

FFF Newsletter

FOUNDATIONS FOR FREEDOM

Only three months after a very international group of co-workers had spoken to 6th formers in the Oxford area, three of us—Isaack, Tomislav and I—were invited to spend a week in Norwich, talking to school 6th forms, discussing with a political society at the University of East Anglia, and meeting lots of other interesting people. We stayed with Mrs and Mr Richards who took great care of us, providing wonderful accommodation, food and friendship. In the course of a week, starting with a visit to the Lord Mayor and a discussion with the Head of Administration of the City Council, and ending with an ecumenical house group filmed by a Russian cameraman, there was not much pause for rest.

Most of the time our audiences were captivated by the personal stories we told. Tomislav spoke about the war in former Yugoslavia; stopping fighting is a big step forward, but how do you cure that hate? Isaack told how he was educated under the British system. Thirty years after independence



In this issue

- Pages 2-3: Visiting Courses in Estonia and Russia.
- Pages 4-5: Seminar for aspiring politicians in Ukraine.
- Pages 6-7: Friedemann Kohler writes from Kiev about his personal experience of transition.
- Page 8: News of future events, update on finance etc.

Kenya is still trying to develop a multiparty democracy, which would be free from political oppression. Tribal allegiance is strong and Christian faith and values are practised.

Co-workers in Norwich

by Rasa Skarelyte

It was not easy for me to stay as attentive as both of my friends, but I tried to tell of my schooldays under a Communist regime and how my parents had stood out against joining the

Party while every member of the family lived in fear of reprisals.

Discussing with the students, it seemed in some ways reassuring that freedom and democracy are sought after in our countries. Yet Western society seems to take them too much for granted. The interaction between us, young people from different backgrounds, seemed very stimulating. How does each individual make decisions? Can moral relativity provide the true freedom which the spirit in each of us is searching for? It seems there is much to be learned from open and honest discussion, and also helping each other to speak and understand.

Czech In!

We are delighted that Gabra Drgová and Jarmila Vrbenská from the Czech Republic will be working with FFF from September. Both are graduating in English and music this summer from Charles University in Prague.

Gabra has been to Caux several times, and also taken part in FFF events. She writes: "I've been involved with MRA for a few years but every time I come to a confer-

ence or course I find something new and challenging. After 23 years of education (!) I feel it's time to do something different. By working with FFF I'll experience a different fulfilment, and gain more opportunities to go deeper inside myself. I'd like to learn more about and with MRA, and to bring something to it."

Jarmila took part in the 1994 International Course which she describes as "20 enriching days that made me think more about God's will, the world, and my part in it". She writes: "Working with MRA is a challenge and a great opportunity—an experience of giving and sharing that I hope will prepare me for my future life in family and work."

Gabra and Jarmila will base in Oxford.



To be or not to be in Prague over the New Year?

This is advance notice of an international youth gathering in Prague over the 1996/97 new year days, which will also be an FFF Regional Meeting. The theme will be "New Year - New Perspective" and the dates and further details will be announced later. Keep yourselves free! Your attendance is warmly welcomed by Stepan, Magdalena, Jarmila, Gabra and the Czech preparatory team.

Siberian Spring

Three days before going to press with this newsletter, Erik Andren, Chris Evans and Isaack Otieno returned from the first Russian Visiting Course, in Novosibirsk, central Siberia. Here Erik writes his initial report.

On arrival in Novosibirsk we were met by Professor Vladimir Suprum, President of the Association of Business Ethics, who had invited the course. The course was held 60 kms away in a remote 'rest house'. There were 18



participants plus a teacher, Natalia Emelyanova, 14 from the Siberian Academy of Public Administration (SAPA), three from Novosibirsk University, and one from Tomsk University. The group interacted well. We often had six hours of working sessions a day, and evening programmes that included Scottish country dancing, silly games of a lakeside bonfire.

Isaack was master of recreation and a complete social success!

At the halfway mark people were tired and we had a whole day free. Much talking, walking and sleeping went on, but 15 came voluntarily to a talk on 'Why I am a Christian?' which led to many thoughtful questions. The interest level was indeed high, for this and the whole course.

Isaack and Chris Evans (the two other faculty members) led the morning 'Research and Development' times. One morning three of the participants asked to take this time and shared how they were seeing the need to implement some changes in home relationships.

As usual participants were asked to present revision work in the form of a short play. Four five minute plays entertained us, and many commented on how much the creative and interactive work of writing and perform-

ing the plays had brought them together.

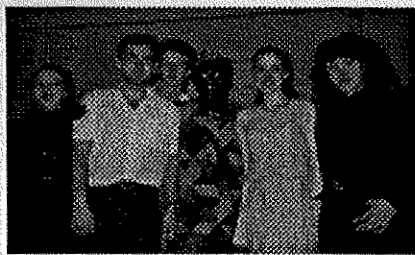
Even before the end there was talk from various people of another VC in Novosibirsk with another group. The First Deputy Rector of SAPA visited us towards the end to see for himself what effect the VC was having. On returning to the University, the VC group have seen themselves as a unit, and arranged to meet again within a week. The University offered them a room for such purposes on what seemed a long-term basis so that others might become involved.

It was very touching that on during the three days that the faculty were in Akademgorodok after the VC, many participants came out to look after us and to spend their free time with us each day between exams.



Participants' quotes

- "The VC will be invaluable in my profession to seek for the best."
- "I have decided to do what is right, even if it is not so pleasant or easy."
- "Life is quite difficult and my inner voice will help me take the right steps. I will cut off the bad thoughts as they form."
- "I have discovered a lot of deeper thoughts in my soul, and that in a particular situation I was wrong. I will change. I have to apologise to my grandfather who I didn't respect, and improve relationships with different friends."
- "I have thought about things I would never have thought about and put them in order. I discovered that our inner and outer lives are quite different!"
- "This course is already having an influence; before I do something I am picking up a signal about whether it is right or not!"
- "I am going to have a quiet time every day and I will try to solve problems with my parents."



African in Russia

by Isaack Otieno

I packed warm clothing in anticipation of cold Siberian weather. To my pleasant disappointment I was met with friendly weather, warm and much like Kenyan weather I am used to. I almost wished I had taken shorts with me.

My first trip to Russia meant a lot to me. Before going to this largest country in the world I was very apprehensive. All I had heard about Russia was not pleasant. As a growing boy in Kenya, we had been told that if one landed in the Soviet Union, one was met by the KGB and later taken to a

"Gulag" in the very Siberian region where I was now going to stay for 19 days.

On landing everybody was so excited to see me, staring at this black man in the heart of Siberia. At first I felt uneasy and almost intimidated. What touched me though was that every time I looked at people they gave me a warm smile. In the streets motorists stopped to look at me; mothers with small babies, school children and even the army and police enjoyed staring at me.

The VC took place 60 kms from Novosibirsk in a quiet guest house. As we drove there it hit me just how massive a country Russia is, with a lot of natural resources. All I could see was dilapidated buildings, old military machinery and millions of white birch trees—but no trace of people. I wondered where the 100 plus million Russians were hiding.

This was my first Visiting Course. I was responsible for the daily morning "Research & Development" times. I enjoyed working with this group of young Siberians—five 5 men and 13 ladies, all very intelligent and alert. They were interested in knowing more

Estonian visiting course

We reported on January's Estonian Visiting Course in our last newsletter. Here we offer reflections on it by two of its participants - Anna Christine Christensen from Denmark, and Margit Sarv, one of the Estonian organisers of the course.

Events of MRA have always excited and inspired me with their message of hope, and quiet times have brought me greater insight. However, until this course, the friendship side always had a greater impact than the teaching side, and my quiet times ended up being rather introspective (read: self-centred) instead of guiding me towards action. Understanding born out of friendships, and insight into oneself, are invaluable, but although they may make one a richer human being, they do not themselves create visions or lead to initiatives that change things not just inside, but also outside the individual. They may help one not to be part of the disease, but they do not make one part of the cure.

This course was different. It encouraged one to evaluate one's values. It encouraged one to think and to listen, focused on the inner life, but directed towards the outer, and it stressed the importance of decision. Whereas MRA has always shown me the tools and the effects of using them,

it has not spent much time teaching me how to use them, nor has it shown me how central those values are to being a human. The message of MRA is as crucial and the need for it as urgent as ever. The visiting course does not



merely point to the effects of other people who have applied MRA—it actually teaches you where and how to start yourself.

Anna Christine

about Africa, and I also shared with them my story of personal change. Every evening I led the whole group in African games, dances and jokes, which really opened them up.

Out walking one day in a nearby village it was obvious from the looks of the villagers that they had never seen a black man in that area before.

I felt so special to be the first African in that area. A truck driver who was drinking vodka near his home with friends was so happy to see me that he came running towards me with a bare hairy chest, looking rough and dirty in his farm clothes. Speaking only Russian, he offered me his hand. I shook it and even embraced him and this really touched him. He offered me a cigarette to smoke which I declined politely (I do not smoke). I offered him my Pepsi



Participants present a final sketch. On the walls are the flip charts used during the course.

were interested to know how I could work in a friendly way with two Englishmen. I told them that I can handle

The days were nicely started with quiet times, with helping and guiding questions. We came to think over some problems, which we had not thought earlier to need an explanation or an answer. The lectures never got boring and lively discussions continued often over dinner and during the recreation time.

We all came to discover ourselves in a new way. The benefit of this course is indescribable. Everybody got something useful out of the course, some more, some less. For me most worthwhile was our own input—it makes a big difference if you come to some conclusions after listening to your own inner voice and have the opportunity to find out by yourself the significant matters in your life.

The course helped us to realize more clearly the principles by which we act. As one of the other participants said, the results of the changes in ourselves may not appear right away, but will become evident even maybe in ten years from now.

Margit

only caring for people and that my heart cannot handle hate or anger. "I try very hard to love all people, colour notwithstanding," I told them. A Jewish Russian lady was so touched by this that she followed me to my room and shared how she was constantly being picked on for being a Jew. On the last day of the course another participant came to my room in tears. She confessed that for her whole life she had looked on black people as inferior and uncivilised. She said that through my love for even the very people whose race had colonised Africa had touched her. She apologised and I too joined in tears as we embraced.

The friendship that ensued between us faculty members was a special gift. We spent lots of quality time together in our early morning Faculty meetings. We also bonded in the sauna where Chris, Erik and I always shared light moments. It also became obvious to me that the course could be used in East Africa.

The visit changed my perception of Russians, and I am grateful to all who made it possible for me to be a Kenyan in "familiar" Siberian Weather.

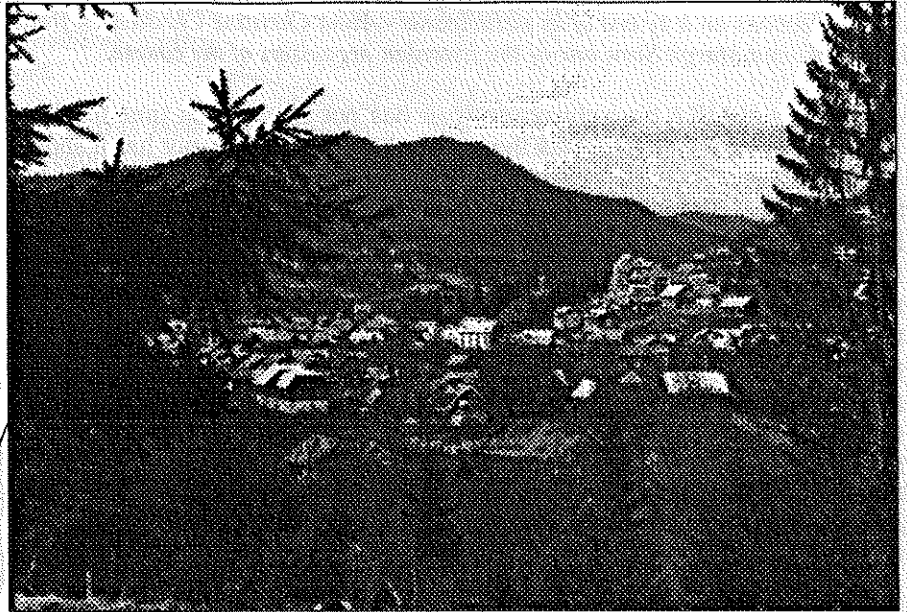
Politics and Principles

by Tomislav Majerić

An International Seminar for students interested in going into politics was held in Ukraine from 1-5 May.

The initiative came from one of the Ukrainian participants in last year's International Course, Ostap Semerak. He runs the so-called 'School for young politicians' which is a part of the Ukrainian Reforms Support Foundation, a highly respected institution set up by Mr Penzenyk, the first Vice Premier of Ukraine. Ostap had drawn up a proposal for the event, which we described in this newsletter (number 9), and we in *Foundations for Freedom* worked jointly with his Foundation in organising the seminar.

Mike Lowe, Edward Peters and I came to L'viv in



Life in Ukraine" to "The Capacities of a Young Political Leader in a post-communist open society"—which

cratic Youth of Ukraine, and of course the "School for young politicians".

Among the speakers was Ihor Koliushko, a Ukrainian MP who came

to London in 1994 for the FFF seminar and also visited Caux last summer. His talk on the theme "Taking responsibility for making political decisions" drew out a range of questions followed by discussion on "Is it possible in the life and activities of a politician to apply personal moral standards?"

Ostap felt covered the same themes in a more practical way.

The seminar was held in Slavsko, a village in the beautiful Carpathian mountains, three hours drive from L'viv. This region is a melting pot of central Europe—Slavsko is within approximately 100 kms of four other countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania). The seminar gathered 26 participants among whom were 20 young Ukrainian students representing different organisations such as "Young Diplomacy" of L'viv University, the Christian Demo-



Ostap Semerak

Two interesting lectures on types of democracy, and "the problem of corruption" were given by Dr Chris Binns, a professor of political science at the London School of Economics, who came specially for this seminar. Again this presentation drew out lively discussion and questions like—Is it possible to have Political system without corruption and is it possible to build a new state as a community of trust, honesty, love and unselfishness? What do we need to change here in Ukraine? What can we learn from the "Western" mistakes?

Friedemann Kohler, foreign correspondent in Ukraine for the German Press Agency, DPA, gave a very personal talk about his experience of finding God's calling for his life, and



west Ukraine a few days before the event started, and were warmly hosted by one of the seminar participants. We found out that the title of the seminar had been changed from "The Creation of a New Ethical Basis for Political

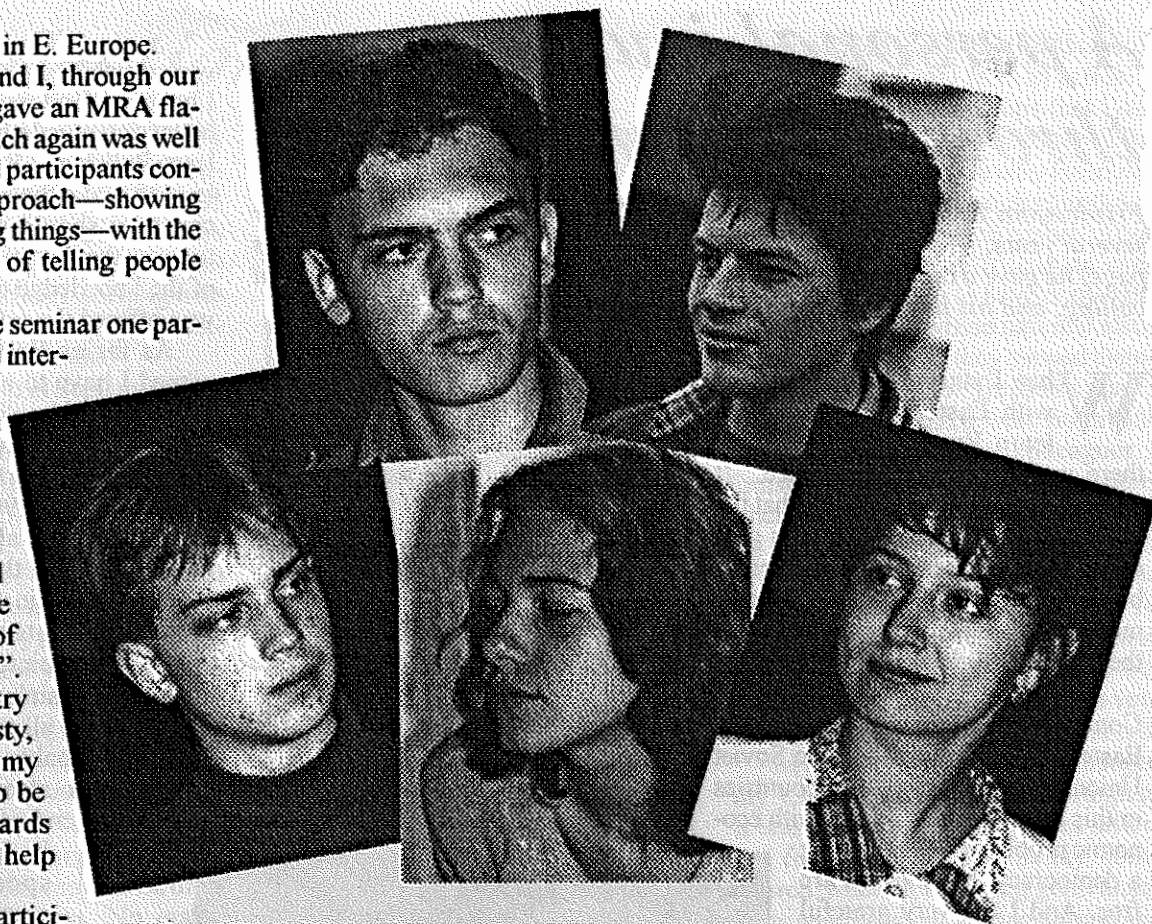


his view of changes in E. Europe.

Mike, Edward and I, through our presentations, also gave an MRA flavour to the event which again was well accepted. One of the participants contrasted our MRA approach—showing a better way of doing things—with the usual Western way of telling people what to do.

At the end of the seminar one participant said: "It was interesting to hear many different opinions about political and economic situations but the most important thing is that all our discussions were built on the basis of honesty and love". Another said, "I'll try to bring more honesty, love, morality into my inner life. I'll try to be more trusting towards others in order to help them trust me."

Many of the participants have shown interest in taking part in further MRA events. At least three will be in Caux this summer, one



Clockwise from the left: Serhiy Evtushenko (Mohyla Academy), Taras Pushak (Young Diplomacy, L'viv University), Ihor Tomashevski (Young Christian Democrats), Anna Onnyschenko (Young Diplomacy) and Vika Kucher (Young Christian Democrats). The three men will be among seven Ukrainians attending the International Course in September.



Ihor Koliushko MP (centre) answers questions on responsibility for political decisions

or two will participate in the Visiting Course in west Ukraine in August, and four will attend the next International Course in September.

We were grateful that the internal costs of the seminar (US\$3,400) were entirely covered by grants from the Soros Foundation (\$2,000) and the British Embassy in Kiev (\$2,000),

leaving \$600 towards the approximately \$1,800 travel costs of the four of us who came from abroad.

At the end of our stay we met the Vice president of the Ukrainian Reforms Support Foundation, Mr Hryniv, with whom we established a basis for future joint activities.

Visits in Kiev and L'viv

Mike, Tomislav and I spent some days in L'viv and Kiev, before and after the political seminar. In L'viv we were wonderfully looked after by among others Svetlana Bednazh, who translated faithfully for us through a number of meetings. We took part in the weekly Friday afternoon MRA 'team meeting' in the university office of Andrij Vovkanych. Igor Hula and his wife Mariana, who got married the day Mike arrived, entertained us for a superb meal, and lent a flat for Mike and Chris Binns to use after the seminar.

In Kiev, Tomislav and I saw several International Course 'graduates' including Ira Oleinik-Mishakov and her husband Vadim (who work in the Canadian and Finnish embassies respectively), and Oleh and Ira Savchyn. We spent two hours with Andrij and Oksana Vynnychuk, as well as meeting Vera Nanivska in the World Bank. The British ambassador received us, and startled us by offering to fund another programme in Britain for young Ukrainian MPs.

Kiev was looking lovely in the spring sunshine. Economically there is improvement, but the reforms are working slowly.

Edward Peters

A personal journey through Eastern Europe

Friedemann Kohler has reported for the German Press Agency, DPA, for several years, from Moscow and Kiev. At the Slavsko seminar (see previous page) he gave a talk to the Ukrainian students on how he found a personal calling, and his impressions of the transition out of communism.

When I started to get involved with Eastern Europe and to learn Russian back in 1983 there was no talk about change. It seemed to be quite unthinkable that the party would ever loosen its iron grip on its own country or on the neighbouring countries on whom the Communist system had been forced after the Second World War.

Now, only 13 years later, the old Communist regimes everywhere in Eastern Europe are gone. The Soviet Union no longer exists. All countries in this region are struggling with economic problems, with building a democracy, but they all are free. And I am very grateful that I had the chance of witnessing these historical changes.

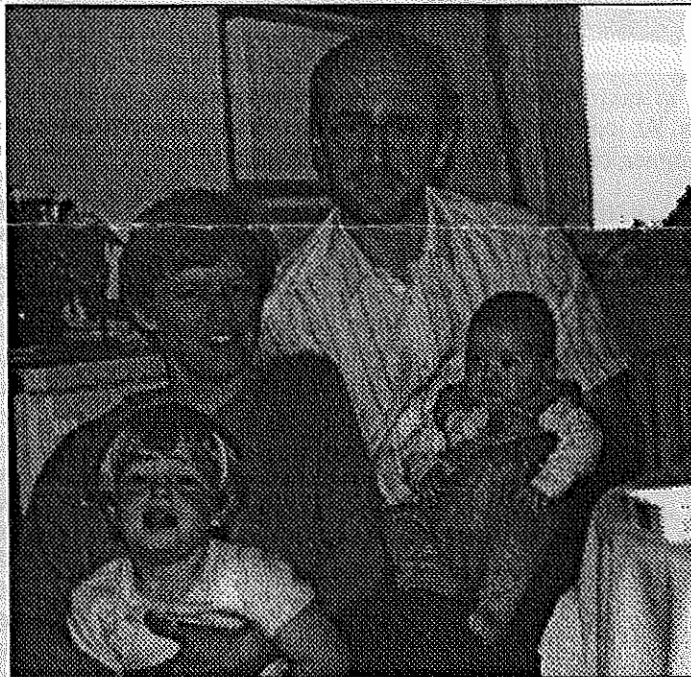
And for me getting involved with Eastern Europe was a matter of faith, something I feel I have been lead into by God who had a plan for my life.

From 1981 to 1983 I have been training and working with Moral Re-Armament in various West European countries. During this time our group once took a day to be completely silent, to meditate, to pray and to ask God if he had a special plan, a calling for our lives.

In this time of silence and searching I had three ideas; one was a commitment to family life; the second was to work in the media; the third was to build contacts with people in Eastern Europe. Over the years these three things have become a wonderful reality. I have stuck faithfully to these ideas, and I feel God has honoured this and opened the door to make them come true.

The idea of Eastern Europe came quite out of the blue. I don't have any family links with this region. But I know that in my childhood I was very upset seeing our relatives in East Berlin not able to get through the Iron Curtain, the so called Berlin Wall.

My first political experience in adult life was the Solidarity movement in Poland 1980/81. It showed that something could be done behind the Iron Curtain, that courage and peaceful resistance could challenge the existing system. But by 1983 Solidarity had been suppressed for two years by martial law. I said to myself, we need to learn as much as possible about the East European countries if we want to build better relationships with them, to live in peace with them. We need to get to know the history, the languages and literature, the national culture.



All my friends in Poland were Catholics. Their faith, their unshaking loyalty towards the church, meant that they could not be loyal to the Communist state. From my background I am a Lutheran Protestant, but I learnt very much in Poland from visiting Catholic church services. I appreciated the quiet regularity of Catholic mass with communion. I stayed in monasteries or went on pilgrimages from Krakow to Czestochowa.

The Soviet Union for me was a very spiritual experience. I had a strong sense that God loves this country—maybe because people were suffering so much. Life in this country

was so clearly wrong and difficult, that I believed God must want something better for people here. But I tried to learn Polish and Russian on the same level to make the point that those two countries should get on better some time in the future. Besides, because of the knowledge of both languages I was offered the posting in Ukraine.

As far as East Germany is concerned I have to admit that I did not think it would collapse so quickly. It was one of the happiest days of my life when the Berlin wall opened on November 9th, 1989. Within minutes this barrier lost all its terror. People poured through the gates either crying or laughing in utter disbelief. Even if six years later the Germans are rather disappointed with re-unification, I still think back to this great moment with all its joy.

I am probably not much of an expert because also in 1991 I did not foresee the end of the Soviet Union.

In July I produced a special issue of the weekly paper I was working on then, entitled 'The Changing Soviet Union'. Then came the August coup against Gorbachev, Yeltsin's defence of the White House in Moscow and the declarations of independence of Ukraine and all other republics. So we rewrote many of the articles and published a book once again called 'The Changing Soviet Union' — changing, but not breaking up.

But to defend myself I have to say that in 1992 when I started to

work in Moscow I treated each former Soviet republic as a new, independent country with its own culture, language and political logics. For three years now I have been reporting from Ukraine. Personally and as a family, we feel this posting has been another gift from God.

Now we are approaching the fifth anniversary of the declaration of independence of Ukraine. On the positive side, Ukraine has established itself. It has—after a difficult start—created good foreign relations and is respected in international politics. But up to now I do not find Ukrainian society very democratic. In everyday

On reflection....

After 15 months in Britain as a co-worker with MRA—engaged primarily with *For A Change* and *FFF*, I returned home before Christmas to my family in Milwaukee. I have been working with a corporation as an executive assistant for the last five months.

I came to Britain in September '94, fresh both to the ideas of MRA and to the country. Both took me in as one of their own. My return home has given me time to absorb and reflect on all that I experienced.

My experience with MRA has taught me how to care truly for other people. MRA family members took an interest in what I had to say and thinking about my needs. I was consistently challenged by working alongside a variety of cultures and religious convictions. This prepared me to confront disagreements and find common ground in which to communicate.

I experienced the importance of the individual contribution. No matter how inadequate I felt, there was always someone beside me encouraging my participation. I gained a self-confidence that equipped me to work alongside my superiors back home.

I worked with some highly skilled and intelligent people. It was humbling to realize that these people did not seek their own gratification and wealth, but instead focused on the need for change in the world. My corporate experience back home was quite the opposite. I

found myself over lunch discussing the salary of everyone in the office and whether it was beneficial to stay with the company or go elsewhere offering bigger money. People were interested



by Michelle Hemenway

only in improving their material well-being regardless of their neighbour's condition. I found myself desperately drawing on the inspiration I received from the lives of MRA people.

The 15 months introduced me to people with a faith of convicting action and change. I was challenged to avoid putting God into a box. The people involved with MRA are daily witnesses to God moving mountains.

Life people are still being ruled by a whole hierarchy of Soviet style bureaucrats. The *civil society* is still very far away.

You as young politicians are committed to make Ukraine work, and if you ask me, I have one suggestion, what could be done. In my mind this country needs a new culture of responsibility. Too much is being done without responsibility. Painters here just add a new coat of paint on a wall without removing the old ones. The new one will fall down in half a year's time. This goes up the whole hierarchy to the honourable Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) which votes for contradictory laws, or the government which issues decrees that cannot be fulfilled.

My understanding of personal responsibility owes very much to the German Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. As a church minister he went into the resistance against Hitler

who had him hanged as a personal enemy at the end of April 1945, a few days before the war was over.

Of course, we are not in such extreme situations. But what strikes me about Bonhoeffer is: he maintained his personal integrity and responsibly did what he knew needed to be done. With this he combined a great care for people—he took everybody seriously and in a friendly way helped, be it his fellow prisoners or the guards.

To take a responsible stand takes strength. Bonhoeffer's source of strength was his faith. He very often sought God's direction for his life and acted when he was sure it was God's will. And he had a great faith that God would never ever let him down.

So my suggestion to you is that you can serve Ukraine by searching for inner strength or faith, by developing a love for people and by doing things with a spirit of responsibility.

I was equipped to tell my friends many stories of how I saw faith in action.

Many of the friendships that I developed challenged my identity as an American. I met people who loved my country and others who despised it. I had never thought much before about my national identity. It was an eye-opening experience to have conversations with people whose national identity was part of how they viewed themselves. Many of the freedoms that I had taken for granted were not available to some of my close colleagues. I found I remembered these discussions when over pizza back home a political discussion was brought up, about who was the best candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. To my dismay many of the group claimed they would most likely not vote because they did not know whom to vote for and weren't concerned to find out.

My time in Britain also challenged my Christian Protestant upbringing. It was so easy to judge others different from myself back in my home church. Making sweeping generalizations was the norm. Living abroad and interacting with other religious affiliations was uncomfortable for me at times. I found my attitudes to be threatened and re-evaluated continuously. I believe I have grown as a result in ways I have yet to discover.

The biggest challenge I now face is the apathetic attitude of the people I meet in what I call the 'real world'. Most of them are not motivated like the people in MRA and most of them have no understanding of international affairs and took very little interest in all I that I had experienced.

In the secular world most people do not take the time quietly to reflect on their day and to listen for God's guidance. They eat on the go because time means money. The attitude that 'the busier you are the more important you are' seems to predominate in the workplace. I found myself easily getting caught up in this attitude. I accepted long hours usually working 50 hour weeks without any lunch break. I soon recognized the need for God's involvement in my daily life and made efforts to take time for quiet even during the busiest of days.

Going home opened my eyes to the desperate needs of my community and the workplace. I am very grateful for the training and experience I've had with MRA. It has significantly influenced the choices I will make to create a better world in which to live in for the rest of my life.

From the treasurer...

We are thrilled and grateful to report of wonderful financial provision during the past months. Since the beginning of the year, over £23,000 has been given to FFF. This includes gifts from more than 25 individuals, and grants from MRA in the USA (£3,240) and in the Netherlands (£1,945).

• The Soros Foundation in Estonia and Ukraine has given a total of £3,473 for two events in those countries.

• The British embassy in Moscow has funded the entire cost of the recent Visiting Course in Novosibirsk (£4,500) and the British embassy in Kiev gave £1,300 towards the seminar for

aspiring young politicians.

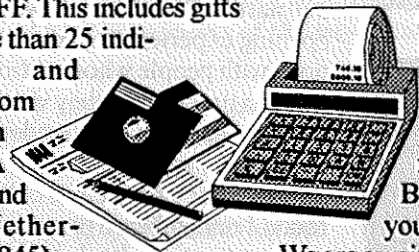
We are very thankful to God and to all those who have given so generously.

• Expenses so far this year total nearly £19,000.

• The British ambassador in Kiev has also offered to fund another visit to Britain by a group of young Ukrainian MPs.

We are awaiting confirmation of this, and the budget is £22,500. Funds in hand total about £5,000.

• We estimate that a further £15,000 will be needed by the end of September, to cover the events planned for July (Slovakia), August (Ukraine), September (International Course), and other outgoings.



Diary

June 13

FFF Committee meeting. Please send us any ideas you have!

June 29 - August 25

50th Anniversary Conferences in Caux, Switzerland. More details available from us.

July 13-20

International Seminar in Slovakia: 'Making Faith Relevant and Practical'. More details available from John and Diana Bennett at 3 Strutt Close, Birmingham B15 3PW.



August 1-15

Tenth Visiting Course, to be held in Burstyn, west Ukraine, on the invitation of Svetlana Bednash.

September 5-24

International Course in Tirley Garth. This year the programme will include a five day visit to Birmingham (half the participants) and Liverpool (the other half).

End December/early January
Regional Meeting/Youth Conference in Prague, Czech Republic.

During our recent trip to Poland and Lithuania, we had the pleasure of meeting up with several students who had participated in Foundations for Freedom courses. In Lodz, Poland, we met up with two law students who had participated in our first seminar there in 1994. One of them, who had also come to the seminar in Slovakia the same year, was very grateful to receive a copy of the book "A Hand on My Shoulder". She said she found it easy to understand and very helpful.

In Lithuania, we attended a meeting in Vilnius where 26 people of all ages gathered,



Quite a number of FFF

participants will be attending the 50th Anniversary conference at the MRA centre in Caux, Switzerland, in July and August. Among those expected are Indrė Kligyte and Rasa Skarelyte (Lithuania), Erika Ellamaa and Margit Sarv (Estonia), Kirill Teryoshkin (Russia), Boris Milosavljević (Serbia), Ostap Semerak, Svetlana & Maryana Bednash, Vira Fediva, Adrianna Schrammel and Lyana Nadzhafova (Ukraine), Magdalena Kaplanová, Gabra Drgová and Jarmila Vrbenská (Czech Republic), Marta Dabrowska and Suzanna Parczewska (Poland), Tomislav Majerić (Croatia), Isaack Otieno (Kenya) and no doubt many others.

International Course

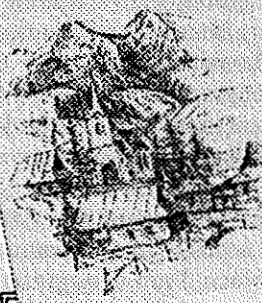
Thirty people have so far applied for the International Course at Tirley Garth (September 5th-24th). The following have been accepted to date: Gabra Drgová, Linda Hrodkova, Jarmila Vrbenská,

Monika Zachová (Czech Republic), Piret Teaste (Estonia), Ulrike Raab (Germany), Mercy

Nduku Musau (Kenya), Indrė Kligyte, Virginija Mikelskaite (Lithuania), Mikhail Terentyev, Olga Yakovleva (Russia), Ivana Rodić (Serbia), Rosa van der Merwe (South Africa), Svetlana Bednash, Sergiy Evtushenko, Lyana Nadzhafova, Taras Pushak, Illia Shevliak, Igor Tomashevski, Olesya Zhulinska (Ukraine), Kristen Tiedje (USA). A few places still remain, and we are particularly eager for more participants from Western Europe. Please be in touch if you have any ideas.



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including five students. Three of them had attended the visiting course in Nida in 1995. It was a very lively morning, with open discussion between the generations. Everyone felt free to express their opinions honestly.

In Kaunas, Indrė Kligyte convened a meeting of ten of her friends in the University. We discussed many subjects for three hours, and went into great depth about personal relationships. It has been a great privilege for us to meet these people and we come back having made many new friends.

The third International Seminar in Slovakia (invitation pictured to the left) will be held from 13-20 July (slightly altered dates).

John and Diana Bennett