

## JAPANESE MEET AT KOBE ....

In October, the 19th annual Kobe MRA Conference was inaugurated in this earthquake-recovered city. Seventy people attended from the Kansai region.

Speaking to the conference theme, 'Can Asia fulfil its role in response to the world's needs in the 21st century?', Yoshiteru Sumitomo stressed the need for Japan to be involved with Asia while also appreciating more deeply the development within Asian nations.

Five from the rest of Asia took part: Niketu Iralu and Alebu Peseyre from Nagaland, India; Liu Ren-Jou, Taiwan; Son Soubert, Cambodia; and K Haridas, Malaysia. They shared valuable insights and spoke of the moral leadership expected from Japan. When we met in smaller groups, many were moved to tears by the honest sharing and the expectations and sense of vision expressed about Japan's role in the modern world.

*Megumi Kanematsu K Haridas*

## .... AND AT ODAWARA

The autumn conference at Odawara was held on October 19-20 with the theme 'Towards Internationalization at Home: Learning with Asians – in the Family, Society, the World'. Among the 75 participants were Koreans, Chinese (including Uighurs), Cambodians, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Iranians, Austrians and British – all living in Japan. For those of us who think of Japan as an island set apart and isolated from the Asian mainland it was a new perspective. In the discussion groups we explored how the atmosphere created in the home affected relations in society. There were great contrasts between those who live for their work to the detriment of their families, and those who place more value on family life! It was a time of learning together, from each other and about each other.

*Hugh Wilkinson*

## ROLES CHANGE IN JAPAN

In the General Election on October 20, Yukihiisa was elected to the House of Representatives from the Tokyo proportional constituency for the newly-born Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). Through an encounter with Yukio Hatoyama MP (a grandson of former Prime Minister Ichiro Hatoyama who decorated Frank Buchman) who participated in the *Agenda for Reconciliation* at Caux, and who is a co-founder of the DPJ, Yuki, with Leiko's backing,

accepted the unexpected guidance to stand. We are thankful for Yukio Hatoyama's generous support and the heartfelt prayers of those of you who knew our decision.

Yuki continues to be 'full time with MRA' – to work to remake the world by implementing MRA ideas in policy-making and by close care for those in national leadership. Along with two others in the Fujita office near the Diet, Leiko will be his secretary: room 422, 2-2-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100. Tel: +81 3 3508 7122; Fax: +81 3 3508 3422.

*Yukihiisa and Leiko Fujita*

(Mr Yoshiteru Sumitomo, Chairman of the International MRA Association of Japan [IMAJ], writes that Yukihiisa Fujita contributed a great deal in his full time work with IMAJ, especially in liaising with overseas MRA groups. He asks us to inform World Bulletin readers that from now on Kiyoshi Nagano will carry that responsibility.)

## 'IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROCESS'

A dozen people – Christian and Muslim Palestinian, and Israeli – met recently in the home of a Palestinian lawyer following the deadly riots in Jerusalem. The lawyer wrote later:

'Recently we hosted in our home Jews and Arabs, mainly those who participated in Caux over the last years; it was a very daring step. We are in a bad situation, unclear and risky, but we hope that the peace process will succeed.

'I was astonished to see the clearness and straightness from the Palestinian side, and the fair reaction from the Israeli side; they spoke about forgiveness but they also spoke about restoration; forgiveness cannot exist in a vacuum. We are still in the middle of a process; it is better to talk about understanding each other's needs.

'We tried to evaluate Caux's role in solving conflicts, and spoke about the Lebanese experience in Caux and through Caux.'

*Bryan Hamlin*

## ARTISTS MEET IN POLAND

The sixth meeting of painters combined with an MRA conference took place in south-west Poland from November 5-13. Twenty-four people came from Moldavia, Russia, Sweden, Ukraine and of course Poland. Morning silent times and evening discussions were often enlightened by quotes from

the Bible. We thought about the problem of identity, the place of God in our lives, and the relationship between the artist and his environment. 150 works – oil paintings, watercolours and graphics – were shown at the open exhibition. Another gathering is planned for next autumn.

*Krystyna Bieniek Marzena Kecik*

#### FROM HAGUENAU, WITH THANKS

We received over 200 responses on the 'Questions preparing for Haguenau'. A hearty thank-you to all who wrote! The 43 of us who came from five continents to Haguenau received a five-page summary, and copies of your replies in full were available for detailed study. So we had plenty of food for thought.

The amazing aspect of the time together was the gift of community with a purpose. It brought together difference and diversity, talent and timidity, experience and expectancy, in a way which cannot happen by effort alone.

A report of our discussions, decisions and recommendations is being sent out widely. If you do not receive one and wish to, please contact your regional World Bulletin distributor.

The general programme for Caux 1997 has gone to print in English, French and German. Please send in your bulk orders by fax or e-mail to the MRA Geneva conference office by **December 12**. If a traveller through Switzerland can pick up your copies, please tell us when you place your order.

*Marianne and Christoph Spreng*

#### MOVERS AND SHAKERS IN NEW YORK

The work at the UN center continues to expand. Since the summer, 20 people from 10 countries have been with us for varying periods. Some highlights:

The Chinese Ambassador, Mr Qin Huasun, received Bill Jaeger and Rob with openness and warmth for 40 minutes. Together with Bill, we attended a Forum on Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and heard an outspoken talk by Ung Huot, Cambodia's Foreign Minister, who was at Caux in 1994. The Lao Ambassador, we discovered, had seen *Song of Asia* as a student, and asked to meet again.

Following their visits to Caux this year, the Ambassador of the OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) in Geneva, Dr Tarzi, and his wife, and the Hungarian Ambassador in Geneva, Dr Peter Naray, have been to lunches at the Dag Hammarskjöld apartment.

Recently, we both attended a briefing by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr José Ayala-Lasso, who represented Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the *Agenda for Reconciliation* at Caux.

The idea of a major public occasion in New York in the Spring has surfaced. This might build on the *Agenda for Reconciliation* theme, to which the Secretary General sent his excellent message. Conversations have begun with New Yorkers and others, including friends at the UN. We would welcome your thoughts.

Also much in our prayers is the need for more people in New York. Allan and Mary Griffith spent over a year here, and made an invaluable contribution. As the opportunities multiply we do need support, short-term and long-term. Do please let us know if you have any sense of God nudging you or someone else in this direction.

Skylar and Naila Sherman are settling into their new apartment in Queens, just across the river from Manhattan. The apartment at 401 East 88th Street has closed. The Shermans' new address is 99-15 66th Avenue, Apt. 2C, Rego Park, NY 11374. Tel: +1 718 997 7146. The Lancasters are at the Dag Hammarskjöld apartment: 240 East 47th Street, Apt 26E, New York, NY 10017, Tel. +1 212 906 0081.

*Rob Lancaster Skylar Sherman*

#### 'RENEWAL – RECONCILIATION – TEAMWORK'

This was the motto for an international MRA meeting in Germany in November. Fifty-six people from Britain, France, Denmark, Holland and Germany took part in four workgroups under the themes: reconciliation, hope in the cities, man and industry, family and education.

It was a time for encouragement, for developing new ideas, for making new friends and working together. We went home with our own decisions, with concrete plans of activities, but also with the feeling that others are going to support us.

*Thomas Braeckle Martin-Eckart Fuchs,  
Ulrike Raab Klaus Tuerck*

#### A NEW MILLENIUM, A NEW START

In Britain numerous plans are afoot to celebrate the millenium with exhibitions, buildings etc, etc, but little has yet been expressed about how it might affect the way each of us lives.

In Jewish law, the Jubilee year, the 50th, was sacred. Slaves were freed, rights and land were restored to those who had lost them, the slate cleaned and a fresh start made. Facing the symbolic deadline of a new millennium, what unfinished business should be completed?

On the 2000th anniversary of Jesus's birth, we might recall his teaching that when you bring an offering to the altar and then remember that someone has something against you, you should go and sort it out before offering your gift. During the *Agenda for Reconciliation* in Caux '96, I sensed that the

Japanese, in acknowledging the wrongs of their past, were discovering a route to wholeness.

During the coming three years, could we, individually and nationally, identify the wrongs others feel we have committed against them, and seek steps of genuine service in atonement? In that way, some of the baggage of hates, hurts, fears and mistrust of this millennium need not be carried over into the next, and it could indeed signify a new start.

*Peter Riddell*

### GROWTH POINTS SURVEY

Thank you to all who participated in this survey. Its aim was to identify areas of growth in our work, coming out of individual change and initiative; or, put another way, to discover where God's spirit is blowing. We received 215 responses from 82 people (i.e. many people listing more than one growth point) identifying 65 different growth points. There are some interesting trends.

In recent years we have seen the development of 'named programmes'. Fifty-seven responses singled out *Foundations for Freedom, Hope in the Cities, International Communications Forum, Caux Scholars Program, Caux Round Table*. In countries where MRA has been long established, particularly Western countries, it appears that a lot of current activity falls within one of these.

Fifty-three responses named one of the training or youth programmes of MRA around the world. We found this encouraging, in that those who responded to the survey were expressing what they are enthusiastic about.

Geographically, the largest number (43) identified activities in Central and Eastern Europe. (We should remember that the survey was largely carried out at Caux and that 64% of respondents were European.) Forty-two named initiatives with an element of reconciliation or peacemaking – in the Middle East, various parts of Africa, India, South East Asia and the Pacific, and inter-faith dialogue. Many of these have brought people to Caux for sessions such as *Regions in Crisis* or this year's *Agenda for Reconciliation*, and to similar conferences at Asia Plateau. Several people, in their responses evaluating the *Agenda for Reconciliation*, suggested that this work, which involves many of us around the world, might benefit from having a name and structure beyond that of an annual conference at Caux.

In summary, much of what we are about and which excites us falls into three overlapping categories – different named programmes; things to do with young people; and initiatives which have a 'healing the wounds of history' aspect to them. This report makes no attempt at commentary but simply looks at trends, and tries to discover where there is growth in our work and the nature of it, always remembering that the talk you had with your

neighbour yesterday, or will have tomorrow, can be the most vital thing any of us do.

*The Coordination Group*

### THE SERENE LIFE IN BATTAMBANG

Alan and I will be travelling to Cambodia on December 11 and will be there for Christmas. *The Serene Life* video is scheduled for the opening session of the 3rd National Seminar on Buddhism and Development of Khmer Society. This five-day seminar in Battambang with the theme, 'Lay down the gun, take up the Dhamma (the Truth)', has been initiated by the Venerable Heng Monechenda, who was in Caux twice in the '80s. It is supported by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

*David Channer*

### CONSULTATION IN AUSTRALIA

What is the future for MRA? One determinant will be the way we approach the engagement, participation and development of people who want to work with us. The Consultation in Australia next April will give shape and inspiration to what we do in these areas. Already we hear of groups meeting to discuss the Consultation themes. In the next World Bulletin we will list the people you can contact with thoughts about the agenda.

Please consider prayerfully who should take part in this Consultation, and send your suggestions by **December 15** to John Mills at: 17 Lewis Avenue Glen Osmond, SA 5064, Australia. Fax: +61 8 8379 3926. Email: jbmills@adelaide.DIALix.oz.au

*John Mills Edward Peters  
for the Support Group*

### "ENCUENTRO DE LAS AMERICAS"

For the fifth consecutive year, people from North, Central and South America will be gathering in Sitio So Luiz, Petropolis, about 50 miles from Rio de Janeiro, from January 30 through February 2, 1997. Besides taking a good look at the needs of the continent as a whole and considering opportunities and common strategies, we will discuss and seek guidance on inspired ways to:

- ◆ find a full partnership with First Nation leaders
- ◆ foster dialogue and positive action that can resolve conflicts throughout the continent
- ◆ encourage honesty and transparency at all levels of government
- ◆ help create a commitment to ethics in professional and business life
- ◆ support the development of a constructive and fair media
- ◆ reinforce moral values in education and community life

We suggest that participants come at least three days before the start of the meeting, and stay on for three days after it. Visits will be organized to

Favella communities, organizations and people in the Rio area, who have experienced social and economic change through personal change. Financial contributions, suggestions about people (from any continent) who should be specially invited, and themes for the agenda will be gladly received. Anyone, anywhere in the world, wishing to attend, please write, fax or e-mail for details to ERNESTO VERAS, Caixa Postal 90250, CEP 25621-970, Petropolis, RJ - BRAZIL  
 FAX: +55 21 268 8378  
 EMAIL: 6103701@mcimail.com  
 North Americans can contact Michael Olson in Minnesota.

Luis Puig

**'SOMETHING TO DECLARE'**

1997 will mark the 30th anniversary of the launching of the musical *Anything to Declare?*. There will be a reunion in Caux from July 31 to August 4, 1997. A letter has gone to those who we remember travelled with and were part of the cast or company at any point. We may have forgotten some. If you were part of it and did not receive that letter, or if you know of some others in this situation, please let me know at: 11, rue Gourgas, CH-1205 Genève, Switzerland.

May I also ask all those who HAVE received the letter to let me know if they are planning to come, especially if they take it for granted that I know!  
 Thank you.

Eliane Stallybrass

**FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES**

For the next six months Laurie and Elsa Vogel can be reached at the following address: c/- Mr and Mrs V Walker, 180 Markham Road, Flat 403, Scarborough, Ontario M1M 2Z9, Canada.  
 Tel: +1 416 267 3708. Fax: +1 416 264 2288.  
**France:** Bill Porter's numbers should have the prefix 03. Thus: Tel: 03 21 05 15 15; Fax: 03 21 05 62 37.  
**Australia:** from the end of January until mid-December 1997 Pieter and Meryl Horn and family will be at 60 Prince Street, Mosman, NSW 2088.  
 Tel/fax: +61 2 9909 8188.  
 Meanwhile, from January 2 for a year, Finlay and Kath Moir will be in **South Africa:** PO Box 11753, Hatfield, 0028 Pretoria.  
 Tel: +27 12 343 1674 Fax: +27 12 344 4425.  
 From February 5 until early December Graeme and Sallie Cordiner and their family will be at the Moirs' home in **Scotland:** 11 Beechgrove Avenue, Aberdeen AB15 5EZ. Tel/fax: +44 1224 63 6136.

## Calendar of Events

NOV '96	<u>Minnesota USA</u>	Farmers' Dialogue	Nov 14 - 17
DEC '96	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	Healing the Past, Forging the Future – family conference	Dec 26 - Jan 2
	<u>Prague Czech Republic</u>	Youth gathering/FFF regional meeting in Prague	Dec 28 - Jan 3
JAN '97	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Learning from the 20th century, preparing for the 21st	Jan 3 - 7
	<u>Fitzroy Falls NSW Australia</u>	Teenage camp: 'Signposts for the future'	Jan 11 - 17
	<u>Petropolis Brazil</u>	'Encuentro de las Americas'	Jan 30 - Feb 2
FEB '97	<u>Britain</u>	'Making Democracy Work', 12 day prog. for young Ukrainian MPs	Feb end of Feb
MAR '97	<u>Sydney Australia</u>	International Communications Forum	Mar 15 - 16
APR '97	<u>Victoria Australia</u>	Global Consultation on enlistment and training	Apr 19 - 26

*The deadline for the next Bulletin is Sunday, December 15, 1996*

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