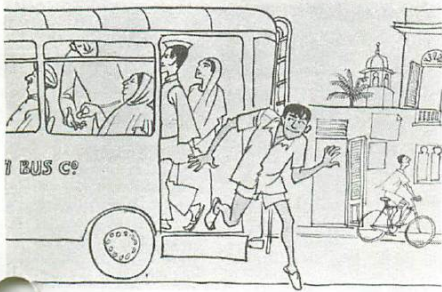




Creating the New Society

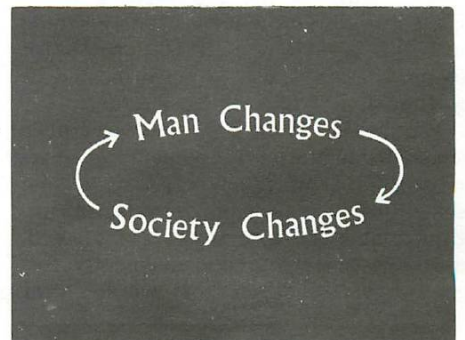
THIS WEEK Grosvenor Books announces the launching of a study course on The Black and White Book with the title 'Creating the New Society'.

These illustrations by Cameron Johnson are some of the 60 slides, including drawings and colour photographs which are part of the audio-visual presentation which has been prepared. For a full account see inside.



NEW WORLD NEWS

FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



A sense of proportion

'WHO WILL explain to mankind what is really terrible and unbearable,' writes Solzhenitsyn, 'and what only irritates our skin because it is near?' And again, 'What in one area could only be dreamed of as unattainable prosperity, in another area gives rise to indignation and is considered vicious exploitation demanding an immediate strike.'

In one sense the present crisis in Britain is of immense significance to the whole world. There are millions who have never seen the cliffs of Dover or the runway at Heathrow, who still look to Britain as the champion and bastion of democracy, free speech and justice in a cruel and oppressive world. Now that we appear to be tearing ourselves apart in class war, it distresses and mystifies them.

But in another sense have we not got everything out of perspective? Like children of rich parents we are quarrelling over our toys. Some of the greedy ones have taken the biggest and best, it's true. But outside in the cold other children, barefoot, beg for bread.

'For these double standards, for this paralysis and lack of understanding of a stranger's distant grief, one cannot reproach man's vision,' Solzhenitsyn goes on. 'Man is built that way. But for mankind as a whole, squeezed into a single lump, such lack of mutual understanding threatens to bring a rapid and stormy end.'

Poverty past the imagination of most of us not only exists but is normal and in some cases increasing across the world - in Africa and Asia. It increases through man's greed and through man's ignorance. Vast areas which within living memory were green with trees and grass are now deserts; and in the hearts of millions there is now a desert of bitterness and hopelessness.

I write from Ethiopia, where there is a famine and people are praying for rain, whilst listening on the radio to the passionately fought election issues in Britain. Of course we must cure inflation; it is vital. But when everyone is 'on the get', is it not rather like telling an irresponsible university student who is constantly in the red that he really must live within his means? Why should he? But give him a great purpose for living, a mighty task to perform, and he will tackle his debts in his stride.

We in Britain should have learnt a lesson from Northern Ireland. For years most of us were vaguely aware that something was wrong. It was an uncomfortable thought, so we got on with our own business and conveniently forgot about it. Then the whole thing

SENSE continued on page 4

THIS WEEK all the members of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Members of Parliament representing Northern Ireland at Westminster received *The Black and White Book* with this accompanying letter from a group of Welsh citizens:

We love Wales. For some of us, Welsh is our first language, and for others English. But whichever language we speak, *The Black and White Book* and its Welsh counterpart, *Y Llyfr Du a Gwyn*, have helped to focus attention on the fundamental truths at the heart of our Christian heritage.

A determined application of these truths can, we are discovering, provide a path of unity for all Welshmen.

Could it be possible that Wales and Ireland, both small countries that have suffered much, are called to be front-runners in building an unselfish society?

It is in this hope that we send you this book as a small gift and token from Wales to Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

County Councillor Glyn James
- Rhondda

R E Griffith, O B E - Aberystwyth
(former Director, Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Welsh League of Youth)

Rev E H Griffiths, B A, B D
- Caernarvon

Gronw Ap Islwyn - Swansea

Dr Margaret Burton - Abersoch

Mrs J T Morgan, M B E, J P - Swansea
(National President, Free Church
Women's Council)

Councillor D G Price
(Chairman, Cwmbran U D C)

Mrs Edith Stanley Davies - Pwllheli

Norman Green-Price - Bleddfa
(former High Sheriff of Radnorshire)

Her 35th book

'You are bringing back our generation to the source of the most valuable things of life, which have either been forgotten or ignored,' wrote a university student to Dorothy Prescott. 'Some passages of your new book certainly made me think deeply and it is important for us to go below the superficial which is so much emphasized today.'

Miss Prescott told *New World News*, 'Sound ideas can reach those who need them if they are put in a form and language which enable them to be assimilated.' She stressed the importance of storytelling for children who are starved of them in a television age: 'Storytelling has always been the classical way of giving truth to developing minds, from the tribal storyteller to the minstrel in the king's hall.'

THE BOOKS by D M Prescott in the juvenile, religious and school assembly fields have achieved a considerable reputation in the post-war years. *Further Stories for the Junior Assembly*, which is to be published by Blandford Press at £1.00 in May, is the thirteenth in the

series of School Assembly books and is the thirty-fifth book from this author in as many years. It includes stories from the five continents and many true accounts of faith in action.

With her first assembly book for teachers, published in 1953 (now in its fifth reprint) Dorothy Prescott anticipated what has been an increasing need - the materials from which assemblies can be prepared which are interesting and relevant to the pupils and to world situations. It was hailed by *Teach World* as containing 'much that is fresh, new and inspiring'.

The fact that of the 13 assembly books seven are currently being reprinted again in large editions and the response from recent school exhibitions (in the last weeks the County Exhibitions at Durham and Lewes, Sussex) is evidence of the quest among teachers for material based on valid Christian experience both in past years and today.

To meet the needs of many schools with multi-racial pupils, in her later books Dorothy Prescott has included carefully selected passages from other faiths. Taking aspects such as truth, purity, or care for others, the selections in her *More Readings for the Senior Assembly* show an interesting similarity of concept, and the Christian contributions are enhanced by the wider setting.

The total sales of her assembly books are now around 150,000 copies, and if only a fraction of these were in daily

Creating the New Society

TWO YEARS AGO this week *The Black and White Book* was published in Britain. Since then it has gone around the world, with nearly 400,000 copies printed in 16 languages. Fourteen other language editions are in preparation.

One feature of the response to this little 'handbook of revolution' has been the interest of those in education. Ministers of education on different continents have recommended the book, like the Minister of Education of Western Australia who describes it as 'one of the most potent influences for good that has been placed at the disposal of education for a very long time'.

This educational potential was recognized by teachers and others in England. Convinced about the need for a study course for schools based on the book, a project team began to prepare material. They built on the work of Joan Pedley, former head of religious education in a secondary school and now teaching in Ethiopia, who prepared a course for 14/15 year olds soon after *The Black and White Book* was published.

The team, who began as four people, expanded to 65 - authors, editors, photographers, advisers, researchers, secretaries - from 16 British cities and towns, with others from overseas. Everyone gave their services free so thousands of pounds were saved.

The completed course, called *Creating the New Society*, consists of 10 folios of slides (60 slides in all) and 'worksheets'. It can be used by anyone but is especially designed for three main areas - religious education and social studies in schools, adult study groups and families.

The authors of the study course are Joan Pedley, Norah Cook, who taught social studies in a Bristol comprehensive school, and Lester Betts, head of rural studies and Kenneth Purnell, head of mathematics at schools in the south of England. They describe the aim of the course: 'To help people understand the world we live in and how to change it. It offers an effective alternative to violence for the creating of an unselfish society and shows the part each person can play.'

Miss Rosa Jones, who teaches Religious Education (R E) to fifth and sixth formers in a large multi-racial comprehensive school in Birmingham, has been conducting a pilot study course with the

material. She reports that the interest is so great that a class of 17 year olds who were apathetic on their first encounter, saying they hated R E, are now fighting to get back to the lesson one of their number who has been playing truant. 'Borrowed' books and pens are even being returned.

She writes, 'In a district where there are constant convictions for house breaking and a school where staff are warned to lock every door after them, a class of boys studying *The Black and White Book* are unanimous that if you have stolen something you should return it. Next lesson we shall discuss what that means in practice for each of us, including myself!'

'Many of these youngsters want a revolution. That is what interested them most at the start of the course, but are they willing to pay the price of beginning with themselves, with all that this entails, to bring about a revolution? At least they are intrigued enough to agree with the verdict of a 16 year old Asian boy, "Miss, this is proper R E".'

The study course costs £12.50 (+£1.25 VAT in U.K.), post 40p (free within U.K.). Sample notes are also available on request. Supplies of the study course material or further information can be obtained from M R A Books.

use it is not unlikely that more than a million children - future citizens in a fast-changing society - are daily exposed to the truths which Dorothy Prescott has culled from a lifetime of experience. Sales extend far beyond Britain - the books are widely used in youth clubs and homes as well as the educational field.

Her's Assembly Series (London Press) by Dorothy Prescott

Infants at Home and School, Stories for	75p
Infant Teacher's Assembly Book	55p
Infant Teacher's Prayer Book	50p
Junior Assembly, Stories for the	65p
Junior Assembly, More Stories for the	75p
Junior Assembly, Further Stories for the	£1
Junior Teacher's Assembly Book	55p
Junior Teacher's Prayer Book	40p
School Assembly, Poems for the	75p
Senior Assembly, Readings for the	70p
Senior Assembly, More Readings for the	85p
Senior Teacher's Assembly Book	80p
Senior Teacher's Prayer Book	65p

All available from MRA Books,
54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ

WHAT DOES *The Black and White Book* offer Catholics? This little book reminds us of the fundamental truths of Catholicism.

Each day we pray 'Thy kingdom come'. This book shows how each of us is called by God to play our part in furthering the coming of His kingdom. It also shows practical ways in which we can make a fresh contribution to that kingdom each day through silent prayer in the early hours, which will reveal to us God's will for that day. Here the Sermon on the Mount is a compass for Christian living with its standards of absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness and absolute love, which found their perfect expression in the life of Christ.

We are reminded that in God's eyes none of us is an ordinary person but that - on the contrary - every human being is for God unique and irreplaceable. Just as God in His providence has an overall plan for the world, so He has within that overall plan a personal plan for each of us. All who honestly and quietly open their hearts to this stimulating handbook will discover that they are called as Christians to help set in motion the greatest revolution of all time, the revolution of which Paul says, 'Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining,

all prepared by God for those who love him.' (I Corinthians I, 9) It is offered us in compact language, not as a theory but as the authentic experience of men and women of the most varied races and backgrounds.

The Black and White Book challenges us to exchange our comfortable, superficial Christianity for the radical revolutionary Cross of Christ. Then our Catholicism will become again 'Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God'. (I Corinthians I, 24)

I am convinced that this book in its simplicity and honesty will enable many in the German speaking world to rediscover the incomparable riches of their Catholicism, as it has already for tens of thousands in 15 other languages.

Pope Pius XI summoned Catholics in the whole world to 'a spiritual re-arming' (Encyclical *Divini Remptoris*). What will Catholics of today do in order to carry out this mission of our age? This little book can give a tremendous impetus to the fulfilling of that task. At the same time it can be a challenge for many non-Christians to uphold the deepest human values and to discover God.

Dr Bernard Bot S J
a statement prepared for the publication of the Austrian edition of *The Black and White Book*

exploded in our faces. There is no doubt that the tide of bitterness across the earth is mounting.

Of course there is 'Aid'—and people give generously to voluntary organisations when they hear about starving children. But the gallant and devoted relief workers would be the first to say it is too little, too patchy and often too late. And still the poor of the earth are always with us. Let us not underestimate their bitterness. Recently in Addis Ababa students and unemployed went through the streets stoning every car larger than a small Volkswagen or a Fiat 650. And nowadays armies go on strike and lock up their senior officers when they feel their pay and conditions are intolerable.

In these days, when we can inhabit space and walk the moon, is it not time for the whole human race, governments and people, East and West, developed and undeveloped, industrialists, city magnates, scientists, oil sheikhs and miners, to rise up and tackle the *problem?*

If we meant business, there is no doubt that we would need to accept drastic alterations in our present life-style. If we choose to ignore the problem, it will surely engulf us all.

The British nation needs a purpose more demanding and fundamental than tackling inflation, differentials, or the balance of payments. In times of crisis we need to take on more, not less, because the very crisis is caused by our limitations of vision and smallness of aim.

It will require a change of heart. Bosses as passionate for a fair society as any left-wing militant. Trade unionists whose aim is a thriving Britain in order that together they and all of us could pioneer a world assault on poverty, using all the resources of 20th century technology; demonstrate to the world a democracy that can work out a just society; and proclaim to the millions who live under oppression our passionate conviction that freedom can go hand in hand with unselfishness.

B R Elliott

●TEN LEADING CHINESE educators—Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist—have welcomed last month's publication of *The Black and White Book* in Chinese in Hong Kong. They have sent the book to the principals of 330 secondary schools. In an accompanying letter they write, 'We believe the contents of this book will clarify for all the moral and spiritual needs of our confused world situation. We hope it will be used by educators and all people of good faith throughout society.'

'In Hong Kong, as crime figures rise, the delinquency age is falling. Daily the newspapers report robbery, rape and murder. If we do not plan to save the situation, the future of Hong Kong is unthinkable. In view of this, the Government has launched anti-crime and anti-corruption campaigns. But in order to bring peace and security to the community we must reinforce the publicity against both crime and corruption. For instance, making penalties greater only touches the surface. To get to the root of the problem we must energetically promote moral education.'

'How do we do this? This book offers a clear answer. We, the undersigned, are

●JACOB MOHLALA of Johannesburg was interviewed recently over the Swaziland radio in English and Siswati. He gave news of the multi-racial international conference for Moral Re-Armament which is to be held at the Burgers Park Hotel, Pretoria, April 9–15.

●THE METHODIST RECORDER this week carries a half-page advertisement for *Ride! Ride!*, the new musical by Alan Thornhill and Penelope Thwaites. It is inserted by the Methodist Drama Committee.

The true story of Martha Thompson and her encounter with John Wesley, *Ride! Ride!* was commended by the 1973 Methodist Conference as 'an effective instrument of evangelism and as one response to the Denver Call to Mission'.

The advertisement states: 'Groups in-

terested in producing this musical play should contact the secretary of the Methodist Drama Committee for further details. Write to the Rev Leslie J Marsh, 11 Tydfil Place, Roath Park, Cardiff CF2 5HP.'

●AT A recent convention for several thousand teachers in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, much interest was generated by a *Black and White Book* booth. The booth was manned by local teachers and students. Keynote speaker at the convention was British educator, Sir Ronald Gould. Sir Ronald called for a high degree of character training in schools. He said, 'The school should be a microcosm of the world that ought to be.' After his speech, Sir Ronald was presented with *The Black and White Book* by Edmonton students.

He and the other translators are sending the book to 50 of Hong Kong's student leaders.

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●'THE COMMUNIST SOCIETY has failed, the capitalist society has failed, we need to find the society that God wants', says a Uruguayan of marxist conviction. The President of the Uruguayan Chamber of Industry comments, 'The crisis in this country is not economic, it is moral.' This is the setting for a conference being prepared in Uruguay, a nation recently shaken by the most serious political crisis it has undergone in its history.

A group of men and women from this country have launched a conference with the theme 'A Faith to Remake Men and Nations: A Solution for Uruguay, America and the World' from 28 March to 2 April in the capital, Montevideo. People are expected from other parts of Latin America and the world.

The organisers say that the conference will provide a platform where delegates from other countries of the continent, together with Uruguayans, can forge a

force committed to bringing God's standards and a new society to a continent passing through deep changes.

On the initiative of a young secretary in an insurance company the 25 Members of the State Council—recently formed to replace the Parliament which was closed last year—are being visited. They are being invited to the conference and being given *The Black and White Book* with the conviction that it will help them in their task in the country.