

at a glance

TV COVERAGE

The recent MRA Assembly in Banff, Alberta, Canada was given two hours and forty-four minutes of coverage in seven TV programmes on different stations. This included a twelve minute interview with two of the Irish delegates. In addition, there were six items on the radio, including a 45 minute CBC programme, and many articles in the *Calgary Herald* and other Western Canadian papers.

CAUX OPENS

Alhaji Ado Bayero, the Emir of Kano and one of the foremost Moslem leaders of Nigeria, was present at the initial sessions of the Moral Re-Armament World Assembly which opened at Caux, Switzerland last week and continues till 14 September.

There will be two sessions for students and young working people. Special sessions will be held simultaneously for the clergy and for artists. Politicians in parliament and regional governments meet in the second half of August. Men of industry have called a meeting on the theme 'Industrial leadership adequate for today's world'.

Among those participating in the Assembly will be the cast of *Song of Asia*, back from a tour of France, Germany, Holland and Switzerland.

BISHOP'S VIEW

The Rt Rev Paul Burrough, Bishop of Mashonaland, wrote in the July issue of *The Link*, Rhodesian Church of England monthly, 'The most international gathering Rhodesia has seen was to be found at the opening of the Moral Re-Armament Congress on 2 June. Leaders of the ANC, Maoris, Swazis, Hollanders, Germans, Swiss, South Africans of all races, Jews, Irish, Americans and British were only a selection of people witnessing to the confident belief that God has a plan and will fulfil it if we allow Him to change our individual lives.

'Listening to their witness, only a bitter cynic could doubt the power of God which so few of us have the courage to accept with open hearts.'

FILMS IN FIJI

In Suva's famed Grand Pacific Hotel, representatives of Fiji's five races and three main religions recently saw Moral Re-Armament films and heard speakers tell of the outreach of these ideas in the

AT A GLANCE continued on page 2

INSIDE

Saidie
Patterson
on
the
'Reality of Belfast'



Rajmohan Gandhi
on
'Remembering Lincoln'

Volume 23 No 38 LONDON 19 JULY 1975 7p

**NEW
WORLD
NEWS**
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



'Song of Asia' to visit Britain

'Premiere in Scotland

SONG OF ASIA with its 12 nation cast will arrive in Scotland from Scandinavia in the first week of October.

A national welcome committee is being formed.

The British premiere will be in Edinburgh, followed in the latter part of October by performances in the West of Scotland.

The London premiere will be on Wed 12 November at the Westminster Theatre. This will be the start of a three week run there with performances on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings and on Saturday afternoons.

There will also be two performances in Wales on 6 December at the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff.

A budget of £50,000 has been drawn up for the British visit. This includes the cost of travel from Scandinavia and provision for the cast's onward journey.

Contributions towards this target can be sent to Peter L George, 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF. Cheques should be made payable to P L George SOA Travel Fund.



Tibetans talk with one of the cast of 'Song of Asia' at the Tibetan Refugee Centre, Rikon, Switzerland. A Lama said, 'We shall never forget the show. We saw what has happened and what is going to happen in the future. You have found a road to real peace and freedom. We Tibetans will pray that your idea will reach the whole world.'

photo: Rengfelt

Remembering Lincoln

by
Rajmohan Gandhi

THE WORLD'S HISTORY is the story of the rise and fall of the human spirit.

On 4 July a country with which India has had many differences began a year-long celebration to be climaxed by the 200th anniversary of its independence. That fourth day in July in 1776 marked the end of a noble saga of struggle. In that struggle the human spirit ascended to great heights.

We disagree with a number of American policies. We are unimpressed by the society of callous competitiveness that America has reared. The ramifications of Watergate were disillusioning. The notion that seemed to mark the American scene a year ago, namely that all means were pardonable for the preservation of power, hurt the human spirit.

But none of these things can smear the integrity of the valiant deeds of Washington, Jefferson and their band of associates. Many decades later Abraham Lincoln personified a quality of the human spirit that has been cherished throughout man's history - justice.

Lincoln fought. His enemy was the belief, comfortable to some and humiliating to others, that one race of Americans had the right to lord it over another race. Against this enemy he employed his wit, his debating genius and the granite resolve of his essentially humble personality. Ready always for derision and the shame of defeat, he risked all and finally gave his life for the truth that he had embraced.

Down the ages, crossing the barriers of time and nationalities, his words still ring in the ears of us all: 'With malice towards none and with charity towards all...' The combination of justice and mercy is not merely a formidable force; it immortalises the memory and character of the man who consecrates himself to it.

Lincoln lives. His dedicated life still breathes into our world's air. We feel the breath and are invigorated by it.

As America reflects on her true heroes, on the source of their strength and on their intellectual and spiritual nourishment, she may yet find a way out of her modern bewilderment.

Nature gave her American children a legacy of bursting bounty. America's fathers left their descendants a legacy as precious - a pattern of brave, concerned living. In the marriage of the two would lie the fulfilment of the world's hopes for America.

India does not grudge an appreciation of these American contributors to

the elevation of the human spirit. She has not been unfamiliar herself with the qualities they exemplified. Hallowed by the Buddha's tread, the soil of India is receptive to truth and capable of sacrifice. Giants of the human spirit have, since the Buddha, shepherded India towards the ennobling verities.

Turn a coin, and you are liable to find a picture of Gandhi. Not long ago India heard his footsteps, and the world too stirred a little. Like Lincoln he lives - in India's atmosphere and in the hearts of Indian men and women.

Truth and love, he said, were his watch-words, his goals as well as his means. To Jawaharlal Nehru Gandhi's greatest attribute was fearlessness.

There seems much in common between him and Lincoln. Neither could bear injustice. What Lincoln did for the slaves Gandhi did for the untouchables. If Lincoln took his fellow whites to task Gandhi did not spare his own society. If Lincoln consolidated America's freedom Gandhi won India's.

Because the world has not heeded the giants of the human spirit it faces certainties and risks, including that of total destruction. America's next 200 years would depend on her people's willingness to look at their priorities in the light shed by the lives of her founders.

This article is reprinted from the Indian news-weekly *Himmat*.

AT A GLANCE *continued from page 1*

world. People from education, church, business, medicine, women's organisations and youth stayed on to talk and to arrange further meetings. A college principal said, 'These films are self explanatory and our students must see them.'

Earlier two racially mixed schools saw the films because the principals wanted to present faith and character training in a new way. Both principals ordered books for their libraries. A High Commissioner representing a large Commonwealth country arranged a screening of the films for himself and some of his staff. The Suva Lions Club invited a speaker to give evidence of MRA's work in difficult industrial and racial situations in India and Southern Africa.

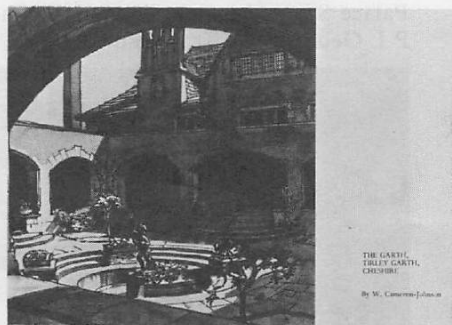
A 45 minute programme was recorded by Fiji radio.

TIRLEY CARDS

A new set of four Tirley Garth greeting cards with pictures by W Cameron-Johnson are now on sale. Three of the views of this conference centre in Cheshire are in colour.

These cards can be ordered direct from The Book Department, Tirley Garth,

Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0LZ or from MRA Books, 54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ. They cost 10p each (35p for the set) including envelope, and the insides can be blank or inscribed 'with best wishes' according to choice.



REPEATED INTERVIEW

Part of an interview with Phyllis Konstam about life and death and faith and the influence of Frank Buchman on her life has been repeated on Geneva Television. Producer Bernard Pichon was presenting material from ten of his most outstanding or most talked about interviews to mark the fiftieth programme in his series 'Birds of the Night'.

TAKING RISKS

Bishop Goodwin Hudson last week addressed an audience which overflowed the Sanderson Room of the Westminster Theatre.

The Bishop, who is now Vicar of St Paul's, Portman Square, was speaking at a lunch before a performance of the play *Return Trip* - one of a month-long series of matinées for schools.

'You cannot change the world unless you change people,' he said. 'But you can't change people unless you get them to listen to you.' This was the dilemma facing the church. It needed to go to the people. The job was intriguing and adventurous. 'You can take risks with methods providing your theology is sound,' he said.

The task facing laity and clergy was to develop a strategy for reaching this generation who had become like 'spiritually displaced persons in a world of humanism at its best and barbarism at its worst'.

'We may be all too much trapped into preoccupation with committees, organisations and meetings which are peripheral to our main obligation, with all too little imagination or concern being shown for the unchanged world.'

Mankind in its confusion, the Bishop

AT A GLANCE continued on page 4

'For God's sake forget who started the trouble, let us help finish it'

by
Saidie Patterson



Miss Saidie Patterson, MBE, from Belfast, is Chairman of the 'Women Together' movement and has written this article specially for New World News in International Women's Year.

Miss Patterson, who was first woman Chairman of the Northern Ireland Labour Party, says, 'We are winning the battle for what is right. Bridges are being built daily, the cement is not yet dry, only a matter of time.'

She has been a militant trade unionist all her life since she was commissioned by Ernest Bevin in 1938 to organise Northern Ireland's Textile Workers.

An interviewer from the Belfast Telegraph asked her once whether she would ever stop campaigning. She replied, 'Not at all. When I die I will go up there and organise the angels starting with St Peter.'

NOTHING ON TELEVISION prepares you for the three-dimensional reality of the physical devastation in the poor districts of Belfast.

Corner shops are corrugated up, windows and doors of bombed houses are filled in with crude concrete blocks; streets are littered with broken glass, scrap metal, charred bricks; a few soldiers stand with rifles raised and above them, on a crumbling wall that was once someone's home a scrawl of white paint reads: No God, No peace. Know God, Know peace.

Despite the domestic anguish the housewives in these working class streets bear the brunt and shed the tears. Many hundreds of them, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, belong to the 'Women Together' movement.

'Women Together' was founded four years ago after a cleaner in the Belfast Gas Works had a persistent dream that the women of Northern Ireland were uniting to tell the violent ones: 'Put away your guns and your bombs, give us back peace.'

I have the privilege to be Chairman of 'Women Together', one of the most important women's organisations in N Ireland. We have a single message: If you face a wall of hate, climb it with help in your hands and hope in your heart. And this is what we have been doing these past four years.

Quiet action

From the first meeting came a statement: We will not get involved in political debate, our concern is with suffering, not just one side but everyone, no matter who.

The only foundation for living together is an attitude of compassion rather than judgement, no matter how hard this may be.

At first we met in each other's homes for tea and to plan how we could build a better world for our children and grandchildren. We quietly moved into action; our streets were in a mess and not just from riots or bombs.

A Roman Catholic road sweeper would be afraid to go into a Protestant area or a Protestant into a Roman Catholic area. We felt a dirty street was a beaten street, so we persuaded our neighbours to sweep with us.

Die-hards on both sides were suspicious, they asked, 'Who gave you permission to sweep.' We replied that those were our streets. We edged closer to the battle-field. One thing we can do in N Ireland is write: give us a blank wall, a brush and a bucket of whitewash and you will get all the sectarian slogans which bring out the worst on both sides. Walls have been cleaned as well as streets cleaned.

As rioters traded bricks and petrol bombs with rubber bullets of the Army,

we linked arms and spanned the streets holding our ground against missiles and jeers. Mothers advanced arm in arm scattering the youngsters home; soldiers watched in wonder at a weapon more powerful than any they carried.

Tears of sorrow

Fighting means comforting the wounded on either side. When a family is hit by death or injury or loss of a home in a bombing, action speaks the language most people understand. A man shot dead coming from work, his wife, her four young children around her, said to me, 'Why him, he was a good man?' And so he was, a good husband and father and an active member in the community; or to call at a home where a mother has been killed by a bomb and hear her little girl of six years of age say, 'Mummy will not be back any more.' It does give the families some comfort when we call people of different faiths together; but it hurts to see tears, not orange tears or green tears but tears of sorrow.

When the breadwinner is murdered there is the rent to pay, grocery bills and clothes for children; out of our slender purses we do all we can to help and the Good Lord always honours our giving.

Our women are learning that when the same bomb rips the slates from Catholic and Protestant houses in fringe areas, that they share the same rain when it seeps through the ceiling. It's hard to find words sometimes. The parents of another family went to visit friends in England. The wife's sister looked after the house and one day she wheeled the baby to a sale in the Shankill Road; they were outside the shop when a bomb blew it up. The baby was killed and the auntie maimed. What could you say to those parents when they got home? What could anyone possibly say?

Yet tragedy can breed tolerance. One of our members, whose son was paralysed by a gunman's bullet, spoke at a 'Women Together' peace rally and called for tolerance, not vengeance. She said, 'For God's sake forget who started the trouble, let us help finish it.' We visited the home of a widow whose son had been shot dead in a sectarian murder; he was just 16 and that woman said to us, 'I am praying for those who did it, they need our prayers.' Another member had four raids on her home with weapons ranging from hatchets to incendiaries and she and her husband and three children were finally terrorised into leaving it. Another member simply and graphically explains how she watched her house and all her possessions go up in flames and how she and her husband wept - there is no need for dramatisation.

One could go on relating case after

REALITY OF BELFAST

continued on page 4

AT A GLANCE *continued from page 2*

went on, needed to hear a voice other than its own. 'How shall they hear?' he asked. 'If we Christians don't speak the words, there is nobody else to speak them. If we don't devise ways to communicate what men and women must hear if they are to see God, then who is to do it? Such is the responsibility upon us.'

Chairing the occasion Sir Cyril Black said, 'The purpose of this building is Christian communication. It is the most important task of our time.'

At the lunch actress Phyllis Konstam, a Trustee of the Westminster Theatre, appealed for an immediate £10,000 for its work. (The Westminster's financial year ends on 31 July)

One retired university lecturer who saw *Return Trip* sent a cheque for £1,000: 'I'm so grateful for all that the theatre is doing for people.'

The Minister of Beavan Park Baptist Church, North London, Rev Margaret Smith, attended the matinee performance. That evening she spoke on Radio London's phone-in programme about it. She said it was 'a very gripping family play and a very challenging one for young people based on real life experience. It moved me to tears'.

AT A GALLOP

The 'Methodist Recorder' in last week's issue reporting the Methodist Conference wrote:

In hard times, what may be regarded as a small economic miracle was announced in Conference on Thursday. The Rev Leslie Marsh, secretary of the Methodist Drama Committee, said that £30,000 of the £40,000 needed to launch a professional production of the John Wesley musical, *Ride! Ride!* had already been pledged.

Two years ago Conference called for the musical to be performed in every District, but it was found that a professional production was the only practicable way of achieving this end.

Now, Aldersgate Theatre Productions, a charitable company, is being set up and they are confident that *Ride! Ride!* will be performed in the big theatres of Britain next spring, possibly playing to as many as 10,000 people a week. After this provincial run, the musical will move into the West End.

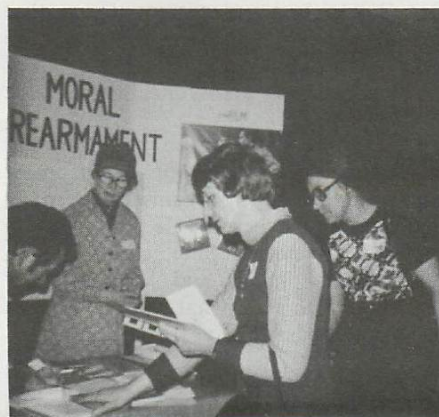
Said Mr Marsh: 'It is a historic day when for the first time the Church is able to move into this vital field to be a great means for the expression of God's truth. Times of great crisis demand the most daring response as they are also times of unprecedented opportunity. It is in this spirit that the pro-

duction of *Ride! Ride!* is being undertaken. It is perhaps the biggest single operation of this kind ever undertaken by the Church in Britain.'

Mr Marsh, who has already played the part of John Wesley in two amateur productions of the musical, further appeared as Wesley in his own play *John and Grace* performed at Liverpool during the Conference period.

ALBERTA BOOKS

Teachers examine (photo below) the study course *Creating the New Society* at an MRA bookstall during a conference organised by the Alberta Teachers' Association in Calgary, Canada. Many enquires were made about the study course, based on *The Black and White Book*, as well as books such as *New Ways to Explore* and the music and script of *Give a Dog a Bone*.



AUSSIE CHARTER

Following the wide publication of the Australian Women's Charter in New South Wales and, more recently, in *New World News*, it was decided to launch the Charter in Western Australia on the occasion of an 'International Women's Year Curry Luncheon' at Australia Asia House in Perth.

Miss Dare Elliott, a teacher from England, in the presence of the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Ernest Lee Steere, spoke to a representative gathering which included not only women from many Asian countries and leading Aborigine women, but representatives from many of the women's organizations established in Perth.

Copies of the Charter were sold in aid of the building fund for Armagh, the MRA centre in Melbourne.

Dear Readers,

Thank you for the letters reaching us with news, articles, reports, poems, ideas. These are much appreciated and we try to use as many as we can. Though in view of the greatly increased cost of postage we have not acknowledged every-

thing sent to us.

There are also many events and experiences that we do not learn of which would be of great benefit to our readers. And so we hope more people will write.

We do not need to spell out for our readers, above all in Britain, the effects of inflation. The printing industry and publications relying on postal delivery have been particularly badly hit – and in some cases old established and valued papers and magazines have had to close.

New World News is not immune. It needs all your help. Especially as our printing costs have again just been raised. We do not wish to increase our charges but must rely, as we did last year, on the active and generous support of all throughout the world who value what one Swedish reader calls 'a precious means of communication'.

Contributions are needed all the more at this time of the year as the largest number of our readers renew their subscriptions in October. (Cheques can be made payable to The Good Road Ltd.)

This might be the week for you to enlist the new subscriber or to make the gift subscription you have not got round to making before! (rates given below)

THE EDITORS

REALITY OF BELFAST

continued from page 3

case, but the women of Ulster can and will do what the politicians have failed to do, we are the givers of life and we will bring our country back from the hell of the past five years. Does it matter 'what foot you dig with' if one is in the grave?

As a trade union leader for many years I know all about the class struggle. Today the workers of my country have good wages and conditions, but necessary as they are they have not brought all in the terms of happiness I thought they could and should. Purses are full but hearts are empty. When you know that one in every thousand has been killed and one in every hundred maimed and our children who are tomorrow's mums and dads, many are on tranquillisers, many on drink, many using guns, it is a frightening thought.

But thank God there is an answer. We have got to learn that a man's character matters more than the colour of his skin or where he worships on a Sunday – and thank God so many of our people pray daily for peace – but we must learn to live so that what is happening in Ulster must never happen again.

You need more than a gun in your hand, you need an idea in your head and love in your heart. I prove this daily.