

This week, on 4 July, America begins year-long celebrations to mark its 200th birthday.

The months since America's withdrawal from Indo-China have been painful ones, with many previous values and assumptions being called in question.

As a contribution to the timely consideration of its rich legacy which the bicentennial celebrations provide, we print an extract from a new book on one of America's pioneers of this century - Frank Buchman.

It is chapter 14 of Frank Buchman As I Knew Him by H W 'Bunny' Austin, the tennis star who helped Britain win the Davis Cup four years running between 1933-36. The book published this week by Grosvenor Books, costs £1.00. Copies are available from your bookseller or from Grosvenor Books, 54, Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ. P+P 17p.

The man who battled for the mind of America

BY THE TIME Frank reached Sarasota, (a small town in Florida where he went to convalesce after his stroke) I too was in the armed forces, stationed at an air force camp in El Paso, Texas. But on 14th June, though in the winter of 1944, Phyll and I were able to join him there.

The change in Frank since his illness was very considerable. He could not get out of a chair without help, nor walk unaided. He no longer had the use of his right hand, a sore trial to one who for over thirty years had made a habit of daily writing down the thoughts that came to him in moments of quiet. But for all his physical limitations, his spirit and effectiveness were in no way bound. His friends had become his hands. He could still write down his thoughts through the medium of anyone who happened to be close at hand. He could be helped into a car. Instead of walking he could be pushed in a wheelchair.

When I reached Sarasota I was surprised to find how many inhabitants of that small town had become his friends. I asked how it had happened. One of Frank's colleagues, I was told, had had a birthday and in celebration Frank had decided to take all seventeen of those staying with him to the local playhouse. The play started at 8.30, but to the surprise of his friends, guidance had come to Frank to go at 7.30. This he faithfully obeyed. When he got to the theatre he found the manager tearing his hair. The second lead, he told Frank, had had a heart attack. He had no understudy - the play could not go on. 'Oh, don't worry,' said Frank confidently. 'My friend Cecil Broadhurst will be delighted to play for you.'

A moment later, a surprised Broadhurst was being rushed backstage and given the script. One or two scenes were quickly rehearsed and Broadhurst, no mean actor, successfully got through the performance with the script in his hand.

The manager was delighted and told Frank he hoped Broadhurst would play for the rest of the week. Broadhurst replied that he was sorry but he had to



Frank Buchman and 'Bunny' Austin at Sarasota.

go to New York to see his draft board the very next day. Once more the manager began to tear his hair.

'Oh, don't worry,' said Frank to the manager. 'My friend Robert Anderson will be delighted to play for you.'

So a surprised Robert Anderson, another accomplished actor, joined the cast next day and played the rest of the week.

The members of the playhouse were delighted and Frank invited them all to tea the following Sunday. It happened that the playhouse was the centre of the town's social life. Everybody heard of Frank's action and how his two friends had stepped into the breach. Frank became the hero of Sarasota.

However, even in that remote and

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NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

at a glance

TRUDEAU MESSAGE

A message from Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau was sent to the recent MRA Conference for North America, held in Banff, Canada.

Dated Ottawa 13 June, the message reads, 'Please accept my greetings and best wishes to all involved with Moral Re-Armament, especially those of you meeting in Banff today. Your world-wide efforts in service of all peoples and in the cause of universal understanding are as well known as they are admirable. May your ideals prosper.'

SWISS PERFORMANCE

The first two public showings of *Song of Asia* in the German speaking part of Switzerland took place at the Theatre Römertor in the industrial city of Winterthur. Besides the distinguished Swiss audience Tibetan, Vietnamese and Japanese communities were represented.

On the way to Winterthur the cast spent six hours in Bern. They were received by Members of Parliament and watched a Parliamentary Session from the Gallery in the Bundeshaus (Parliament House). Among those attending a reception organised by Bern citizens for them to give an hour of speaking and singing were Ambassador Dr Iselin, responsible for Swiss relations with the Third World, six MP's, two senators from Schwyz and Lucerne, the Ambassador from Lebanon, and the First Secretary of the Iranian Embassy.

Der Landbote, the largest circulation daily of Winterthur, wrote 'The extremely gifted and well trained cast gave an impressive insight into everyday life of the countries of this huge continent of Asia.'

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small town opposition made itself felt. The rumours which had endlessly pursued us during the tour of *You Can Defend America* (the patriotic war-time revue) began to penetrate Sarasota. Books on MRA which had been prominently displayed in a local book shop suddenly disappeared. A coolness seemed to descend on the town.

Exhibition match

It happened at this time that four of us staying with Frank arranged to play a game of tennis. News of this reached Frank's ears. He sent for one of our number, whose name was Bremer.

'I hear you're having a game of tennis,' said Frank.

'Yes, that's right.'

'Fine, now we must plan it.'

'It's all planned, Frank. It's at 9.30 on Friday morning at the Municipal Courts,' said Bremer.

Frank gave Bremer one of those looks which implied 'Will you never learn; have you no imagination?' He said to his secretary, 'Take this letter.'

'Dear Mrs Johnson,' he began, 'At 9.30 on Friday morning on the Municipal Courts there will be an exhibition match between Bunny Austin, the British Davis Cup player, and ... and ... who did you say?'

Bremer named the other two and himself.

'Oh yes, yes,' said Frank and continued to dictate. 'There will be an exhibition match between Bunny Austin, the British Davis Cup player ...'

'... and others,' said Bremer modestly.

'Yes ... and others,' dictated Frank. He finished the letter giving all the details. Then he dictated several more.

Friday came. We arrived at the Courts to find a sizeable crowd of local inhabitants who had come to see this 'exhibition match'. It was an embarrassing moment for me, as I had played little tennis since my entry into the army. The crowd however seemed to enjoy it, and we were warmly applauded at its finish.

Some small boys had come to watch the game, and had very kindly come on to the court and acted as ball-boys. In return for their courtesy I gave them each a racquet and started hitting some balls to them. Among the audience was the book-seller. He went up to Frank in a state of great excitement. It happened that one of the small boys to whom I was giving a knock-up was his son. 'Doctor Buchman,' said the bookseller, 'this has been a very great day. I never dreamed in all my life my boy would one day play tennis with Bunny Austin.'

That afternoon the MRA literature once more appeared on full display at his bookshop. The coolness had departed from Sarasota. A drive with Frank down the main street was a happy progress, Frank bowing as he returned the friendly waves of the people.

Circus problems

During his stay in Sarasota Frank had made friends with members of the famous Ringling brothers circus, which was spending the winter in Florida. While I was there members of the Flying Wallendas came to see Frank, and also a husband and wife act known as 'Victoria and Torrens'.

The Flying Wallendas were a family of six. They piled together on a bicycle and rode on a tight wire. Three of them came to tea. Frank asked me to tell the story of how Phyll and I had changed. Before I had finished speaking the Wallendas were pouring out stories about all the problems in the circus. It emerged that feuds between members of the circus were not unknown!

Victoria and Torrens were a magnificent couple and were deeply gripped by all they heard about MRA. She was a young woman of great spiritual and physical beauty and held herself like a queen. Their act consisted of his hanging by his feet from the top of the tent while Victoria was suspended in a brace held in his teeth. They had tremendous courage. Torrens one year had lost a thumb torn off in a revolving rope as he held his wife. There was nothing of course he could do, as he could not call out while holding his wife suspended by his teeth.

My wife's visit to Sarasota proved to be of the greatest importance to her and to her understanding of Frank. Though she was still suspicious of him and had many questions in her mind she was growing to like him more and more. On Easter Sunday she went to Communion. It was a small country church and an overflow crowd was sitting on the lawn outside in the warm Florida sun. While at the altar rail she prayed to God to make known the truth to her about Frank. Phyll says: 'Suddenly a great certainty flowed into my heart and a thought came with force and clarity, "Frank is the man called in this generation to raise up My family here on earth." It came with such illumination and certainty that from that moment on I never doubted that Frank was a mighty man of God.'

Frank had no children of his own, but we learned from him a great deal about the care of our daughter. Jenny, aged five and a half, was a pretty child and greatly admired, and this fed our vanity. Frank was quick to sense this. One day there was a strong wind, and Phyll had not dressed Jennifer warmly enough. Frank looked at her with tenderness and said with great compassion, 'My, how you sacrifice that child!' It was a lesson we did not forget.

We found it easy to fall into the trap of wanting Jennifer to behave in a way that would reflect credit on ourselves. One day we were out for a drive with Frank, who was sitting in the front seat by the driver. Phyll and I and Jennifer

were at the back. Jennifer, full of high spirits, was chattering away merrily. Fearing she would disturb Frank, we kept on trying to hush her up. At last Frank turned round angrily. 'Let the child talk,' he thundered.

Children were children to Frank and he expected them to behave like children. To be themselves, joyful and happy. He cared for them as he would care for any other people who crossed his path. He neither expected them to be repressed by parental authority nor grow wild through parental neglect. He expected them to play their own unique part in God's plan for the world as freely and happily as anybody else. He knew God could talk to a child as easily and clearly - if not more so - than to an adult; a child had not yet learnt the art of self-deception. And so it proved with Jennifer, who, as soon as she could talk, learned to listen to the voice of Jesus in her heart, drawing pictures of her thoughts until the day came when she learned to write.

War of ideas

Frank in those days at Sarasota felt keenly the loss of so many of his force to the armed services. They were his family, not bound by ties of blood, but bound by ties no less strong. It was therefore a moment of great joy to him when any one of them on leave could visit him in Sarasota while he was convalescing or later at the Assembly Centre on Mackinac Island when once more he could take an active part.

This he was able to do when the summer conference opened in 1943.

Three years previously, and before the democracies had woken up to the fact, Buchman, as I have written, had declared that the struggle in the world was ideological, a war of ideas. Now in a plenary conference session he spoke of the great ideological forces in the world, outlining their growth - communism stemming from Karl Marx, fascism stemming from Mussolini, and Nazism stemming from Hitler. All of them, he declared, sprang from the same root. 'They come from materialism which is the mother of all the "isms". It is the spirit of anti-Christ which breeds corruption, anarchy and revolution. It undermines our homes, it sets class against class, it divides the nation. Materialism is democracy's greatest enemy.'

America could only answer the negative ideologies with a great positive ideology, he said. America, he stressed, must discover her rightful ideology. He pointed out that it sprang from her Christian heritage, and was her only adequate answer in the battle against materialism and all the other 'isms'. He outlined its content. To begin with it recognised sin. 'Sin,' he emphasised again, 'is the disease. Jesus Christ is the cure. The result is a miracle.' He spoke

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A JAMAICAN BUILDER with the seven others of his family, an Indian lecturer and his wife, and a South London accountant and his family, a South African Indian teaching geography in a London Comprehensive and his wife – what have they all in common?

For one thing they are part of multi-racial Britain as it is now. But what is more important they all share a vision of what it could be in 25 years time.

The Richards, the Sharmas, the Embletons and the Kistasamys are part of the cast of *Britain 2000*, a powerful play about today and tomorrow that has been shown in the last few months to audiences of all communities in Birmingham, Coventry, Gravesend, Ealing and South Norwood.

Speaking to a 'standing room only' audience in Ealing with many other Indians present Dr V Sharma, Principal Lecturer in Law at a London Polytechnic, said, 'When I first came to Britain as a law graduate the only job I could get was cleaning the kitchen of a West End store. My friend, who is now a Professor, pulled the trolley.'

'After a bitter speech by an English politician I had eggs thrown at my windows. I found the family in the kitchen – terrified. I am not bitter now but I had to change. We Asians need to think of what we can give to this country rather than what we can get from it. My wife and I gladly take part in this play, and our three daughters travel with us'.

John Richards and his two sons Robert and Miguel are builders. They have won a name for hard work and for finishing the job on time. John says, 'Our family were in on the birth of this play. We agreed to get it launched and have moved with it ever since! It has changed all our lives in some way and we are now committed to its purpose'.

His wife, Norma, joined him here three years later, with all the children on a wet November day. She said of that time, 'I was so depressed. What my husband saw in Britain I failed to see. Then 18 months ago we were asked to take part in *Britain 2000*. "Impossible", I thought. With a nine to five job, a family of six and a home to run. But I learnt to listen to God and I accepted the challenge. I believe this is God's plan for me and my family in coming to this country. We look forward to our next venture in Bristol on 6 July.'

Paula, Gabrielle and Valerie are at the same school. Paula, in the middle of 'A' levels, adds, 'The play has a tremendous message of being honest and living without bitterness in our hearts'. Dirg is in his fifth year at school and sings in the play.

Robert Richards (21) is shortly due to receive the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Buckingham Palace. He says, 'The play has a message to change the world. It is an answer to the bitterness



Five of the eight members of the Richards family speak together after a performance of *Britain 2000*. Making a point (left) is Robert.

Voice of multi-racial Britain

'Britain 2000' looks to the future

in some peoples' hearts.'

Two weeks ago in South Norwood the local MP and the head of 'Z' Division, Metropolitan Police saw the show along with an audience of over 250 of all races. Besides other senior Police Officers, this included the President of the Croydon Branch of the Jamaican Overseas Association and his wife, the West Indian Chairman of the South Norwood Neighbourhood Group, the Secretary General of the Pakistan Welfare Association, Sikh leaders and whole families from India and Sri Lanka.

Speaking after the performance Bernard Weatherill, MP for Croydon North East, thanked the cast for what

they had given. 'The play got its message across, "Be honest with yourself." The politicians have patently failed. The right way to get less selfishness and harder work is by turning to God. It would bring back to Britain a family spirit that would solve many of our troubles.'

Impressed by the 'family spirit' of the play when they had seen it at Ealing, an Indian couple came to South Norwood to give 'moral support'. They said they were prepared to make any sacrifice to further the message of the play.

A Police Inspector asked, 'How do you get all these people from different races together like this?'

The play will be shown in Bristol on 6 July and then the cast have been invited to take it to the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland in August. Summing up the convictions of the cast John Richards writes: 'We feel we should go and have, in faith, made the arrangements to travel on 1 August. Some of us are self-employed and this means sacrifice which we will gladly make for this venture. If others endorse this trip we should value their thought and help in any way possible'.

Don and Marie Embleton



MP for Croydon North-East, Bernard Weatherill, meets cast members John Richards (centre) and Dr V Sharma.



Young people attending the National Conference of the German Protestant Church in Frankfurt crowd one of the many exhibition stalls to see *A Man for All People*. It was presented at the conference by 'Young Christians on the Offensive' from the town of Bensheim. Also screened were the films *Smile of the Apsara* and *Mr Brown Comes Down the Hill*. 25,000 people attended the four-day conference in the vast Frankfurt Exhibitions Grounds.

'World at the Crossroad'

Summer sessions at Tirley Garth

WE ARE LIVING through days of danger and opportunity. The dangers are obvious. The opportunities are no less real.

People are ready, as never before, to admit that our problems are of our own making, and that we ourselves must tackle them. They are beginning to realize that they are fundamentally not economic but moral. They are tired of prescriptions which are complicated and conflicting because they do not go to the root of the disease. They are looking for a cure which is simple and radical - simple because it *is* radical. They are genuinely asking, 'What can I do?' They want an answer. They are prepared to get together to bring an answer provided they can find it.

Years ago, at a time of equal danger and opportunity, Frank Buchman said, 'People summon new hope whenever you give the voice of faith as a sure and certain answer for even the darkest days.'

It is to do just this that a series of three ten-day conferences has been arranged at Tirley Garth, the MRA Centre in Cheshire, during July and August. They will be part of a world programme for the summer which has already begun with conferences at Salisbury in Rhodesia and Banff in Canada, and which will continue with the Assemblies at Caux.

These conferences, under the theme 'World at the Crossroads', will be occasions when ordinary people and their leaders can find together a faith in God and a strategy which will redirect the course of events. Many will want to come with their friends in order to explore together how to apply MRA personally and nationally.

There will be meetings, seminars and films, opportunities to share in the activities of the house and estate, and expeditions to the surrounding towns and cities. Delegations will be coming from several countries. *Crossroad*, the production on the life and work of Frank Buchman, will be available. A Glasgow schoolboy wants to create a show for schoolchildren, and has already started work on it.

The dates of the conferences will be 18-28 July, 1-11 August, 15-26 August. Invitations can be had on application to the Conference Secretary, Tirley Garth, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0LZ.

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RHODESIAN REPORT

A six page report on the recent MRA International Assembly in Salisbury, Rhodesia, is now available.

Illustrated with 12 photographs, the report can be obtained from Moral Re-Armament, P.O. Box 2142, Salisbury or from MRA Books, 12 Palace Street. 10p per copy plus postage.

FESTIVAL HALL CASSETTE

A C60 cassette is now available, containing highlights of the 'Home Truths

for International Women's Year' meeting held at the Royal Festival Hall 4 June 1975. Speakers include Mrs Lydia Grandby, Mrs Erica Evans, Mrs Kristin Evans, Miss Joanna Nash as well as others from all over Britain and from America, Europe, India, Africa and Australasia.

The hour-long cassette, which also includes songs, costs £1.60. Orders and enquiries as well as cheques or postal orders should be sent to Chris Hartnell, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF. Postage and packing is 20p (UK), 25p (Europe, airmail) or 65p (Australia, airmail.)

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about the four absolute moral standards and what was happening to the nation through lack of their application. For example, dishonesty in war contracts, graft and the black market were costing millions of dollars. He spoke of impurity being so common in war plants that it was even organised among the workers and especially among the subversive groups who used it as a weapon, knowing that when people's morals are confused their thinking becomes confused. He spoke of the inevitable result of this: broken homes, unstable children, the decay of culture, the seeding plot of revolution.

He then spoke bluntly to the delegates. 'The battle for America,' he said, 'is

the battle for the mind of America. A nation's thinking is in ruins before a nation is in ruins. And America's thinking is in ruins.'

He spoke of the fact that America did not have much of a moral heritage left and asked what would happen if she failed to give emphasis to a moral climate. 'Where will our democracy go?' he asked. 'Unless America recovers her rightful ideology nothing but chaos awaits us. Our destiny is to obey the guidance of God.'

'The true battle-line in the world today is not between class and class, not between race and race. The battle is between Christ and anti-Christ.'

"Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."