

at a
glance

FILMS IN FRENCH

At the request of students the all-African film *Freedom* was shown in French to 250 students and graduates in the main amphitheatre of Yaoundé University in Cameroon. The film was introduced by Rabel Ossono, a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Industry. *Freedom* was also shown for the headmaster and members of the staff of the Protestant college at Lomé in Togo.

PORTUGUESE ANTHEM

The Portuguese flag was raised in Caux for the first time at the New Year World Assembly. A delegation of 34 from Portugal—students, industrialists, an Army man—sang their national anthem as the green and red flag mounted the mast. They joined 640 people at the conference, among them 150 young people.

NOT ON A PLATTER

Rajmohan Gandhi, addressing a seminar on education and employment for students and teachers in Madras in December, said, 'If you fix first in your lives this great aim of remaking India, the right paid job, which will give you the means of looking after yourself and any family you might have, will come to you. I don't say that it will be handed to you on a platter. You will have to strive for it; but the land you resolve to remake will not deny it to you.'

'Our greatest assets are our men and women. What would we think of the Arabs if they decided not to drill or sell a drop of their oil? We would call them irrational. We are irrational when we don't take steps to make our minds and bodies skilful and to employ them to meet the community's needs.'

ACTION IN HOLLAND

The visit to Holland of the 'European Action Force' of 16 young people was discussed in a 15-minute long interview on the national radio. The group spent several days in Holland and Belgium

before going to the Caux assembly. They met members of parliament in both countries.

MANAGER'S CHANGE

Jim Purvis, Personnel Manager in a Birmingham steel factory, was one of the industrial speakers at a meeting in Rotterdam's Groothandelsgebouw. He said that for some time he thought MRA was a good thing but had only recently started to understand that change must begin with himself if he wanted to do something about it. In his firm a new relationship had grown between representatives of union and management.

RHODESIAN CROSSROAD

Cross Road, the show based on the life of Frank Buchman, had a series of showings in Rhodesia in December. Members of the cast sang on Bulawayo's Saturday night TV programme 'Saturday Scene' and were interviewed by the European and African radio stations.

Introducing one performance Mrs Elliott Gabellah, wife of the Vice-President of the African National Council, spoke of the need for an ideology for changing men. She said, 'It is an opportunity which we must choose and that means surrendering to the will of God so that we can look at each other as fellow human beings created by God.'

At another performance Professor Hudson Ntsanwisi, Chief Minister of Gazankulu, said, 'MRA is not here to tame the politician. It allows him to continue with his work to fight for the liberty of his people but without any violence and without any spirit of bitterness.'

GRADE 6 INITIATIVE

The film *Give a Dog a Bone* was shown to 400 children at a primary school in Toowoomba, Queensland. The headmistress, impressed by the response of the children, now plans to produce the stage version of the story in her school next term. *We Could Go In*, the Christmas play by John Morrison and George Fraser, was also put on in the town by girls of grade 6 at the Mater Dei School. It was directed by 11 year-old Georgina Warrington who moved with her family to Australia a year ago.

ON TARGET

Five weeks ago Roland Wilson wrote about the £25,000 needed by MRA by the end of the year. He suggested that contributions might be regarded as 'a Christmas gift to God's work'. Readers will be pleased to know that £23,905 came in by the close of the financial year. And the target has since been passed.

NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



The Daure family

Port Moresby

Dear Editor,

As a Christmas celebration we invited our friends in the neighbourhood to come to our home to see *Give a Dog a Bone*. Twenty-eight of us packed into our sitting-room for the occasion.

We welcomed our friends with a song from the film, 'Please, Thank you and Sorry'. Everybody enjoyed the film very much.

We are happy to have this film in Papua New Guinea because it teaches us to care for others and love one another. We hope that children in other parts of the world can also see *Give a Dog a Bone*.

Lapa Daure, 13
Moses Daure, 11
Margaret Daure, 9

FRESH AS A DAISY

Give a Dog a Bone will run at the Westminster Theatre through 1 February. Reviewing this year's production in the *Daily Mail*, Jack Tinker writes, 'High on the list of older favourites must come *Give a Dog a Bone*. After 11 years at the Westminster it still springs up fresh as a daisy, with Tony Jackson returning to the title role full of athletic exuberance which is totally infectious. The story and its music are one of the great delights of the Christmas scene.'

Is there an answer?

Report from Sydney conference by Jane Lovering, David Mills, and Ann-Lone Uhrenholdt

THE FOOD CRISIS, racial conflict, inflation, industrial and family breakdown cry out for solution. But who are the answers on two legs who will cease blaming others for what is wrong and accept responsibility for the future?

This was the challenge for 120 people who met for a week's conference in December at Stanwell Tops outside Sydney. Sixteen countries on five continents were represented. There were students, young workers, families, migrant, Aboriginal and white Australians.

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Four Papua New Guinean students brought a message from Chief Minister Michael Somare: 'Our country has her problems and her leaders have their failures. But if we believe that we can solve our problems, then we can. If you are a Christian and obey the things that God tells you, then you can achieve your objects.'

Manen Kuluwah, a civil engineering student, had travelled from Manus Island. He walked forty miles through the bush before he could find a narrow crossing. Here he blew a conch shell to rouse a canoe rower to take him across the sea. On the other side he walked another thirty miles, crossing rivers with his bag held above his head.

All four raised their own travel expenses. Family and friends contributed, some by selling bottles and coconuts and baking scones, others by giving their savings.



The Papua New Guinea delegation, accompanied by David Mills, with a song from their country.

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In the opening session, Allan Griffith, Head of the International Relations and Defence Division of the Prime Minister's Department, spoke about Frank Buchman, initiator of Moral Re-Armament.



Allan Griffith from Australia with Gil Baes from the Philippines.

'Contrary to the general idea of mobilising all hatred and turning it loose on those who are creating it, Buchman's genius pointed in the opposite direction. He said, "The world must declare a moratorium on hate and fear. That begins in the individual. This is the secret of MRA."'

Dr Ian Parsons, chaplain of La Trobe University, said that the individual could change with the help of God and His standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. These, he said, were basic to MRA and quoted their origins from the New Testament.

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Speaking of her recent realisation of the plight of the Aborigines, Celia Farquharson from Canberra said, 'As a fifth generation Australian I feel deeply our part in causing the present situation

'WE ARE GOING to demonstrate' was the slogan of a workshop for Moral Re-Armament held last month in Western Kenya. It took place at Musikulu Farm outside Kitale with participants from six countries.

The purpose of the demonstration was to show that

- Ordinary people have a decisive part to play in shaping the Kenya of tomorrow.

- Differences of age, tribe and race need not divide us. They can become an asset, the basis of unity for the whole country.
- The future depends not on talk but on those who are ready to match the needs of the country with a new quality of life, starting with themselves.

- God is at work as a practical, 'down to earth' power to meet the needs of men and nations and under His guidance there is a solution to every human problem.

Financial support for the workshop came from Kenya, Britain, Holland, South Africa and the Sudan.

'This is the first time in my life to do this kind of work,' said a student with apparent satisfaction as he was helping the farm labourers at a work shift in the sunflower harvest. Others took part in the coffee picking.

Through this teamwork between students at Nairobi University, the

Building one nation

by Finn Harald Wetterfors

Kenya Institute of Administration, different secondary schools and farm labourers there grew an understanding of each others' situations and a common vision for what ordinary people can do together. They also spent time daily to discuss the problems and possibilities of the country and their part in improving conditions in the future.

Some of the delegates stayed in the homes of farm personnel, others in tents that had been lent by the Kenya Army.

One speaker brought up the relationship between the tribes and suggested that the less one used the word 'tribalism' and instead lived out a practical brotherhood regardless of tribe the sooner a common sense of one nation would grow in the country. A young student belonging to a majority tribe responded by apologising to smaller tribes because he felt that his tribe had dominated others.

He pledged himself to be part of a force of men and women of all people to bring Moral Re-Armament to the country.

A young farmer put legs to the third point of the invitation, when he left the workshop for a day in order to look up his father, to whom he hadn't spoken for 2½ years. They had earlier formed a company for maize marketing, but the farmer thought that his father and his step-brother had mishandled the capital of the firm and he had therefore taken the case to court.

Through what he learned at the workshop he came to think of the legacy of hatred that he would give to his children, if he wasn't reconciled with his father. He went to him. The father at first was sceptical but understood that his son was sincere when he withdrew the case from the High Court. The whole family was re-united.

Ezekiel Okema, a student at Nairobi University, enlisted the participants in his concern for the number of strikes this year at the university and other educational set-ups. He is working on a project on how to deal with strikes. Neither one-sided student protest nor the Administration putting the whole blame on the students would lead to solutions, he maintained. There had to be a change on both sides.

and I am very sorry for it. We have got to a point as a nation with our materialism and affluence where we desperately need a new quality of life. The Aboriginal people with their touch with the Spirit can help us find this. We need their qualities of heart and simplicity.'

An Aboriginal girl, Rhonda Briggs, said: 'I am thankful to have come here. I am learning more about people and about God. I want to learn more about my own people and do something for them.'

Cecelia Poning, an agricultural student from Papua New Guinea, referred to the vital issue of citizenship for her nation. 'On the blackboard I wrote, "Keep Papua New Guinea black", she said. 'I was not right.'

At a seminar on Africa a white South African, Pieter Horn, apologised to an Egyptian student for feeling superior to Egyptians. He could see now that all were equal under God. She said: 'I have never been so moved and shocked as when Pieter apologised to me. I have found a real love of my country and feel that if South Africa and Egypt can unite, then perhaps one day the whole of Africa will be united.'

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A farmer's daughter from Western Australia spoke of her family's decision to grow high protein grain for the sake of the nations that need it and to increase production instead of keeping it at an expedient level. Referring to the

part of the media in focusing relevant issues, John Farquharson, News Editor of the *Canberra Times*, spoke of the series of articles on the food crisis that his paper had run before the World Food Conference in Rome.

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Joe McGowan, Assistant Secretary of the Professional Radio Employees Institute, felt that trade unions must take the initiative in solving inflation. He suggested that unions suspend all national wage claims except the case for the minimum wage. 'Every young person should get interested and actively involved in the trade unions. Get to know the people you are voting for. If a man is not morally right, he cannot be politically right.'

Lance Smith, the moving spirit behind the Think Of Others (T O O) campaign to beat inflation in Bateman's Bay, addressed the conference. In two weeks this campaign spread to fifteen other towns. Letters of enquiry have come from all over the world including Russia and America. 'We must stop blaming others,' said Mr Smith. 'Are we going to be like jellyfish in Port Jackson floating up and down with the tide or are we going to take action?' He quoted examples of manufacturers and retailers who had lowered their prices and wage earners who had worked longer hours without pay. The money saved was used by the shire council for the benefit of the community.

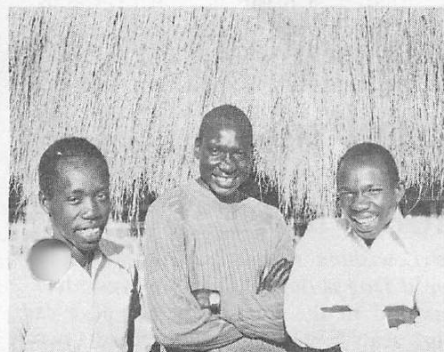
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A young Australian teacher, Mick Vertigan, had just returned from spending two years in Asia with the musical production *Song of Asia*. He and Nivanka Fernando from Sri Lanka, who had also been with the musical, painted a picture of the colour, humour and true stories of reconciliation portrayed in the show. They sang and spoke of its visit to Laos, Viet Nam and different parts of India. From the audience, Laotian, Filipino, Malaysian, responded with gratitude for the vision of an Asia whose voice is not the blast of bombs nor the cry of suffering but the still small voice that speaks in every human heart.

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At the close of the conference some returned to their different cities and countries. But others have taken time off from their jobs or given their holiday to go where they are invited with the ideas from the conference and in the spirit of a newly written song:

Let me introduce you
To a man who wants to speak
And says he won't take long.
He's got no wealth, he got no fame,
But says he wants to share the blame
For what's gone wrong.
He's an ordinary man
Who has watched the world go by him;
But now the tide of history
Is his responsibility
And he's a man like you and me,
But now he's making history.



Three Sudanese students at the workshop: (l to r) Noel Tingwa, Beda Kasemiro and James Odua

'At this workshop I have found the answer to strikes,' he said. 'A strike can never be solved by another strike. Here I have found an ideology. After this workshop I am happy to know that I am to change first. That I have done, and when the university re-opens in January I will take the ideology of Moral Re-Armament there.'

Wilson Mututua, a pastor of the African Inland Church, talked about the present division within the churches of the world. 'Everywhere I go people ask me why we cannot have a united church,' he said. 'We cannot answer them. The world is challenging the Church rather than we challenging the world. The world is in need of real love, and we do not even love each other. We are form-

ing an organisation instead of an organism. If we put the absolute moral standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love into action, we would have a solution.' Applying these standards has 'brought a very big change in me', he said.

Thanks to delegates with personal experiences of the neighbouring countries of Kenya-Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda-the workshop devoted much time and interest to the situations in these countries. Out of the information and discussion grew a concern for a common responsibility to deal with the basic diseases of selfishness, greed, hate and fear that underlie the social, economic and political structure of any country.

Three students of the South Sudan told of the division between the African-Christian South and the Arab Muslim North that has made a deep mark on the recent history of the Sudan.

One of them, Beda Kasemiro, had fought five years as a guerrilla fighter in the bush, before he had to take refuge in Ethiopia. His 17-year-old sister had been shot by the Sudanese Army. As he met the ideas of Moral Re-Armament in Addis Ababa he decided that he could not fight for the separation of his country at the same time as he fought for the unity of all Africa. This had been

one of the ideals of the guerrilla fighters. Last June he went back to his country for the first time in five years. There he was first reconciled with his own father and his family. Then he also undertook to build bridges with the population in the North by honest apologies for the bitterness with which he had regarded any Arab. He was now pursuing the same goals in Ethiopia, he said.

Another Sudanese, Noel Tingwa, at present studying at Makerere University in Kampala, decided to use the Christmas holidays to bring the ideas worked out at the Musikulu workshop to the Sudan. Seven years ago, when the civil war made it unsafe to remain in his village, he walked 300 miles across the border to Uganda. He announced that he was going to write newspaper articles and bring the films and literature of Moral Re-Armament to the Sudan. 'I will rely entirely on God's guidance in everything I do,' he said.

The people employed at Musikulu Farm welcomed the return of more workshops of the same kind. They spoke about the change they had seen in their homes and in their work since a previous workshop in August this year. They had met every week with the farmer, Peter Loch, to plan for the spreading of the new spirit and had visited neighbouring farms and schools.

PHONE-IN

Gordon Wise, speaking on Capital Radio, compared many people's attitude to God to that of the person who delivered a harangue on a phone-in programme but did not wait for the reply. 'As well as telling God what we would like Him to do,' he said, 'we ought to listen to what He wants us to do.'

FRESH AIR

The *Methodist Recorder* carried on 19 December a half-page article on why there must be a professional production of *Ride! Ride!*, the musical about Wesley by Alan Thornhill and Penny Thwaites (NWN Vol 23 No 5). The article concludes, 'Clearly if sufficient funds could be found for this professional production—and that is by no means to take away from the excellent amateur performances so far—*Ride! Ride!* would be like a breath of fresh air through the theatre world. Methodism would have at its disposal a particularly appropriate vehicle for evangelism in an age which takes its entertainment very seriously.'

RELEVANT LIFE STYLE

The Scottish church paper *Life and Work* calls *Good God, It Works!* by Garth Lean 'a very readable new book... a frank and penetrating account of the out-reach of the Oxford Group and MRA'. *Crusade* says it is 'a record of a man's search for a faith and lifestyle relevant to his age, starting from the premise that "a change in human nature was the surest way of seeing a change in society".'

A review in the *Hampshire Chronicle* says, 'What works? The reader will find in this book a lifetime of evidence that the guidance of God really does work. It is the experience of the author, and of countless thousands of people that God speaks today as He always has done to any man who takes the trouble to tune in to His wavelength.'

AFRICAN FILMS

On the invitation of the Ibadan Descendants' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, the films *Voice of the Hurricane* and *Freedom* were shown on 29 December at the Westminster Theatre.

REWARDING RESPONSE

A retired schoolmaster, Dick Carey, bought a copy of the film *Give a Dog a Bone* and showed it to more than 2,000 children in Southampton in December. 'It cost more than £200,' he says, 'and I had less than 200p in the bank when I decided. But through many donations, often most unexpected, we

have been able to meet our bills, and the response of the children has been most rewarding.'

NO PROMPTER

Two years ago a party from St Mary and St Joseph Junior and Infant School in Poplar went to the Westminster Theatre to see *Give a Dog a Bone*. This year they staged their own production and invited representatives from the theatre. The whole junior school was involved and not one prompt was needed!

HOSPITAL BROADCAST

The first public performance of Nancy Ruthven's Christmas play *The Midnight Lions* was given in the chapel of Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary. Taking part in the production were student nurses, ward sisters, a nursing auxiliary, porters and students. The occasion was also broadcast over the hospital radio network.

BEST SELLER

Anne Wolrige Gordon's biography *Dame Flora* (Hodder £3.25) was on the best seller list in *The Scotsman* at the beginning of December. The *Glasgow Herald* writes, 'Mrs Wolrige Gordon has written an account of her famous grandmother-by-marriage which admirably combines affection and objectivity.'

BILL OF DUTIES

Four months ago we announced (NWN Vol 22 No 47) the launching of a 'Housewives' Declaration'. This week one of its initiators, **Erica Evans**, a farmer's wife, reports progress:

What are you most grateful for? Who are the people who do not have the essentials of life? Do you ever think of these people when you are buying things for yourself? How do you make new friends? What prevents you from standing out for what you know is right? Do you want your children to grow up in the world as it is?

These are a few of the questions from a study course on the Housewives' Declaration for the VI form of a large secondary school. 'It seems to me and to a great number of people,' wrote the headmaster, 'that it is time we concentrated on what we need to do in life rather than on what we get out of it at the expense of others. There seems to be a "Bill of Rights" for almost everything and everyone and it is good to see a "Bill of Duties".'

The Declaration is in its fifth printing, 21,000, and has gone to more than twenty countries. News of its outreach comes every day, from the coast of

Cornwall to the silica sand mine in Scotland. Interviews have been given on radio stations and in papers across the country; it has appeared in the *Farmers' Weekly* and *This England*. The Anglican and Catholic Church magazines in one town published it the same week.

The Declaration has been sent by the Women's National Commission, an advisory committee to the Government, to the heads of all the women's organisations which are represented. In several towns, meetings are arranged for women who have responded to radio and press articles to plan for their communities.

A rich assortment of stories has come to us about the effect of the Declaration: people who put back on supermarket shelves sugar or did not buy extra because they felt 'enough is enough'; people who baked bread and shared it with others who didn't have the chance or who couldn't get to the shops; people who collected windfall apples and distributed them where they were needed; people who were now planting vegetables instead of flowers.

One couple, after reading it, decided to celebrate their ruby wedding by investing in MRA films for their district instead of giving each other a colour television set. In the Midlands, a housewife has been visiting neighbours in her large group of flats; now they plan to invite their MP to meet them all with the Declaration as the agenda. Another woman decided to match her Christmas spending with a gift to Bangladesh and invited others in the village to join in this 'shared Christmas'. 'It certainly carries the sound of conviction,' wrote one woman MP.

If thousands of women now live out the conviction of this Declaration, we could give a new direction to the country this year.

HIGH PRAISE

The *Lewisham Borough News* writes *Give a Dog a Bone*, 'The show soon had every kid in the theatre on the edge of their seats.' The paper invited two children, 9 and 7, to give their review. The article ended, 'Their final question: "Dad, when can we see the pantomime again?"' Well, that is high praise from kids—and after all if they like it, then it's all worthwhile.'

SAFE FOR PARENTS

The *Westminster and Marylebone Chronicle* calls *Give a Dog a Bone* 'a unique Christmas show to which the children can safely invite their parents and grandparents'. Peter Hepple, editor of *The Stage*, writes in *Where to Go*, '*Give a Dog a Bone* has acquired a status in its own right as one of the best Christmas shows.'