

(Havel)

SPECIAL ISSUE

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**NEW
WORLD
NEWS**
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



A young Indian girl, working on the construction of a dam, returns for more concrete with her pannier upside down on her head.

NOT THE CRY OF SUFFERING NOR THE BLAST OF BOMBS BUT THE STILL SMALL VOICE

A tree grows in quiet

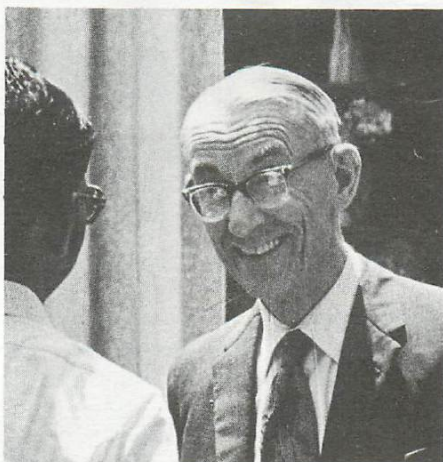
by Roland Wilson

SONG OF ASIA calls the Asian and Pacific lands to become God's rainbow for the whole earth.

In a speech she made in Ottawa Mrs Gandhi pleaded for 'a breakthrough of the mind'. The marvel of the human mind is that when it is illumined it can move into uncharted territories. It is enabled to take this step not out of reaction to the hurts of the past, but through the miracle of liberation from them.

Asia with the hallmark of union is a new idea in history. Conquerors have in the past imposed a certain one-ness. There may be forces at this moment which want and wait to repeat that barren experiment. But the peace of man is different from the peace of God, and lust for power is not cured by talk, or détente, or state visits.

A continent of nearly two thousand million souls pursuing a single great idea, alert to listen to the voice of a single gracious Authority, which favours none and lifts all, would glorify God in the highest and re-establish the dignity of the human family. This would be a revolution against none and for all. None would lose face. All would be freed. And vast social and economic dangers would be countered by a spirit of common concern about them, out of which unforeseen solutions would spontaneously spring. 'Eye has not seen, nor has ear heard, nor has it entered into men's minds, the good things God has prepared for those who love Him. But He reveals them to us by His spirit.'



Frank Buchman described the Holy Spirit of God as the most powerful force in the world. He urged men to study that force. He proclaimed the ideology of the Holy Spirit, the rounded revolutionary way of life towards which the Spirit leads obedient men, as the one answer to power blocs, the ideologies of class and race, and the apathy of those whose selfishness rejects change and binds them to life as it is.

A power-loaded whisper

Song of Asia is in Frank Buchman's succession. It says that the rightful voice of Asia to the whole earth is not the blast of bombs or the cry of suffering, but the still small voice of the Living God, a power-loaded whisper of that divine Spirit who leads men into all Truth.

In the varied scenes there shines the glory and colour and history of these ancient Asian lands. Like penetrating arrows the practical, earthy answers to each human dilemma are released from the stage. They go home. The villager, the soldier, the statesman, the philosopher, the family, all play their part. Hope is kindled. Hurts are healed. The overwhelming case for a fresh motivation of man is presented, not with argument but with that appeal which makes men loathe defeat and eagerly embrace victory, as a man rejoices when he has rediscovered a friend. There is after all an Answer that works.

The great faiths of the world, as *Song*

of *Asia* reveals in its opening scene, were born in Asia. The time has come for a Star to shine again from the East. With the Star comes a Voice, born in the silence of the heart, yet gently imperious in its reasoned claim on men's lives. Experience shows that this Voice has what Pope Paul described as a 'mysterious preponderance of all human voices', the quality to which the inner greatness of man will respond.

At the close of *Song of Asia* a young man who was won amid a revolution of violence in India's North East sings the Prayer of St Francis. Then each audience is asked to listen quietly to the Holy Spirit's voice, each man, woman and child conscious that an open ear and an obedient will can usher in the adventure of fresh ways for men and for their nations.

I write at Panchgani where the varied group who have created *Song of Asia* are at work preparing to accept the invitations that have come from North East India, from Calcutta, from the steel city of Jamshedpur. *Song of Asia* was born in the quiet of the Panchgani hills. God's gift and the toil and dare of men and women from every continent have combined to create it.

Like the smallest of seeds it will grow watered by thought and courage; sacrifice, till it becomes a great tree. And the leaves of the tree will be for the healing of the nations.

This special issue of
New World News
has been prepared with the
help of Sanjoy Hazarika
and members of the cast of
Song of Asia
Photos by Babcock,
Cummock and Hazarika

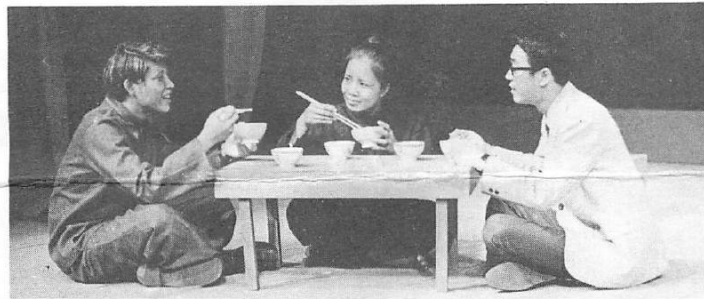
Those in Britain who wish to have a part in the further outreach of *Song of Asia* may send contributions to Dr Burford Weeks 'Little Craig', 7 The Crescent, Utkinton, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0LT. Cheques should be made out to 'India Arise'.



What will tomorrow's Asia give?
 Will she teach the world to live?
 Will she show the way again
 Out of suffering and pain?
 An end to vengeance,
 An end to hate,
 The still small voice can speak,
 It's not too late.

What will tomorrow's Asia give?
 Will she teach the world to live?

from the finale of *Song of Asia*



A Chinese family whose son was killed by Japanese soldiers helps a Japanese doctor overcome bitterness towards America.



From the Far East to West Asia the different nations are colourfully portrayed. Here is a vigorous Turkish dance.



Hundreds of years ago the Maoris set off from their ancestral home and crossed the Pacific — to discover New Zealand.



Australian tourists are 'helped' by 'expert guides' in 'Asia shows the way'.



A Naga mother with her guerrilla sons.



A village elder is called on to settle a fight in the 'Asian bazaar'.

Asian treasure-house

by
Neerja Chowdhury

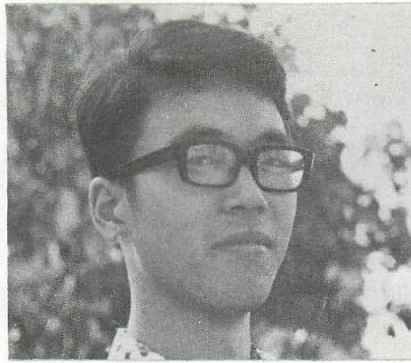
THE FULCRUM OF WORLD EVENTS has shifted to Asia. The era of American involvement in Asia is coming to an end. Ceasefire has been declared in Indo-China. But neither cessation of war nor material reconstruction can, by themselves, bring real peace.

While the USA is slowly receding from the Asian scene other new factors are emerging. Australasia has identified itself with Asia. Geographically it has always belonged with Asia but culturally it had associated itself with Europe. With its natural resources, economic potential, vast spaces, what is the role of Australasia in the Asian setting? Japan's economic self-sufficiency and increased independence have created ripples of fear in the continent. How will Japan use her technological know-how and her enormous wealth? The great giant China is awake.

Song of Asia claims that reconciliation is possible; that traditional enemies like China and Japan can forgive the past; that the caste barriers entrenched for centuries in the Hindu society of India can fall; that the rivalry and suspicion between the nations of Indo-China can disappear; that ethnic minorities, at present waging a guerrilla war to preserve their identity, can, instead, set out to right wrongs in the whole of society; that Asia can be known not for the blast of bombs nor for the cry of suffering but for the still small voice that speaks in every heart.

These claims are based on changes of heart that have been experienced. *Song of Asia* portrays these true stories. A member of the cast said about the production, 'For the first time a way to change society has been expressed by Asians, of Asia and about Asia. And it is not one country, but together the whole of Asia expressing it.'

Forty-five men and women take part in this production. They represent 14 nations. Suresh Chandra, the 27 year old director of *Song of Asia*, is from Fiji. He says, 'If hate can be melted, that is one of the most important discoveries in the world. If people with a compelling human reason to hate decide to forgive, that is more important than nuclear fission. *Song of Asia* portrays true stories of how hate has been answered. There lies its significance. It is going to surprise Asians and the world. It is a unique presentation of Asia's treasures.'

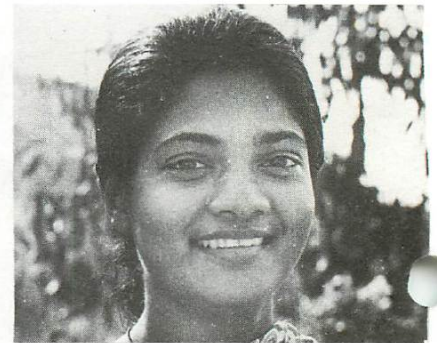


▶ **Osamu Omura, student of Indian culture, Japan:**

Japan's rapid advance, industrially and technologically, has not been accompanied by a growth in character. We have learnt the hard lesson that even if you have the material progress, peace will not come unless human nature changes. That is why I apologised to my father for my hatred of him.

◀ **Nivanka Fernando, secretary, Sri Lanka:**

Many of us Asians have lived selfishly. Our careers and comfort have come first while fear and tension and war have been part of daily life in many places. In my country people are frustrated and many feel desperate. The youth have rebelled. Through *Song of Asia* we, the cast, express our conviction that there is a way that works without violence or annihilation.



▶ **Leo Laita, economics graduate, Papua New Guinea:**

I have decided for the rest of my life to listen for God's direction for my life and for my country. There is deep division in Papua New Guinea between the 1,000 tribes. God told me to let go of my own hatred for people of other tribal, racial and language groups. And I did. The future will depend on whether we cure hate and division or not.

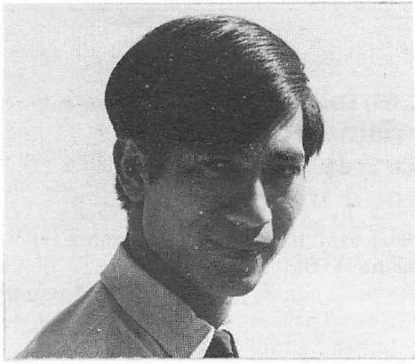
◀ **J S Parthiban, former president, Sacred Heart College Students' Union, Tirriputhur, Tamil Nadu:**

MRA gave me purpose and faith. I decided to clean up my life and let God guide it, and not be swayed either by my friends or family. To be with *Song of Asia* is a privilege. It is part of a force that will make history.



▶ **Cigdem Bilginer, university student, Turkey:**

'Girder of unity for the world' - this was Frank Buchman's vision for the Muslim nations. The world knows of the suffering and injustice in the Middle East, particularly, which has led to so much bitterness and acts of violence. Can those who have suffered forgive, the hating ones be free to fight for a hate-free world? We need men and women from these nations who will demonstrate that it can happen.

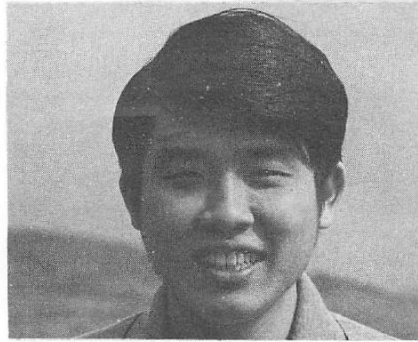


▶ **S Nabachandra, graduate of Shillong's St Edmund's College, Manipur:**
I met MRA as a student in Shillong. Upon listening to my inner voice I thought I should apologise to my neighbours with whom I had not spoken for two and a half years. I had quarrelled with them. They said to me that they never expected such a letter from me! Now we are good friends.



▼ **Michael Vertigan, Melbourne teacher, Australia:**
We Australians pride ourselves on our happy-go-lucky spirits. Yet hidden underneath us is a deep concern for the future and what it holds. The present trend towards violence in everyday life need not continue. The challenge before each of us who sincerely hate war is to win the peace by the quality of our own lives. Along with others in *Song of Asia* I have decided this will happen.

▶ **Hsu Fun Chi, mechanical engineer, Taiwan:**
I studied in Taiwan and have been teaching there for one year. As we get stronger economically many people just want to enjoy life selfishly. Trying to control them would not work, but people only choosing God's control is the best way. That is why I have left my job to join *Song of Asia*.



▶ **Lallunghnema, school student, Mizoram:**
Unlike other families in Mizoram who faced great hardship after the Mizo uprising in 1966, my family was not seriously affected. I was unconcerned about those of my people who were facing great hardship. I was so dissatisfied with life that I did not care whether I lived or died. I was challenged to live in such a way that I could understand those around me. If my people find what God wants them to do in the world, we will more easily answer our own problems.



▶ **Indira Banerji, trade unionist's daughter, Calcutta:**
I want to see a society where everybody cares and shares. I want to continue the battle for justice which my father has fought all his life.



▼ **Joseph Zokunga from Mizoram:**
I did not believe my burning hate could change but I decided to try. I attempted to listen to God but I did not get any extraordinary thought except a feeling to be honest with my father and to put things right in my life. I began to see that if I spoke honestly from my heart even my enemy could understand. When I could not change them through the barrel of a gun I found I could succeed through a change of heart.

Further photos of cast on back page

▶ **Te Rangi Huata, former head boy, Te Aute College, New Zealand:**
I apologised to two senior staff members of my school for causing internal conflict. I also paid for things which I had 'borrowed' permanently. Both were challenged and one said that my apology had brought about a change in his selfish attitude. If we want to change the world we must start with ourselves.

▶ **Dhananjai Pandya, graduate, New Delhi:**
I wanted to build a united India but hated South Indians. God told me to throw away my hate. I apologised to all my South Indian colleagues in college for my attitude. I love India and now feel responsible for her.

▶ **Rothay Chantharasy, daughter of Ambassador to India, Laos:**
My country has been war-torn for over two decades. Our people's sufferings have left many scars. My decision is not to cling to my plans and possessions but to use my life to bring healing and lasting peace to Indo-China.



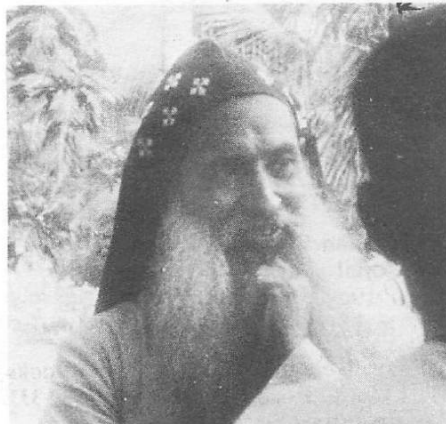
The Mayor of Madras hosts a civic reception



Rajmohan Gandhi talks with Coimbatore trade union leaders



Members of the cast meet the Bishop of Coimbatore



The Mysore Chief Minister (above) at the show
Mar Gregorius (left), the Syrian Catholic Archbishop, receives the cast in his palace: 'Let us plan, think and go forward together.'

It unfolds the destiny of a rising continent and portrays the gift of Asia to a world troubled by moral degradation and destructive potential.

The Hindu, Madras

SONG OF ASIA is an offering from the heart of Asia. It weaves a pattern of the history and heritage, the sorrow and suffering, the culture and colour of this vast continent.

Created at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, the international Moral Re-Armament Centre, it has brought together men and women from all over the mainland and from nations as farflung as Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

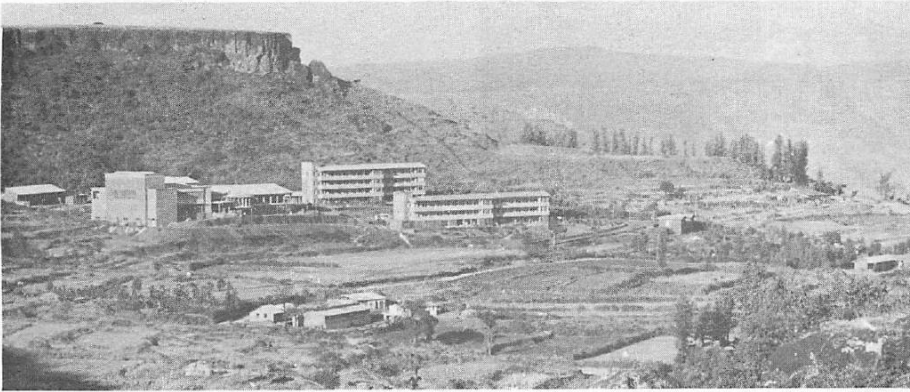
At the invitation of friends, this group of fifty-five from fourteen nations set off for Ootacamund in Tamil Nadu in May this year. They travelled by car and bus, by train and truck over 5,500 miles in 101 days. 36,000 people in eleven cities saw the show.

They went from the hill stations of the Nilgiris down to Cape Comorin southern-most tip of India and confluence of three seas. It was there that Rajmohan Gandhi launched his 'March across the Nation' in 1963. They crossed into lush-green Kerala in the West and stayed in Madras in the East; and then on to Bangalore, 'Garden City of India'.

They were received in the homes of people who shared everything they had. Change in men and in definite situations marked their moves.

A trade union leader in Ootacamund apologised to two management men he had abused and led action against; men from both sides of the tea industry met, sorted out their differences and declared that their homes would be the MRA Centres in the area; a headmaster took a weeks' leave from his school, prepared his home city for the force's arrival and was reconciled with his uncle whom he had not spoken to for many years; school students got honest about cheating and returned stolen library books - their principal declared a general 'amnesty' and a book - returning day; college students in Coimbatore cleaned up their lives and tackled one of the toughest industrial bottlenecks of the city; the Archbishop of Trivandrum issued a call to 'think, plan and go forward together'; an industrialist said, 'I won't bribe any longer to push my projects through'; the Mayor of Madras said that absolute moral standards 'could

continued on next page



Wanted—adventurers to build a clean and just society

A WORLD CONFERENCE with this title will be held from Jan 1-10, 1974 at Asia Plateau, Panchgani.

The conference invitation states, 'Everyone wants to see a new world in his lifetime—Arab and Jew, Russian, Chinese and American, black and white, Brahmin and Harijan. A clean society: clean cities and clean living in politics, business and families.'

'In the creation of it education will have a decisive part.

'Is education meant to produce men who are clever at war, clever at protest, clever at exploiting others, clever at getting rich? Or could education lead people along a road of selfless adventure rather than up the ladder?

'The highest purpose of the human mind is to receive and obey direction from the Inner Voice that defines for every person the absolute moral standards on which an age of sanity can be

built.'

People from every continent will be attending the conference which will bring together men and women in education, industry and public life. A particularly strong representation is expected from Australia where many have been following closely the developments at Asia Plateau.

The Australian Minister of Education, K E Beazley, says, 'Panchgani can create a new type of public opinion—a public opinion increasingly sensitive to need and to wrong.' He adds, 'Panchgani's function is to give the clarity which will make peace permanent.' And a member of the previous government, Dr Malcolm Mackay, former Navy Minister, started the fund for *Song of Asia* with a gift of \$A 1000. A number of Australians are now in India helping with the production of the show which will return to Panchgani for the conference.

continued...

...on up the life of the country just as rebuilding sums would clean up a city'; a young businessman said, 'I did not clap during the show—but I often wanted to weep'; Cabinet Ministers appealed for Moral Re-Armament to penetrate definite situations.

Before each show ended the audience joined the cast in a time of quiet to listen to the Inner Voice. They got practical thoughts on where to begin. One man said, 'Lies! Lies! Lies! I must cut them out of my life.'

South India has a great heritage of men of valour and faith. It has produced some of the finest thinkers, writers and statesmen of the world. Those with *Song of Asia* felt the stirrings and the hunger in people for an answer above party, class and race.

It has been a triumph—for God's Spirit and Plan in the lives of men and their situations. One got the definite promise of 'Nations shall run unto thee because of the Lord, your God'.

Sanjoy Hazarika

North East première

THE CHIEF MINISTER of Meghalaya, five members of the Cabinet, the Chief Secretaries of Meghalaya and Assam, and the Vice-Chancellor of the North Eastern hill university were among the enthusiastic audience. Finance Minister B B Lyngdoh, introducing the première, said, 'We are privileged to have amidst us a miniature Asia. We have the brown and yellow races of Asia and the black and white races of the Pacific and Australasia on stage. This could be the example of understanding, goodwill and harmony for mankind. If we achieve that, the poverty and ignorance of our people would disappear and the truths of the great faiths that Asia has given to the world could become our great export.'

The Speaker of the Assam Legislative Assembly, Ramesh Chandra Baruah, inaugurated the Gauhati première. Performances were also given in Tinsukia and Jorhat. The Nagaland Government sent a busload of students and professors.

Books from Asia

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**Photographs on front and back pages
by David Channer**

(from top to bottom)

left:

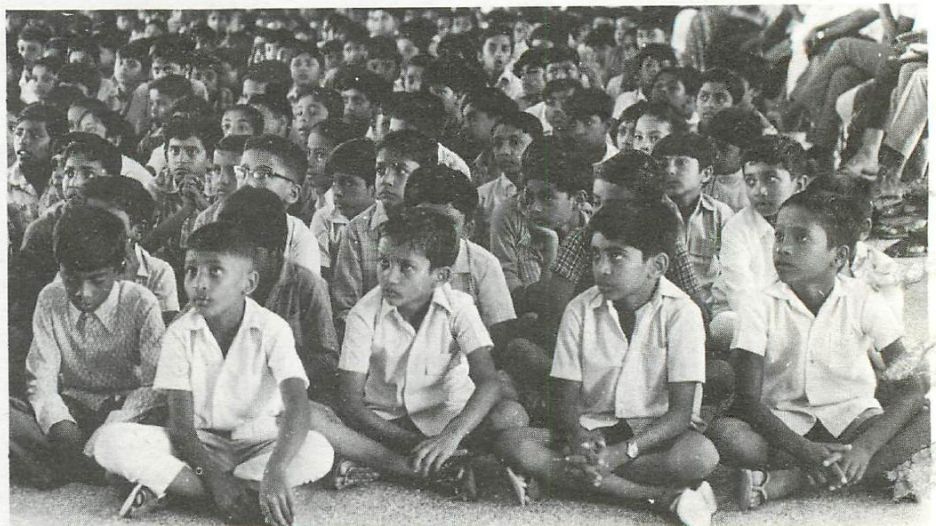
- Gele Bonarua** **Papua New Guinea**
- Dhananjay Pandya** **India**
- Christine Mateaku** **Papua New Guinea**

centre:

- Rothay Chantharasy** **Laos**
- Keiko Hirasawa** **Japan**

right:

- Te Rangi Huata** **New Zealand**
- Somere Jogo** **Papua New Guinea**
- Son Soubert** **Cambodia**



Schoolchildren watch *Song of Asia*