh, who is visiting South Africa on a fact finding tour for the church, said in Pretoria today.

Mr Marsh, who is attending the International Moral Re-armament Conference in Pretoria, will report back to the Methodist Conference in Britain which is to debate later this year whether to withdraw its investments from South Africa.

NEW HOPE

"I've come here to learn about people," he said.

One of the matters he will investigate are the wages paid to Africans. He has already met a number of the country's church leaders and is to visit some of the homelands soon.

"I would be delighted to meet some members of the Government, but I suppose with the present election taking place this might be difficult."

Mr Marsh stressed that

he had come to South Africa with no preconceived ideas. He had been impressed by the Moral Re-armament Conference and some of the things he had seen in the country.

"The deep and real changes taking place here among all races give me completely new hope — not only for South Africa but for the whole world. I see the threatened conflagration of South Africa being changed into a beacon of hope for all mankind.

"On this basis I feel I can go back to Britain and urge our church not to withdraw its investments in South Africa, but to rather invest more for the good of all people here."

Mr Marsh said he was sorry for the less than Christian way in which some people in Britain had condemned South Africa of being less than Christian.

As secretary of the Drama Council of the Methodist Church in Britain, Mr Marsh is also investigating the possibility of bringing some plays to South Africa.