

PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION - FOR YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATION

## BRAZIL WELCOMES TAIWANESE SUPPORT

'Save Taiwan with Clean Elections' was national news for millions of Brazilians during July. Five TV programmes, mostly in prime time, radio and newspapers carried news of the visit of Ren-Jou and Grace Liu and Ho T'sung-h'sun to many parts of Brazil. The group, with Alice Cardel of the Philippines, travelled 8,700 kms in their 20-day visit.

They came to support Brazilians who have launched a 'Clean Elections' campaign to counteract widespread pessimism about politics and a history of electoral corruption. In Rio de Janeiro they met the President of the city's largest union, the Commercial Workers' Union, which has ceded part of their office to be the campaign headquarters. In Vitoria the President of the Chamber of Commerce received the visitors at a public meeting attended by the Presidents of other associations backing the campaign, including the Federation of Grass-Roots Associations, the Shopkeepers, the Federation of Industries, the Electoral Tribunal and the Federation of Women. Brazil's Cardinal-Primate, Archbishop Lucas Moreira Neves, also received the group and asked for details of their campaign in Taiwan.

The President of Brazil's Supreme Electoral Tribunal told them that his task had been far harder than he had expected. 'Thank you for your encouraging news,' he said.

*Luiz Pereira Laurie Vogel*

## INITIATIVES IN ASIA

The Fifth Asia Pacific Youth Conference took place in Malaysia in July, bringing together 73 people from 12 countries. It was opened by Malaysia's Minister for Education, Dr Sulaiman Haji Daud. Of the 16 Malaysian participants, half were Muslim. The conference patron, Datuk Paduka Saleha Md Ali, hosted a dinner for participants at which she stressed the aptness of the theme, 'Vision and Empowerment'. At the end of the week, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Ghani Othman, listened as participants told of decisions they had made during the conference. 'Absolute standards are part of the value system any society should possess,' he said. 'MRA never takes sides,' said one of the young Burmese. 'I always take sides and say I'm right. I have to learn not to take sides and I

want to share this with my people. It can make national reconciliation possible.'

The eight Cambodian participants returned home to help with a three-day seminar on 'The Dynamics of Change', jointly hosted by MRA and the Khmer Student Association. It brought together 250 people, including Government leaders, and representatives of five student organisations and various NGOs. The opening and closing ceremonies were featured on national television. Financial support came from the Australian Embassy, the Asia Foundation, the American Friends Service Committee, and a fund-raising dinner in South Australia.

Son Soubert, a Vice-President of the Cambodian Parliament, told his own story in a session on 'Personal forgiveness and reconciliation'. In a session on 'Creating peace and stability in the region', a spokesman of the Mon people of Burma described the plight of his people. 'If Buddhist principles are followed,' he said, 'we can change situations for the better. Will we give them lip-service in order to look respectable, or are we prepared to live them?'

At the end of the seminar many participants signed a pledge committing themselves to tackling corruption and pollution in themselves and in the country, and to creating working demonstrations of constructive change. 'Until this seminar I had never apologised to anyone,' said a student. A number of participants then went on to Sihanoukville where about 150 people took part in a three-day camp.

At the same time in Korea there was a week-long MRA camp for college and university students. Kiyoshi Nagano went from Japan, and Liu Ren-Jou from Taiwan. Several of the 10 Korean participants in the APYC described changes in their lives they had found in Malaysia. One of the issues discussed was how to care for the people of North Korea.

*Patrick Santa Maria Rob and Cheryl Wood  
Liu Ren-Jou Kiyoshi Nagano*

## ASIA PLATEAU TRAINING PROGRAMME

The international training programme at Asia Plateau, 'An experiment in learning to live together', will take place from January 3 to February 13. Invitations are available at MRA centres or from Jyoti Subrahmanyam at Asia Plateau.

## UNDERGIRDING BOUGAINVILLE CEASE-FIRE

Last month, five days after Sir Julius Chan became Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, he signed an agreement which has brought a cease-fire on the war-torn island of Bougainville. Peace talks are about to start. Meanwhile, Alan Weeks is in PNG, laying the groundwork for a project aimed at helping bring reconciliation on Bougainville. He and John Farquharson, former Deputy Editor of *The Canberra Times*, went in response to a request last year, by the Government Minister responsible for Bougainville, for MRA's help in healing the wounds of war. That request brought Alan and John to the island last October, where they discussed the idea widely. They then formulated a proposal which has been warmly welcomed by Ministers in the previous and present PNG Governments. Some financial assistance for the project is being given by the Australian Government's aid agency, AIDAB.

On their present visit Alan and John travelled first to Milne Bay to discuss the project with youth leaders there who have had training with MRA. Youth leader Sioni Gaileko then joined them in Bougainville, where they led sessions at a 10-day workshop on 'peace education, reconciliation and rehabilitation'. The workshop brought together 45 prominent men and women from throughout the island.

Alan and Sioni are now back in Milne Bay, intending to return to Bougainville with a small team to work for reconciliation alongside other groups. The cease-fire has given much hope. 'We are all sons and daughters of Papua New Guinea,' Sir Julius said in an address to the nation after the cease-fire was signed. 'For too long we have brought to our house anger, jealousy and hatred. With God's guidance, with the good will of men and women, all of honour, we will cast the days of division into the mists of history.'

## CHAIN REACTION OF NON-VIOLENCE

The Olympic flame is on the way from Lillehammer to Atlanta. Last month another flame travelled the opposite way. Six young African-Americans from Black Teens for Advancement (BTA) in Atlanta came to Norway for a two-week visit. Their flame has been ignited by the tragic experience of violence, and by their discovery that a group of dedicated people under God can stop it.

Accompanying them were Edward Johnson and George and Bernice Lemon. Their host in Norway was MRA, in cooperation with Non-Fighting Generation, a movement largely of young immigrants who have taken up the battle against violence in Norway.

Hundreds of pupils in school assemblies all over Oslo listened in silence to the young Americans and

surrounded them afterwards to ask questions. 'My class will forget most of my lessons, but this they will never forget,' said one teacher. The police were their hosts on several occasions, informing them of their own efforts to beat racism, and learning from the experience of the Americans. Two national newspapers had two-page headlines, 'Ambassadors of Reconciliation' being one. The head of the Oslo city government invited them to lunch.

'You have done the work we should have been doing,' said of the leaders of Non-Fighting Generation. The friendships developing between them and the young Americans was one of the encouraging features of the visit. The follow-up in Oslo will depend on them as much as on those of us working with MRA.

*Birgit and Knut Dale Anders and Methe Eskeland*

## FROM RESERVE TO WHOLEHEARTEDNESS

At the request of Professor Vladimir Romanovsky, Dean of the faculty that is training Belarus' first-ever social workers, the 10-day course, *Man, morality, belief and freedom*, took place near Minsk in June. The 17 participants came mainly from his faculty. They began very reserved. However, as they grasped MRA's approach, and lack of interest in money or recruiting, they began to participate wholeheartedly. Friendships grew. One said, 'This is your greatest achievement. Although we have worked together for three years, we were completely unknown to each other.' One participant tore up divorce papers in front of her husband because she realised that she had been wrong. Another said, 'I hated two people on this course. We are now friends.'

The last evening party ended with Scottish dancing - and much laughter. Next day many wept freely as the faculty said farewell. 'When you said this course would change my life I didn't believe you, but it has,' said one.

*Erik Andren Kees and Marina Scheijgrond  
Eric Scheijgrond Melia Voss*

## 'SIX-DAY SEMINAR IN SLOVAKIA

At the same time, a six-day seminar was taking place in the Low Tatra mountains in Slovakia, at the request of the Rector of Slovakia's largest seminary. It was organised by Dr Mikolasik, formerly Director of International Relations in the Ministry of Health, and attended by 15 people. One Polish girl said that she had come to learn more about listening to God. 'It's a fantastic idea.' Another told of the healed relationships in her family since she had measured her life against absolute moral standards.

There was great enthusiasm from the seminarians and the students to take further action with MRA in their situations. A student priest said that he had known that the West had a lot to teach about material progress, but this was the first time he had realised that 'there is a moral and spiritual force in the West.'

*Jean Johnson Elizabeth and David Locke  
Diana and John Bennett*

#### THE GIVING OF OUR WILLS

It is not our goodness but how much our wills are committed to God that makes us useful to Him, said Doë Howard, speaking on 'Choices for life' at the Westminster Theatre in June. The 1932 Wimbledon Ladies' Doubles champion said that at 28 she had chosen 'this one thing to do; God's will and way and not mine.' Her late husband, journalist Peter Howard, had chosen the same. 'It marks everything you do. It is the fullness of life here - the radiance of the City of God hereafter. You will never be unemployed. You should never be bored.'

Her comments drew penetrating questions. 'You will make errors of judgement - monumental ones sometimes,' she said. 'It doesn't matter. You can learn from your mistakes. With honesty, romance comes flowing back into your lives.' Asked if God has multiple plans for people to account for their waywardness, she replied, 'It is the giving of your will that counts, so that human control is broken.'

*Michael Smith*

#### JAROSLAV WORKSHOP FOR ARTISTS

The fourth World-wide Workshop for Artists combined with the MRA conference was held for 12 days at the end of August in the mountains of central Poland. The group adopted the name JARO after its initial meetings were held in Jaroslav. Forty artists from Belarus, Poland, the Ukraine and Russia took part.

Among topics debated were: the four absolute norms; family life; and the freedom to create. In addition, artists from the former Soviet Republic discussed their current situations, which were then compared to the artistic environment in Poland. One entire morning was spent honouring the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising and Polish guerilla movements in World War II. The workshop ended with an open-air exhibition in which 150 works of art were displayed in Kielce City's Centre for the Arts.

The next meeting of the JARO group will take place from September 24 to October 8 in Slovakia.

*Oksana and Iwan Prociw Krystyna Bieniek  
Marzena Kecik*

#### NOT TOO LATE FOR KENYA INPUT

Many thanks to the 64 who sent responses to the questions on 'the MRA way of life' in the June Bulletin. Edited extracts of these are being sent in advance to those who will be at the Consultation in Kenya. Some have written of the unchanging validity of the essential MRA calling and their continuing commitment to it. Some write their concerns about shortcomings and the gap between ideals and performance. Some put MRA in its broader spiritual and world setting. Some point out the need to find new approaches to a rapidly changing world.

Although the first deadline has passed, submissions and thoughts can still be sent for tabling at the Consultation. I have so far only received two replies from anyone under 40, and none from friends who are not of Western or Christian backgrounds. Please consider!

If you wish to pass on ideas to any of the participants in the Consultation they are as of now:

Hélène-Marie Blondel, Belgium; Alice Cardel, Philippines; Frédéric Chavanne, France; Jackie Daukes, UK; Johannes de Pous, Netherlands; Steve Dickinson, USA; Amina Dikedi, Nigeria; Yukihisa Fujita, Japan; Anne-Katherine Gilomen, Switzerland; Ailsa Hamilton, UK; Michael Henderson, USA/UK; Joan Holland, New Zealand; Suresh Khatri, Fiji; Helga Landmark, Norway; Philippe Lasserre, France; Cornelius Marivate, South Africa; Chris Mayor, Australia; Jane Mills, Australia; Erik Parsons, Australia; Ashwin Patel, Kenya; Luis Puig, Brazil; Tabitha Seii, Kenya; Steven Sibare, Zimbabwe; Pierre Spoerri, Switzerland; Vijayalakshmi Subrahmanyam, India; Peter Thwaites, Australia

The Thwaites will be away from home 24 September - 8 October. Any urgent messages could be sent c/- Lightowler, Brisbane (Tel/fax +61 7 378 0357 - daytime only!)

*Peter Thwaites*

#### OPPORTUNITIES ABOUNDING IN AUSTRALIA

In December, Sharon Hoffmann is leaving Armagh to go to India to help with the 1995 training programme at Asia Plateau. Then, having worked steadily during recent years at building trust between Aboriginal and white Australians, she plans to do a degree in Aboriginal Studies in Adelaide.

Over the years she has also been responsible for catering and for much else that happens in and through Armagh. Is there life at Armagh after Sharon? Whatever age you are, find out for yourself and join us for a year or two. The invitation is not restricted to one person. The need is for several people who can join our family and be part of the outreach and action from Armagh.

We want to explore ways of involving young people more. With the new 'interactive quarterly', *Global Express*, it looks like that time has arrived. So for all you budding young journalists and entrepreneurs out there, there's plenty of work for you here. There are also opportunities to visit and work in other parts of the country and to experience first-hand what makes it the magnificent continent it is. So get down under - we need you!

Laura Trevelyan Christine Karrer Erik Parsons  
Rob and Cheryl Wood

#### NEW CD/CASSETTE READY TO LAUNCH

*Learning to Live Again* the new recording by David Miles and Alistair Miles will be available in early October on audio cassette and CD. Publicity material will be available also. It was three years ago that David and Alistair first decided to produce this recording, hoping it could have meaning for many of those who heard it. Ironically the title has increasingly reflected what they have each lived through in recent times.

#### FLOWERING AT CAUX

URGENTLY NEEDED - one or two energetic 'artistic' flower lovers who would enjoy caring for everyone attending the Caux conferences through the creation of flower arrangements. We would gladly pass on all we have learnt. What is really needed is someone who would commit her/himself to this fabulous task for the whole conference (or a major part) for at least the next three years. Naturally the 1996 celebrations will give us much scope for imagination and creativity. If you feel you may be that person please contact Yvonne Evans at: Longlands Barn, Whitbourne, Worcester WR6 5SG, UK. Tel: +44 886 821 811

Yvonne Evans Rita Sargent

#### FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES & ADDRESSES

United Kingdom: Tom and Mary Jones' new address is: Oakley Cottage, Kirkcudbright DG6 4AH. Tel/Fax: +44 557 331 766.  
Peter and Jenny Hinton, Andrew and Georgina, have moved from Spain to: 4 Lone Pine Way, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 8LU. Tel: +44 202 874816.  
Australia: Rob and Lyn Pattison's phone number in Adelaide has changed to +61 8 326 5429.

## Calendar of Events

SEP '94	<u>Tirley Garth</u> England	"Foundations for Freedom" international course	Sep 1 - 20
OCT '94	<u>Odawara</u> Japan	"International MRA Action" - in Odawara, Tokyo, Kobe	Oct 8 - 18
	<u>Paris</u>	Caux 1995 planning meeting	Oct 12 - 16
	<u>Nairobi</u> Kenya	Global Consultation	Oct 27 - Nov 7
NOV '94	<u>London</u>	"Making Democracy Work" - Seminar for Ukrainian political leaders	Nov 11 - 25
DEC '94	<u>Adelaide Hills</u> Australia	Australian Youth Camp	Dec 29 - Jan 5
JAN '95	<u>Asia Plateau</u> India	"Learning to Live Together" - Indian Study Course	Jan 3 - Feb 13

We are aware that this calendar does not even begin to show all that is planned in different parts of the world for the coming months. But we need your help if we are to fill in the gaps. Please would you send information about future initiatives or events either to us (the editors) at the address below or to: *Coordination Group, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Vic 3142, Australia (Fax: +61 3 822 6871)*

*The deadline for the next Bulletin is Saturday, October 15, 1994.*

John Bond  
151 Kent Street  
Hughes ACT 2605  
Australia  
Tel: +61 6 281 0940

Andrew Lancaster  
10 Dooley Place  
Curtin ACT 2605  
Australia  
Tel: +61 6 281 2107

Fax: +61 6 285 3616

Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: Asia: South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Tan; Philippines - Cardel; Japan, Rest - Fujita; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; Africa: East - Patel; South - Horn; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - I Amata; N.America: Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; Latin America: Brazil, Rest - Puig/Vogel; Caribbean - Edwards; Europe: France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Rest - J de Pous; Middle East: - Christodoulides