

## Your participation

Dear Readers,

We wish we could share with you all the richness of our postbag and the variety of experience we encounter every week at the MRA centre in London. Many readers and correspondents send us news, views and clippings. We are not able to acknowledge or use them all, but are most grateful for your participation in 'New World News' and in our common battle for the moral re-arming of nations. This week we thought that we would try to give you, perhaps even more than usual, a flavour of what crosses our desks.

In 1978 we hope that more of you will get in touch with us.

THE EDITORS

# NEW WORLD NEWS

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## QUIETLY ACTIVE

**MAD SHOPPER** is not a description of Mrs Average Citizen at the time of the sales, but the name of a newspaper in Fort Myers Beach, Florida. It carried an interview last month with a local citizen, Esther E Sloane, describing her visit to the MRA Assembly in Caux. 'It was an uplifting experience,' she said, 'to see men and women of nominally opposed backgrounds getting together to share their experiences in the working out of God's plan through following God's will.'

The paper concluded, 'Several Beach people are quietly active with Moral Re-Armament in their personal and community lives, sharing their inner convictions of the imperative of God's will through a spiritual revolution to change the negatives prevalent in today's world. With MRA they share the goals for a partnership of peoples without discrimination, paternalism or bitterness; industry which goes beyond confrontation to a common commitment to meet the desperate needs of the world; resources used in the service of mankind; home life which is creative, enjoyable and lasting, and education which motivates people to right what is wrong in society, starting with themselves.'

## PRECIOUS CAPITAL

**NATIONAL OBSERVER**, in Rhodesia, has reprinted 'No Room at the Inn', an article in NWN (Vol 26 No 6). The paper also reports the visit of black Rhodesians to the New Year Conference at Caux and has an editorial headed, 'The only real safeguard is trust—real trust': 'Any agreement on paper is only worth as much as the trust between the two partners. Of course any new government could go back on any agreement reached now. But indeed there is still an amazing amount of goodwill, an amazing freedom from bitterness. The longer that settlement is delayed, the more that precious capital of trust will be squandered.'

## Struck by openness

**NIGERIA'S HEAD OF STATE** called recently for the creation of a 'disciplined society' in which his countrymen would deal with attitudes in themselves that have resulted in unrest and damage to property in colleges and schools, corruption and other ills.

Thirty Nigerians of all ages and varied social and ethnic origins met recently at the MRA centre in Lagos to try to give practical effect to this call. Some of them are among the 11 Nigerians who attended the Caux Assembly last summer and who spoke there of their determination to make the principles of MRA the basis of the new Nigeria.

Robin Evans, from Cambridge, who was present at this Lagos occasion, gave NWN an account of the meeting.



The MRA centre in Lagos

One young secretary working for the Government told how she had decided to set an example in her department by checking in on time. A student from Imo State had lost his father and brother in the civil war. 'These catastrophes,' he said, 'made us drift from a Christian faith. I want to bring my village and my kinsmen together. It is a battle to live by moral standards. Please pray that I may find the power to be a changed man.'

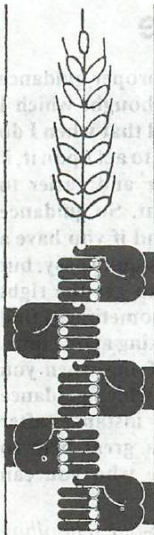
A senior civil servant from Ibadan said that for earlier generations a faith in God was a natural part of life, but with the coming of modern technology people had been tempted to worship other things. 'But who can doubt,' he added, 'that MRA is the message of God to the modern generation?'

A Lagos girl said, 'How difficult it is to say "sorry". I thought I was the best and that everybody should behave like me. But I have realised that if I want people to change I have to start with myself. I have been very struck by the spirit of openness and equality here. Why shouldn't Nigeria be like that?'

Lecturers and students from Abraka read a play *The Dearest Idol* by John Amata,

**NIGERIA contd p2**

## Agriculture for tomorrow's world



**FARMERS AND SCIENTISTS** from India and overseas, as well as others interested in giving agriculture a new content and direction, will be participating in a special conference at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, in March. The four-day conference which opens on 4 March is entitled 'Agriculture for Tomorrow's World'.

The invitation to the conference contains three quotes and three questions:

*Even God will not dare to appear to a hungry man except in the form of bread.*

MAHATMA GANDHI

Agricultural resources—an avenue of exploitation or a sacred trust?

*I am impatient. I advocate a yield kick-off and a yield blast-off. There is no time to be lost, considering the magnitude of the world food and population problem.*

DR NORMAN BORLAUG,

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

Are the impediments to the blast-off only technical and economic?

*If everyone cared enough and everyone shared enough, wouldn't everyone have enough?*

DR FRANK BUCHMAN

How do we infuse the politics of care into world agriculture?

lecturer in drama at the Abraka Teachers' Training College. This play is described by Robin Evans as 'a lively and vivid portrayal of the human fears at work dividing families and breaking up a nation—and of the super-force needed to re-create unity and faith'.

Addressing the Abraka group, O Zudonu, leader of the Nigerian Maritime Workers' Union, said, 'I hope yours will be a light-house to other educational institutions and to the country as a whole. Make no mistake, we have got independence, but we have not yet got freedom.'

Bishop Kale, former Anglican Bishop of Lagos, said, 'The word "God" may have been deposed by some of us, but His eternal truths remain to guide mankind.'

Mrs Kale, for many years President of the Girls' Brigade for Nigeria, said that she had first realised that MRA was an idea for the entire nation when she saw the interest shown in it by the Emir of Kano.

## From island to island

A TONGAN EDITION of *The Black and White Book* is in preparation. The Principal of the Teachers' Training College, Mr Fakasi'i'eiki, has written to say that he wants to undertake the translation: 'I believe that these ideas must be shared with my people.'

While a report on the front page of the *Stornoway Gazette* announces that the book is also likely to be printed in Gaelic. This paper in the Outer Hebrides quotes ARK Mackenzie, a former British Minister at the United Nations, about the book, 'It gives a Christian guide to conduct for young people and shows them how to live and what to do for their country.'

Among those in Stornoway 'making preparations to have the book printed in Gaelic' was Lady Bannerman, who told the paper that the young people from the islands were fortunate to have a religious background already. She talked of the four standards of absolute honesty, purity, unselfishness and love and added, 'If people can live by these four standards for seven days a week, we will have a very changed Scotland which will be of benefit to the rest of the world.'

### CONTAGION

Religion is imparted by contagion, not taught by words. Purity, honesty, unselfishness, love, the grace and truth, which come by Jesus-Christ, are actual living forces which spread by contagion from man to man. It was our Lord himself who characterised these forces in terms of living organisms, the seed and the leaven. All He asked was the opportunity of contact... contagion cannot be hurried.

Henry B Wright  
(1877-1923).

## No tongues of flame



An extract from a 24-page booklet, 'The Skills of Discernment', a talk about the guidance of God given by Charis Waddy, author and writer on Middle-East affairs, and now published by Grosvenor Books (25p, bulk rates available).

## Last message

GLADYS SMALL, in Sheffield, has sent NWN the text of a message sent out to his friends by a 94-year-old retired Methodist minister, WJT Small, living in Sri Lanka, because, she says, 'Never have we needed reconciliation between individuals and nations' so much as now—the Queen has called for it nationwide.'

The Methodist minister writes, 'Thinking over what should be my last broadcast message, I feel that one of the most important lessons that a long life has taught me, and one which is specially relevant to the needs of the world today, and not least in Sri Lanka, is the way of reconciliation. My experience has been chiefly of personal reconciliation, but I believe it applies also to reconciliation on a larger scale.'

'It was during my three years in India at the Bangalore Theological College (1928-31) that it began to take shape in my mind. This was the time of the Civil Disobedience Campaign, when relations between Indians and Britishers were liable to be strained. I considered that the Hindu reporter had misrepresented in the Press something I had said in public, and I had written criticising him sharply. He had replied equally sharply. I realised that I had been over-critical owing to the fact that I had been piqued by the trouble with the students this had caused me; and wrote to him admitting the fact. I treasure still his reply. He writes, "You have conquered me by your kindness... you can count upon my services at all times", and he was as good as his word. I could give other examples from that time.'

'My own experience over the past 40 years has been of a very ordinary nature. It has centred in the use of that unemotional hour in the morning when, like it or not, come wind come weather, one has to get up. No tongues of flame, no flashing lights, no ecstasies: the cooling and redirection of passion, rather than the rousing of it. I have lived a normal and in many ways very ordinary life, with personally little of the dramatic or traumatic to report. Perhaps the normality of the sense of inner direction that has accompanied it is the notable point. For this unromantic experience has been lived in circumstances far from ordinary.'

'The events of the past decades have been extraordinary in every way: the terrors of war, the fall of empires and the rise of nations; the struggle of ideologies, the gathering speed of communications, the shattering of known securities. My generation have undergone a rapidity of change greater than any other in history, and the stress on the human spirit has been great: witness the soaring figures of suicide, alcoholism, drug-taking, divorce.'

'Through all the varied conflicts of these years, I can say that the inner experience of God's guidance, and the pattern of life it represents, have made sense. In air raid shelters and food shortage, in company and in isolation, in professional work and household chores, in the humdrum and the hair-raising, the way of life that I chose when I was 22 has proved to be valid. It has never been easy, but it has worked. In my own experience and that of others, it has a good record of durability in the harsh tests to which the turbulence of the twentieth century has put it.'

'Soon after leaving India for England I came into contact with the Oxford Group, and they taught me more about the way of reconciliation, which I have tried to practise ever since. Briefly it is this. In a quarrel between two human beings there are always faults on both sides, though there may be many more on one side than on the other. We are naturally inclined to think that the other party is most to blame and this may be the case. But the way of reconciliation is to take the blame on oneself as far as we can honestly do so, saying nothing about the blame on the other side. In my experience, in nine cases out of ten the other party says, "But I too was to blame", and then reconciliation is easy.'

## God's guidance

I find it impossible to have proper guidance when there is a particular thought which I don't want to hear. But I find that when I do hear that thought and decide to act upon it, it always seems much simpler and easier to carry out than I first thought. So guidance simplifies things for me. I find if you have a will to listen then guidance is quite easy, but it takes time and patience to get the right voice speaking all the time. Sometimes I find as many as three voices speaking at one time. I find listening is very satisfying when you get used to it. Another thing which guidance does is it reassures me. For instance, after tough days at school it is a great help to know that there is someone who you can completely rely on.

From a speech by a 14-year-old schoolboy



Patrick O'Kane, former shop steward of UCAT, the building workers' union, speaks before a reading of *Keir Hardie, The Man They Could Not Buy*, a play by Henry Macnicol based on the life of the pioneer of the British Labour Movement. The reading at Tirley Garth was specially presented by a cast from Scotland for trade unionists from the coal, car and engineering industries. Some who attended have requested the play for the Midlands and South Wales.

## Significant aspect of history

350,000 ITEMS about the Oxford Group and MRA have been presented by Moral Re-Armament to the United States Library of Congress. These records document thoroughly the period from 1921 to 1965. They include the personal papers of Frank Buchman, with the earliest material in the collection dating from 1873 and consisting of Frank Buchman's family letters.

This is reported in the *Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress*, which describes Moral Re-Armament as 'a world-wide movement which sought to prevent war and achieve a better understanding between nations and peoples by effecting a moral and spiritual awakening'.

After detailing the subject matter covered by these documents *The Journal* comments: 'The year 1978 will make the centennial of Frank Buchman's birth. The records which he left remain as a documentary testimonial not only of his own life, but of the work and accomplishments of the movement known as Moral Re-Armament. Their availability in the National Library should encourage institutional studies on a significant aspect of twentieth century social history.'

## Book barbecue

A BOOK BROWSE held in Melbourne last year was reported in NWN. A Sydney couple, Mr and Mrs Hodsdon, followed this with a Book Barbecue in their home. Friends and neighbours dropped in and were interested in an imaginative display which portrayed the world outreach of Moral Re-Armament's books. They also saw the film, *Choice for an Impatient World*. Sales and donations for the occasion came to \$700.

## Prosecution

ERIC THOMAS, who helps look after the administration of NWN, writes from Tonbridge:

'A local newsagent was showing a stand of lurid pornographic magazines only a yard away from a stand of children's comics.

I complained to the police, who investigated the display and took some of the magazines to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

'The whole stock of 100 copies were confiscated, the owner charged £30 costs, and the name of the publishers was passed on to the police in their area.'

## Man's great ally

NEW WORLD NEWS last week featured the convictions of Vladimir Maximov, the Russian dissident writer. This week, correspondent Dermot McKay has sent us some convictions of one of his colleagues, Alexander Galitch, who died last month and who Maximov when a young man remembers 'moustachioed, immaculately clad and twirling a silver-topped walking stick'.

Galitch, playwright, song writer and film maker, concluded a speech at the MRA World Assembly in Caux, Switzerland, in 1974 with these words:

'In the first days of June this year, tens of thousands of Muscovites went to meet an honoured guest from France. It was no public figure, whom the authorities would stuff with vodka and caviar; for her there was no visit to the Bolshoi Ballet; and those who met her were not drawn from the lists of 'specially-reliable citizens'.

Who, then, was this visitor? Her name was Mona Lisa Gioconda. She arrived from the Louvre for a stay in the Pushkin Museum. To see her, it was sometimes necessary to stand in the queue for two or three days. Some were brought by curiosity, others by fashion. But for the majority, seeing the Gioconda was a kind of communion, a revelation of mystery, an awakening of the soul, the beginning of a revolution of the heart. For every true work of art is inspired in man by God, is illumined by divine light, and by its very nature is resistant to evil, violence and lies.

Is it not remarkable that in our rational age the most rational people—scholars and scientists—are turning their gaze more and more to art and religion, and are seeking in them the answers to the eternal questions of good and evil? Is it not remarkable that one of the greatest figures of this age of reason, Albert Einstein, became a believer, and that he was helped to find illumination and faith by art, by the works of Mozart and Dostoyevski?

Science is not capable of deciding between good and evil, but science is men, and man sooner or later must make his choice; and here a great ally comes to his aid—art.

The question may be asked: What can we all do—all those who have not some special gift, who are not able to create great works of art? Believe me, in our mad twentieth century, goodness is a gift, love of one's neighbour is a great art, and honesty and courage are the greatest works of the human spirit. ♪

## Became clear

LESLIE LILLEY, a reader on the south coast of England, has written to say that a series of evenings for films and discussions took place in his town in the last three months under the title 'A year for reconciliation—how can you and I implement the Queen's wish for 1977 and cure vandalism, industrial strife and class and race war?'

Those attending included councillors, church ministers and teachers. Mr Lilley writes, 'It became clear from the films and from the speakers that when men and women change, reconciliation follows.'

## Precise words

A CHURCHMEN'S CONFERENCE was held at Tirley Garth, the MRA conference centre in Cheshire.

One of the results of that conference was a decision to send Garth Lean's book *Rebirth of a Nation?* widely to clergy.

*The Church of Ireland Gazette* wrote of this book:

'With a commendable clarity of thought and a precise and economical use of words Lean—co-author of *The Black and White Book* which has had its considerable effect on the moral attitudes of people since its publication in 1971—makes a strong case for Christian ethical standards which have the approval of the great number of British people, Christian and non-Christian alike.'

CLERGY contd p4

The book is particularly useful when it claims and illustrates that Christianity has always been in the vanguard of social reform. The brief 'write up' of William Wilberforce and his colleagues, 'the foot soldiers of reform', is very good and so is the even more brief but necessary reference to Lord Shaftesbury, the Tolpuddle Six and Keir Hardie, the founder of the Labour Party, Christians in the struggle for human rights. His modern parallels, Robert Carmichael who changed so much in labour/employer relations in France and India in the textile trade, Kim Beazley and his work for the Australian Aborigines, and his own son, Geoffrey Lean, whose campaigns as Environmental Correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post* produced better conditions for work and play, are the evidence of continuing concern among Christian people for better living for all men everywhere. ♪

## Thousands to church

IVAN MENZIES, the veteran D'Oyly Carte opera star, was on the phone to report that *Southern Cross*, the Anglican news magazine published in Sydney, Australia, has reviewed *The Song of a Merryman* (Grosvenor Books £1.00), his biography.

The paper's critic, Nan Hall, writes, 'The book tells how this inspired merryman seized every opportunity to put his challenge, sometimes in a cathedral, sometimes in a gathering of clergymen, but more often to individuals seeking to find power and purpose in their lives. The descriptions of how Menzies' conviction and courage not only sent thousands back to their churches, but also created faithful cells of people everywhere he went, to carry on the work to which he had dedicated his life, make fascinating reading.'

## Cornerstone of belief

JANET MACE, from Sussex, whose allegorical pieces in *New World News* over the past year have been much commented upon, is now back in Britain. But the *West Sussex County Times*, describing her work in more than a dozen countries, has the four-column headline 'Janet is more at home when she is touring the world'.

The paper writes, 'This year marks the centenary of the birth in Pennsylvania of Dr Frank Buchman, whose philosophy can be summed up in his own words, "The ordinary person can do the extraordinary thing if he is in touch with God." This, too, is the cornerstone of Janet Mace's beliefs and philosophy and it has taken her all over the world, meeting people, talking at meetings and conferences, working in any capacity for the association.'

## Spesel trening



**wantok**  
Niuspepa bilong ol Papua Niugini stret

'Ol i bung long kisim spesel trening long kamap gutpela Kristen wokmanmeri na gutpela lida inap long senisim pasin bilong pipel nabaut long ol.' Which, if your Pidgin is a bit rusty, is a report about 'a special training course to help people to become better men and women in their jobs and better Christians, and to learn how to bring good ideas to society'.

The report is a whole page with pictures in *Wantok*, Papua New Guinea's national weekly, describing the Study Course in 'effective living' being run at the MRA training centre in Armagh, Melbourne.

A clipping from *Performance*, the official journal of the West Australian Shop Assistants and Warehouse Employees Industrial Union of Workers, also carries an account of this course by a young Malaysian student, Charles Ooi. He was provided with a scholarship by members of the Union to participate in the course. Ooi writes, 'I found through the course an enrichment of life and ideas which can be gained by working with people from other countries. It has helped me to understand the fears and hopes of people and the need for me to live relevantly in order to be effective in answering the issues involved.'

'I have begun to understand the real meaning of responsibility in the way I live. For the sake of the future of our countries I can no longer afford to live for myself and to be indifferent to the needs of the world.'

## Election preparation

**CHOICE FOR AN IMPATIENT WORLD, the film of the MRA London Assembly last year, has been widely shown in Cyprus. A Member of the Government, the Director of Radio and TV, a Bishop, headmasters and inspectors of education, people in business, and youth, have seen the film, writes our correspondent, Marcel Grandy. 'In the atmosphere here with preparations for the February Presidential Elections the film has been a timely instrument.' He adds, 'On two occasions we drove across the lines to the Turkish northern part of the island where we had the opportunity to confer with some of the leadership and to meet again several people who had been associated with MRA through the years.'**

## THEATRICAL ALTERNATIVE

**BAPTIST TIMES** has carried a whole page entitled 'The stage is set—for good or evil' about Aldersgate Productions' initiative to present Christian theatre. Ronald Mann writes:

6 It isn't out to provide good theatre for Christian people, but good theatre for everyone—plays which will give to all a glimpse of what life is meant to be like.

Plays can open up for people a new possibility; an alternative to boredom and frustration; an alternative to violence; a practical, down-to-earth way of working things out in this second half of the twentieth century.

There are new productions now being planned which we think will stir the country.

We believe that reaching out to give God's truth to everyone is meant to be a normal part of every Christian life. ♪

## Survival factor

KIM BEAZLEY, the former Australian Minister for Education whose speeches have often been reported in *NWN*, has retired from political life. *The West Australian* writes about Beazley, 'who embraced the Moral Re-Armament code which he still practises today', that 'he has indisputably been one of Parliament's finest speakers and ablest debaters, one of the few who could fill the House and command its attention'. It says that he is 'a man who has refused to sacrifice principles': 'His characteristics—a high moral code, a rejection of hypocrisy and an extreme distaste for the expediency of half-truths—are not the stuff for rough-and-tumble politics, or for the discipline of a political organisation like the Australian Labor Party. Yet Kim Beazley has carried those qualities—indeed, thrust them belligerently under the noses of political foes and colleagues alike—and survived in a political career that spanned 32 years.'

## QUITE SUITABLE

**CATHOLIC HERALD** has published a review of *Stories of Great Lives* (Blandford Press £2.50) by DM Prescott. The paper writes, 'The title of this book speaks for itself. It includes lives of saints, biblical characters, statesmen and others—20 people in all to inspire young people. A suitable assembly book for schools.'

Advance notice  
**SENTENCED TO LIFE**

a 'whydunit' by  
**MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE  
& ALAN THORNHILL**  
Westminster Theatre  
from May 17