

## SONG OF ASIA:

# Highland hurts can be healed



ABERDEEN — centre of Scotland's oil boom — was host to the sixty young Asians taking part in *Song of Asia*. They lived in the homes of oilmen and farmers, councillors, students and others in Aberdeen, Peterhead, Newburgh and Collieston. They were welcomed to Aberdeen by Baillie George Whyte and Chief Constable Alexander Morrison of the Grampian Region Police.

Cheers greeted Paul Eaglesome, a Maori from New Zealand, when he told pupils of an American school of Aberdeen how he had participated in gang fighting before meeting Moral Re-Armament. The school caters for the children of American employees of oil companies in the area. Later the cast received a contribution to its expenses from the teachers and students of the school and a letter which said, 'We want to thank you for coming to our school and sharing with us your hopes for a new Asia. We'll all try to listen to that still small voice.'

### Poignantly familiar

'The trend towards realism in stage musicals takes a fresh turn with *Song of Asia*,' wrote the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, reviewing the opening night. "'Who will break the chain of hate?'" coming towards the close of the evening strikes a poignantly familiar note.' More than a thousand people from all sectors of Aberdeenshire life attended the two performances at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.

Workers on a building site in the main shopping street of Aberdeen stopped work to watch as the cast performed a half hour programme of song and dance outside the Langstane Kirk opposite them. The *Evening Express* carried a picture and caption under the headline 'Union Street gets Eastern flavour'.

The *Buchan Observer* featured an article by Miss Tia Banerjee of Calcutta, one of thirty staying in East Aberdeenshire. In it she tells of her trade unionist father's sacrifices for his fellow workers, and of how she herself laid aside her personal ambitions to take part in *Song of Asia* and the work of Moral Re-Armament. 'I have been happy and grateful for the chance to stay in the homes of the British people,' she writes. 'I have come to Britain to learn and to give.... Scotland has suffered greatly. It is true that those who have suffered the most have the most to give because they understand the sufferings of others. This land has found oil. Can



Talks go on long after the end of the show.

Scotland find out what is God's plan for the use of this oil?

Niketū Iralu (India) and Te Rangi Huata (New Zealand) were guests at the prison chapel at Craiginches, Aberdeen, for the Sunday morning service. Prisoners applauded after they had spoken and sung. 'This is the first time I have heard clapping in this chapel,' commented the chaplain. Another prison official told them, 'No sort of preaching can beat someone who can stand up and say, "This happened to me".'

Others attended the ecumenical service to celebrate the United Nations International Women's Year week of prayer for world peace where the address was given by Lord Birsay, one of those who signed the message welcoming *Song of Asia* to Britain.

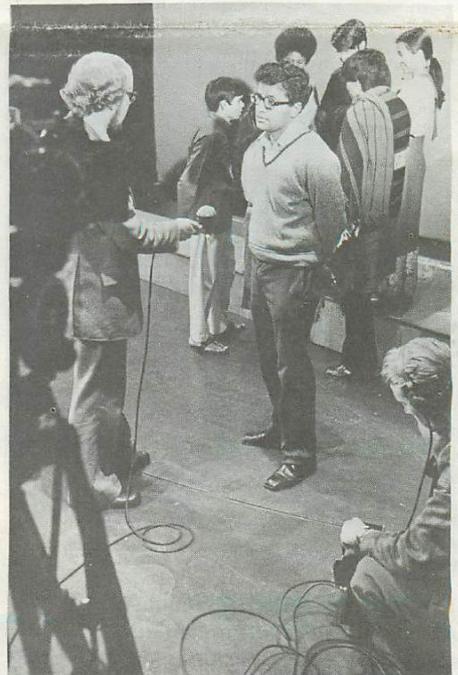
In the highland village of Aviemore 700 packed the Speyside Theatre to witness a performance of *Song of Asia*. Besides local villagers present there were also participants in the Highland Trade Fair currently being held in Aviemore and young workers from the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand. Aviemore is a major ski resort.

Some of the company of *Song of Asia*

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# NEW WORLD NEWS

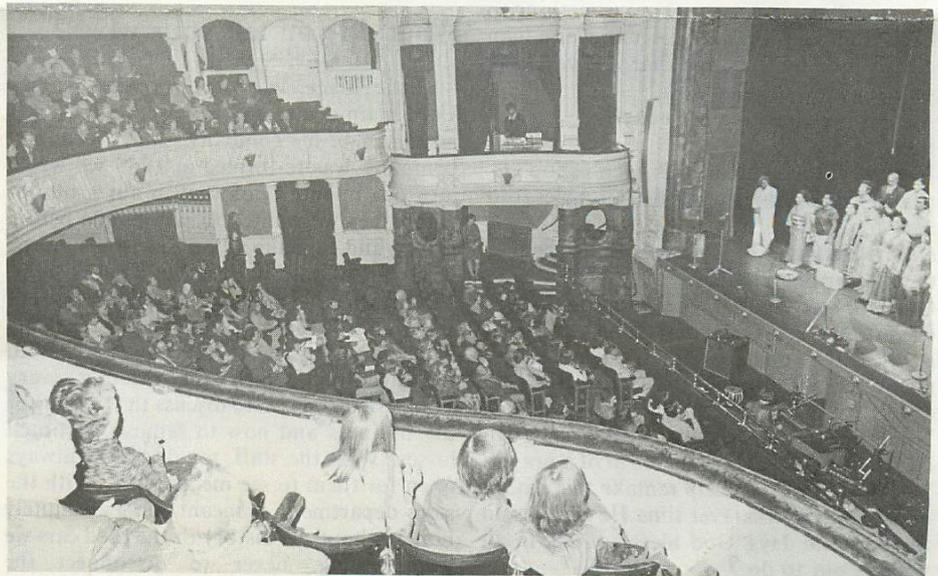
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



Suresh Chandra, Fijian Director of 'Song of Asia', is interviewed for Grampian TV. Photos: Rengfelt

### SONG OF ASIA Contd p 2

A performance in His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.



## SONG OF ASIA contd from p1

went to relieve the staff of a hotel so that they could go and see the show.

The principal and 32 students from Kingussie High School came in a bus load to see the performance. Earlier the cast had spoken and sung at their school.

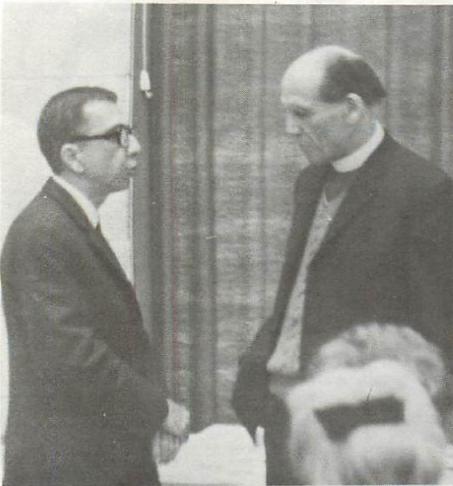
A freelance journalist from the town said, 'It was unique. We have not seen the like of it in the Scottish Highlands before.' Commenting on the show a woman said, 'You show us in Scotland how hurts can be healed and not exploited.'

Earlier a group from the cast had visited Gordonstoun school. They had lunch and discussions with masters and senior boys.

BBC Radio and ITV carried items about the show in their news bulletins and Scottish national papers reported the Asian visit. *Song of Asia* is now in Glasgow. The cast arrive in London on 7 November.



Australian cast member, Ron Lawler, speaks to Kingussie High School students.



The Rt Rev Laurence Woolmer with Russi Lala, Editor of the Indian newsweekly 'Himmat'.

**The Rt Rev Laurence Woolmer, Assistant Bishop of Portsmouth, speaking after a performance of 'Cross Road' at the Wickham conference:**

6 The Church is with you, just as you are with the Church. We from the Church come to your meetings because we have something to learn from you. Frank Buchman was a man greatly used by God, and many of you have similar riches of your own. The task confronting us today is tremendous.

As you will remember, the Archbishop's prayer this last week was: May God bless our nation; guide our rulers; help us to live cheerfully and to be just in all we do; help us to care for one another. God will bless our nation if we allow Him to bless us and use us. He will guide our rulers, if we let Him guide us day by day. Do we really care for others? Are we just in all we do?

His is the same message as we have heard in *Cross Road* tonight, in the form of a prayer. So we can together help remake this nation under God, in whatever time He gives us, in these critical days. God bless you all, in all you are out to do.

## Everyone's chance

MORE THAN a hundred people from all over the South of England attended a conference for Moral Re-Armament at Park Place, Wickham, in October. With the theme 'Everyone's chance to take part in remaking the world', they were considering how to apply faith in homes, schools, industry and government.

Bert Reynolds, a telecommunications engineer from Hereford, gave news of action by a group of trade unionists to put the nation's needs before self-interest. He said that many rank and file workers in industry were anxious to 'give a year for Britain' and added, 'We are not content to allow economic disaster to overtake us, our children and this nation without action being taken by each one of us.' The initiative was being called *Action '75* and was being supported by hundreds of men and women from all over Britain.

### What do you tell your wives?

Leslie Mace, who was for fifty years a Ford main dealer and for twenty-five years chairman of his company, said, 'When my company was re-formed in 1945 we wrote into our minute book that in our group of companies we wanted to put people before profits and to make all our decisions on the basis not of who is right but what is right. MRA meant for me that in the board room I said to my directors, "Will you please tell me what you tell your wives about me?" With the managers, it meant meeting every Wednesday at 8 am to discuss the running of the business and how to remove frictional losses. With the staff, my door was always open for them to see me and talk. With the sales department, it meant being absolutely honest about the history of the used cars we were selling, never to disconnect the

speedometer or wind it back, and always to say if a car had been in a bad accident.'

The conference supported the call by Archbishop of Canterbury for a national return to God and a stop in the drift towards chaos. In a letter to him, those attending said, 'We thank you for your timely and courageous lead. With you, we are convinced that the fundamental needs of the nation are moral and spiritual. We have committed ourselves, individually and as a force, to bring the guidance of God and the life-giving moral standards of Jesus Christ to bear on all areas of our national life. You have been attacked for your statement; but the attacks are in fact a compliment to the relevance of what you say. They come from elements in our society who have had their way for far too long.'

## Chalk up the hundred

LAST WEEK'S PERFORMANCE of *Cross Road* in Chalk, near Gravesend, was the one hundredth across Britain since it was first produced as a stage show at the Westminster Theatre.

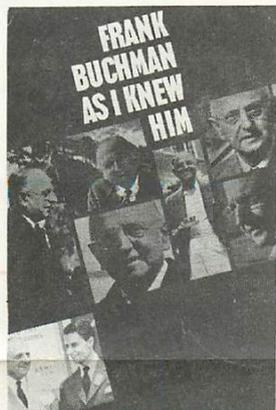
The Rev James Fry, from Chalk, had seen the film presentation built around the life and work of Frank Buchman earlier in Tonbridge, and decided to arrange a showing for his own parish.

Five young people who had first seen *Cross Road* in the week before the Chalk performance took part — an apprentice hairdresser, a guitarist who works on a building site, and three schoolgirls. People from twenty countries have participated in this campaign.

This hundredth performance follows showings in the last ten days in the town halls at Anerley, Woolwich and Southborough, as well as at the conference at Wickham.

# Gift Books, Records and Music

## FRANK BUCHMAN AS I KNEW HIM By H W 'Bunny' Austin



Paperback £1.00  
Hardback £2.50

'Bunny' Austin, who wields his pen as deftly as he once did his tennis racquet, paints a powerful portrait of this fascinating personality with an engaging frankness that would scarcely have been possible during his lifetime. The narrative cries out for quotation. What chiefly comes over is his sense of caring for individuals of all races and classes and his meticulous attention to detail.

Methodist Recorder

Dr Frank Buchman had the extraordinary ability of inspiring men of all kinds in an ethical crusade and able to focus the idealism of youth in an effort to change the world after first changing himself.

Northern Echo

## FROM MRA BOOKS

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— See over for 'Ringo' game.

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Book 1 Pioneers 70p  
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'Song of Asia' Pictorial	50p
'Song of Asia' LP Record	£1.85 + 15p VAT
'Song of Asia' Cassette	£2.22 + 18p VAT
'Water For A Thirsty Land' LP Record	£2.04 + 16p VAT
'Water For A Thirsty Land' Cassette	£2.04 + 16p VAT
'Home Truths' Cassette	£1.76 + 14p VAT
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Black and white photograph of the mosaic in the foyer	6p



'Song of Asia' LP Record

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Please include extra for postage and packing (a rough guide is 25p in the £1)

# A time to talk



**Miss Jennings is the Director of Nursing Services at the Peter MacCallum Clinic where she has worked for the past 14 years. She is the President of the Royal Victoria College of Nursing. Miss Jennings trained in Australia and worked in Britain and India for several years. We reproduce part of a talk she gave at a luncheon for 120 women at Armagh, Melbourne. Armagh has been an MRA training and conference centre since 1956. A fund is being raised to build a new two-storey wing and make extensive improvements.**

THERE IS A world wide battle to destroy God or restore Him to leadership in the world. It needs to be waged far more courageously and militantly by those of us who see the need.

There is a place and part for every man, woman and child who really wants to see things different. And I have discovered over the years that it is the daily change and growth in every person who is committed to put God first in their lives which does affect the home and family, business and industry, politics and professions.

Twenty-five years ago in London I decided to let God take control of my life; I certainly could not manage it myself. It means and still means that I take enough time in the mornings to listen to Him and let Him speak to me about the things I am going to do in the day, about the places where I need to change. And I try to obey the thoughts that come.

I decided, too, that I needed to measure my life against absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love, and that I had to put right the things that I knew were wrong in my life. One of the first things it meant was an apology to my father. My parents were divorced and I had hated my father because I blamed him for this. When I saw my own responsibility for this I had my first lesson in realising that if we accept responsibility for our own actions and attitudes — even though we see many things wrong in another person — we find the key to change and new life in any situation.

When you decide to do what God says, He has a way of taking you up on it. The next experience was, naturally enough, one which affected my profession.

## Dealing with death

I was asked to look after a man in his early forties who was dying of cancer. He had worked with Moral Re-Armament for many years. I did not know him and I spent approximately four days in his home before he died. This was a turning point in my own finding of a faith and my whole attitude to my profession of nursing. This man and his wife were aware of his prognosis. They were aware that he had only a few days to live and they had accepted this with faith and trust in what God had in store. They were giving this trust to other people, not only to those of us who cared and lived in the home, but to many people who came in and out of it. I had always felt very inadequate in dealing with death and patients dying, especially young patients, and had not known how to handle it. I had avoided funerals like the plague, even my own grandmother's. I began to look at nursing not only as a fascinating and satisfying profession, but as an opportunity to serve and care for people.

Nurses sometimes are thought of as people who would definitely be putting people first. I had a great love of the operating theatre, and theatre sisters are very efficient. They like everything in its place. I found very often when I moved into places like kitchens, or flats with new friends, that I was far more concerned with how the things ran than with

what went on in other people. This discovery was a very deep experience for me. I really love nursing, and to find that I had been using it for myself was a turning point in my life.

## First person

Many people have commented on the atmosphere of Peter MacCallum Clinic and they've said that people seem to be happy in their work. One of the important things you must create in a *hospital like ours* is an atmosphere of hope. If you are going to a hospital and facing illness and you are welcomed, reassured and supported, some of your anxiety will be reduced. If you are well-advised and supported during each step of your treatment, you'll cope better.

Cancer is no respecter of persons. A wide cross section of the community passes through our doors and all of them will, in some way, be affected by illness. Their lives have been disturbed and the extent of this will, of course, depend on how severe their illness is, what their outlook is for the future, and their own ability to adjust to changes. But it will also depend on the sort of support they get from family and the hospital.

One of the most important things is building a relationship of trust and confidence with the patient the first time he comes to the hospital and this is where everyone in the hospital has a part. You never know who the first person is; it may be the girl on the enquiry desk, a porter, driver, a nurse, a radiographer.

Sometimes well-meaning people try to protect their family or their patient. But we've found that this usually leads to difficulties, because we can spend time on evading an issue, being falsely cheerful and sometimes quite dishonest, when simple care, honesty and appreciation of each other could be more beneficial. We've found that where there is an open and honest relationship in a family who suddenly find that one of their members has cancer, that this family together usually copes far better and comes to terms with the new situation than those where there has not been this relationship.

Nursing patients with cancer has been very challenging because it requires a wide variety of practical skills, but also this special emotional and spiritual support of the patient. My approach to this, of course, was affected very much by the experience that I mentioned in London. I have come to see that there are many things worse than cancer. When you think of the havoc that is wrought in people's lives by hatred and bitterness, greed and resentment, you realise that worry, anxiety and tension also lie behind many physical conditions. Some people say, 'If I had cancer I wouldn't want to live', but I tell them, 'Would you rather see your daughter grow up, from your bed, than not see her grow up at all?'

I have found that many of our patients, too, have faced and accepted their condition so courageously that we have learnt far more from them than we have given them.

**A TIME TO TALK Contd p6**

## A TIME TO TALK Contd from p5

In my own job I am responsible to the Board of Management for all the nursing services. I have something like 150 staff and it's my job to present the nursing view. I work on committees, and at work this is mainly with men. I am involved in policy-making and planning for the future.

I can only find the best solution for the nursing service if I am conferring with my staff and know what they are thinking about. It is a very busy life. My day starts between six and half past when I spend about an hour getting God's mind on the day. I'm usually in my office between eight and half past and very seldom out of it before six o'clock. Usually I have meetings several nights a week. I've found that the busier I am the more guidance I need. I've learnt that I cannot do this work alone and that I need God's mind, to find priorities, to make sure that I am sensitive to people's needs, to know what to say on committees and to learn from my mistakes.

Take the difficult person, the difficult staff member, of whom people say, 'Well I wish we could get rid of them and if they went everything would be all right.' One thing I decided was that I would try and find what was right for any member of my staff. It may well be right for them to leave, but the way I did it was the important thing. I've had many instances where I've been able to talk to members of my staff, and help them find what is right. Some have left and in another job they have suddenly blossomed because they had been in the wrong place. Some have left, not understanding at all, but I know that I have still tried to help them.

In some cases I've had people who've been able to say quite honestly to me the places where they feel I'm wrong and they've said, for instance, 'You never have time to talk.' When anyone says that to me I stop and look, because if I haven't got time to talk to my staff and be sensitive to their needs, there's something wrong.

### Committee can wait

One day I was late and rushing out to a committee meeting and my secretary said, 'So and so wants to see you.' I said, 'Could you get Sister so and so to see her.' She said, 'She's not there,' and I said, 'Oh goodness me!' And then I said, 'No, people first, that committee can wait.' And that girl came to tell me that she'd just discovered her husband had cancer.

I've had to learn to listen to people — I talk far too much — to admit my mistakes to staff. And this is not easy. But I've been tremendously grateful; even last week a member of my staff came to me. I was concerned about something, I expressed my concern and she came and said, 'Look, there's something I should have told you a couple of years ago about the way you conducted a meeting.' She said, 'It's really quite silly I haven't told you,' and this comment really gave me a lift when I was

feeling flat. I had been saying, nobody else ever thinks of the meetings except me, why won't somebody else do some thinking? When I decided to listen to what that girl said, I saw she was right; she began to think creatively.

There are a lot of conflicts when you take on a senior administrative role because, as a nurse, you like being with your patients, you like the sort of kudos they give you. But no one person can do everything and one of our jobs is to train others to do their job as well and better than we could ourselves. This conflict I had to resolve quite early. I was helped by a friend who said, 'Well, if you don't do your job properly, nobody else will learn from you. You've got to teach other people to do it.' So I moved on to another aspect of delegation where I really felt that I wanted to see my own staff take more and more responsibility and learn to do things better than I, and this is happening in various areas.

### A few barnies

Most people don't get involved in planning anything as big as a hospital more than once in their life. And when we move into this area we do so knowing nothing and having no experience. One of the things I've learnt about committees is that if you go in afraid, you're paralysed, you can't think, you're so self-centred you don't know what to say. But if you have guidance, if you try to build good relationships with people, then you begin to get creative thoughts.

We are developing our operating theatres quite considerably and I found that one of the architects also felt he was an expert on theatres. So we had some fierce arguments and he used to give me lectures on aseptic technique, which is one of those things nurses learn about, while I was trying to get across some idea I had. I got one of my friends to help me and we redesigned the theatres. It's not one of the things I'd recommend for anyone working with architects! So there was a great explosion and I thought, 'Well, this is no good, we've obviously got to work together for some years to come.' So at the next meeting I said, 'I won't draw any more plans if you don't give me any more lectures.' So we resolved that one but, even more important, this was the beginning of establishing a relationship of trust with which we could work. We've had a few barnies, but we know how to resolve them.

I was asked to take on the position of President of the Royal Victorian College of Nursing. It's a difficult task and I didn't want to do it, but when I sought God's direction I felt absolutely sure it was right. Following that I had a crisis-ridden year; at one point I began to doubt whether I had made the right decision. Then I realised that when God is really in control He takes us out beyond where we can control anything so we have to depend entirely on Him, and when we accept this it builds faith and trust in Him alone.

## REALITY IN OXFORD

SOME of the 3,000 Freshmen who came up to Oxford for the first time last week may not yet have heard about the challenge of MRA, but many stopped to talk at the stall in the 'Freshers Fair'. Sandwiched between the Pentathletes and the Welsh Nationalists was a striking display of photographs under the heading 'A revolution for all men everywhere'.

About 1,500 leaflets, announcing a nightly programme of films followed by a series of weekly occasions throughout the term, were given out. In cartoon style, the leaflet posed the questions 'What is MRA? How does it work? What is it doing in Oxford?' and continued, 'It challenges everyone to answer hatred, corruption and exploitation with absolute love, absolute honesty, absolute purity, absolute unselfishness, and to replace aimlessness with the guidance of God. It is transforming this university from a place where one merely relearns old ways of thinking into a place where new ways of living are created and exported.'

A Swiss student who came to the film shows said, 'I can't say I believe in God, but I want to meet again and learn more. This is real.'

## APSARA SMILES

THE SMILE OF THE APSARA, documentary film on the visit of *Song of Asia* to Laos, has been shown dozens of times in recent weeks in the London area as a preparation for the visit of the Asian musical. Speaking at one showing, Ramphone Chantharasy, whose family feature in the film, said, 'We are a family of nine and we have many ups and downs. Listening to and obeying the Almighty has brought us through many difficulties and above all has kept us together as a united family. Strengthened by the Almighty we were able to be fear-free.'

THE PROFESSIONAL COMPANY, Aldersgate Productions, which will take the John Wesley musical *Ride! Ride!* on a nationwide tour, has been formally constituted. The company has signed contracts for performances at eleven provincial theatres which will allow more than 150,000 people to see the show during the three months from March to May next year. The show comes to London on May 20 for a minimum seven-week run at the Westminster Theatre.

Commented the Rev Leslie Marsh, secretary of the Methodist Drama Committee, who has played Wesley in *Ride! Ride!*, 'It must be something of a theatre record for bookings to be made nine months ahead of the opening of a production, before even a director and cast have been chosen. But this is already happening after details of performances were announced in Synods.'

### Methodist Recorder