

MORAL RE- ARMAMENT A WORLD PHILOSOPHY ADEQUATE for WORLD CRISIS

A WORLD BROADCAST

By

DR. FRANK N. D. BUCHMAN

I am speaking today to the millions across the world who in these anxious days are increasingly looking to Moral Re-Armament as the one hope for the future. Especially as I speak I am thinking of the men in the front-line trenches, the men faced with the hard realities, the men who know what war is.

Yet where are the front-line trenches today? Today in many countries every civilian carries a gas-mask. Every garden has its air-raid shelter. It is a new phase in war, where everybody is responsible, and every home is a front-line trench.

Our arts of reconciliation have not kept pace with the arts of war. The art of destruction is beginning to out-pace the art of living. Today we have reached the parting of the ways. Civilization, man-controlled, is faced with collapse. The long endured cycle of moving from crisis to crisis must end. Nations must move beyond crisis to cure. A new world philosophy is needed, a world philosophy capable of creating a new era of constructive relationships between men and nations. A new statesmanship, a new leadership will ensue from this heightened quality of thinking and living. A nation's first line of defense is the character of her people. As Maurice Browne, the producer of that war-time drama "Journey's End," so compellingly reminds us, "never in the known history of mankind has there been such general, clear and instant need for the application by each one of us to our hourly lives of the four cardinal principles: honesty, purity, selflessness, and love." Here we have the touchstone of Moral Re-Armament.

This world philosophy will emerge as people begin to get their direction from the Living God. It will be within the framework of a hate-free, fear-free, greed-free quality of living.

Think of the cost of hate, fear and greed. Millions of men and women must carry gas-masks today because men the world over have been living behind masks for years. Millions of men and women must grope through darkened cities because the nations have been living in a spiritual black-out. Millions of men and women today must listen to air-raid warnings because nations have not listened to the Voice of God in days gone by. Yet dark nights of waiting may prove a blessing in disguise, for Guidance is a staple necessity that is not rationed.

Man today is ready to believe that human wisdom has failed. A situation is growing up in which people will want God to speak to them. They will have nothing else between themselves and desperation, as they read the changing chimerical headlines that no one wants. Men need some adequate voice to interpret and mould events. All our values are slipping, as currencies slipped after the last war. As my friend, the great Oxford philosopher, Dr. Streeter, said, "A race that has grown up intellectually, must grow up morally or perish." Times of crisis reveal the bankruptcy of our thought and action. Then we resort to feverish improvisation and expediency. Sheer economy of time and energy and ultimate bankruptcy may force us to God-control. Expediency must be supplanted by guidance. These days will see a change in all of us in every nation, a change which will bring a new realization of our need. We cannot permanently go on expecting other nations to repent first.

Moral Re-Armament was never more urgently needed than today. It stands for a prejudice-free level of living. It stands above party, class, race, creed, point of view or personal advantage. The morally re-armed have learned to live under a crisis-proof, fear-free discipline. They are a panic-proof, single-minded and intelligent trained force at the disposal of all who put their country before selfish interests.

A word of gratitude must go to the men in every nation who have met MRA and for what has been accomplished and for the far-reaching service they have been able to render. These people, far-visioned and sagacious, see that MRA is the highest patriotism.

The aim of MRA is two-fold—first, to restore God to leadership as the Directing Force in the life of nations; and, then, to work for the strengthening of morale within a country and so build a healthful, national life. In the words of a statement by Lord Baldwin, Lord Salisbury and chiefs of the armed forces, that has become historic: "Were we, together with our fellow men everywhere, to put the energy and resourcefulness into this task that we now find ourselves obliged to expend on national defense, the peace of the world would be assured."

Moral Re-Armament will be the focal point for the new national unity where God is the constant and final arbiter in every conflict. This philosophy will become the mainspring of the spirit of the nation, the magnet that will draw all positive forces together. It will give a new unity to Capital and Labor and bring the answer to industrial conflict and unrest. It will give the answer to war in the home and to war in the world. It will train that leadership which is adequate for the gigantic work of reconstruction to rebuild a world on the brink of ruin. As a statesman has said: "What are needed are God-guided personalities to make God-guided nationalities, to make a new world. All other ideas of economic adjustment are too small really to touch the center of the evil."

The chief sin is that we have no adequate philosophy for life. Our conception of living is wrong—easy, soft, protective, indulgent. We need a whole new content and conception of life. The brains, the thinking of the world, must have been sabotaged and squandered for a very long time to create such destruction of men and nations. We need a whole new level of thinking about peace. If peace had demanded as much of us as war, war would have been outlawed long ago.



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MRA
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100,000,000 People
Throughout The World
Will Be
Listening To God
By
December 1-2-3

A Message from Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd

Commanding Officer of the United States Service Second Antarctic Expedition

I speak from Boston. Greetings to all you who are listening, no matter what country you may be in. It was on my lonely vigil during a long polar night that I learnt the power of silence—of quiet times. The values and problems of life sorted out when I began to listen. I went exploring because I was fired by those pioneers of history who felt the urge of charting uncharted seas and discovering unknown places. However today in the crisis which threatens to destroy freedom and civilization, the most important pioneering to be done is in the realm of the spirit.

America's first line of defense is the character of her citizens. Character cannot be taken for granted. If we are going to preserve freedom, it has to be battled for by every man, woman and child every day and every generation. Without character, man doesn't deserve freedom; so he loses it. A man of character has a deep sympathy for his fellow men. He wishes his neighbor well. We are all neighbors today.

The building of character is moral re-armament. That is the fight of America and of the world. That is the only armament that can stop armaments of destruction, and on the eve of my departure for the Antarctic I want to say that I believe that this way lies the hope for peace.

Moral Re-Armament—the fight for a new world, strong, clean, united—should fire the hearts of all red-blooded Americans and spur their wills for action.

100,000,000 LISTENING

The world is awaiting an answer. A hundred million people listening to God can give the answer. We must have some simple, workable basis available for everyone and one that can be applied by all. We need people trained not only to make an adequate peace, but also to keep it. Now is the time to enlist for the duration of the world war against selfishness. We must maintain the whole war conception of peace. We need to be "Fighters ever in the Battle for Peace."

Children see these great truths. I quote from a letter sent me by two children who listen to God each morning with their mother and father. Kennie, aged eleven, says: "It is now our chance in America. I know how wars start. I used to fight with my sister. We ourselves began the war by fighting in our home and arguing and disobeying God's orders and the four standards of absolute honesty, absolute unselfishness, absolute purity and absolute love. Love from Kennie."

Here is his sister Anne's letter, who shares her guidance: "If we want to change the world, we will have to do what God tells us or He won't give us power to do it. You must start obeying your parents when you are a child, and the four standards. Everybody ought to obey them, even children, if they want to change their country. We ought to start now; if we don't, after the war everybody will want their own way. God is the only Person who can give us power, and we can get it if we want to." My only comment is: "A little child shall lead them."

The secret lies in listening to God. A truly united nation comes from a directing God. Man, unaided, cannot make peace. Men and nations must be trained to make peace and maintain it. We must begin to develop the framers of the just and lasting peace of the future. We need to live a quality of life that will change masses of people. It will provide public opinion that will have the added weight of an irresistible army to maintain a world battle for peace, with a sacrifice as sustained as that which force compels men to make in times of urgent world crisis. The united mind of a hundred million people listening to God will give a new fund of information and source of inspiration that will provide the secret of united action. The Oxford Group has been in action since the last war, training men for the moral re-armament of the nations. It is bringing a new force into play, an indispensable force, necessary for the life-blood of every nation. Through lack of this quality nations will sell their birthright.

HOW TO BEGIN

A General in another army, after a disarmament conference, sent me this program on a postcard. It was in the form of a picture of a man's face, and underneath was written, "God gave man two ears and one mouth. Who don't you listen twice as much as you talk?" This is the first step in re-orientating our minds to God. Listen twice as much as you talk. Here lies the strategy to win the world from her egocentric ways, for immediately self is the center of the picture, there war has begun whether in individuals or in nations.

Guidance is when we are in communication with God. Guidance is an absolute necessity and the irreducible minimum to keep millions spiritually and physically alive. It is the nation's life-blood; without it nations perish. Television points to a great truth. The ordinary man, every man, and the statesman, must discover the counterpart on the spiritual plane. Guidance is this counterpart. Just as television is that space-conquering vision on the material plane, guidance is the far-seeing perception on the spiritual. It is limited only by our capacity for disciplined obedience. At one time there was one incandescent bulb and now infinitely more than a hundred million enjoy the gift of light. The next great discoveries must lie in the realm of the spiritual. Statesmen living this new quality of life will make it possible for the Mind of God to become the mind of nations.

SACRIFICE FOR PEACE

Fear is another kind of guidance. People are afraid and so they will not daily fight the battle for peace. I am reminded of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's forceful phrase, "If we perspire more in times of peace, we should bleed less in times of war." The program for the hundred million listening over the weekend of December 1, 2, 3 is that we perspire in time of peace, that we learn truly how to sacrifice for our country. We are waging the greatest battle of history in this world war against selfishness. Every man to his guns! We must call out the moral and spiritual forces! It is because we had not such adequate action during the last decades that we are compelled to make the costly sacrifice of war. The way to outlive the forces of destruction is to build better and more wisely than we are building now. "If we are not governed by God we will be ruled by tyrants," said William Penn. The lack of such a program in peace-time has meant that a hundred million and more are engaged in a program of action that no one really wants. MRA is the great central revolutionary force. I was personally at war. An experience of the Cross made me a new type of revolutionary. MRA teaches us to sacrifice for our country. Its immediate aim is a hundred million people mobilized in the battle for peace—everyone disciplined, everyone taking part. A statesman spoke recently of the world-wide devastation and sorrows of war. He

spoke of hundreds of millions who are called upon to suffer. Is it too much to think of one hundred million enlisting to bring the answer not only for suffering men and women but for nations in turmoil? This is our goal.

A national Labor leader in San Francisco had a bold vision for an American membership of his organization of ten million. The united forces planning for moral and spiritual re-armament in the world must think in terms of at least a hundred million taking their orders from the Living God. They will be an incomparable, unconquerable, irresistible army, with advanced knowledge of tactics and a program that will fire men's hearts and radically alter their thinking and living.

Within the limits of one broadcast it is not possible to give a complete answer convincing and satisfying to everyone. It may, however, cast a light on your path and furnish you with information and direction that will be ready in a time of crisis and put the torch that is available to all, within your grasp.

This broadcast is only a trial mobilization in preparation for December 1, 2, 3. Moral Re-Armament must be a call to all the nations and every individual in the nation. I hope you will write in to MRA, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, making suggestions for MRA December 1, 2, 3. You can each help in this momentous task.

Our instant need is a hundred million planning for the new world peace. Not only a few statesmen meeting, but the united forces of the world backed by daily living and action that will support—waging the eternal war against selfishness. Then we can begin to approximate to what is needed. The call is to everyone, the ordinary man and the statesman unitedly to carry the burdens of their country. Responsibility has too often been delegated to the few in the belief that the statesman is expected to do the thinking, planning and living that must become the concern of every man, the ordinary man.

We must re-make the world—the task is nothing less than that. "We, the re-makers of the world"—is that not the thinking and willing of the ordinary man?

LISTEN TO GOD

A world philosophy will be brought to power through the cumulative effect of millions of people beginning the experience of listening to God. True, it may be only an initial experience. Enlistment does not immediately make the trained soldier. But we can all begin. God can communicate with man direct. We stand at zero hour, on the threshold of a new world order.

God calling the world is becoming a daily experience in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the more than sixty countries where MRA is at work.

Sweden listened in and, in the words of one of her national leaders, a new era came to the North. This experience of listening has stood her in good stead. I quote from a realistic and objective periodical which has just come into my hands, which tells of events of the past few days: "The people of Stockholm lined the streets and clustered in the Cathedral where the three Scandinavian Kings and the President of Finland knelt in prayer to ask God's help. Like a medieval city, the whole capital turned to God for guidance."

God calling the world! The nations of the world beginning to listen!—to find their place in the perfect plan of the King of Kings. A listening world will create peace. An obedient world will maintain it.

We need unitedly to recapture the world once again for a program of sanity and security. Events are focusing for us the only program of sane control—God-control. The only sane people in an insane world are those guided by God. We have not yet tapped the great creative sources in the mind of God. God has a Plan and the combined moral and spiritual forces of the nations can find that philosophy adequate for world crisis.

"A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon,
He helps us free from every ill,
That hath us e'er o'ertaken."

HONEST APOLOGY MAKES PEACE

But someone must always make peace. Peace is not an idea. It is people becoming different. You know what it is like at home when there has been a quarrel. You don't just get the idea that peace would be a good thing. Someone pockets his pride and says, "I'm sorry." But most of us want to make peace by repenting of the other fellow's sins. That is how the world would like to do it. The MRA way is to start by being different yourself. Honest apology is the high-road of lasting peace. An army General said to me recently, "Either I sacrifice my selfishness for the sake of my nation, or I sacrifice my nation for the sake of my selfishness. And either we sacrifice our national selfishness for the sake of the world or we sacrifice the world for the sake of our national selfishness." War is the price of the selfishness of nations. Most people are selfish enough to want a peace that permits them to wage their own private wars and foster their own petty indulgences.

An American housewife asks this question: "Who is responsible for the selfishness and greed in America today? Is it business or labor, or is it rather Mr. and Mrs. America in a million homes all over the country?" She well answers her own question. When asked, "What do you think?" she said, "My conviction is that these homes, roused from their complacency and freed from their selfishness, can become a pattern for the nation and build a world philosophy the basis for a lasting peace."

Without this new spirit we shall pay heavily for our selfishness. Taxes will and do overtake us. We grumble and pay, because we would rather pay than pray. Today, men share whether they want to or not. We cannot make peace between the nations when the people in the nations are in a state of permanent personal warfare. Strikes, labor difficulties and war are inevitable until we change our whole thought and quality of living.

We need a national mobilization for unemployment on the same scale and carried out with the same personal care that the warring nations have given to everyone who needed to be taken to a place of safety. The unemployed must have the safety and security that comes from knowing that they are needed and that there is a job for them to do. Our aim should be that everyone has not only enough of the necessities of life, but that he has a legitimate part in bringing about this Moral Re-Armament, and so safeguards the peace of his nation and the peace of the world.

God has a nation-wide program that provides inspiration and liberty for all and anticipates all other political programs. A Labor leader says: "I have seen the Labor Movement triumph and felt in the midst of triumph an emptiness. Moral Re-Armament gave my life new content. I see in its message the only key to the future of the Labor Movement, and of industry the world over."

Industry can be the pioneer of a new order when national service replaces selfishness and where industrial planning is based upon the guidance of God. When Labor, Management and Capital become partners under God's guidance, then industry takes its true place in the national life. A message has recently reached me which I should like to quote. It comes from Mr. Joseph Hallsworth, chairman of the British Trades Union Congress, which represents six million workers. He makes this striking statement: "The need for Moral Re-Armament is more urgent than ever. I promise you all the support in my power."

The Catholic Workers Union of a European State met recently in response to the call for Moral and Spiritual Re-Armament made by the ruler of that country. "In the whole world," they declared, "and in our country, we are glad to note a leaning towards new spiritual life. This must strengthen in us the consciousness that we have to lead the way to a new and better and solid community, not only with words, but with deeds." And then these workers reach this striking conclusion, which I would ask you especially to note: "In the new community there is no room for class warfare or racial warfare; in the new community there is no room for strikes and lockouts; in the new community neither personal interests, nor desire for gain have the upper hand; social justice and social love shall be the pillars on which the community of the future will rest." New Men—New Homes—New Industry—New Nations—a New World.

The world must declare a moratorium on hate, greed and fear, personally and nationally. The new peace pact must have as its preamble that all contracting parties, all nations, live on the basis of no hate, no fear, no greed. And the necessary prelude to this happier pact is that every individual, in every nation, begins that new quality of living now and does not postpone it to some future armistice. Then we shall be true patriots. Then there will be law and order in Europe and the world, within your hearts and within the boundary of your nation. Then we shall be able to say, "Behold how these nations love one another."

As I am speaking here, within a fraction of a second I can reach my friends in many countries. My friends in the front-line trenches, the men in the lonely outposts whose only touch with the outside world is through the friendly radio beam, which meets all alike—my friends in the far Nordic North, on India's Northwest frontier, on the African veldt and in far-off Australia and New Zealand.

We accept as commonplace a man's voice carried by radio to the uttermost parts of the earth. Why not the Voice of the Living God as an active, creative force in every home, every business, every parliament?

Men listen to a King when he speaks to his people over the air. Why not also to the King of Kings?

An all-powerful God is the most intelligent source of information in the world today. He has the answer to every problem. Everywhere, when men and nations will let Him, He is teaching them how to live.

CHANGE HUMAN NATURE

The world needs a miracle. Miracles of science have been the wonder of the age. But all those miracles have not brought peace and happiness to our homes and nations. A miracle of the Spirit is what we need.

There must come a spiritual dynamic which will change human nature and remake men and nations. There must come a spiritual authority which will be accepted everywhere, by everyone, the adequate authority that does not have to resort to war. Only so will order come out of chaos in national and world affairs.

This miracle is undoubtedly the divinely-appointed destiny of mankind. Who can believe less than that? Its advent depends on and awaits the emergence in every country of firm and resolute, God-guided men with all the conviction, fire and fervor of early Christians. Their ever-widening influence would be invincible. A new national spirit would soon be born, a new, cooperative relationship between the nations, if in every country there would arise a new leadership, freed from the bondage of fear, rising above personal and national ambition, and responsive to the direction of God's Will. The emergence of this new spirit is evidenced even during this time of stress. A leading Afrikaans paper in South Africa, "Die Burger," expresses the conviction of a nation that is feeling the effect of Moral Re-Armament, in these words: "We need supernatural strength—a national unity, with united mind, controlled and coordinated by the Supreme Being."

Such philosophy has been stated as the historic basis for nationhood by the prophets of old, and has withstood the test of centuries. The prophet Isaiah says, "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children. Nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God." The man charged with the foreign affairs of a great nation said, "What we need today are men of the type of the prophet Amos." British Labor, in conference, sent their message to the American capital with these words, "We need the men who will make real the vision of the prophet Micah."

Moral Re-Armament is recapturing, re-vitalizing, re-living the message of the prophets. It is tried, it is true, it is tested. God calling the world is becoming a daily experience in the lives of hundreds of thousands. Now the call is to every man in every last place to be guided by God.

We have tried thinking and living as we want; now try thinking and living as God wants; try living as we want the other fellow to live; try living as we want the other nation to live; then our nation will be the spearhead of a new world order.

We must now think what God can do through an army of a hundred million men, mobilized, taking their daily orders and direction from Him. God has a program adequate for the world and for each nation. Thus each individual who has enlisted in that program can find a job he can do that will affect the civic industrial and national welfare. Thus each nation can use all its resources and find its truest security. The program now is for a hundred million people listening to God during the weekend of December 1, 2, 3, a program which is being prepared in each country, as the circumstances in that country permit. We are grateful to those heralds of the new world order who have made the radio and press available for these world broadcasts.

MRA has this achievement in its favor, that during this last year it has gone with lightning speed throughout the world. It has made friends everywhere—in every nation, among every class. Think of the vast forces available—Catholic and Protestant, Jew and Gentile. Think of the spiritually re-armed everywhere who may be the pace-makers for the peace-makers of tomorrow. MRA is open to all creeds and bars none. It is a quality of life. You don't register with MRA; MRA registers with you. You don't join; you can't resign. You live a life. In the words of a miner's leader, "MRA provides all men everywhere with an open line to God for guidance."

WE THE UNDERSIGNED . . .

Merchants, business and professional men, convinced that at this time of crisis it is of crucial importance for the fundamental principles of Moral Re-Armament to be proclaimed, have taken this space to reprint for the public the recent world broadcast by Dr. Frank Buchman. The message was broadcast to the world by short wave station WRUL, Boston, on Sunday, October 29, 1939, and was relayed to the west coast by KFRC, San Francisco, and rebroadcast in Seattle by Mutual, National and Columbia Broadcasting Stations. The Dutch Empire Radio Station rebroadcast the message to their Empire of 60,000,000.

Signed

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