

VISIT TO TANZANIA

We have just returned from a three-week visit to Tanzania, where we met friends old and new. On the Moslem island of Zanzibar we had talks with two members of the Zanzibar Cabinet. The Minister of Education expressed concern at Western influences which, he said, were breaking down his people's moral foundations. To counter that, they were aiming to strengthen ethical education in schools.

We had several meetings with Anna Abdallah, Minister for Works. She feels that one of MRA's main aims in Tanzania should be to bring a moral motivation into political life. She took us to the village where she was born, where we were welcomed by a crowd of 300 drumming and dancing people.

Bishop Elinaza Sendoro asked us to speak at the Lutheran Cathedral in Dar es Salaam. In his sermon he told of his visit to Caux, describing MRA as an expression of unselfish action in the world. Afterwards he invited us for tea with the Prime Minister, who had been at the service.

*Inger and Keld Jørgensen, Paul Gundersen
Anders Eskeland*

FROM KOBE TO TAIWAN

For 20 years we have held a weekend MRA conference every October here in Kobe.

During this period, the Pacific nations have become highly modernised, yet concern themselves more with increasing their own importance than with taking responsibility for the coming century. This year, after a series of murders by teenagers in Kobe and other cities, the Ministry of Education set up a committee to see how to teach the hearts and minds of kindergarten children. Many at the Kobe conference were from the educational field, and included several overseas teachers.

Before the conference, my wife and I took part in an educational programme in Taipei led by 85 year-old Dr Daniel Lew. Dr Lew emphasises the importance of *Liang-Jhi* (listening to the inner voice), especially in early life, as childhood experiences build personality.

Mrs Ogawa, an elementary school teacher in Kobe, who had learned about *Liang-Jhi* from Dr Lew, shared her classroom experience of asking children to write down their thoughts after a time of quiet. A German teacher said *Liang-Jhi* was not just for Asia but a need for the whole world.

Technology can be developed by the human instinct but true humanity can only be attained by training in *Liang-Jhi*. This is the way to the 21st century.

It was a great joy to hold this autumn conference in a spirit of team work.

Yoshiteru Sumitomo

GOOD NEWS FROM COLOMBIA

An unusual headline from this turbulent country, but it is what Alec Smith brought back from his 11-day visit. He had been invited to address a conference on 'The courage to defend values', attended by 2000 people including many students. They gave Alec a five-minute standing ovation after his hour-long talk!

The MRA team in Bogota also kept him busy: a whole morning at the head office of the national oil company, a talk at the State University and to shanty-town dwellers and community workers; and a meeting with the committee set up by the Chamber of Commerce to encourage dialogue between the government and the guerrilla forces.

'One helpful development,' Alec writes, 'is a bold attempt to include a vote specifically for peace on the ballots for the national election in October. Dedicated volunteers are working for this Mandate for Peace in order to highlight the ordinary person's desire for peace. They need all the support and prayer they can get.'

Heyde Duran says that after Alec had spoken to a school for highly gifted children the headmaster said, 'You have saved at least three lives today. These children would have headed for drugs, but you have given them faith in God.'

Digna Hintzen

FFF VISITING COURSE TO RUSSIA

Erik Andren, initiator of the Foundations for Freedom Visiting Courses, is recovering from major surgery. But his absence has not stopped the programme.

In June, VC 13 was held in Novosibirsk – the second VC in the capital of Siberia. Most of the 16 participants, eight men and eight women, came on the recommendation of friends who had taken part in the first course. Aged between 17 and 22, they were highly motivated, well prepared and selected from a large number of applicants. Discussions were lively and interest never seemed to flag.

The course material was presented by different

faculty members, and the different personal approaches helped illuminate the basic course structure.

A VC aims to enable individuals to find a clearer sense of direction, and to develop groups of friends who can support each other in working for positive, peaceful changes in society, starting from some experience of change in their own lives. When the faculty members discussed these aims with the Rector of a university that had sent students to the course, he responded warmly. There is a serious lack of organisations for young people in Russia, he said.

On Russia's Remembrance Day, we walked to the nearby village of Borovoye to lay flowers at the war memorial. This followed a discussion about the different views of history and symbolised our desire for a future of genuine peace.

We hope that there will be another VC in Novosibirsk in 1998.

*Natalya Emelyanova, Marius Pukelis
Marina and Kees Scheijgrond
Peter and Rosemary Thwaites*

UK SIXTH FORM VENTURE

The Sixth Form venture in Britain got under way with a talk by Mike Smith and Amina Dikedi at Pangbourne College in Berkshire, to 78 Upper Sixth students.

Pangbourne is Mike's old school. 'I was struck by the complete openness and lack of cynicism, both from students and staff,' he says. 'Most of the students' questions were about MRA itself. The experience has given me a new appreciation of how school students welcome a message of faith, before they are caught up in the cynicism of the world.' The school contributed generously for the visit.

Twelve other Berkshire schools have asked for programmes this month. So far we have spoken at three, to 300 students in all. MRA co-workers Ademar de Broutelles (Brazil), Deepak Ajwani (India) and Allison Kenny (USA), together with Veronica Thwaites (Australia), joined me for presentations on the theme 'Moving Out Of Your Comfort Zone'.

We started by asking the students to talk about their comfort zones. This led on to discussion on issues like TV, family relationships, hurts that you don't want to let go of, reaching out to people beyond our own worlds. The students were fully engaged by our interactive approach, and the teachers were enthusiastic with the 'lateral thinking' that this stimulated.

Global Express has produced a special edition on the theme of our presentations and 3000 extra copies have been printed for the Schools Venture. Joint editor Laura Trevelyan, now based in Oxford, will also visit schools in the months ahead.

Howard Grace

CAMPAIGN TAKES OFF

Support for the Jubilee 2000 debt relief campaign initiated by Martin Dent and Bill Peters is growing apace.

'Time to stop the Third World debt treadmill' was the headline in *The Times*, 18 September, over an article by former British Prime Minister James Callaghan. In it he said that 'a coalition of churches, charitable institutions and others, calling itself Jubilee 2000, has come forward with an inspired call to celebrate the millennium with a one-off cancellation of the backlog of unpayable debt. It is a bold and imaginative idea.... Gordon Brown (British Chancellor of the Exchequer) has said that he shares many of the objectives of Jubilee 2000 and that he will press his colleagues to provide further relief.... Is it too much for us bilaterally and the world as a whole to lift the slavery of debt from the shoulders of the world's poorest? A decision... to do this in the year 2000 would give us all a genuine reason to celebrate the new millennium.'

The Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, 20 September, headlined their front page cover story, 'Forgive them their debts'. In the article, the (Anglican) Bishop of Oxford, Richard Harries, quoted the Pope's call that the millennium be associated with the biblical concept of Jubilee. 'This general call has been taken up in a specific way by two lay Christians, Martin Dent and Bill Peters,' the Bishop continued. 'Their initiative, Jubilee 2000, is now a major concern of Christian Aid, CAFOD and other aid agencies and all the Christian Churches in Britain and is gaining momentum every month... The Churches are being asked to regard this issue as comparable with the campaign to abolish slavery in the nineteenth century. The injustice to be righted and the suffering to be relieved are of similar proportions.'

The World Council of Churches has announced that its Central Committee 'has joined the international call for the cancellation of the debt of the world's poorest countries... The decision followed a week in which the Jubilee Coalition won support from the British Government.' The WCC has placed debt relief on the agenda of its world assembly in Harare in 1998.

Jubilee 2000 is mounting the world's largest ever signature campaign. A major petition is underway in India. Bill Peters says that the gathering of the G8 industrialised countries in Birmingham, England, next year will be 'an important landmark' for the campaign.

Mike Smith

MEETING AT THE DEEPEST LEVEL

I found myself profoundly shocked as I read the latest World Bulletin with its variable statements on MRA. It seems to me essential that we 'get back to basics'.

I remember Frank Buchman once saying at Caux, in my hearing, 'Would you protect your best friend from

an experience of the Cross?' He did not seem to mind saying this in front of his friends from other faiths, nor did they seem to object.

Those of us who are Christians have been richly blessed, enriched and humbled by our contacts and teamwork with so many from the other great faiths. We have seen God in them. It has been those most committed to their own search for Truth who have wanted to join with us. MRA is where we can meet at the deepest level. I have found it easier to talk freely about Jesus with such people than with some of my so-called Christian friends. After all He belongs to everyone and is in no way a secret possession to be hidden away. Only if we are uncompromising in our own beliefs, while always ready to accept new dimensions of faith, shall we find the unity we need and long for and maybe God's plan for the future of MRA as well.

Frances McAll

MRA, WORLD-WIDE

It is good that the identity and organisation of MRA are being seriously discussed in the Bulletin. Of course the heart of MRA is a quality of life. But this is not an alternative to proper organisation. Both are needed.

Under Frank Buchman there was personal management. That is not acceptable today and anyway it died with Peter Howard. Of course, there have always been decision-making and power structures – but not always effective and transparent ones. Hence MRA is good but not good enough.

The way MRA's world work is honestly defined and properly organised should be examples of excellence both in spirit and practical discipline.

Spiritual issues are involved. Those who can get their way in an informal structure may need to change. There may need to be a shake-up of comfortable complacency and a lack of strategic action. Sacrificial commitment is needed from those few who should devote themselves to serving the whole fellowship as a secretariat. Humility is needed from those who should be democratically elected to positions of defined and limited power (by an electoral group or whatever means).

We might be astonished at the resources, inspiration and effectiveness which would be unlocked by certain simple steps of reformation and change in MRA.

Neville Cooper

FROM THE EDITORS

We are grateful for the input we receive. From readers' comments it appears that many are pleased that the WB has become more of a forum for discussion. However, we hope you will allow us the right to edit contributions so as to ensure a balance

between news and views.

In September we were over zealous in cutting the report of the FFF seminar in Lithuania. Those who would like further information about this please approach John Bennett: Fax +44 121 455 7596 or email: 106544.2241@compuserve.com

CAUX SESSION REPORT AVAILABLE

An attractive 8-page pictorial report on the Caux session 'Healing the Past, Forging the Future' has been printed in Australia. It costs A\$1 per copy (US\$0.75, £0.45) plus the cost of postage. For bulk supplies, airmail postage will vary between A\$0.30 and A\$0.80 per copy depending on destination and quantity. Please send your orders as soon as possible to John Bond at the address on the back page.

OPPORTUNITY IN OREGON

We have been invited to Australia at some point in the first half of 1998, to participate in a book tour for *The Forgiveness Factor*. We have also been invited back to Jamaica and Canada. If we are to accept these invitations, we will need to find replacements in Oregon for some weeks or months. On November 1-2 of this year there will be a big Hope in the Cities conference in Portland which will add to the need for continuance in the area. If anyone would like to come, please be in touch with us or the Ruffins. We have a nice house and car, a lot of friends, and Oregon is a beautiful part of the world.

Michael and Erica Henderson

MELBOURNE FOLLOW-UP

The second Melbourne Consultation follow-up newsletter is available from me. It outlines MRA training initiatives in many countries, and details progress in implementing the Consultation recommendations. In Britain we are establishing a mentorship scheme for all full-time workers who would like it, as well as offering training opportunities in several areas, with the help of professional trainers who are giving their time without charge. The co-workers programme has started its third year, with co-workers from Australia, India, Brazil, USA and Japan.

Edward Peters

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE NEXT NOMINATION PROCESS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION GROUP

The time is coming again for nominations for our international coordination group, who selflessly help us to move in teamwork across the globe.

The current group are five: Annejet Campbell (UK),

Amina Dikedi (Nigeria), Suresh Khatri (Fiji), Philippe Lasserre (France) and Jens Wilhelmsen (Norway). Elsa Vogel (Latin America) and Bryan Hamlin (USA) have come to the end of their service. We thank them both, on behalf of our world family, for the detailed and sacrificial care they have provided. In mid-1998 Annejet and Philippe lay down their duties. As six or seven seems to be the best working number, this means that we shall be looking for three or four people ready to take up this service from the middle of next year.

As before, we will be asking for nominations from all our world family of those among us who may be able and willing to undertake this work for a three-year term. In next month's World Bulletin we will sum up again the mandate of the group and the qualities which the work requires, and lay out the timetable for nominations and decisions, as well as for the regular review of the process in general.

As the consultation support group, we continue to carry the practical responsibility for this process, and are open for all thoughts and suggestions.

**Alice Cardel, Rob Corcoran, Ailsa Hamilton
John Mills, Edward Peters, Dick Ruffin
Robo Orogun, Marianne Spreng**

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At the end of December 1997 the MRA CompuServe address, 73414.62@compuserve.com, will be cancelled.

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Calendar of Events

OCT '97	<u>Paris France</u>	'From one Caux to the next': Evaluation of Caux '97, planning for Caux '98	Oct 22 - 26
OCT '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Through October, November and December, there are six four-day seminars on the theme 'Creative leadership for business and industry'	Oct - Dec
NOV '97	<u>Portland Oregon USA</u>	Hope in the Cities conference	Nov 1 - 2
NOV '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Children's training camp	Nov 7 - 11
NOV '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Education today; society tomorrow. A conference of educationists	Nov 26 - 30
JAN '98	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Ethical values in health care - international conference	Jan 2 - 4
JAN '98	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Asia/Pacific Regional Consultation	Jan 12 - 17
JAN '98	<u>Hakataramea Valley New Zealand</u>	New Year camp for young people	Jan 2 - 9
JAN '98	<u>Perth Australia</u>	'Wave of hope' teenage camp	Jan 8 - 15
FEB '98	<u>Amagh Melbourne</u>	Effective Living training course	Feb 1 - Apr 4

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Saturday, November 15, 1997

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