

NEW WORLD NEWS

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ABC Radio interviews Stanley Barnes

D Mayor

'Shift national will' to end world hunger, says Australian State Minister

'OUR PROBLEMS of unemployment and re-employment pale into insignificance against the enormity of the challenge of this book,' said James Ramsay, Minister of Labour and Industry for Victoria, Australia, launching Stanley Barnes' book *200 Million Hungry Children* at a public meeting in Melbourne.

The book describes the impact of poverty on the lives of people in the Third World, and practical steps that the affluent countries can take to help alleviate it.

'As we get this book read widely,' said Mr Ramsay, 'we will start a shift in the national will, to make the needs of a hungry world a priority for the nation and in our own lives.'

Mr Barnes said that his concern in writing the book was how to mobilise the political will necessary to overcome world hunger. It was morally wrong to cut down milk production in Australia. 'A special fund,' he

said, 'should be set up for long term projects, using milk to answer malnutrition and also to develop local milk production in the Third World.'

Mr Barnes outlined three urgent considerations:

'Firstly, we must state the need in stark terms. Fifteen million children—equal to Australia's population—will die this year and next in a world of plenty. Even if they survive, their insufficient diet could limit their mental and physical development.

Many things can wait—the children cannot. Right now his bones are being formed, his blood is being made, his senses are being developed. To him, we cannot answer 'tomorrow'. His name is 'today'.

Gabriel Mistral,
Nobel Prize winner, Chile

'Secondly, we must have concrete proposals. Milk from the dairying countries can be used to answer malnutrition. A special fund is needed over 20 to 25 years to help Third World countries develop their own milk production.

'Thirdly, we need a passion—to burn to bring an answer, and a compassion—to see every insurmountable obstacle as a challenge, and not to be put off by cold-blooded indifference, or use mistakes as an excuse for doing nothing.'

John O'Brien, a dairy farmer from the Latrobe Valley in Victoria, told how the dairy surplus of a few years ago had been replaced with a shortage because farmers were advised to produce less milk. Recently a contract for 10,000 tonnes of cheese had had to be turned down as a result.

'Yet,' he said, 'we can produce most of our milk for eight cents per litre (18p per gallon). Australia and New Zealand have the resources and capacity to increase production. It will need us farmers and all you people to support us to produce the food the Third World needs.'

'Is this the issue that will unite government, unions and management?' asked Mr Jim Beggs, President of the Melbourne Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation. 'No trade unionist can ever be satisfied while 200 million children go to bed hungry each night. I will get this book to the trade union movement with an urgent note to study it.'

A valuable compendium of information... (even) his critics do not deny the importance and relevance of this book in the North-South debate.

ACTION NEWS
the newspaper of Action Aid, London

Kim Beazley, former Federal Minister for Education, said, 'Whoever we may blame for the starvation, poverty and disease in some countries, we can't blame the children.'

Dr Beazley cited the example of the eradication of tuberculosis in Australia. This was a success because the government at the time took the fundamental step to 'make a decision' although details of the operation were not fully worked out. 'We must decide that Australia will attack the problem of hunger in the world. When you make a decision it is astonishing what can be achieved.'

Press, radio and television carried news of the launching and interviews with Mr Barnes. A national radio programme had an hour-long interview and phone-in questions. Mr Barnes has now embarked on an Australia-wide speaking tour.

Edward Howard and Mohan Bhagwandas

'200 million hungry children' by Stanley Barnes, published by Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ, hardback £4.95, with postage £5.65, paperback £1.50, with postage £1.95.

A splendid summary of proposals... A good book for those who will pause to ponder hard facts.

CHURCH TIMES, London



The Hon James Ramsay, Minister of Labour and Industry for Victoria, speaking at the book launching

D Mayor

Life on the knife-edge of survival

Over the past five years half a million Ethiopians and Eritreans have fled their country and found sanctuary in the neighbouring Sudan. To supply the needs of such a number has put great strains on even such a traditionally generous people as the Sudanese. Last month the Sudanese Government called a conference to consider the needs. It was attended by 300 delegates from 27 governments and 60 voluntary agencies. Among them was JAMES BAYNARD-SMITH from Oxford, who writes:

PRESIDENT NIMEIRY, opening the conference, said, 'We need a complete reappraisal in the light of the forces to which Africa is being subjected. We believe in the interdependence of the world, and the birth of new values and ideas to govern it.'

Throughout the conference, and in the subsequent days visiting the camps near the Eastern border, I pondered what 'a complete reappraisal' would mean. The conference had achieved much materially. £12 million of aid had been pledged. It was resolved to set up a Sudanese refugee fund to plan and co-ordinate the many projects agreed dealing with nutrition, health, education and employment.

What about the other needs? A doctor well known for his work in disaster relief said to me, 'We are only dealing with the outer man. MRA seeks the care and cure of the inner man, and this is of paramount importance.'

A TV journalist struck the necessary note recently when he said, 'There are now 12 million souls in the world's refugee community.' Only a world community of people who care can match this—people who will wrestle to find what will preserve the dignity and motivation of these people, without which life on the knife-edge of survival cannot long be sustained.

We travelled nearly 1000km across the



A Weeks

James Baynard-Smith

remorseless desert, and all we saw revealed the urgency of the need. The refugees have had to forsake their natural environment in the cool Ethiopian highlands for temperatures of 117°F. They face a seemingly endless exile, many having lost everything including their families. The poignant remark of an army officer stuck in my mind, 'We feel we are on the front line of the free world, and we mean to keep that freedom going.'

But how to do that? One experience gave me hope. In one camp was a friend I had last known in Addis Ababa, where he had been working courageously to challenge injustice, both under the old and the new regime, and to build a country on morally-sure foundations. I had heard nothing from him for four years. Hearing I was in the country, he came to Khartoum. He told me of the demoralisation that had overtaken his people, and how he himself had lost his faith and fighting spirit. But, he said, two weeks before our meeting he had decided to resume the task God had shown him originally, to gather up the stitches of his life and start giving the moral leadership lacking among his people. 'I know that serious divisions and faction-fighting could have been avoided if I had kept straight myself,' he said.

Christian land

Sitting by the Nile, we listened again to God's still, small voice in our hearts. Two of his compatriots joined us, and decided to support him in certain initiatives to deal with matters that were lowering morale in the camps. If the resolutions at the Khartoum conference are to be effective, this is the kind of action needed.

How and why did I become involved in the work among the refugees and exiles? It was when a brutal regime took over in Ethiopia. Some of my friends among whom I had lived and worked for seven years, were executed or imprisoned. Some managed to escape. Among these exiles I have seen faith growing, a trust between people, that gives hope of a better tomorrow in that ancient Christian land.

Those who have suffered most often have deep truths to share, of universal value. I have found that those who are freed of hate have a view of mankind's future which we, in the so-called free world, need. My commitment, with my family, is to follow that vision, lead where it may.

'Action-provoking idea' -Indian union leader

FIFTEEN INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES from Pune, India, were represented at a weekend industrial gathering at Asia Plateau, MRA's

centre in the Maharashtra hills, recently. Among those attending were six managing directors, three executive directors and four general managers.

One executive director said afterwards, 'We have often met each other in different forums such as the Chamber of Commerce, but never for so long and in such an inspiring atmosphere.'

This was one of a series of industrial gatherings held recently at Asia Plateau. At

the next gathering another 15 companies were represented, and this time there were men from both management and labour.

Rabindra Nath Roy, the Secretary of a steel mill union, spoke about the effects of an earlier MRA seminar in Durgapur. 'We are searching for an adequate ideology to meet the deepening crisis in the eastern industrial bastion of India,' he said. 'In this situation the seminar brought us something not Left, not Right, but straight. In the past I

Demand for cour

by Sally
a teacher f

'THE PART I PLAYED as a teenager in removing prayer from public schools was criminal.' So, recently, said William Murray, son of the atheist woman whose action 16 years ago led to the US Supreme Court's decision banning prayer in public schools in the United States.

That decision, eliminating state-ordered prayers, has resulted in taboos reaching far beyond the intent of the Supreme Court judges. Christmas can no longer be celebrated in schools; Bibles are removed from school library shelves in many places. In one state recently, the courts ordered the Gideons, a Bible-distributing organisation, to stop distributing to students on school premises. Yet in that state, as in others, explicit information on sex perversions is given to 11 and 12-year-olds, as part of a 'value-free' programme of sex education.

Mr Murray continued, in his statement to the press, 'Inasmuch as the suit to destroy the tradition of prayer in school was brought in my name, I feel gravely responsible for the resulting destruction of the moral fibre of our youth.'

Educators, parents and public are all deeply concerned about the alarming rise of teenage crime, violence and suicide, which has more than doubled in 15 years. School boards across the land are now seeking programmes of education in moral and spiritual values.

Best of our tradition

Dr Richard Hunter, Superintendent of Schools of Richmond, Virginia, said recently, 'If students are to develop into humanistic and contributive members of society, their spiritual needs must be fulfilled. The transmission of knowledge comprises only half of our job, while the other half entails the translation of knowledge into desirable action.'

What programme will prove effective? Will an intellectual awareness of what social and ethical values are acceptable to society result in changed behaviour? Dr Lawrence Kohlberg of Harvard, one of the foremost authorities on this subject, is one of many who doubt the effectiveness of such an approach.

What can motivate people to serve, and to accept responsibility in our comfortable,

se in US schools

Ensor,
om Virginia

affluent society? 'Being good is just too dull,' a 14-year-old student told me one day. 'I want an adventurous life.'

I decided to discover exactly what the judges said in that famous—or infamous—1964 decision, banning prayer. Did they actually eliminate all reference to faith in a Supreme Being in the schools, or was the objection only to a state-ordered prayer? One judge, I found, had written in his opinion to that decision, 'It might well be said that one's education is not complete without a study of... the history of religion and its relationship to the advancement of civilisation.' Another had written, 'the Court would recognise the propriety of... the teaching about religion.' In a decision in an earlier case, a judge had maintained that 'we are a religious people, whose institutions presuppose a Supreme Being... When the state encourages religious instruction... it follows the best of our tradition.'

Bringing peace and prosperity

Acting on these assumptions, I prepared a course of study based on the motivating purposes of America's founders and builders. The aims of such men and women as Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Booker T Washington are portrayed through stories from their lives, geared to the interests of 10 to 13-year-olds. In the course, *To Upturn the World*, students are encouraged to summarise these purposes, to discover whether America has, in her heritage, an idea big enough to unite the nations and bring world peace and prosperity. The validity of those aims today is explored by looking at people who are doing courageous, healing work in the world. The class is encouraged to grapple with community and world problems, and to consider the relevance of honesty, caring and taking responsibility themselves.

The course consists of a pupil's text, and a teacher's guide with reference and suggestions for audio-visual aids.

During the past school year schools in three states have given the course a preliminary trial run. More schools in these states and in two others plan to use it next year. I have now been asked to serve as consultant at a six-week workshop in character education in Mississippi.

have attended thought-provoking seminars. Here was an action-provoking idea. For the first time I realised that I was as corrupt as those I blamed.'

Roy spoke of the responsibilities of the new generation of trade unionists like himself. 'We have become blind to deeper values, and so have fostered vice instead of virtue,' he said. 'What appeals to me here is the practical application of moral values to the trade union field.'



D Channer

'When I came to this spot and saw the bodies of young black and white men dead, I began to see what Arthur was fighting for...' Here John Musekiwa, a farmer from Zimbabwe's North East border, is being filmed for the new film 'Dawn in Zimbabwe'.

In the film he tells how Arthur Kanodereka, his friend and comrade in the liberation struggle, challenged him to enlist in the moral struggle for a Zimbabwe 'that speaks to the world with an answer for East and West'. The film tells of Zimbabweans of all races at work to bring the spirit and attitudes that will build the country.

'Dawn in Zimbabwe', a 28-minute colour film, will be released on August 5. Available from MRA Productions, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF, price £275 or £250 before August 5.

'Time for the black man to arise'

ST PAUL'S, Bristol, is known for the fierce riots that broke out there in April. A poor area of the city, it has a racially-mixed population and high unemployment.

It is also known for the St Paul's Festival, when the area takes on a West Indian Carnival atmosphere. As part of the festival the MRA film *Freedom* was shown. Written and acted by Africans, the film depicts the struggle for independence in an African country. The audience was predominantly teenage black British.

Last week, *A personal choice*, the Scottish Television film about West Indian cricketer Conrad Hunte was shown at the St Paul's Caribbean Fair. This was arranged by the

President of the Bristol West Indian Parents and Friends Association. It was the second recent showing in St Paul's.

In the film, Mr Hunte tells how his experience of Christ has launched him into action to deal with racial violence and injustice. 'The time has now come for the black man to arise,' he says, 'to forgive those who have hurt us, and hold out a helping hand both to those who cause injury and those who are injured.'

Also in South West England, the MRA film *Britain Works—OK!*—in which people from the shop floor of industry say what they think and are doing about Britain's troubles—was shown in Transport House, Swindon. Invited by the District Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, it was shown straight after the monthly meeting of district officers. Jack Carroll, former Chairman of the Bristol docks branch of the TGWU, introduced the film.

Lion loose in Oxford

THE LATE C S LEWIS centred much of his life and work around Oxford. During the first week of July, *The Song of the Lion* brought the personality, wit, and profundity of the Oxford don again to the town and university he loved.

This play, the latest Aldersgate production, brings to life the struggles out of which grew

his ability to express faith in a way that has made his books sell into their millions.

The Oxford Times called the play 'a stage entertainment of a rare order' and referred to Hugh Manning's portrayal of Lewis, saying, 'It is no exaggeration to describe it as a virtuoso performance.' The *Oxford Times* called it 'spellbinding'. To coincide with the event, the Bodleian Library assembled an exhibition of Lewis's photographs and memorabilia.

On Monday, *The Song of the Lion* opens in London at the Collegiate Theatre.

Operation Pacific under way

from Alice Cardel
in New Zealand

'YOU MUST COME to my country,' said the wife of a former Prime Minister from the South Pacific. 'We need this idea of Moral Re-Armament. Just raise the money for your fares. My family and friends will look after your accommodation and other needs.'

She had been listening to a Maori girl tell how she had found freedom from her hatred of the Pakehas, the white people of New Zealand, and was now working with them to build a society that cares for all races. A group of us had gone to meet the lady at the suggestion of a New Zealand MP who knew her concern for her country.

Through such initiatives, 'Operation Pacific' is getting under way. The concept was launched at the MRA Assembly in Sydney, Australia, last January. At that conference were a number of people from the Pacific. Many of us from other countries began to understand the values they hold important.

Billy Wapoto, principal of a secondary school in New Caledonia, explained the

situation he found when, having been educated by Europeans, he started teaching his own people. 'In the European system children compete for the best marks. But competition is not encouraged in our culture, and the good pupils were coming last. We had to look for new motives. We enlisted the children to care for the school—cleaning classrooms, washing up dishes—to help the others. They started to find new sense in their studies as a result. Children are not bags to be filled with knowledge. They have feelings.'

Unfolding

A number of us from the Pacific, and the countries bordering the Pacific, felt that the people of this area could help the world find the new level of caring needed to answer such issues as the rich-poor gap. It will mean bringing the Holy Spirit's challenge to bear on everyday life in homes, offices, schools and governments.

To this end a group of us from different parts of New Zealand and from Japan, Taiwan, Papua-New Guinea and the Philippines have been at work here. We have met diplomats, politicians, housewives, all kinds of people. We have spoken in schools and at many other gatherings. And gradually God's plan for 'Operation Pacific' is unfolding.

Freedom from revenge

AS ZIMBABWE adjusts to the new regime of black leadership many voices are calling for patience and co-operation. The war has ended but old hurts remain to be healed.

In this task the film *Freedom* continues to play its part. In Bulawayo recently a hall was filled to capacity with young men and women. There had been considerable tension in the area and the police thought it better to be around in case of trouble. But the film was received with frequent applause.

On a large farm south of Salisbury some 200 of the farm staff and their families crowded into a shed where school benches had been brought in for the lucky ones. The remainder sat on the floor and listened intently as the story unfolded. Although mostly Shona speaking, their chuckles from time to time showed that a lack of English was little barrier to understanding.

There was a showing for a youth conference at Marandelles, and for students at the University of Zimbabwe. A mining company has taken a copy to show at three of their mines. It is quietly reaching out to the nation and each week brings new requests.

One man told recently of his application of the ideas of the film. He had gone to the home of a young guerilla fighter who had died when, visiting his parents for the first time in five years, he had been spotted by a rival gang and murdered.

The father was grief-stricken. 'We know who did it and we are going to get them,' he said. 'I have called my sons together.'

Ancestors

'I don't think that is what your son would want,' the man replied. 'He was with me in recent months, persuading his comrades to come into the guerrilla assembly camps. He would not want the violence to continue.'

The father was adamant. 'They killed my son,' he said. 'We must have our revenge.' The man then told him of his own hatred for certain people and how God had taken it away. 'If you listen to Him,' he said, 'God will show you what to do.'

'I don't understand that,' the father replied. 'I only listen to my ancestors. They show me what to do.' 'Yes,' the man replied, 'but who speaks to your ancestors? Isn't it God?' There was a silence and the father slowly nodded his head. After a long pause he said, 'I think you are right. Vengeance is not going to help.' Rising up he sent for his sons and told them to drop their plan for revenge.

African Ministers meet industrialists

THE MINISTERS OF LABOUR of Kenya and Zambia recently met with the European committee of industrialists and trade unionists who organise the annual industrial conferences at Caux, the MRA centre in Switzerland. The two ministers were among 37 people from 17 nations who attended a lunch in Geneva hosted by the MRA industrial committee. The lunch took place in the UN's Palais des Nations building, during the International Labour Organisation conference being held there.

That morning members of the MRA committee had met Mr J. J. Oeschlin, Chairman of the employers' group at the ILO conference and President of the International Organisation of Employers, and in the afternoon the whole committee was received by M Francis Blanchard, Director General of the ILO.

The following Sunday, 30 of the delegates to the ILO conference, mostly from Africa and Latin America, spent the day at the MRA centre in Caux.

Quickest way

'REBIRTH IN MEN—rebirth of hope' is the theme of this year's International Assembly for MRA at Caux, Switzerland, which opened last week.

'External factors are not the deciding element in creating hope,' said Pierre Spoerri, one of those responsible for the Assembly, at the opening session. 'The quickest way to find hope is through restoring broken relationships, with others or between communities and states.'

Among the sessions of the conference will be one on family life—which will have a part for every member of the family; one for politicians on the initiative of 20 parliamentarians from 12 countries; and one for leaders of industry, trades unions and those concerned with economic affairs.

Philips paperback

45 YEARS WITH PHILIPS, the autobiography of Frederik Philips of the giant Dutch electrical company, has been published in paperback.

The *Times* wrote of the book, 'It is to be hoped that industry will learn something from his views on its powers and, more particularly, its responsibilities.' Mr Philips is one of the invitation committee to the Caux industrial conference.

'45 years with Philips', Philips Electrical Ltd, available from Grosvenor Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ. Price (paperback) £1.95, with postage £2.55.