

**CALGARY HONOURS RAJMOHAN GANDHI**

Last week the University of Calgary conferred an honorary doctorate of laws upon Shri Rajmohan Gandhi in recognition of his 'contribution to world harmony'. At the University Convocation, he was introduced to the 1,000 graduating students, their families and faculty, as 'a citizen of the world, building bridges of healing over the chasms'. Rajmohan replied that 'the honour indicates Canada's interest in others outside its vast spaces'.

Later that week, 500 academics, students, First Nation peoples and Indo-Canadians came to hear Dr Gandhi give the opening lecture at a symposium on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. He was also interviewed on TV, and the Calgary press carried several articles.

**Anne Hartnell Phyllis Bocock**

**SOWING SEEDS IN AUTUMN**

A two-week visit to Moscow last month enabled us to keep in touch with a broad group of friends, including Muscovites who were in Caux this summer; and to sow the seeds for Russian participation in next year's Politicians' Round Table.

We met five deputies in the Russian Duma (parliament), including Deputy Mikhail Men and his adviser, Anatoly Krasikov, who were at Caux this year. Vladimir Averchev, a member of the International Affairs Committee, had already heard about Caux from one of his advisers who had been there. Independent member, Sergei Kovalev, received us in his home. The doyen of the human rights movement in Russia, he works incredibly hard without pomp and show, and despite continuing heart problems.

In all, we met about 30 friends who have been to Caux, as families and in small groups. And they introduced us to new people. We discovered that the book, *Paspet za Bogum* ('Keeping pace with God'), published in Moscow last March, is proving of great benefit. Professor Pomerants has sold many copies to his students.

**Leif Hovelsen Bryan Hamlin**

**CANBERRA HEARS OF 'STOLEN GENERATIONS'**

A central moral issue in Australia is the challenge of healing the painful relationship between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians. Earlier this year, a national inquiry exposed the harm done by the policy

of removing Aboriginal children from their families with the aim of assimilating them into Western culture – a practice abandoned only 30 years ago.

The inquiry has had a profound impact, not least on the inquiry Chairman, former High Court judge Sir Ronald Wilson, who said that 'it changed a hard-boiled lawyer like me, and it can change our nation'. There has also been strong resistance to the report, and its call for restitution to the 'stolen generations'.

Some of us see this as a crucial spiritual issue. So in Canberra, the national capital, we went to our church leaders, and the leaders of the Jewish community, who all agreed to invite Sir Ronald. Together we planned to reach the city. During his four days here, nearly 1,000 Canberrans heard him at several venues, the South African High Commissioner invited diplomats from many countries, politicians hosted a lunch in Parliament, and there were personal interviews with members of the Government.

Everywhere Sir Ronald spoke with deep feeling about our need to face the hurts we have caused, to apologise and to restore. Radio, TV and the press gave good coverage. Many people have been profoundly affected, as the flow of letters in *The Canberra Times* since the visit attests.

**John Bond**

**SOUTH AFRICAN MEDIA HEARS ABOUT FORUM**

I have just spent three weeks in South Africa, where I spoke at media breakfasts, met newspaper editors and a Government minister, visited the School for the Advancement of Journalism and was interviewed on the radio.

I came ready for a strong dialogue. But most of the time, I found I was pushing at an open door. One day, for instance, I met a group of young press photographers, all under 30, most of them black. I told them how I had begun an action to restore confidence in the work of journalists, and launched the International Communications Forum. The response was overwhelming. At Stellenbosch University I met with the Student Council and spoke at their School of Journalism, again receiving a very warm response.

I encountered many sides of South African life, good and bad. I left convinced that, if the media give their full weight to creating a problem-solving atmosphere, South Africa could become the good news story of the turn of the century.

**Bill Porter**

## SEEKING THE ESSENTIAL STRUGGLE

Last week, 32 people gathered for a dinner at Armagh, the MRA centre in Melbourne. They included people prominent in many areas of Australian life. They had met to consider two questions: 'What is the essential struggle in the soul and character of Australia as we move towards the next century? Is there a process, or a particular event we can work towards – which includes Australians of all backgrounds – which will help create the changes needed?'

The discussion, chaired by Jim Carlton, Secretary-General of the Australian Red Cross, ranged widely. A well-known social justice campaigner voiced his despair that globalization has become the dominant culture, leaving many communities in despair. A university professor spoke of the need to find a 'national calling' based on hope, 'a fair go for all' and creating wealth sustainably. A dairy farmer burst in, telling of 19 suicides in three months in his area. A central Australian Aboriginal shared his vision of a 'pilgrimage' to the heart of this land as he passed around the dinner table a rock which represented for him a healing from bitterness.

This is the start of a process. To take it the next stage, a working group was set up at the end of the evening, and further gatherings are being planned.

*David Mills Mike Brown*

## 'MEMORABLE' NEW VIDEO

In Britain, *Catholic Family* has reviewed Bill Cameron-Johnson's new video, 'Wilberforce and the anti-slavery campaigners'. 'It's not easy to find good family videos that inform, entertain and inspire,' writes broadcaster Joanna Bogle. 'Beautifully presented, this video tells a thrilling story. The campaign against slavery in England should be better known.... I watched this video with the family and it gave us a memorable evening's viewing. It would also be possible for [use in] schools and comes with a useful set of study notes. Highly recommended.'

## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

In Ukraine in recent years, Rev Georges Carillet, Vice-President of the Crimean-American College in Simferopol, has initiated a series of conferences on the Christian contribution to society. Participants come from across Ukraine and many other countries. Last month at a conference on 'Virtue in Medicine, Science and Society', we each gave talks, by request, on 'MRA – Changing the world by changing

the individual' and 'MRA in the Classroom'.

Georges and his assistants, Sergei Golovin and Andy Martin, wish to include MRA in next year's conferences in Yalta in May, and Simferopol in October. We will supply information to anyone interested in presenting some aspect of MRA. Medicine, religion, science, personal experience, moral questions, can all be discussed. The overall theme next year is: '2000 years of Christianity and its contribution to Medicine, Science and Society'.

Our address is 79 Eton Close, Witney, Oxon OX8 6GB UK. Tel/Fax: +44 1993 702816.

*Bill and Rosemary Carey*

## CONFRONTING COMFORT ZONES

In Britain, the MRA Schools Service has spoken at 14 schools in the last three weeks. They included John O'Gaunt's in Hungerford where, in 1987, a gunman shot himself after killing 14 people in the town.

Anisa Dani from Sudan told the students that her father had been killed in the civil war, leaving her mother with 9 children to bring up. The story of Anisa's life since then captivated her audience.

Ademar de Broutelles showed slides of the *favelas* (shanty-towns) in Brazil and told of the challenge to him to leave his comfortable little world to work alongside the *favelados* to build a better society.

In Salisbury, the Sixth Forms of the boys' and girls' Grammar Schools combined for a day's programme on 'rights'. We gave the initial 75-minute session.

Nine of us have been involved in this programme, usually in teams of three or four. Our friendships have grown as we tried to give something together.

Despite the great variety of schools, and a couple of quite difficult situations, everywhere there has been an appreciative response. A letter from a Reading comprehensive teacher quoted a student who said, 'It was good to take part and not just to be "talked at". It made me feel involved.' The teacher wrote, 'The theme, "Moving out of your comfort zone", and content were thought-provoking and challenging. The huddles of sixth formers talking amongst themselves and with the visitors spoke volumes.'

*Howard Grace*

## PUTTING LIFE INTO PEACE

As hope for peace grows on Bougainville, news comes of the continuing work of the Trust Building Project initiated by MRA on the war-torn island.

Community Development Officer Peter Loviro writes

Oh You who are at home deep within my heart, let me join You deep within my heart.  
Oh You who are at home deep within my heart, I adore You my God deep within my heart.  
Oh You who are at home deep within my heart, may your joy spring deep within my heart.  
Oh You who are at home deep within my heart, protect me from all evil deep within my heart.

*(Part of a Tamil hymn – suggested by Alain Tate)*

that, when the group arrived in his area, there was little response. Gradually appreciation grew, and the community began bringing them fruit and vegetables. Now, he writes, 'People from all walks of life including young children and the BRA (Bougainville Revolutionary Army) flock into the members' quarters for a chat.' The group had 'really put life' into a big peace ceremony of 3,000 people, who came from both BRA camps and government-controlled areas.

*Alan Weeks*

## CONTINUING WORK FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS

In Taiwan, local elections will be held at the end of this month. During the month we will conduct eight one-day seminars in eight counties, through which we will train 1,400 teachers in the principles of the campaign for clean elections. This will enable them to pass the concepts on to their students.

*Ren-Jou and Grace Liu*

## REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP NOMINATIONS

The time has come for nominations for our International Coordination Group. The present group are Annejet Campbell (UK), Amina Dikedi (Nigeria), Suresh Khatri (Fiji), Philippe Lasserre (France) and Jens Wilhelmsen (Norway). Annejet and Philippe lay down their duties halfway through next year. As six or seven seems to be the best working number, we are looking for three or four people who would be ready to take up this service from the middle of 1998. The normal term is three years, though two or three have served for only two years, and others have extended their term when the need has arisen.

Below is a reminder of the Coordination Group's mandate, as agreed at the 1995 consultation in Caux. Perfection, fortunately, is not required! But those who take this on need to be sure in themselves of their calling to it, as well as of the support of their teammates, and of friends who know them well, as prime time and energy are called for, and normal priorities often have to take second place.

May we ask that all who feel responsible for our global work should take into prayer and reflection the question of who among our world family might be asked to undertake this service, to discuss this as appropriate, and to send us your nominations. As the Consultation Support Group, it falls to us to receive nominations, to find out from among those nominated who might feel called and able, and to arrange a consultation at which the final decisions are taken together. Correspondence on nominations is kept confidential within our group.

Could you please send your nominations, the earlier the better, and by 14 February 1998 at the latest, to Consultation Support Group, c/o Ailsa Hamilton, 5 Buccleuch Mews, Melrose TD6 9LR, Scotland.

The consultation to decide the new membership will be held at Caux during the second half of July. Dates will be announced at the beginning of the year, and attendance will be worked out in the usual way, by a combination of volunteering, suggesting others, and an overall eye kept on numbers and balance.

We look forward to this next phase in our joint search for the best way to carry our work together.

*Alice Cardel, Rob Corcoran, Ailsa Hamilton, Mona Marzouk (from Jan '98), John Mills, Dick Ruffin, Edward Peters, Marianne Spreng, Robo Orogun*

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## MANDATE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP

- 1 To be available to all who wish for their help, and to support them in taking initiatives and in removing bottlenecks; and to nourish our common responsibility for the quality of our spiritual life.
- 2 To help in developing future strategies; to set priorities in the deployment of people and money for initiatives which require international support; and to communicate these assessments clearly to our world force.
- 3 To oversee the scheduling of MRA's international events.
- 4 To be the reference point for initiatives and policies that affect MRA's international standing, including formalised connections with other groups and the creation of new MRA centres and official bodies.
- 5 To encourage the emergence of global teams around significant fields of action; to assist the search for unexpected and God-inspired connections between these teams; and where appropriate to convene meetings of people with related responsibilities in different parts of the world.

## CAUX PROGRAMME AT PRINTER

The 1998 Caux summer conference programme, in English, French and German, is now at the printer, and will be ready by mid-December. Under the continuing theme of 'Caux – a dynamic, learning community', there is the theme of 'Changing the ways of the world'.

Please send your bulk orders by fax or e-mail to the MRA Geneva office. Please note the change in the e-mail address: MRAGeneva@compuserve.com. Bulk orders will be sent from the printer, but please let us know of any travellers to your part of the world who could take copies, reducing the transport costs.

*Andrew Stallybrass*

## WORLD CONSULTATION PREPARES FOR 2000

As we continue the process of renewal within MRA, and prepare ourselves for a new phase from the year 2000, the next World Consultation is being planned in Jamaica, West Indies, from April 23 to 30, 1998.

Our host will be the country's Governor-General, Sir Howard Cooke. Last summer at Caux he expressed his conviction that MRA is meant to be an instrument of truth, reaching out to the leaders of nations, inspiring them to become part of the renewal the whole world so desperately needs. He challenged us to take steps to end the fragmentation that prevents us realizing the full potential God has in mind for us. One purpose, therefore, of the Jamaica Consultation will be to review how we make decisions and choose priorities. There will also be a regular review of the working of the International Coordination Group, both of the mandate and of how it functions in practice. The next World Bulletin will give more background to these points. In the meantime please refer to any of us on the Consultation Support Group if you need information or have suggestions.

**Alice Cardel, Rob Corcoran, Ailsa Hamilton,  
John Mills, Edward Peters, Dick Ruffin,  
Marianne Spreng, Robo Orogun**

#### NEXT WORLD ADDRESS LIST:

In early January I shall send out the next World Address List. Several people now have more than one e-mail address. Please could you indicate which should be in the list and let me know any other changes by the New Year.

**Lotty Wolvekamp**

#### FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

**Jamaica:** Karlene Archer's phone number (reported last issue) should have the prefix +1 added. So, +1 809 998 0280 or +1 809 977 1677.

**South Africa:** Pieter and Meryl Horn will return to South Africa with their family in mid-December. Their address will be: PO Box 11753, Hatfield, 0028, Tel: 012 343 1674; Fax: 012 344 4425. Their e-mail address will be: pmhorn@pixie.co.za

## Calendar of Events

NOV '97	<u>Portland Oregon USA</u>	Hope in the Cities conference	Nov	1 - 2
NOV '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Children's training camp	Nov	7 - 11
NOV '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Education today; society tomorrow. A conference of educationists	Nov	26 - 30
DEC '97	<u>Lithuania</u>	Third FFF regional meeting in Lithuania	Dec	28 - Jan3
JAN '98	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Ethical values in health care - international conference	Jan	2 - 4
JAN '98	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Asia/Pacific Regional Consultation	Jan	12 - 17
JAN '98	<u>Hakataramea Valley New Zealand</u>	New Year camp for young people	Jan	2 - 9
JAN '98	<u>Perth Australia</u>	'Wave of hope' teenage camp	Jan	8 - 15
FEB '98	<u>Finland</u>	FFF seminar in Finland for students from St Petersburg, Russia	Feb	1 - 7
FEB '98	<u>Armagh Melbourne</u>	Effective Living training course	Feb	1 - Apr 4
APR '98	<u>Jamaica West Indies</u>	Global Consultation	Apr	23 - 30
JUL '98	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	Caux summer conference - 'Changing the ways of the world'	Jul	11 - Aug 23
SEP '98	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	FFF International Course (prospectus available)	Sep	3 - 22

*The deadline for the next Bulletin is Monday, December 15, 1997*

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Santa Maria; Philippines - Calma; Japan, Rest - Nagano; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Euvard; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - Agbih; N. America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig; Caribbean - Fiona Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Belgium - J de Pous; Rest of Europe - E Peters; Middle East: - Christodoulides