

Tirley Garth — 600 come to opening

'To bring God's life and direction to everyone who enters its doors, has been, and is the purpose of Tirley.' **Irene Prestwich**

A SENIOR AUSTRALIAN Labor Member of Parliament and former Minister for Education, Kim Beazley, opened the new extensions of the Cheshire centre for Moral Re-Armament, Tirley Garth, last month.

Its purpose, he said, 'is to be a centre of statesmanship for the ordinary man and woman, and to be a permanent inspiration for social and moral sanity, and for intelligent action.'

Mr Beazley, who resigned on an issue of principle from the Shadow Cabinet during the 'Iraqi Loans Affair', called for 'a new level of honest realism in politics, which includes realism about yourself and your policies if you are a politician. It is essential to secure democratic government.'

'After 30 years in Parliament,' Mr Beazley, who is the longest serving Member of the Australian Federal Parliament, stated, 'I long more than anything else that Parliament should be what it is meant to be — an informed, dispassionate and authoritative instrument for analysing issues and policy — not a pointless contest of selective defence by Government, and selective accusation by Opposition.'

He concluded, 'The need is to produce a climate of opinion which is mature enough to recognise that demands cannot be unlimited when resources are not.'

We print his speech inside.

Alastair Goodlad, MP for Northwich, told the 600 guests of the respect and affection with which people in Cheshire regarded Tirley, 'respect because of the fashion in which they seek to spread the moral values which we share and affection because of the many friendships which have sprung up in the area.' Thanking Mr Beazley for his speech, he added, 'It should be required reading for MPs throughout the world.'

Stephen Hassall, whose family have farmed the land round Tirley for years, spoke of Irene Prestwich, whose family home Tirley Garth was, and who gave the house and grounds to serve as an MRA training centre. 'It was a great and noble thing to do,' he said. 'In this age of scepticism, agnosticism and unbelief, Irene Prestwich had this vision of men and women changing for the better. If we are to have a better world, it must be through people changing in this way.'

The Lord Bishop of Chester, the Rt Rev Victor Whitsey, blessed the new building, and then moved into the kitchen to give his blessing to the cooks.

A new audio visual slide presentation on Tirley Garth and Irene Prestwich, *The House on the Hill*, was premiered over the weekend.

Irene Prestwich, the daughter of a Lancashire industrialist, came with her parents and one of her sisters to live at Tirley Garth in 1912. She was to live there until her death at the age of 90. In 1932 she met the Oxford Group, now known as Moral Re-Armament, an occurrence which changed the course of her life.

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

PHOTOS BY SHAH

From 1940 she offered her home to be used by MRA for the evacuation of its administrative headquarters. After the war she formed the trusts 'for the advancement of the Christian religion' which now administer Tirley Garth, and gave the major part of her capital so that the property which had previously been rented could be bought. Thus she ensured that this home could be used in perpetuity for the work of Moral Re-Armament.

For many years the trustees recognised that the dining room and kitchen facilities were becoming increasingly inadequate and hoped to enlarge them. Charles Rudolph, the Swiss architect, submitted a plan which has now been executed.

The decision to go ahead with this plan was taken on Miss Prestwich's ninetieth birthday on 3 April 1974, when a fund to raise £90,000 in her ninetieth year towards the cost of the building was launched.

When Kim Beazley, MP, opened the new wing, it represented the next step in the fulfilment of her vision that 'thousands would come to Tirley Garth to find new hope and inspiration'.

A few days before the opening, a lady who lives nearby brought a letter to the front door of Tirley Garth.

'For several weeks,' she had

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The Greatest Intellect

by **KIM BEAZLEY, MP**
Australian Minister for Education 1972-75

This address was delivered at the opening of the new wing at Tirley Garth

THE PURPOSE OF TIRLEY GARTH is to be a centre of statesmanship for the ordinary man and woman, and to be a permanent inspiration for social and moral sanity, and for intelligent action.

The most practical point in politics is that there is an intellect, God's intellect, and a sphere of order expressing that intellect, beyond the perception and the self-interest of man. Ignore this fact, and treat human intellect and human drives for power as the highest values there are, and you have created a moloch, a monster, receiving human sacrifices and ordaining, as we have seen in this century, concentration camps and massacres, or arranging the means of slaying thousands of unborn infants a year, all facts of politics in different countries. I am not primarily talking about unjust laws in these cases. I am talking about something even more serious — about the willingness of thousands to make unprovoked and lethal assaults on other living and helpless human beings.

A growth of cruelty and callousness in the world as great as or greater than the cruelty and callousness which underlaid the slave trade and child labour in the nineteenth century has taken place, as men have made gods of leaders and a god of the human intellect. In the twentieth century we are in danger of accepting extreme ruthlessness as normal.

The inescapable tasks of this generation

(and because they are inescapable some of the thought of Tirley Garth must be directed to them) are:

- To create a world climate of conviction and opinion in which cruelty and the suppression of truth are impossible;
- To create a world public opinion so convinced of humane and compassionate values that it will bring governments back to their true function of maintaining peace, justice within their own borders, and end the double standards which convert international forums into places of hypocrisy, where some nations are treated as pariahs and some as heroic, by highlighting wrongs in some and concealing wrongs in others. There needs to be a climate of opinion which through sheer honesty makes double standards impossible;
- To create the conditions in world trade and the world economic order in which starvation, deprivation and economic hopelessness are abolished;
- To create within nations a sense of the value of young people that will cause education to be formed into an instrument of every child and young person's deepest dignity, skilled effectiveness, and of their capacity to cope with the world and society around them;
- To bring to people, young or not, the sense of a primary obligation to heal the wounds of nations and society;



Guests of honour: (l to r) The Lord Bishop of Chester, the Rt Rev Victor Whitsey, Kim Beazley, MP, and Alastair Goodlad, MP for Northwich

- To bring these values — God's sane and creative purposes — into the lives of nations through the thinking of nations;
- To foster a social order in which people can know the truth about their society, can affect decisively the future of the society and take a part in its government at national and local level. In those countries where this is already a fact, the need is to produce a climate of opinion which is mature enough to recognise that demands cannot be unlimited when resources are not. Vital to democracy is that maturity in the Government which is prepared to admit that policies may have been wrong and need change. If the Opposition sticks strictly to seeking the truth, it is likely to be fit for power. If Opposition aims exclusively at power it will certainly distort the truth. A new level of honest realism in politics, which includes realism about yourself and your policies if you are a politician, is essential to secure democratic government;
- Embracing all this, to foster the culture of the Holy Spirit, a way of life beyond the insularity, greed and selfishness which mar most societies. Failure in some of these tasks can be disaster.

I am glad that Tirley Garth is in Britain... This is a country where many from daily experience knew the nuances of thought in villages thousands of miles away, and had insight into the affairs of distant lands. You did not have to be a notable instance like a Lawrence of Arabia, or a Francis Young-husband walking from Peking to Delhi, for this to be so. Thousands in Britain and from Britain knew remote societies. This is still true.

I am thinking of an Aboriginal College I opened last year in the Northern Territory of my country. Its headmaster is an Englishman who was on the staff of Australia's most prestigious school, attended for a time by the heir to the Throne. The master decided to teach desert Aborigines and was the moving spirit in a system of choice of scholars by the tribal elders. He learnt the aboriginal language of the locality, created a vastly diversified curriculum, was a force for the establishment of a beautiful college, and

The 600 guests move from the marquee where Beazley spoke, to the tape-cutting ceremony.



maintains a sensitive contact with tribal leaders in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. This sort of thing has been common here.

A country which has had just such a sensitive world vision for imperial purposes, purposes which more often than is now fashionable to assert were purposes for human well-being, can move up swiftly to a world vision for God's purposes.

Britain has produced for imperial purposes whole battalions of people with world knowledge, world vision and world strategy. That can indicate a basic possibility, under God, for a force for world renaissance of freedom and hope, if there is the same far-reaching vision to create a world of sane relationships as there was to create imperial relationships.

The operative word is sensitivity. St Paul said that the fight was not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness. The conflict today is like that of Wilberforce and Shaftesbury. The spiritual principles underlying the economic institutions of slavery and child labour were cruelty, callousness and self-interest. Cruelty, callousness and self-interest exist independently of institutions like slavery and child labour. Cruelty, callousness and self-interest exist in me. If I face these things in my own nature with conflict and not compromise, I find I immediately become sensitive to cruelty, callousness and self-interest in situations. The sensitivity to acknowledge an aboriginal right to an education in aboriginal languages, a sudden awareness of the high incidence of aboriginal children being born brain damaged, alertness to the special effort needed to get Aboriginal children through secondary and tertiary education, to their right to an education in their own culture, and the sensitivity to listen to them, come in proportion to giving right of way to the Holy Spirit to deal with indifference, callousness and self-interest in myself.

We badly need the modesty and clarity of thought of the Psalmist when he wrote: 'The God has spoken, twice have I heard this, that power belongs to God.'

Disaster formula

'Power belongs to me' is the arrogance which is the invariably proven formula for utter disaster. We may exercise power, but it does not belong to us. What is being sought at Tirley — that is to say the mind of God speaking to the will and conscience and the checking of actions against absolute moral standards — is the essence of any intelligent statesmanship. Intelligent statesmanship is never the arrogance of self-sufficiency without God. It is sensitivity to other nations, other races, other cultures, other sub-cultures, other ways of thought because it seeks sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's ways of thought. It is vital to take an hour of thought each day to enable the Holy Spirit to create this sensitivity. That, at any rate, is my experience.

After 30 years in Parliament I long more than anything else that Parliament should be what it is meant to be — an informed,

dispassionate and authoritative instrument for analysing issues and policy, not a pointless contest of selective defence by Government and selective accusation by Opposition.

The tasks facing statesmanship today are massive. We need to arrest drift to nuclear war. We need to halt a slow and almost imperceptible drift to disaster in parts of the world where the food supply is precarious. There is the need to find means, temporarily at least, to direct a significant part of the world's resources to rehabilitating communities in need in some new, effective way.

There are regions where endemic disease curtails the life and impairs the energy of great numbers of people. The world needs a state of mind in which terrorism, confrontation and subjugation of people by force and deprivation of information are all totally impossible.

Abundant life

There is the need for the spread of accurate knowledge of health care, agriculture and systems of communication. I led the Australian delegation to UNESCO in Paris and was alarmed at the extent to which the pursuit of vendettas — for instance against Israel — retarded effective co-operation for literacy, numeracy and practical education in countries asking for assistance. UNESCO needed a wholly new approach if it were ever to create a climate of opinion in which freedom of religion, belief, organisation, enquiry, information and thought could be taken for granted; or even create a world of freedom of travel across frontiers. We cannot accept what warps and destroys life if we seek the mind of Christ, who came to bring life and that more abundantly, and to convey knowledge of the truth which would set you free. Tirley exists to seek the mind of Christ.

If Tirley fulfills its mission it will be pre-eminently a training ground for the art of giving God right of way personally, nationally, and internationally. It is meant to be a centre of valid thought tested by valid experience. We turn to all sorts of secondary sources for guidelines, but the comment of the late Dr Frank Buchman has the essential priority. He said: 'The Holy Spirit is the most intelligent source of information in the world today. A dynamic experience of God's free Spirit is the answer to regional antagonism, economic depression, racial conflict and international strife.'

He did not make the cardinal mistake of worshipping secondary effects, and he was not appealing for self-effort, but for acceptance of God's direction and power.

He said: 'When you come into the clear light of God's presence you will experience a glorious renaissance.' What he wanted people to seek was the clear light of God's presence, not the renaissance. He expected persecution and opposition. He expected God's victory.

I remember two experiences in opening Roman Catholic schools in Australia. At

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For me it's meant ...

LYRIA KNOX

Aberdeen, Scotland:

On the day of Miss Prestwich's funeral I felt she passed on to me and to many others her fearless battle. That day I pledged the rest of my life to making faith practical in each one I meet so that it will be God's policies and His idea of how things should be that run this country and every country.

For me it has meant perfecting secretarial skills here at Tirley in order to spread news that gives faith.

JOHN MOORE

Connecticut, USA:

At university I was interested in the courses I was taking, but somehow the studying never got done. So I couldn't see the point of being there.

I had only seen where other people needed to change. For example, I blamed my parents for the growing lack of communication in my family. When I pointed this out to them, it only got their backs up.

At Tirley, I realised that if I was honest, the person who communicated least in my family was me. I wrote and apologised to my parents for my attitude and, for the first time, told them everything about myself.

I could not expect change in my family unless I could change myself and I could not expect change in the world until I decided to live out my Christian faith.

ROBERT NORMINGTON

Essex, England:

My parents had spent much of their lives in social work and I was conscious of the injustices within our society and the poverty of the 'Third World'.

I felt unable to affect these situations directly, but class bitterness burned inside me. I was angered not so much by what I saw was wrong as by those whom I felt were causing it, and I closed my heart towards those from a more privileged background than me.

But I met people who had put everything at God's disposal in order to create a better world for all and I was forced to reappraise my ideas. I had accused many people of

IT'S MEANT contd p4

Sane Expectations a spirit in education

by Kim Beazley, MP
Australian Minister for Education,
1972-75

An 8-page pamphlet of a speech made at the MRA conference 'From Crisis to Cure', in Canberra.

Illustrated with photographs.

Available from Grosvenor Books,
54 Lyford Road, London SW18 3JJ.
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£1.60 plus 30p p+p.



At work in the new kitchen — 16 or 600 catered for with ease!

HOUSE ON HILL contd from p1

written, 'I have been trying to sell my loved Fiat because being on a pension now I can no longer afford to run it. As I sat in my time of quiet this morning — wondering why I had not had everyone queuing up to buy it — I could have sworn God laughed at me. I am part Scot and therefore canny with buying and selling — but as clearly as the cuckoo's song outside I heard: "Give it to Tirley".'

She had not known Tirley well, but faithful to her conviction she had brought her gift with her to offer immediately. Another local lady had taken her precious and very old family Bible to Sotheby's the auctioneers, sold it and sent the cheque to the Tirley Garth Trust.

Gifts have not always come in expected ways, yet they have brought the fund to within £5,000 of the target of £125,000 as well as enabling the running of Tirley Garth to be carried on more effectively.

'It is amazing,' wrote a friend from Fiji in one of the many messages received for the opening, 'how a place like Tirley spans the whole world. So many of us who have spent some time there have felt in its impact on our lives the magic of this place, so richly endowed of the Spirit.'

'For us the first touch goes back to 1947 when we were privileged to go with so many miners' leaders whom we met that year and

Rt to I: County Councillor G S Couper, J K Boynton, Chief Executive of Cheshire County Council, C B Martindale, UK architect of the extensions, Dr J S Lester, and Sheffield business man A R Priestley, a trustee of Tirley Garth



the next in the Midlands and Wales.

'Over these nearly 30 years countless hundreds have had the enjoyment of staying in this wonderful home and no doubt all have treasured memories which have changed their lives in some respect.'

Speaking at the opening of the new extension, Miss Bulie Ndamse, a young South African whose late father was a cabinet minister in the Transkei, said, 'Over the last 21 months that I have spent at Tirley Garth I have been able to learn and to enjoy good cooking. I know that great cooking is great art. It calls for a very adventurous spirit. When one uses one's imagination the kitchen becomes very exciting. It has been a most precious gift to me to learn what it means to serve with my hands, my heart and my mind.'

Albert Ingram, who spent many years with British Leyland and was a foreman on the Mini track, said, 'In industrial terms what has happened at Tirley is that we have extended our production line and the product that will come off that production line is a national and industrial leadership led by God.'

These two statements are at the heart of all that Tirley Garth stands for. If service, faith and care are the basis of all we do, then we have something worthy of export. And, if we have an expanding production line we have a means of export.

It is because of this increasing outreach that the trustees have expanded the buildings. The opening marks the culmination of the vision, generosity and hard work of many people and it marks also the beginning of a new stage, for now far more people can come to ensure that a valuable weapon is fully and imaginatively used.

JOHN LESTER

GREATEST INTELLECT contd from p3

Claremont in Western Australia the pupils sang:

Breathe on me breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love
And do what Thou wouldst do.'

At Grafton in New South Wales the students had been asked to name their own new secondary college. They named it 'Holy Spirit College', thus turning to the source of sanctity for a name. The verse in one school, and the name in the other, express the idea in this place, Tirley.

Dr Buchman knew from tested experience that when people allow God right of way in the inmost spirit, that produced creative family life, but he did not invite us to worship sound family life. In the notable cases of the late Maurice Mercier and the late Robert Carmichael, from the employee and employing sides of the French textile industry, there was demonstrated that a valid experience of God's spirit could produce economic revival; but Dr Buchman

IT'S MEANT contd from p3

snobbery — but was I, by closing my heart to them, the real snob?

Seeing people of every kind feel at home here has convinced me that God uses all who ask Him to, whatever their background or position.

RADHI PAREKH Bombay, India:

From the months that I have spent at Tirley, I believe that God always gives experiences far greater and richer than one could ever have imagined.

The greatest gift has been to cook with people from the world over, to have known the joy of giving my best for others and of the teamwork and friendship that it builds.

For me, teamwork has often meant having my own will crossed! For instance, though at times I rebelled against doing the less exciting things, I realise that it is in the small details that a spirit of willingness to serve can be brought into the kitchen. This has taught me how to create the care that can spring from the heart of every home.

DAVID DOWN Portsmouth, England:

Last August, I resigned from my administrative post with Portsmouth City Council because I believed God wanted me to take a 'sabbatical' year for further training in MRA. The thing which has meant most to me in my ten months here is the discovery that one can enjoy doing routine practical work. I never helped much at home — I thought domestic jobs were beneath me. Many people today fail to value practical service as much as intellectual ability. The balance must be restored if we are to have a world worth living in.

did not invite us to worship economic revival. The daily effort to find the purposes of God produces a new discipline in life, but he did not invite us to worship discipline. I said: 'The one thing we really need is to be guided by God's Holy Spirit. That is the force we ought to study. Then we will have a clear light that ends confusion. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to think and live.'

That is the conviction and experience which gave rise to Tirley Garth. It was for that purpose that the late Irene Prestwich gave Tirley as a gift to the world. Its impact in my own country has been very deep indeed.

With gratitude, and hope, and high expectation, it is my privilege to declare the extensions open.

Conference invitations and further information from: *The Conference Secretary, Tirley Garth, Tarporley, Cheshire CW6 0LZ*