



Oratorio for Our Time in St John's Cathedral, Valletta, Malta

# NEW WORLD NEWS

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## FRANCE AND MALTA

### Promise for our time

FOR THE FIRST TIME for 15 years the Academy of Arts, Science and Letters of Arras, France, has awarded a gold medal for a musical composition. The recipient was a local composer, Felix Lisiecki. The award was marked on December 2 by a special performance of his *Oratorio pour notre temps* in the church of Saint-Sauveur, Arras, sponsored by the Town Council.

Among the soloists was the well-known professional John Littleton. The performance was introduced by Monsignor Belliart, Dean of the Chapter of the Cathedral of Arras and for 12 years Federal President of Sacred Music in France. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Arras were in the audience. The Catholic Bishop and the Mayor of Toowoomba, Australia, where the Oratorio was performed in 1977, sent messages to the occasion.

'The Oratorio has immediate appeal,' wrote the provincial daily *La Voix du Nord*. 'Nowadays composing an oratorio of vast proportions with sincerity and love is a rare feat... an almost miraculous achievement.'

The writer of the libretto, Francoise Caubel, sang in the choir at Arras. She had just returned from Malta, where an English version of the Oratorio was performed earlier that week in St John's Cathedral in Valletta, sponsored by the Ministry of Labour, Culture and Social Welfare. A second performance took place in St Julian's parish church. Altogether some 4000 people in Malta and France heard the composition in one week.

#### Leave nets

The theme of the Oratorio is the struggle between Man and God. The characters are the Man, who sings, 'We are the masters of creation!'; the Woman, who sings, 'Can you make injustice cease and bring about a world of peace? Is God living at this hour? Or is it man who has power?'; the Child, who sings, 'I am torn apart by all these views. I must find my own way'; and Jesus.

The Child's questions—'Where do I belong

in this sick world so rotten and unjust? At times I'd like to smash it. Will I too become a selfish monster? What am I to do?'—spurs the Woman to the discovery of Christ's love. Jesus promises, 'I will take away your heart of stone and give instead a heart, my own,' and the Woman accepts His forgiveness and turns towards the Cross. The Man is angry and puzzled, afraid of losing control. Yet even he finds himself asking, 'Will a revolution that feeds on hatred prove to be empty and outdated? Or if we mean to change mankind is there new bread of life to find?'

In Malta, the Man's cynicism was answered by a group of speakers from the audience. Mr Victor Grech told how he had heard the Oratorio in Switzerland two years ago. This had begun a change in him. 'But today I realise I have not changed enough and this is because I have not given enough time to be alone with God.' A young bank official, Charles Aquilina, told of his decision to leave his job to work with MRA in India. In the Oratorio he had read the words, 'He told me—"Leave your nets".'

The *Sunday Times* of Malta wrote in its *Christmas Supplement*, 'It was more than an entertainment, and people left feeling refreshed, invigorated and challenged.'

### To India with a miners' lamp

A GROUP OF MEN from British industry left this week for India. They will be there for two months at the invitation of Indian trade union leaders including Shri Gopeshwar, Secretary of the Indian National Metalworkers' Federation and Bimal Banerjee, Secretary of Hind Mazdoor Sabah, the socialist trade unions of West Bengal.

The group is led by Bill Taylor, who until last year was a convenor of shop stewards—a senior workers' representative—at British Leyland's Longbridge factory in Birmingham.

'When I retired I couldn't just sit back,' he told a meeting at the Westminster Theatre, London, recently. 'I wanted to do something to bridge the gaps between countries.'

'We in Britain think we are meeting hard times,' he went on. 'But there are people in India who are working—and working hard—for ten pounds a month. That makes me a

millionaire. We must do something for India.'

Another trade unionist in the party, Patrick O'Kane from Coventry, said, 'I realise I have been very insular. I am committed to bringing justice in the world, but I cannot do that until I understand the issues in a place like India, and find out how we can play a part.'

With him goes a miniature miners' lamp as a present from the miners of the British Midlands to the miners of India.

George Taylor, who works with Reynolds Tube Company in Birmingham, said his colleagues had taken on his work to free him to go. He takes with him messages from Terry Duffy, General Secretary of his union, the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, to the Indian trade unions and from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, a railwayman, to the railway workers of India.

Bert Reynolds of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbers Trade Union, who has visited India before said, 'You come back from India different. After seeing the problems they face, you cannot sit back comfortably. We need to build the

links between Britain and India. We need to learn from each other.' Mr Reynolds has been working to bring new attitudes to men of industry in the Birmingham area, and, he said, 'We have good news to take to India'.

Also in the group are two men of management—Richard Hawthorne, a Director of the printing firm Hawthornes of Nottingham Ltd and John Bennett, of the Engineering Industry Training Board.

'In my job we are interested in moving industry into the 1980s,' said Mr Bennett. 'We need to begin to feel and live into the realms of a developing country.'

The group will take part in industrial seminars at the MRA centre at Panchgani, Maharashtra. An executive member of the Maharashtra branch of the Indian National Trades Union Council, S V Gole, is one of their hosts in Maharashtra. 'I have heard a great deal of your work at British Leyland,' he wrote in welcome to Mr Taylor. They will then go to West Bengal, home of much of India's heavy engineering, and Jamshedpur in Bihar, the centre of the steel industry.

J. Azzopardi

## FIJI, WESTERN SAMOA, TONGA Pacific impressions

The organisers of this month's international MRA conference in Sydney, Australia—'Bridges for the 1980s'—expect participation from the peoples of the South Pacific. With this in mind, some of them have recently visited Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga and had interviews with national figures, including members of government, leading men from industry and the churches. Two prime ministers were among those who saw the MRA films *Choice for an impatient world* and *A personal choice*. M A LENNON writes:

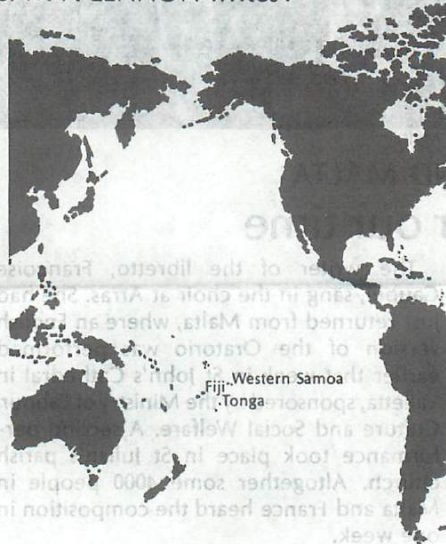
FIJI, WESTERN SAMOA AND TONGA are the most populous of the nations of the South Pacific Commission. The 19 islands that make up this body are scattered over 12 million square miles of ocean—one fifth of the earth's surface. Around the Pacific Basin in which they are set live two thirds of the world's population. The centres of world power—Japan, China, Russia and the USA—lie on its northern rim.

An area long ignored, the Pacific has troubled few and attracted little attention. One leader said to us, 'The only time New Zealand and Australia really take notice of the Pacific is when China and Russia seem likely to be granted some favour.' When it looked as if the Cook Islands or Tonga might grant port facilities to Russian fishing fleets, an atmosphere of crisis developed in Wellington and Canberra.

### Search

More than 1000 languages are spoken in these islands, political systems differ and economic development ranges from agricultural subsistence to Fiji's industries. All the islands face rapid urban drift, a breakdown of traditional systems, high unemployment and rapidly growing population. The population of Western Samoa, for instance, is expected to double by the year 2000.

Samoa was the first island state to gain self-government, in 1962. Now only New Caledonia, Tahiti, and French Polynesia remain under colonial rule—an unwelcome fact to most Pacific leaders. 'All of us in leadership in the new Pacific countries have held responsibility for only a few years,' one

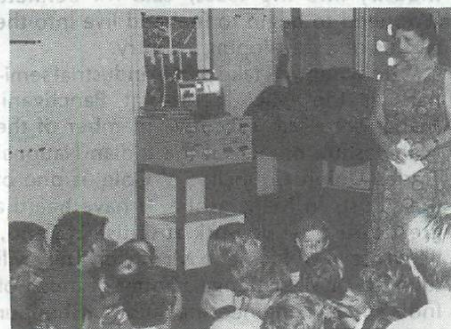


leader of thought told us. 'We are trying to define what we feel is right in the light of our experience and training.'

This searching centres around the 'Pacific way' of non-violence, evolved by the leaders of these countries, many of them people of faith. One of those we met compared the search for a clearer definition of this philosophy to the search in South America—on the other side of the Pacific Basin—'for the politics of freedom and justice'. 'We have to move away from European concepts of time, values and history,' he added.

'The world is changing—this country must change,' the Prime Minister of one of these countries told us. A church leader in another country said, 'Once it was enough to have a personal faith and a sound family life. Today a global aim is essential.'

## AUSTRALIA School motto



THE ASSOCIATION of Civilian Widows of Queensland, Australia, recently donated a copy of the film *Give a Dog a Bone* to their State Education Department. The presentation was made on their behalf by Lady Ramsay, wife of the Governor of Queensland.

Peter Howard's pantomime, *Give a Dog a Bone*, introduces children to the fight between good and evil in a magic world where King Rat wants to turn people into animals. Anyone who says, 'I couldn't care less' puts themselves into his power; those who say, 'Please, thank you and sorry' escape.

Receiving it, the Deputy Director of Primary Education, Jack Cooper, congratulated the Association on their choice of film. It was not only good entertainment, he said. It also showed the need to care for others

## USA Parent eye view

'MORAL Re-Armament has helped teachers in many countries to develop methods of character education which are effective and also suitable for inclusion in the curricula of secular schools.'

So writes Randy Ruffin, a parent-volunteer for Richmond City Schools, in a recent issue of 'Thought Patterns in Education', the paper of the schools of Virginia, USA.

In the 800-word article entitled, 'Moral Re-Armament and Character Education in Public Schools', she tells of concepts and methods which have helped train young people 'to live responsible, disciplined and caring lives'.

'The simple concept, "As I am, so is my nation", is a good place to begin,' she writes. 'It is easy to list the problems in a community or nation. It may be a new thought that "if I want to see the world different, the place to start is with myself"—with dishonesty, hate, selfishness or couldn't-care-less attitudes.

'Moral education is not something that can be easily taught as a separate subject. It should be part of the warp and woof of life and learning, and the character and behaviour of teachers are essential ingredients.'

## BOPHUTATSWANA

### Operation clean up

MRS MANGOPE, wife of the President of Bophutatswana, has been cleaning up the streets of the capital city, Mmabatho. She mobilised the wives of cabinet ministers and other leading women to help her. They went as a group through the public buildings and streets clearing away beer cans, milk cartons and plastic bags which have long caused complaints.

Mrs Mangope attended the world assembly for MRA in Caux, Switzerland in August with three of the cabinet. In a report to the wives of the cabinet on her return, she singled out absolute moral standards and reconciliation as prime needs of Southern Africa.

and to make a moral choice.

Edna Thiele, state president of the ACW, has already shown the film in several schools. Our picture shows her introducing one showing. 'I hope its message will become a "catch cry" among our children,' she writes.

In Western Australia this seems to be happening! 'She's still talking about the three magic words' commented a teacher who had brought her daughter to see the film. One hundred and fifty saw the film on this occasion and, our correspondent writes, 'the spirit of caring and sharing at the party which followed was evidence that the message had made its mark!'

One Western Australian school has adopted as its motto the phrase 'I care' as a result of a showing of the film.

## BRITAIN Leyland repairs

REG PARSONS, formerly the senior shop steward at one of British Leyland's major car factories, said that during the last five years he had 'been involved in repairing the damage' of his past extremism at the car plant. 'I would rather be ruled by the ballot box of democracy; I would rather die of hunger being free. Then you have kept your own integrity,' he said.

Reg Parsons was speaking on Sunday at a meeting of the grass-roots industrial campaign 'Action '75' at the Westminster Theatre. The meeting was called to launch the concept that 'there must be a better way for the 1980s'. The aim of 'Action '75' is to 'combat inflation, unemployment and industrial decline'.

Dick Cosens, member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and 'Action '75' Vice-Chairman, read out a declaration of intent of 'Action '75'. 'There must be a better way for the 1980s,' it says, '—a way that is better than our experience of the '70s because it is built on need rather than greed, service rather than self-interest, involvement rather than apathy, compassion rather than callousness, democracy rather than anarchy, sanity rather than chaos, co-operation rather than confrontation, and regeneration rather than decline.'

'Such a moral shift in the attitudes of people at all levels in our society must surely be the strongest base from which to work for social, industrial and economic advance in the '80s.'

## NEW ZEALAND Still stirring

'SENTENCED TO LIFE', the play by Malcolm Muggeridge and Alan Thornhill which caused a stir in Britain in 1978, had a similar effect in New Zealand last month. The play, about a case of 'mercy-killing', was presented by Pilgrim Productions for a two week run at the Maidment Theatre, Auckland.

South Pacific Television's *Focus* programme screened shots from the play as an introduction to a debate between the Dean of Auckland and the President of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society.

The *New Zealand Herald*, the country's largest daily, under the headline, 'Drama spiced with wit', described the production as 'polished and absorbing'. The *Auckland Star* provoked a spate of correspondence from members of the audience when it condemned the play's content and the way the playwrights had presented it.

Among the audience on the first night were leaders of the professions most involved in the euthanasia debate—the Dean of the University Medical School, the President of the Auckland Law Society, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, and three heads of Churches in Auckland.

The play was directed by Sam Winer, three times winner of the New Zealand Drama Federation Award.

Pilgrim Productions is an ecumenical society which exists to produce dramatic works furthering the Christian faith. Their first venture was *Ride! Ride!*, the musical



Brenda Simmons as Eileen Vickory, the paralysed concert pianist in *Sentenced to Life* who asks her husband to kill her.

about John Wesley. They plan a production of another historical play by Alan Thornhill, *Mr Wilberforce MP*, for 1981.

## Out of ruins

LAST WEEK'S *Church of England Newspaper* reviewed a presentation of the play *Columba* in Westminster Cathedral, London, before Christmas. 'Here, indeed,' wrote Colin Evans, 'we found life's meaning in our relationship with God and in the call to build a new society out of the old's ruins.'

## INDIA Beyond family and factory



WITH THE RAINS just a few weeks over, the terraced gardens of Asia Plateau, Panchgani, are a rash of colour—mauve and red bouganvillia bushes set off against the green of the grass and hedges.

For six days last month the hill-top MRA Conference Centre in Western India was the venue for another of the industrial conferences regularly held there. This time 12 firms sent a total of 45 delegates. Drawn mainly from the Pune-Bombay industrial belt the seminar also included representatives from Madras, Calcutta and Kanpur. Twelve of the delegates held positions in their factory

unions, one as President and five as Vice-Presidents.

One firm sent its Labour Officer along with three workers, another its Marketing Manager and another three sent representatives of middle management.

'I have learned here,' declared a machine shop worker from a heavy engineering plant, 'that my responsibility does not end with my family and my factory. There is work to be done in other areas of society for a new world. I have decided to take that road.'

Among those who addressed the seminar were Irène Laure, veteran socialist leader from France, and Bharat Dixit, Chief Personnel Officer of a large Bombay-based petrochemical concern. During her visit to India, Mme Laure has met industrial and national leaders in Pune, Delhi, Jamshedpur and Calcutta.

### Exploitation

Answering a barrage of workers' questions ranging from the post-war French-German reconciliation to Vietnam, South Africa, atomic bombs and French colonialism, Madame Laure stressed her complete solidarity with all those who sought freedom. But, she warned, dictatorships and denial of freedom can flourish in families as well as in and between nations.

Speaking of the exploitation of poor countries by the rich, she referred to a previous visit to India when this question was put to her by students in Hyderabad. 'Their accusations whizzed past my head like bullets! When I could speak, I said, "What you say is true. We have exploited you—but now I would like to talk of another form of exploitation. I have visited many of your homes in India, and I have seen how your mothers work for you, cooking, washing, mending. But I have not yet heard any of you thank them. What about tackling that kind of exploitation?"'

### Temper

Reactions at the end of the seminar ranged from the union leader who recorded his appreciation in Hindi verse to the President of a large factory union who made resolutions about her temper in the family and on the job. Another union official told how preoccupation with union work had made him neglect his family and its problems.

Delegates plan to spread the ideas through MRA film shows in their factories, and articles in their company magazines and local papers.

Further industrial conferences are announced for January, March, April and May.

Paul Williams

## CANADA

# Listening coast to coast

ANNEJET CAMPBELL, whose book *Listen to the Children* was published last July, has been visiting Canada with her husband Paul. They spoke about the book at receptions and on television and radio across Canada from Quebec in the east to Victoria in the west.

The book is compiled from the experience of families in 17 countries. It suggests that the family structure of the future must be based not on everybody doing their own thing, but on a common search for God's will.

Local television in Winnipeg, Victoria, Quebec and Montreal interviewed the Campbells about the philosophy of life expressed in the book. A morning magazine programme on the national station, CBC, recommended the book.

From Montreal (see *New World News* Vol 28 No 1) the Campbells went to Winnipeg. Here two receptions were organised by Marguerite Hargrave, one of the board of the International Centre which looks after new arrivals in this city of 84 ethnic groups.

In Calgary, three Indian chiefs were among those who attended a meeting for Dr and Mrs Campbell. *The Albertan*, Calgary's morning paper, carried a three-quarter page interview with the Campbells about the work of Moral Re-Armament. In Ottawa a reception at the Chateau Laurier included people from the Department of Indian

Affairs and the Department of External Affairs.

'Today's world calls for co-operation,' said Dr Campbell, '—a willingness to care and share so that everyone has enough—and the will to curb my desire so that the needs of others can be met.'

'To be responsible does not mean to control, it does mean to serve. To be responsible for the family is to serve the family, and those who are trained to serve the family will serve the nation.'

## BRISTOL

### RE—

# pure and applied!

'WRITE AN ESSAY about a book you have read recently,' said the teacher. One of the class of 14-year-olds wrote about *Listen to the Children*. She had been to the MRA centre at Tirley Garth in Cheshire and had decided there, encouraged by the book, to live honestly. On her return home she had made restitution at shops from which she had shoplifted.

The teacher asked to read the book and then passed it on to the school's religious education teacher. He used it with one of his classes and asked if they would like to study it. There was a good show of hands.

Later he wrote, 'I have tried the book out to good effect, with a 5th year and a 3rd year group. It lends itself to creative discussion

and written work and contains a great deal of wisdom and insight. In so far as it continually refers the children to the creative centre of their own being which is in God, it remains perpetually relevant and ideal for RE in my school.'

In Bristol a group of parents and teachers have sent the book to secondary schools in their county, Avon. 'Its value,' they write in their accompanying letter, 'is that it consists not just of theory, but of actual experience and stories of ordinary people facing today's problems.' They invited schools to send a contribution towards the project.

The parents and teachers have been encouraged both by the replies they have received and the contributions that continue to come in. One head teacher, who is also President of a national education association, wrote, 'I particularly appreciated the copy of *Listen to the Children*. It is very heartening indeed to know that there are others who feel as I do.' Another wrote that he had enjoyed the book and passed it on to the RE department.

*Listen to the Children* has also been sent by a group of women to all the women members of Bristol and Avon Councils, and to Juvenile Court magistrates. To cover the cost, one of the women sold her fur cape and some curtains, and another sold her evening shawl. Replies and contributions are coming in from this distribution also.

'*Listen to the Children*' by Annejet Campbell, Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ, price £1.50 or £1.85 postage paid.

## BRITAIN

# Sixth formers, Eighties formers



A Weeks

Six-year-old Stephen Kasanga from Tanzania, who came to Tirley Garth with his family, is seen here teaching the words of a carol to the guests at a Christmas celebration.

AN IMPROMPTU 12-piece pop group, calling themselves the 'Red Flannel Hash', brought in the New Year with a flourish at Tirley Garth. The 12 were among 115 who

gathered there over New Year, many of them having been at Tirley Garth during the summer conference, 'Which Way to the Future?' They told of their experiences in applying the decisions they had made then.

'Two thousand years ago there was a Baby born who brought light into the world,' said Sia Windig from Holland. 'Half a year ago something new was born into my heart. I've walked away from it since, but never for long. I feel that, God and I together, we will make it.'

Adrian Burkhardt from Switzerland commented after his first day in Tirley Garth, 'There is an atmosphere which makes it a joyful event to accept a change in attitude.' He challenged people to equip themselves to match the needs of the coming years. He was going to learn Italian so that he could serve that country.

A group of sixth-formers, and other young people, drew up a 'declaration of intent' for the 1980s. The declaration reads:

We intend—  
To search for the creative inspiration of God's leading in all our affairs;

To give our generation fresh aims to live for;

To live above self-advancement;  
To serve where society's needs are greatest;  
To use our resources, time and talents to arm democracy with a vital God-centred ideology;

To create a society—  
Where permissiveness is replaced by the real freedom of purity in every relationship;  
Where apathy and the abdication of responsibility are unfashionable;

Where peace is the product of my accepting blame and responsibility, and being ready to forgive;

And where the qualities of each generation, class, race and creed enrich our society rather than divide it.

On the third weekend of each month from February to June a weekend conference will be held at Tirley Garth, where all are welcome, to 'examine the meaning and programme of MRA, and the part individuals can play in shaping society'.

For details please write to Tirley Garth, Tarporely, Cheshire CW6 0LZ.

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