



Phra Bimaladhamma is welcomed to Caux by Alhaji Yakubu Tali, Tolon Na, from Ghana

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BUDDHISTS AND THE UN

PHRA BIMALADHAMMA, second in the Buddhist hierarchy in Thailand, spent 10 days at the MRA Assembly at Caux, Switzerland, last month.

He presented a picture of himself with Frank Buchman, initiator of MRA, to the Assembly Centre. He had come to Caux, he said, on the centenary of Frank Buchman's birth, 'because I am an old comrade of his'.

'Though Frank Buchman has died,' he went on, 'he is alive through his principles of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. It remains for us to follow his path.'

Phra Bimaladhamma recently translated a Buddhist classic, the *Visuddhimagga* (The Path of Purity) from Pali, the sacred language of Buddhism, into Thai.

In the preface to the chapter on compassion he says, 'I looked for a man on earth with a quality of mind very similar to the God Brahma'. As examples he chose Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, and Frank Buchman.

'Frank Buchman had a very great heart,' he writes. 'He loved everyone, even those who wanted to harm him.'

'These examples show that we do not have the monopoly of goodness. Therefore we

Buddhists should not think that we are the best among all religions and look down on others.'

Phra Bimaladhamma was accompanied to Caux by Dr Nakorn Khemapali, Professor of Buddhist Philosophy at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. Also in the party was Suthin Keshagupta, a former Judge of the Supreme Court of Thailand, and his wife.

At Caux a leading United Nations official told the assembly about an encounter which had given him a new philosophy for his work. Robert Mueller from France, Secretary of the Economic and Social Council of the UN and of the Commission of the General Assembly for the North-South negotiations, told how his life had been transformed through contact with the UN Secretary-General, U Thant. 'Previously I had had the idea of intellectualism and material success,' he said, 'but I had forgotten the deeper role of the moral and spiritual life.'

'How often have I seen, in Cyprus or elsewhere, a problem which seems impossible to resolve. The experts have been taught that in diplomacy one starts from a bargaining position. After some years they arrive at their fall-back position, which is quite simply the truth. We spend years in the intellectual hypocrisy taught by almost all our universities. U Thant said, 'You must begin by being pure and true yourself, and then you will see much more easily how to solve your problems.'

Sudan's challenge

THE 'NEW YORK TIMES' wrote recently about the Sudan: 'In an experiment that is catching the eye of other African nations, President Jaafar al-Nimeiry is trying a new way to deal with implacable political enemies—reconciliation.'

The *Zimbabwe Times* headlined its story on the subject, 'Sudanese success—a settlement that worked'.

A senior civil servant who is working to consolidate the North-South settlement through economic and social initiatives spoke recently at the Westminster Theatre, London. He is Dr Mohammed El-Murtada Mustafa, Director of Manpower and Employment in the Sudanese Department of Labour.

Ideology

'A communist spokesman said to an Arab leader, "When you are strong do what you want". MRA says, "When you are strong, do what is right". This we applied in the Sudan. Thus we found the solution to our divisions.'

'In a country where we say we believe in God's guidance, MRA is the right ideology. It bridges the gaps in society and resolves the differences between different sections, because it deals with our human nature.'

'There are some who would have us believe, for reasons of their own, that the age of ideology is at an end. But let us not be fooled. This age has just begun.'

'The West has a great diversity of life and freedom of choice. This must find direction through an ideology or it will be exploited.'

'We do not have to worry what people say. We must not worry about being labelled or misrepresented. We must apply what we believe in our lives and in our policies.'

J B-S



Two paintings have been presented to the MRA Centre at Caux. The paintings, by the Swedish artist Joel Mila, are based on themes from the Old and New Testaments. Left, the prophecies of Isaiah, and right, the parable of the sower. Here Jerker Mila, son of the artist, speaks at the presentation in the main dining room, where the paintings will hang.

CRAFTSMAN OF PEACE

Men and women from many nations stood for one minute's silence in honour of Pope Paul VI at a plenary session of the Assembly at Caux on August 7. In a tribute, the French actor, Michel Orphelin said, 'Pope Paul was a craftsman of peace and reconciliation. He opened the heart of the Church to the world.' He then sang the Prayer of St Francis. Here we print contributions made by three readers of NWN.

Sir Dermot Milman, Cambridge

GIOVANNI BATTISTA MONTINI, Pope Paul VI, spent most of his working life in the Vatican Secretariat. His first major appointment outside Rome was to the Archbishopric of Milan in 1954. It was there that he came into closer touch with Moral Re-Armament.

A small team from Britain had been working in the area of heavy industry around Milan for the past three years. One of these areas, Sesto San Giovanni, was known as the 'Little Stalingrad of Italy'. Feelings between workers and management here was so bitter that one of the bosses had been thrown alive into the furnaces.

MRA's work produced miracles of changed lives and in 1955 the Italian Minister of Labour invited the musical play, *The Vanishing Island*, to Sesto San Giovanni. It had a tremendous reception and the team of 200 were asked to attend a mass on New Year's Day at the Cathedral celebrated by the Archbishop. He preached on 'The guidance of the Holy Spirit which leads to changed hearts and directs changed lives.' After the Mass the Archbishop received Dr Buchman and some of his friends.

Those who stayed to continue to work in the industrial areas kept the Archbishop regularly informed of progress at his request.

As a Roman Catholic layman I respected him because he never chose the easy way, and never courted popularity. Above all I felt in him great holiness but also a great love of humanity.

Linda Pierce, Bombay

I VIVIDLY RECALL the audience Pope Paul granted 50 of us from India when I was 16. We were part of a musical revue called *India Arise* which painted a picture through song and dance of the kind of India we hoped to see.

I remember feeling awed by the Swiss guards as we were escorted through the regal halls of the Vatican. When the Pope entered I felt surprise as I expected him to be a towering figure. Although he was a small-built person one immediately sensed in him the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Looking back on the occasion I can see that Pope Paul met us Indians, most of us raw and inexperienced, as equals in the effort to build God's kingdom. He had carefully prepared a four-minute speech which he read out in clear English. He urged us forward to build a brighter future for our land and challenged us to create a strong leadership of men free of corruption. His warmhearted love for India reached out as he said farewell to us. He lifted his hands heavenwards and said, '*India Arise*, come again.' And we knew he meant it.

Although Paul VI went out to his flock around the world and was a Pope of the people, he did not seek to please them. As a Catholic, I feel grateful that in an age of shifting values the Holy Father was a solid rock which stood against the tide.

Garth Lean, Oxford

MY WIFE AND I were extremely surprised to meet Pope Paul on our only visit to Rome together in 1974. *The Black and White Book* had just been published in Italian by the Society of St Paul, and the sisters of the Order, who felt it was helping them to fulfil their vocation, met us with the insistence that we must see His Holiness.

They had obtained tickets for us at the general audience in the vast pillarless hall, holding 12,000, which Nervi had designed for these occasions.

We went early, thinking that seats might be filled, and tried to take seats in various rows; but officials moved us on until we found ourselves in seats one and two on the aisle in the front row.

Meanwhile, the Society of St Paul had sent the 16 different language editions, in which *The Black and White Book* had up till then appeared, to His Holiness.

At the appointed time Pope Paul was carried shoulder-high down the aisle, and climbed the dozen or so steps to his chair on the dias. From there he conducted what can only be described as an immense family party, greeting groups from all over the world and delivering an address in four languages. He particularly referred to the calling of the Trappist monks, whose newly-elected Abbot, an Englishman, was in the seat immediately across the aisle from us.

The Pope—who was unwell—was obviously tired after his outpouring and was helped down the steps. However, he turned to the Abbot and spoke with him. Our impression was of two equals speaking eye to eye, rather than of any difference of rank between them.

Then to our surprise, the Pope turned to us, gave us gifts of a rosary and a key ring and, grasping our hands, blessed us, and our family 'and your work, and your work'.

Our abiding impressions were two-fold. First, that Pope Paul was, as Cardinal Hume has recently said, above all 'a man very close to God', a loving father not only to his Church, but to all humanity. Secondly, that it was our work of Moral Re-Armament, rather than ourselves, which had brought us this honour, and which was really being blessed. We shall never forget the solicitude with which he regarded us and everyone on that occasion.



Andrew Trotter, USA, with students from Britain and Wales

STAGED BY STUDENTS AND WORKERS

by Alison Lodge

'I'M SICK AND TIRED OF PRETENDING. I want to talk about the things that count,' says a schoolgirl in a short play presented last week at Tirley Garth in the North-West of England. It was the final evening of a programme called 'Discovering the New Society'. 'I wrote the play,' said Gaby Kuhn, one of seven North Americans, 'because soon we will all be going home to schools and jobs. I decided to say the things I believe in.'

Andrew Mackay, a 17-year-old student from Scotland, took the part of one of her classmates. 'I would like to see our generation change the path of the world,' he said. 'I've decided here that I'm not going to follow the crowd. I'm going to stand up for what I believe in, no matter what happens.'

Over a hundred people came for the final evening, some from industries visited by groups earlier in the week. 'I'm coming back to find out more of what happens here,' said one man from Runcorn.

Andrew Trotter, who is about to start at Washington and Lee University in Virginia, USA, took charge of the evening. 'We are just concluding two weeks here, 149 people from 27 different nations. We have had speakers ranging from a former British Minister at the UN, the Chairman of Cammell Laird Shipyards and newspaper editors, to a senior teacher, television producers and actors.' Together with Alistair Miles of Australia, he introduced two hours of songs and sketches created in 'workshop' sessions, folk dances from Cyprus and Norway, and



Germany

sacrifice in the present standard of living of the rich countries. But sacrifice was needed to end the present vast differences, sacrifice to shift the selfish policies at every level.

Other sessions were taken by the participants. 'I came here because my parents have divorced,' said one. 'All the things I believed in and thought were right proved to be wrong, and I did not know what to do. My time here has made my life new and given me a new direction. It will help me not to make the same mistakes as my parents.'

Patrick Turner, 15, said, 'I do not value my family enough. How many are there who are as happy and fortunate in their homes as I? Many things that I've taken for granted, others have never experienced. The barriers I build of pride, jealousy and hatred between me and other people have tied me up. I believe that when we remove these barriers and let God into our lives, we can communicate a faith and purpose to other people.'

Many found faith and purpose over the two weeks. One, who was unemployed, will return to Tirley to work. Four of the Norwegian delegation spoke on the last morning. Kristin Ljones said, 'I often felt inferior to the other Norwegians here. They are much cleverer in school. But now I realise that God has a plan for my life and that I don't have to be inferior. I am looking forward very much to going back to Norway to work together with my classmates, to change myself and others in the school.'

Thousand pounds

Gillian Plested from Chester will be starting work in Germany. She had earlier told how she had been the only coloured girl in a school of 750. As an eight-year-old she had been adopted by white parents. 'I was very bitter because I thought I should be with black people. As I got older I deliberately set out to look "black", always having my hair plaited. When I was 16, things were impossible at home for my parents. I hated and blamed them, and later God, for my situation. They threw me out. I have suggested to many people that I was badly treated, but I never told how I had treated my parents.'

'A New Type of Man', performed by the music workshop on the final evening



speakers from the USA, Germany and Holland. 'I believe this evening is not just a finale,' said Alistair Miles, 'but the beginning for us of tackling the needs of this country and every other nation.'

American Kathy Meyer said, 'I have a new commitment to the world, a new commitment to daring to take on wholeheartedly what God asks me to do. I pledge myself to "this one thing I do", as St Paul said. It is a challenge to us all, whatever field we're in.'

Elke Fischer of Germany, who will be working in Britain for the next six months, said of her experience in the drama workshop, 'I learned here to stick to a task I have taken on and not to run away if it gets difficult. I had to learn not to take criticism personally.'

As well as organised visits to local industries, men of management and trade unions were invited into the conference. Trade unionist Keith Standing, National Officer of APEX (the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff), described the pressures in industry. They came, he said, from the pace of work, monotony, difficulties at home, and from 'extremists trying to divert the trade unions for their own ends'. 'I've learnt one thing as a trade unionist,' he said. 'It is essential to stand for something or, given all these pressures, I will fall for anything. Workers and employers can fight to satisfy their own greed and make their industry a battleground, or co-operate to make their industry the generator of the wealth and resources so desperately needed by the starving and poor of our world.'

Journalist Geoffrey Lean led a session called 'Rich world—poor world'. Speaking to people from some of the richer European nations and Third World countries like India and the Philippines, he said there were enough resources in the world to provide all the food and wealth needed in even the poorest of countries, even without much



Deepta Nagi, Kenya



Andrew Mackay, Australia



Keith Standing, National Officer of APEX



Rhoda MacDonald, Scotland

PHOTOS BY E HOWARD

Gillian found a faith in God but felt that something was still missing. During the Tirley Garth programme she examined her life by absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, love and unselfishness. Some of the things she had thought insignificant, she found were actually very important.

'Whenever anyone did anything against me,' she said, 'I immediately thought it was because I was black. I have discovered that often I use colour as an excuse for deeper problems. I am learning to be more sensitive to whites.'

'I wrote to my parents,' she continued, 'and told them everything that had gone on inside me and what I had done since leaving home. I apologised for the inexcusable way I had treated them.' By the end of the two weeks she had heard back from her parents. 'They have changed so much in their attitude, I would not have believed it was possible,' she said. 'The time I have spent here has been worth more than a thousand pounds in the bank!'



The Lord Provost of Glasgow, David Hodge, with the group

RAMADAN IN SCOTLAND

EUROPEANS ARE INDIGNANT when Arab feuds are fought out in Paris, Bonn and London.

But in two world wars this century Europeans have forced the Middle East peoples to take sides in our conflicts. Distorted images of the Arabs brought home by some of our soldiers were multiplied by Hollywood. They added to fables about Muslims brought home by Crusaders which are still current.

There have been recent changes in outlook at high levels. When the Sheikh El Azhar, the supreme theological authority for most of the Muslim world, visited Britain from Cairo, he was received in honour by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Papal Nuncio and the Orthodox Archbishop. Yet further changes are needed at all levels, and not least at student level, if right decisions are to be made in the future.

The Association for British Arab University Visits was formed by academics, businessmen, writers and former diplomats to emphasise the common spiritual and moral

values and to encourage the practice of them.

A number of British students have been invited to Egypt on this basis, and in summer '78 for the fifth year the Association was host to a delegation from Arab universities. Those from Cairo University were the academic top two men and two women for '78 and the President of the 150,000-strong Students' Union, Abdel Mageed Khedr. He said, 'We put our hands in yours to work for the good of humanity.'

Breakfast

During an initial ten days in Switzerland the students were invited by leaders of both sides in the separatist dispute to visit the Jura region. These men were intrigued to meet Abdel Aziz Mustafa from North Sudan and Joseph Clement from South Sudan whose families have played a prominent part in Sudan's North-South reconciliation.

At the MRA Assembly in Caux Bassam Hawary, one of three students sent officially by the University of Jordan, said to an audience drawn from 28 nations, 'The absolute standards that Moral Re-Armament teaches are part of Islam. They are in everyone. But to see people of many nations applying them is amazing. We thought we were coming to discuss problems. We found another world.'

During a three-week tour of England and Scotland which covered 2,100 miles, the Arabs were accompanied by students or recent graduates of Durham, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Oxford. They were given a lunch in the City of London by the Directors of the Commercial Union Assurance, and in Chester by the Chairman and members of the Cheshire County Council. They were received by the Lord Provost of Glasgow in the City Hall, and by former Prime Minister Lord Home at his Borders estate.

Ramadan began on 5 August and many of the Muslim students observed the fast between dawn and sunset. The British hosts made a special effort to provide the correct meals for the breaking of the fast. Sunset in Scotland was at nine-fifteen, and some of the profoundest talks started at this 'breakfast' and continued long past midnight.

In Switzerland and in homes around Britain there was the chance to compare experiences with farmers, housewives, trade unionists and managers who seek to apply a faith to working life, and who seek also to redress the balance of wrong attitudes in the past towards individuals or other countries.

Summarising the effect of the visit before he left, Abdullah Jaradat, postgraduate student in Agriculture at the University of Jordan, said, 'Europeans think they have a bright civilisation. To us it has not looked bright. So to meet this great moral endeavour at the heart of Europe makes one think many new things.'

PETER EVERINGTON



Bassam Touqan, a Palestinian student at Jordan University, talks to G J Warnock, Master of Hertford College, Oxford. In the background Joseph Clement from Sudan

Case for honesty

MAHMOUD is a young Egyptian lawyer from a simple family with no extra money to back him. While waiting for his legal certificates to arrive he worked in a government office, preparing valuation documents which property owners need to let houses or flats.

Many owners would try to slip him bank notes, pointing out how easily he could add an extra zero or change a one into a seven. Mahmoud, who had decided to live by the standard of absolute honesty and the guidance of God, refused all these advances though his salary was only £26 a month.

In most countries young lawyers usually have a hard time at the beginning of their careers. But Mahmoud, to his surprise, had a

number of clients straight away. On asking about this he was told: 'Don't you remember all our bribes you refused? Of course everyone wants an honest lawyer.'

As Mahmoud was studying these cases one morning, he had the clear thought that a certain one was meant to be settled out of court. Though this would mean financial loss to himself, he called on his clients (a father and daughter fighting each other about an inheritance) and 'passed on his thought. Both heatedly refused to contemplate a friendly settlement.

But some days later Mahmoud's telephone rang. It was the father. 'My daughter is here beside me,' he said. 'We have now both decided to take your advice. All is settled. And there's to be a grand reconciliation party. The neighbours are coming and, of course, you must come too.' MER