

GOOD NEWS MAKES HEADLINES

Under the headline 'Faith healing', the major British daily *The Guardian* of August 26 carried Mike Smith's lead story from *For A Change*, 'Islam and the West'.

The article ran across two pages. 'In the aftermath of the US bombing of alleged terrorist bases,' read the introduction, 'anti-Islamic feelings are running even higher than usual. But Michael Smith sees initiatives in Britain that are good news for hopes of harmony – even if they are doomed never to make the headlines.'

A footnote described Mike as 'managing editor of *For A Change*, a bi-monthly magazine focusing on conflict resolution in international and community relations'.

Readers have written, asking for copies of FAC.

Meanwhile George Walker has sent copies of the issue to all 120 of Britain's Racial Equality Officers.

SEVEN HUNDRED FOR DINNER

The largest dinner ever in the Australian Federal Parliament took place this month as a result of Michael and Erica Henderson's visit to Canberra in June.

Michael and Erica came to Australia in May, and in the next six weeks travelled 8,500 kms, speaking about the challenge of reconciliation. 450 copies of Michael's books were sold.

Their visit coincided with Sorry Day when half a million Australians apologised to Aboriginal people for hurts inflicted by past policies. MRA played a formative role in this campaign. Michael, as an authority on the role of apology in healing wrongs, caught the media's interest. He was interviewed 13 times on radio (twice nationwide), and featured on TV and in newspapers.

Canberra, the national capital, among those who heard him was Alice Chu, a physiotherapist of Chinese background. Like other Asian Australians, she has been alarmed by the recent growth in racial tension in Australia, and was seeking a way to counter this trend. She listened as Michael told of people overcoming racism through a creative response.

The next night, she came with two Asian friends to discuss how a creative response could be made here. The idea which emerged was to hold a dinner in the Great Hall of Parliament. Within ten days they had brought together a committee of 20. They called the dinner 'United in Diversity', expressing its theme thus:

We have committed ourselves to this land. Its joys are ours and we contribute to its rich culture. Its griefs are ours and we can help heal its hurts. This dinner gives us the opportunity to express our contribution to the life of Australia, for the sake of all our children.

Two months later, 700 people packed the Great Hall of Parliament for the dinner. They included the Senate

President and other parliamentarians, diplomats, senior public servants, and people from Canberra's many ethnic and Aboriginal communities.

It was a great, uniting event. Artistes of many cultural backgrounds gave their services. The dinner's three initiators spelt out their vision for Australia; they were joined by Philip Ruddock, Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, and Evelyn Scott, Chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. Radio and TV gave good coverage.

One of the initiators, Loc Luu, who came to Australia from Vietnam as a boy, said later, 'Now I no longer feel unwelcome. I feel wholly part of Australia.' Many echoed his sentiments.

John Bond

CHAMPIONING MULTI-RACIALISM IN FIJI

A long cherished dream was fulfilled last month when I returned for seven days to Fiji, my first visit since our family's three years there in the early '90s. Apart from remaking the links with friends old and new, I attended the funeral of Josevata Kamikamica, a former Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister who, since his participation at the Lae (PNG) conference in 1973, has been a firm supporter, with his wife Esiteri, of the MRA programme in Fiji.

Lauded as 'a man of vision' by Fiji's *Sunday Post*, Joe Kamikamica was a champion of multi-racialism in Fiji and worked tirelessly to bring understanding and tolerance. He formed a new political grouping to tackle the legacy of distrust following the 1987 coup, reminding the country that, 'We shall not grow in stature and wealth by depriving others of their freedoms and opportunities'. Another friend – Adi Kuini Speed, widow of Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra who was deposed by the coup – succeeds him as party leader. She told me of her determination to follow the path of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Glenys Wood

WANANCHI AT WORK

We are seeing many developments as a result of the All-Africa conference for MRA in May. Imam Sheik Ali Shee from Mombasa, who was with us, has received more than a dozen letters from Christians asking him to visit their areas. He is thrilled and wants to initiate more meetings between people of different faiths.

In several places, 'wananchi' (citizens) who attended the conference have gone to heads of government departments, telling them of the challenge to live straight and inviting them to join in. In Tambach in the

Rift Valley and in Nyahururu (Thompson's Falls), local people have organised conferences to introduce to their area the idea of living by absolute moral standards and God's guidance. MRA has been invited to sit on two committees that are working for a clean Kenya, and many organisations are ordering MRA films such as *Freedom, Voice of the Hurricane, Is he my brother?* and *Wilberforce*.

Joseph Karanja

A MAGAZINE TO LIFT THE HEART

It is worth begging, borrowing or stealing a copy of *Disha*, the quarterly colour magazine of MRA in India. The July issue has an inspiring blend of thoughtful articles – such as Russi Lala's thoughts on 'Friendship' – and news of people and events, including a stirring story from North East India by Niketu Iralu.

Sheel Rege writes about a recent family conference at Asia Plateau, initiated by Shailendra and Susheela Mahoto, who are of Bihar's tribal peoples. The article consists of talks by paediatrician and social activist Dr Raj Anand and psychologist Maya Kripalani; of dialogues between parents and children on subjects such as TV (which created uproar); and of sharing experiences of tragedy, of healing, of change, in families. 'Quite a few of us emerged thoroughly churned inside, but much lighter,' writes Sheel.

Ten conferences took place at Asia Plateau between April 1 and June 30 this year. Mainly of four days duration, they were attended by a total of 600 people. They included Creative Leadership Programmes for industrial companies; a conference on 'Education Today – Society Tomorrow' for 70 teachers; a week-long camp, 'Preparing the youth for the 21st Century' for 180 young people; a two-day programme for those who give religious leadership in the Indian Army; and a four-day Workshop on Media and Public Health for 51 journalists initiated by Rupa Chinai, and sponsored by UNICEF. The September-December programme at Asia Plateau is even fuller, with 12 conferences planned.

Disha is available from Bhanu Kale, Asia Plateau, Panchgani, Maharashtra 412 805, India. There is no subscription, but donations are welcome.

John Bond

THE FUTURE OF MOUNTAIN HOUSE

The Council of the Foundation for MRA met at the end of the Caux conferences, with great gratitude for the richness of the summer; for the variety of people that God had brought to Caux; for the fresh understandings and change in so many lives; and for all who took responsibility. Despite our tiredness after such busy days, the meeting was lively and positive.

The financial situation is fairly good, though this is because the presence of the SHMS (hotel school) enables us to carry out maintenance work and improvements, and because of recent legacies. We cannot be complacent. Despite the large number during the AFR session, the low number of bednights

overall for the summer and the low payment per night by many participants are a cause for concern.

We noted progress on such things as the water separation project and upgrading the fire alarm system. We planned renovation priorities. Finally we heard a report from the group which has surveyed personnel needs for our conferences. More information on this will be forthcoming, but the Council responds to the general conviction to keep Mountain House operating at its best for at least the next 5-10 years. To do this we will need fresh approaches, and we are exploring ideas that came up.

Anne Hamlin, on behalf of the Caux Foundation

FOR A CHANGE FEATURES CAUX

'Building Bridges Across the Divides' is the theme of the October/November issue of *For A Change*. The magazine focuses on the Caux summer conference, with a four-page lead story by Mary Lean on the Agenda For Reconciliation; and four pages on the 'Aims and Values for the Next Century' dialogue, the Caux Conference for Business and Industry, and the International Communications Forum at which journalists from Sarajevo, South Africa and Northern Ireland looked to their role in ethnic conflicts. The Guest Column is by the international Swiss balloonist Bertrand Piccard, who gave a lecture at Caux.

Michael Smith on behalf of The Editors

CAUX'S WINTER SESSION AND WEB PAGES

The theme of the winter session in Caux, December 26 - January 2, will be 'To venture or not to venture – that is the question'. The programme is designed for families and younger people in particular. You can send in your application via the Caux Web pages.

Throughout the summer conferences, our media releases were available on our Web site within minutes of being released. If you have not seen the site, can we suggest you organise a 'Web party' with someone who has a computer and modem, and visit it and the other 'MRA family' sites?

Christoph Spreng & Andrew Stallybrass

PREPARING CAUX 1999 IN EARLY NOVEMBER

May we warmly welcome you to this meeting at the Maison St Gérard in Haguenuau, near Strasbourg.
– Arrival: Wednesday November 4, for supper 18h30
– Departure: Monday November 9, after breakfast

The cost will be 1,100FRF for a twin bedroom for the whole time, or 1,300FRF for a single bedroom. Prices will be adapted for those who come for a shorter time.

Please apply by October 20 to Charles Danguy at email: DroYutz@AOL.com or to Michel Koechlin at Fax: +33.3.88.75.76.40, Tel: +33.3.88.60.21.84

The Agenda:

- 1) A brief review of 1998 and a glimpse of the Caux Winter conference 1998-99
- 2) A day of reflection on Europe (which we missed by

ENVOIE-NOUS DES FOUS

O Dieu, envoie-nous des fous,
qui s'engagent à fond,
qui oublient,
qui aiment autrement qu'en paroles,
qui se donnent pour de vrai et jusqu'au bout.

Il nous faut des fous,
des déraisonnables,
des passionnés,
capables de sauter sans l'insécurité,
l'inconnu toujours plus béant de la pauvreté.

Il nous faut des fous du présent,
épris de vie simple,
amants de la paix,
purs de compromission,
décidés à ne jamais trahir,
méprisant leur propre vie,
capables d'accepter n'importe quelle tâche,
de partir n'importe où:
à la fois obéissants,
spontanés et tenaces,
oux et forts.

O Dieu, envoie-nous des fous.

Père Louis Joseph Lebret

cancelling the May meeting)

3) Finalising the 1999 programme with special emphasis on the first and last weeks of the season.

We expect a good inter-generational representation from the different facets of Caux Conference life and from the organising teams for each session.

We will gladly receive beforehand any comments, thoughts, proposals and guidance, especially from those who cannot attend these days. With gratitude for the past, and prayers for the present and the future.

Juliette & Charles Danguy, Catherine & Michel Koechlin, Edward Peters, Marianne & Christoph Spreng, Andrew Stallybrass, Lotty Wolvekamp

LATIN AMERICA SITES ITS WEB

We now have a Web Page for Latin America – <http://homepage.usr.com/e/elveras> – which includes news about Sitio Sao Luiz and other Brazilian initiatives. We will also have an online newsletter. Laurie Vogel, Suresh Khatri and François Maunoir will produce a summary of news from the World Bulletin, and our site will make this news available to Spanish and Portuguese speakers throughout the world.

We hope to keep it updated with insights, initiatives, suggestions and news about the development of MRA in Latin America. We are still building the page, and your thoughts would be most welcome.

Ernesto Veras

INTERNATIONAL FARMERS' DIALOGUE

The next International Farmers' Dialogue will be held in Plonsk in Poland November 28 – December 4. It will

SEND US FOOLS

O God, send us fools,
who offer themselves wholly,
who let go,
who love without words,
who give themselves truly and to the end

We need fools,
the unreasonable,
the passionate,
who can leap into insecurity,
into the ever yawning gulf of poverty.

We need fools for now,
enchanted by the simple life,
loving peace,
cleansed of compromise,
firm against betrayal,
heedless of their own lives,
ready to undertake anything,
o go anywhere:
at the same time obedient,
spontaneous and decided,
gentle and strong.

O God, send us fools.

Father Louis Joseph Lebret
(translated by Ailsa Hamilton)

focus on Eastern Europe. At a time when farmers in many parts of the world are facing painful change, the dialogue aims to build understanding and teamwork between people involved in agriculture. Further details are available from **Claude Bourdin**: Tel: +33 169 587 644; Fax: +33 169 587 792 or **Jim Wigan**: Tel: +44 1829 732301; Fax: +44 1829 732265.

NEXT GLOBAL CONSULTATION

The next global consultation will take place in South Africa, March 4 - 11, 1999. This consultation will finalize our deliberations on new patterns of communication and decision-making initiated at the consultation in Jamaica. However, most the time in South Africa will be devoted to looking at our named programmes – how they relate to basic MRA, how they relate to one another, and how through them we play our part in God's strategies in the world. There will be more details in the next WB. Meanwhile, your ideas and questions may be sent to the Consultation Support Group at: CSG@oxford.mra.org.uk or by post to 73 Victoria Road, Oxford, OX2 7QG, UK.

Omnia Marzouk and Bryan Hamlin – on behalf of the CSG and the preparation committee

LAUNCHING OUT

With son David off for his first year at Northwestern University in Chicago, and daughter Catherine departing soon for eight months with MRA in Australia and India, we are seizing the opportunity to walk some less trodden paths.

Thanks to many friends, we are freeing ourselves from daily responsibilities in Washington in preparation for at least eight months of refreshment, reflection, study and some travel. We expect to base near Princeton University in New Jersey. We sense this is part of a transition to unknown new challenges. Charles and Kathy Aquilina will move into the MRA home in McLean, Virginia, when we head off, probably towards the end of October.

Dick and Randy Ruffin

MA MI MEMORIAL FUND

At the Asia-Pacific Consultation at Asia Plateau in January, it was decided to set up a Ma Mi Memorial Fund. This is to help full-time workers who face special financial difficulties to participate in Asia-Pacific Consultations, and to undergird the Training and Outreach Programme proposed for the Year 2000.

An account has been opened in Perth, and the trustees of the Fund, Rajendra Gandhi, K Haridas, Lui Ren-Jou and David Lancaster, warmly welcome contributions which can be sent either by international draft to me: 77 Dean Road, Bateman, WA 6150, Australia, or direct to the Fund account:

Ma Mi Memorial Fund,
Account No. 016267 3518-28125
ANZ Banking Group Limited, Shop 1-3,
Garden City Shopping Centre, 125 Riseley Street,
Booragoon, WA 6154 Australia.

If gifts are sent direct to the account, please send me a letter informing me of the details.

David Lancaster

CO-WORKERS' PROGRAMME IN BRITAIN

The UK co-workers' programme has just started its fourth year with five new co-workers: Goretti Nguyen from Australia, Danielly de Assis from Brazil, Oksana Kitaeva and Helena Stepanova from Russia and Christine Kenny from the USA. One of last year's co-workers, Ademar de Broutelles from Brazil, is staying on for a second year. Together with most of last year's co-workers, they took part in the *Foundations for Freedom* International Course in Tirley Garth, along with 18 other participants mainly from Eastern Europe. We are very sad to farewell Deepak Ajwani from India, Atsushi Ota from Japan as well as Lisa Kesby from Australia. One of last year's co-workers, Allison Kenny from the USA, is staying on as a full-time worker.

Already planned for this year are many visits to different schools around the country and a second *Global Club* weekend for younger people in Tirley Garth next March.

Christine Karrer

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Calendar of Events

SEP '98	<u>Tirley Garth UK</u>	FFF International Course	Sep	3 - 22
OCT '98	<u>Krzyzowa Poland</u>	Healing the past: forging the future conference	Oct	1 - 4
DEC '98	<u>Caux Switzerland</u>	'To venture or not to venture - that is the question' - New Year conference	Dec	26 - Jan 2
JAN '99	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	Effective Living Study Course	Jan	8 - Feb 12
MAR '99	<u>South Africa</u>	MRA Global Consultation	Mar	4 - 11

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Thursday, October 15, 1998

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Those named below have been asked to distribute this in their area: **Asia:** South - C Iralu; Malaysia - Santa Maria; Philippines - Calma; Japan, Rest - Nagano; Australia - A Lancaster; Pacific - Annette Porteous; **Africa:** East - Patel; South - Euvrard; Zimbabwe - Sibare; Nigeria, Rest - Agbih; **N. America:** Canada - Weeks; USA - Ruffin; **Latin America:** Brazil, Rest - Puig; Caribbean - Fiona Edwards; **Europe:** France - Lasserre; Germany - Bräckle; Denmark - Jørgensen; Finland - Koponen; Norway - Eskeland; Sweden - Söderlund; Switzerland - Mottu; UK - C Evans; Austria - Vock; Netherlands, Belgium - J de Pous; Rest of Europe - E Peters; **Middle East:** - Christodoulides