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## THROUGH CONFERENCE AND COMMISSION TO PARTNERSHIP

Last month 105 people gathered in Quebec City for a weekend conference on 'Healing Canadian communities'. They came from six provinces, France and the USA. Following the Oka crisis of 1990 with the Mohawk nation (when the army had to intervene), and the negative vote in last October's national referendum, the weekend was a search for a partnership of purpose between our communities.

Many native people of different tribes participated with spiritual ceremonies, dances and in sharing their ways of thinking and living. The Algonquin spiritual leader, William Commanda, said, 'Nobody should say, "I belong to myself." The Creator is caring for everyone and everything under the sun. It is sad that the white man came from Europe looking for freedom, but imprisoned us... Until we forgive we will get nowhere.'

Before the conference, I gave a 30-minute presentation to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples at its request. This was a fruit of our bridge-building work between the Mohawk people and Canadians after the Oka crisis. The Commission asked for MRA's experiences of forgiveness and reconciliation as well as of conflict resolution.

Laurent Gagnon

## EVADING THE CROCODILES

From Papua New Guinea comes a report written in Suau, the language of the Milne Bay area, about a *Lauwasi* (outreach) to 34 villages in the region. It was led by Dumodi Wolaka and others. 'We started with a small House Party in November', they write. 'We felt we needed to face the four standards so that God could tell us how to work effectively. Many put things right with their families and our Church, and even with the Law. Then the eleven of us set off, travelling from village to village on foot, in canoes and by truck. Up to 200 people would gather in the evenings. We shared about listening to God. In some cases, husbands and wives decided to straighten their lives, build happy homes and return to the Church.'

Many children came - at one village we counted 353 - so we held meetings for them. After a time of listening they had no shyness in speaking of their

dishonesty, or disobedience to their parents, and apologised. *Rascals* (gang members) put things right with their community in public. Two *rascals* joined our team, and were able to help other young men as we travelled. Once we had to swim a swollen river; one canoe capsized, and Margo Doilegu had to be hauled into another. Our guide was swept out to sea, but was rescued. Crocodiles are plentiful in that area. In all, we visited over 1,000 homes. Though the mosquitoes were terrible, none of us got sick for a single day till we arrived back in Alotau - then we all got malaria!

They returned in time to prepare for an Easter camp at Kwato island. Margo writes that six or seven hundred attended the meetings, swelling to over a thousand for the final service at which 57 young men and women were baptised, including her three daughters. 'Then back to Alotau, where everyone is hard at work baking bread and running a canteen to raise funds. Being close to the Charles Abel Highway, there is a constant flow of people; and their freshly-baked bread is extremely popular.'

'The latest news is of a surprise visit by a team from Amau, who walked 250 miles along bush tracks to Alotau. One was a grandson of Biruma, Chief of a headhunting tribe who changed in the 1930s and became a staunch Christian and wonderful character. They arrived looking a bit bedraggled, but were warmly welcomed by villagers around, and provided with gifts of clothes from Alotau's second-hand shops. Their visit was very fruitful and, as often happens when hearts are touched, so were pockets. They made no request for donations, but are returning with \$600 towards completing the church they are building.'

## VENTURE TO INDONESIA

At the Asian consultation in Malaysia last year, we felt we should reach out afresh to Indonesia. As a result, seven of us from Asian nations have just spent a week there as the guests of Hassan Shadily, a prominent publisher, who has been at Asia Plateau and in Japan. He and his wife were generous hosts, and invited many people to meet us; on one evening 22 people came to a dinner party at their home. After a session on MRA with 30 leaders of the Catholic Students' Association of

Indonesia, Mr Shadily said that MRA was 'opening the gates for us to hear more from each other'.

Mr Ariopireno, an old friend and pioneer of MRA in Indonesia, invited 25 students to meet us in his home where we were joyously welcomed by him, his wife and others of the family. Introducing MRA, Mr Ariopireno said that its ideas were not new to Indonesia, but were part of its mythology. They were also part of all the religious traditions of Indonesia. and in keeping with the *Pancasila* (Indonesia's national ideology).

We were introduced to this great land of nearly 200 million people by a group of young people, Christian and Muslim, who looked after us so very graciously and who became such good friends. Wanting to support their endeavours with MRA, we have offered to conduct a 3-day training programme for them later this year.

Kyoshi Nagano Jang Ching-Jiang Ron Lawler  
Charles Ooi K Haridas Liu Ren Jou  
Patrick Santa Maria

#### SHAPING A RESPONSIBLE SOCIETY

The theme of the fourth International Communications Forum, held in the United States at the beginning of May, was 'Helping reflect and shape a free and responsible society'. It was initiated by Byron Nahser, Chief Executive Officer of Frank C Nahser Inc Advertising, and hosted by the Robert McCormick Foundation, Wheaton, Illinois. Senior editors from *Time*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Washington Post* and *The Cincinnati Inquirer* were present. At a moment when Martyn Lewis, BBC newscaster, and Michael Medved, Hollywood film critic, were raising, amidst much controversy, the social impact of their own media, the 36 participants focussed on what could be done. As Roger Parkinson of Cowles Media Co, Minneapolis, stated, 'We're not looking for censorship nor media-bashing but asking, "Where can I change?"' The Mayor of Nizhni Novgorod, Russia's third city, sent the Deputy Mayor to announce the next Forum to be held in his city, September 10-14, 1993. A report of the Forum will be available from London.

Hugh Nowell John Williams

#### HUNTE GAINS ASSISTANT

Conrad Hunte is hard at work training South African blacks in cricketing skills. Already they are winning games and, says Conrad, 'in the next three to five years we should produce two or three stars who

will take their place alongside their white compatriots. When this happens, South Africans will see them not as white, black or brown, but as excellent.'

Mark Boobbyer has accepted Conrad's invitation to assist him in the development project set up by the United Cricket Board of South Africa, and will go with Cathy and their son Angus in September. They have been offered the use of a flat and car in South Africa, but need to provide their own living and work expenses.

Writes Mark, 'We are determined to go and help Conrad as fully as possible. We are also delighted to be going to South Africa because Cathy grew up in Cape Town and I have never been.'

#### 'HELP US TO KNOW THE TRUTH'

'There are experiences so traumatic that they are hard to verbalise,' said a participant in last month's consultation in Stockholm on 'Co-operation and reconciliation around the Baltic Sea'. The Swedish director of a university for peace studies in Austria added, 'That's why it is so valuable that we meet here.'

We were 35 from 10 countries - university lecturers and an industrialist from St Petersburg, an ex-Cabinet Minister with responsibility for ethnic minorities in Estonia, a Russian orthodox priest from Latvia, a Polish farmer, a Lithuanian journalist who was in the television tower in Vilnius in January 1991 when the fate of her country was decided there. 'We must talk out our pain', said a Latvian university lecturer. 'The ethnic mentality is dangerous. The key is the individual soul's relation to God, not ethnic identity.' A Russian teacher said, 'The first step towards democracy in Russia is to begin to tell the truth. Help us to know the truth. That is more important aid than bread and sugar.' There was unanimity that the process should continue.

Gunnar Söderlund Finn Harald Wetterfors

#### LISTEN IN LITHUANIA

The biggest publisher in Lithuania has published Annejet's books *Listen to the Children* and *Listen for a Change* in one volume. It is their first book from the West, and we were invited to launch it. Our hostess in Vilnius was Dalia Kutraite, who has a regular TV programme and has taken part in the International Communications Forum. She arranged for us to be interviewed on TV, radio and for the magazine *Family* (30,000 circulation). We

also met people at the Department of Ethics, where Dalia hopes material on MRA can be collected and made available.

For our three days in Kaunas we stayed in the home of a teacher and her family. At our mention of the four standards to her class of 16 year olds, she wrote them on the blackboard. Afterwards we had a time of listening and discussion. The teacher was so intrigued that she did the same with her next class after we had left.

In a total of six days in both cities we met and made friends with over 80 people, and were struck by their sense of anticipation for the future.

**Annejet Campbell and Elizabeth Locke**

### FROM MONGOLIA TO EL SALVADOR

An international team of 15 has been meeting delegates to the International Labour Conference in Geneva - Ministers of Labour, civil servants, employers and trade union leaders. With Bekie Chan from Hong Kong, we've had a lunch at the MRA office for some of the Chinese workers' group, dessert and drinks in a Geneva home with some of the Chinese employers, and we've just had our traditional Sunday outing to Caux, with 16 delegates and wives, including three of the Chinese Government delegation. They were sent by their Minister who came to Caux two years ago, when he was Deputy Minister. Three came from Mongolia, others from Africa and Latin America, including the Minister of Labour from El Salvador and his wife: the usual extraordinary!

**Andrew Stallybrass**

### ODAWARA CENTRE 'REBORN'

Last year was the the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Odawara Centre. In the past year it has undergone major renovation, and has just been reborn as *Asia Centre ODAWARA*.

The opening reception at the end of May was attended by Odawara's Mayor, the Chairman of the City Council, Senator Nishiyama and 50 other guests. Masahide Shibasawa, Executive Director of the MRA Foundation, spoke about the inauguration of the centre in 1962 by Prime Minister Ikeda, in the presence of former Premier Yoshida and other dignitaries. He expressed appreciation for the gifts received from abroad at that time, such

as blankets from New Zealand, furniture from Australia, and even a dishwashing machine from Europe. An antique writing desk given at that time by President Ngo Din Diem of South Vietnam was exhibited.

*Asia Centre Odawara* is now able to host international conferences and seminars. While continuing to offer facilities to outside groups, the Centre plans to organise its own seminars.

Keisuke Nakayama, newly appointed Managing Director of the MRA Foundation, and also Director of the Odawara Centre, was actively involved with MRA in the sixties. He says, 'Not only does the Centre have to provide for a new era, but also, on a personal level, we have to create a new era.'

**Yukihisa Fujita**

### THROUGH THE CHURCH TO THE REGION

In recent years one way we have reached our region of Scotland has been through inviting speakers with experience of MRA to our church, Beechgrove Church in Aberdeen, one of the best-known in Scotland. People like Alec Smith, General Lagu and Allan Griffith have not only caught the interest of the congregation, but also of the media, and their experience has thus reached widely. This year the speaker was Densen Mafinyani, head of development for the Zimbabwean Council of Churches.

**Finlay Moir**

### FIRST IN SLOVAKIA

The first MRA Visiting Course, *Foundations for Freedom*, (see WB Feb 1993) will be held in Slovakia. A large chalet in the High Tatra mountains has been booked for mid September.

In April we visited Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland, and met many people who were keen for such courses in their area. Widespread demand seems likely in the next few years.

There is still much to do and we and the other organisers are keen to hear from anyone interested, and particularly from those able to offer contributions to the concept, development or delivery of this programme.

**Erik Andren John Bennett**

### CHANGING FOR A CHANGE

Following a meeting in London in April about *For a Change*, and wide consultation, we have decided to publish the magazine bi-monthly from January 1994. Each issue will be 24 pages, and we will stick with this for at least five years. Details are being worked on, including possible cost savings.

In the meantime, the next two issues should be humdingers. The first, due at the end of July, will focus on *Healing the Heart of America*. It will also feature a profile of Brother Roger of Taizé, and an article by Philip Boobbyer on repentance, in the thinking of Russian intellectuals. The following issue will carry a lead story on Caux by Choice Okoro.

Edward Peters

### NEXT YEAR'S ROUND TABLE

The Caux Industrial Conference and the Caux Round Table have traditionally had their meetings at Caux in August. But for some potential participants, this is not a good month. One senior European industrialist who we hope will have an important part in this aspect of our work is able to participate in the CRT on July 26, 1994. He has reserved that day. Having consulted those especially concerned, we feel we should let this date guide us. May we suggest that next year the Industrial Conference be July 20 evening through lunch July 24, and the Caux Round Table from July 24 (dinner) through breakfast July 27.

Chris Evans    Maarten de Pous

### FAXES AND INTER-CONTINENTAL HARMONY

To our friends in other time zones: Please use our 'piggyback' tel/faxes ONLY during (our) daylight hours (approx. 7am - 9pm). Otherwise the telephone rings and wakes us up. We shall try to be equally considerate with you!                      Peter and Rosemary Thwaites    David and Jane Mills

### FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

Mike and Jean Browns' address is 631 Plymouth Way, Burlingame, CA 94010, USA, (not 63 as we stated in the last issue).

From July 1, Germany will have new postcodes with five digits. The new codes for some friends follow; for further facts contact Thomas Bräckle:

- Pierre and Fulvia Spoerri, Bonn, 53175; Thomas and Christa Bräckle, Viernheim, 68519; Heinz and Gisela Krieg, Berlin, 12163; Martin Eckart Fuchs, Karlsruhe, 76137; Margrit Schmitt-Gehrke, Heidelberg, 69121; Hubert Eggemann, Gladbeck, 45964; Friedrich and Margret Schock, Schorndorf, 73614; Matthias and Martina Freitag, Berlin, 13627.

### FOR FAX USERS ONLY!

'Down under' as we are, and oceans apart from most *World Bulletin* readers, we in Australia deeply appreciate the marvels of the fax machine. The immediacy it brings to written communication helps us feel all the closer to each others' concerns and ideas. May we offer a suggestion to those who experience difficulty in connecting by fax?

Where possible dial the required number on the fax machine's or associated telephone handset and listen to the full ringing/answering sequence until you hear the squeal of the called fax machine responding. Only then press the 'start' button on your machine. Often you will find that the problem is not specifically fax, but that you have rung a voice call number instead of a dedicated fax number, or that the called fax machine is not switched on, or that the long-distance telephone lines are overloaded, or that an answering machine is wrongly picking up the call. All these are revealed by the suggested technique, but otherwise are concealed behind mysterious 'Busy -redial?' or 'Autodial error' messages, and can cause anguish both ends!

Jonathan Lancaster, Melbourne

**The deadline for the next Bulletin is Wednesday, September 15, 1993.**

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