

IN A WORLD RAVAGED BY MATERIALIST PHILOSOPHIES of Left or Right, there is need of a rallying of the moral and spiritual forces.

To this end, the programme of Moral Re-Armament was launched in 1938. Its initiator, Dr Frank Buchman, called it 'a programme of life issuing in personal, social, racial, national and international change'. 'A new illumination can come to everyone,' he said, 'and bring men and women of every creed and social stratum back to the basic principles of the Christian faith, enhancing all their primary loyalties.'

'Task forces' of MRA are in action on every continent, including Southern Africa, Latin America, the Mediterranean and several parts of Asia. Centres are maintained in many capitals and cities, and there are year-round training facilities in several countries. 'New World News' each week carries news of action across the world.

And there is the steady personal work which is transforming attitudes, healing class and race conflicts, giving men faith and a purpose.

Where does the money come from for this work? Here we give an insight into MRA's financing, and the implications for the world of what it demonstrates.

NEW WORLD NEWS

Vol 26 No 24 29 April 1978 7p

MONEY MATTERS



FRANZ HUNZIKER, Swiss fruit farmer: At the MRA conference centre in Caux we got a lot for our marriage and our lives. A new honesty has grown up between us. Some years ago, after we had planted new fruit trees on our farm, I had the thought, as soon as they began to bear, to send Caux the apples they needed. That comes to about four tons—eight per cent of our harvest. This we have done each year.

Supporting MRA takes priority with us because it goes to the root of the problems. It brings genuine healing and is not merely ointment on the wound.

PETER GEORGE, a bank official: I felt it right to take responsibility to raise the money needed—over £20,000—for an Asian force of MRA to visit Britain. I was shaken to realise, suddenly, that there was no safety net, no source of money to draw on if we did not find what we needed. We had to launch out in faith that God would provide. And, of course, He did.

CANON JULIAN THORNTON-DUESBERY of Liverpool Cathedral:

Money is one of God's great gifts and weapons for use, and St Paul and others worked hard at some of the principles behind it. The second letter to Corinth, chapters 8 and 9, is a textbook of Christian stewardship of possessions. They first of all gave themselves, and everything followed on from that.

I've found that if you try to live on a basis of putting your income at God's disposal, He doesn't let you down, and gives you lots of excitement about it all. As you get older your wants get less. It's enormous fun finding out where you can use your possessions. Sometimes you sell them and you can use the results of that for God's work. Other times you pass things on. I had the thought to dispose of a Georgian silver salver which I had inherited—a nice big plain thing, about 1770—but it had a couple of initials in the middle of it. Initials diminish the value of such a thing. But in this case God produced an American buyer who was prepared to pay £200 more because they were *his* initials!



HILDA SPOONER, Sheffield housewife: In the last ten years my friends and I have made more than 10,000lbs of jam, marmalade and chutney (over four tons) and sold it for the work of MRA.



FRANK ABBOTT, a life-long member of the Transport and General Workers Union: I come from the background of the nineteen thirties, which to me meant unemployment, exploitation and much suffering. I give my wage increase of £2.50 weekly to the unpaid workers of MRA who are the only ones I know who are giving an ideological answer to the 'I'm all right, Jack' society.



STANLEY HAZELL, a TV journalist: I give about 20 per cent of my salary to the work of Moral Re-Armament. My wife supports me in this. It means we cannot afford what we could if all my salary was going into our household budget. But we give it with all our hearts because we feel it is an investment in the future.

Free for adventure

WHERE GOD IS ALLOWED to guide, He can be relied on to provide. That is an experiment anyone can try. It is an essential experiment for anyone who wants to understand how MRA is financed.

MRA is an organism, not an organisation. It is people who have decided that their lives will be run by God, and to work with others that their nation and the world is run by God.

Labourers, housewives, teachers, students, trade unionists, politicians, all kinds of people, have put all they have in God's hands. As part of that, they have decided to seek His leading in their use of money.

Many have been led to live more simply than they otherwise would in order to free part of their income for this work. It may be to forward some project, such as inviting a team of people to their area. It may be to meet the needs of the MRA centres across the world.

The centres may be international conference complexes, such as at Caux in Switzerland where several thousand come each year; or smaller international centres

such as in Cheshire, England, in Melbourne, Australia, or Petropolis, Brazil; or homes where those undertaking this work can stay, and where people can come to find, with others, God's leading on the problems they face.

All are run on a basis of 'faith and prayer'. Each person gives according to his means and convictions. This works when everybody takes responsibility to use the available money in the best possible way.

This spirit of collective responsibility lies at the heart of MRA. Of course, where MRA is a registered charity, there is a legal body and a council of management to ensure that the money given is used efficiently and for the purposes for which its charitable status has been granted. But they consider themselves no more 'in charge' of this work than anyone else who will commit themselves, under God, to the task they have taken on in the world.

Thus MRA has no hierarchy—not even a membership. It is a fellowship of people who have decided to sacrifice pride, comfort and ambition, and put in the sweat, the imagination and daring, to win the centres of power and every last person to the transformation Christ brings.

For some this has meant giving up paid employment to devote all their time to this work. They receive no salary, and few have private means. In many countries they are

able to claim from the central funds of Moral Re-Armament for certain expenses such as travel and stationery used in connection with this work. But in few places does the assured income to these funds meet even the basic running costs of MRA's centres. Faith and prayer is needed here as in all this work. Few, therefore, claim anything like what they could. And all have many expenses on which they cannot claim. So how do they live?

Every one would tell a different story. To some a regular sum is covenanted by a person earning a wage or salary—the receiver can recover the tax on this, adding considerably to its value. A gift may come from a couple whose marriage has been saved, from a young man who has found a purpose for his life. If one person does not have enough, others will share. All experience the challenge and fascination of living on a basis of faith and prayer.

In all the action which MRA undertakes, the overriding consideration is to find what God wants done. When that is clear, it is certain that He has a plan for the money needed to do it. It may take much work as well as steadfast prayer to raise that money, but it is work which builds faith and a courageous spirit.

Thus money is used by God to create men of character, free from the tyranny which it can exert, free for the adventure of using money in a mighty purpose as He directs.

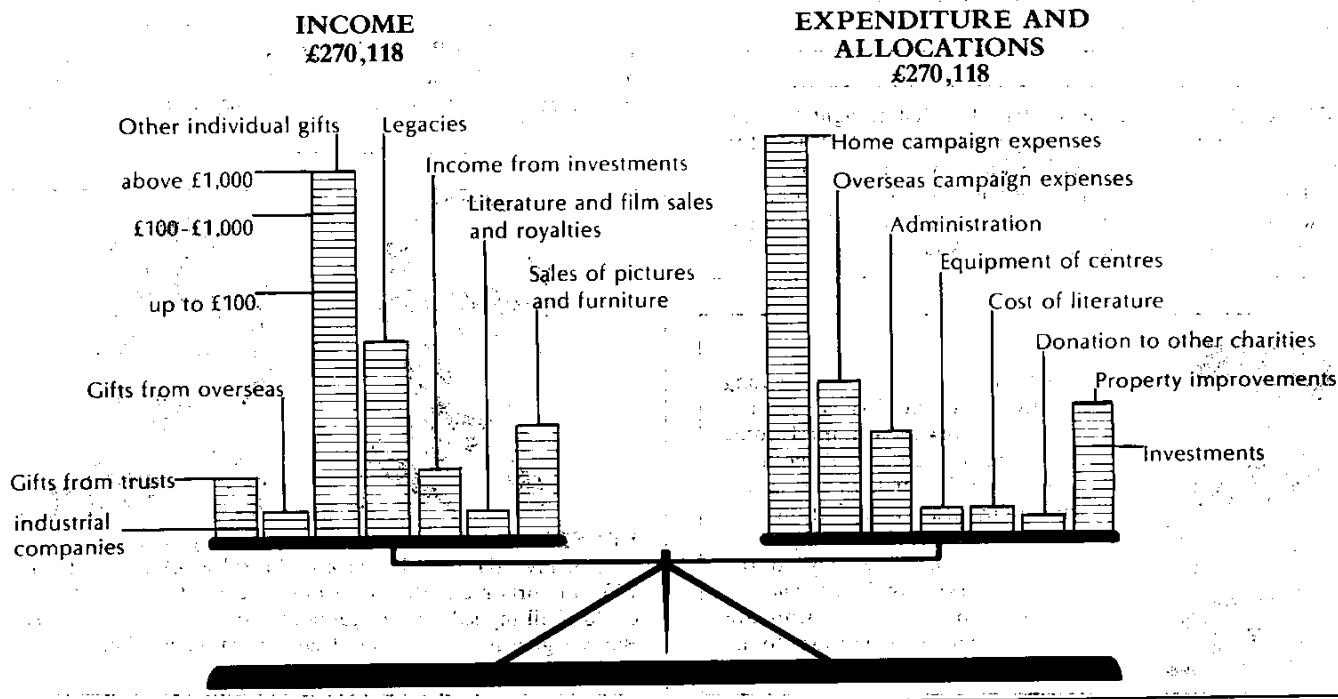
Britain, for instance

MRA HAS NO SINGLE WORLD HEADQUARTERS. Each country decides on the action to be undertaken there, and is responsible for its financing, although several countries may share in some major international venture.

Here we take Britain as an example to show where the money for MRA comes from, and how it is used.

In Britain the legal body responsible for Moral Re-Armament is known as The Oxford Group. Its accounts are audited by Price Waterhouse & Co. This diagram is based on the audited figures for the year 1977. The accounts are given fully in the Annual Report of MRA which will be published in May.

The advance of the work has been out of all proportion to the size of its budget. For when workers, however qualified or experienced, give service without salary, costs are cut considerably.



No computer needed



Felix Joss, who was for 25 years, Manager of the St Gallen Transport Corporation, Switzerland, speaking at the MRA conference centre at Caux:

THE ZURICH BANKS are well known around the world. But one of our main banks last year lost more than a thousand million francs through embezzlement. When I see the banks' all-too-human system, I thank God that there is a superior wisdom which can guide money matters.

I am a grandfather with 11 grandchildren, and I could keep piling up the money so that they might inherit from me as much as possible. But that is false thinking. Why should I not use my money so that it helps to build a new world, leaving my children and

grandchildren a far greater legacy than anything else I could do?

When I think what we have just heard from a group of South Africans of their change in attitude, when I think of the deep unity that was found here to replace the hatred which divided Germany and France after the war, I realise that it is an investment to have such a place and to have people working here without payment. This is a place where we who have our daily work have a part to play too. It is a stewardship in which nothing is wasted.

The word 'investment', looked at from this angle, gets an entirely new meaning. When we invest here, we do not need a computer to calculate the dividends. The dividends come in the fruits of a new world, which our children will inherit.

In the silence the still, small voice in our hearts speaks to us and tells us what should happen with our money. For me it has meant that I make regular contributions for specific purposes. But I do not rest content with that—at any time I am ready for God's direction to give to help bring about this new world.

As it says in the Bible, this blessing is returned to you a thousandfold. And a further secret of obedience to this superior wisdom is that he who gives always has enough.

You can all make this experiment. It is an adventure which will never disappoint you.

Ford to the fore



by Leslie Mace

FOR 40 YEARS I have worked to mobilise industry's money in this task of remaking the world. I invited my fellow Ford dealers to play a part.

Today cars are running, and film vans are operating, in different parts of the world because they responded.

When the pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone* was on at the Westminster Theatre (the MRA theatre in London), many orphaned children from the East End went to it as the guests of these Ford dealers. We continued this for the 12 years the pantomime was on.

The financing of this work is an investment which gives the satisfaction of something attempted, something done, a far greater return than the returns people usually get on their money.

Shop steward keeps on

TIRLEY GARTH is a country house and 40-acre estate in Cheshire, North-West England, which is used as an MRA centre. Half the population of Britain lives within a hundred miles. So it is an ideal meeting place and base from which to reach many industrial areas.

Recent conferences have drawn together people from all sides of industry; teachers planning how to make a Christian philosophy the motivating force in education; Welsh planning how Wales could export her faith as she has done so effectively in previous generations.

It is administered by the Irene Prestwich Trust, a charity so-named in memory of the lady who gave the house and estate to be used for MRA's work.

The running expenses of Tirley Garth are approximately £70,000 a year. This would be much higher were it not that nearly all the vegetables used at Tirley Garth are grown there, and many people help with gifts in kind, and in other ways. A joiner, for instance, worked there for three months without salary.

Under nine per cent of what is needed to

pay the bills each month comes from investments. That, plus the ten per cent that comes from Deeds of Covenant, is the only assured income Tirley Garth receives.

'I have often been in the position of wondering where on earth £2,000 will come from in a matter of days,' says the Secretary of the Trust. 'Many times we have prayed together for it. We have always been provided for.'

This is thanks to a large number of people like the man who retired last month after 30 years as a shop steward in the engineering industry, reducing his income by half. He decided he would make the necessary cut-backs in spending so that he could continue to give the same amount regularly to Tirley that he had been giving when on full salary. And like the widow who, hearing of the increasing needs of Tirley, has undertaken to

give £5 a month towards the bread bill.

As well as many visitors, there are always at least 40 people living at Tirley. They come from many countries for training, organise the conferences, run the centre, maintain the grounds and pass on what they learn to the people they meet in the surrounding areas. Many of them also contribute financially to their upkeep.

Rakai Tomoana, a New Zealand Maori, who has just finished 18 months' training at Tirley, says, 'It was here that I found the courage to face the worst in my character, the faith to believe that through God I can be different, and a commitment to living the highest I know so that God can use me to bring His solutions to a world defeated by human problems.' There are many like her who are now at work in a score of countries around the world.



To cure poverty

IF THERE IS TO BE a free future, we must cure the tyrannies that dominate the so-called free nations. Money is one of these. It binds, divides, embitters and drives.

People and nations in the grip of the desire for more and more will never cure poverty in the world. What is needed is not charity, but new ownership, new motivation, new management.

We could let God run our money. Any man can put what he has under God's control.

How does He mean our money to be used?

What, for instance, about the moves to establish a new international economic order which gives greater opportunities to the developing countries?

Do we do what we think we can manage, or what needs to be done? Are we held back by fear of unemployment and lost markets?

These are important considerations. But equally important is the truth that God has a plan.

This gives a completely new perspective on the vast problems we face. As God has met the needs of people and communities who have launched out in faith, might He not meet the needs of countries?

Here a businessman gives his experience:



Not cut according to his cloth

by Ralph Priestley,
Joint Managing Director of a chain of clothing shops in the North of England.

OUR COMPANY would be known as a small business by the government. We employ 120 people. As a small business you have to be self-financing. If you make a loss, there's no one to help you out. So you've got to have a profit. Some people think profit is the only motive in business.

In our business my brother and I for many years have put God first. One thing we've really worked on is that people matter.

Nevertheless last year was the worst for profit for 15 years. Our expenses had escalated and our sales had only gone up slightly. The rent on four shops has gone from £6,700 to £25,000 in the last two years.

The other large expense is wages. The staff in the retail trade are not highly paid and we are always glad to give an increase in wage

and would like to do more for our people. But the increases over the last two or three years have added up to as much as £25,000 in one year for us.

Last year the directors voluntarily took a reduction in earnings because of the situation.

Looking ahead, the only thing we could be certain of was that our expenditure was going to go up further. We had another wage increase of ten per cent coming up and we knew of other new expenditure. It was a very difficult situation.

My brother and I, for the first time in 30 years, didn't know what to do. Many people sell out at this stage. Others reduce their operation. We considered these possibilities.

However, as I was coming out of one of our shops a few days later, I felt a clear sense that we needed to keep going. But I didn't know how.

I only knew that God is far in advance of any business acumen. That's my experience. And we've been directed to do things over the years that in retrospect have been absolutely right, although we didn't see it as such at the time.

Turn-round

After we got out these rather salutary facts we had the annual conference of all our managerial staff. One of our managers said to us, 'Can't we have this conference in that place in Cheshire that you go to, Tirley Garth?'—the Moral Re-Armament conference centre. So we asked the trustees and we held our conference there. We stayed the night, saw round the place and the people there told us what they were doing. We also had three sessions the day after on business matters.

This created an atmosphere in our own staff such that two or three of them said, 'We're booking in for next year' as they left.

Later, when I had to work out some difficult things with them on reductions of expenses, I found that they had been doing the thinking for the company. We made a number of reductions in our wage bill, without causing hardship, I believe. Many of them were on the suggestion of the staff themselves.

When you get this sort of trust, then you can attain what sometimes seems a little impossible. I've never felt more in need of faith in business, the future is certainly not secure—but we're going forward in faith. It's surprising that from about two months after this conference at Tirley our sales have increased very considerably—which is God-given. We've put a lot of hard work in of course, but there are many things we can't explain. There's certainly been a turn-round in sales.

I'm quite sure that if people in business listen to God and take care of people instead of putting profit first, then these things will be looked after.

Everything is possible

by Alice Cardel,
a businesswoman from the Philippines,
speaking in London before leaving for
South America.

I'VE BEEN IN EUROPE for 16 months now after leaving the Philippines for what I originally thought a one-month stay for a conference in Switzerland.

Coming to Europe meant for me selling a small handicraft shop, a new sewing machine, emptying bank accounts and giving up business interests. It meant trusting God to look after my parents and my ten brothers and sisters.

We are now sharing with South-East Londoners the practical work of building better understanding between the races in Lewisham, South-East London. When I was working in the Philippines, I often had a car and a chauffeur to take me. This time, it is a great adventure to look for a lift, take the bus, or use my feet and walk.

It is a challenging experience to work with people from various countries here in Europe and to care for Britain as if it were my own.

Recently, I have decided to accept an invitation to work in Brazil with Moral Re-Armament without any salary, but on the basis of faith that where God guides, He provides.

The students in South America, primarily in Brazil, are interested to put on a play of their experiences of change in their own lives. This, and the requests of families of trade unionists, has inspired me to go there with a conviction to work and learn the Brazilian way of *jeito* which means 'everything is possible'.

Tailpiece

by John Bond

I WAS WORKING with MRA in Southern Africa. Just before returning to Britain I was completely broke. Walking gloomily home, wondering how to find some money to buy presents for my family, my mood was not improved when a dog rushed out of the house I was passing and bit me on the leg.

But the owner was so chagrined that, having taken me to the hospital for an injection, he insisted on giving me £20 as compensation.

Then I was able to buy all the presents I wanted!

Published weekly for Moral Re-Armament by The Good Road Ltd, PO Box 9, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2UH, England. Printed by Tonbridge Printers Ltd. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Articles may be reproduced without reference to the editor, acknowledgement welcomed. Annual subscription: British Isles, posted fortnightly £4.50, posted weekly £6.50; Overseas (airmail weekly) including Europe, £6.75. Regional offices and rates (airmail weekly): Australia MRA Publications, Box 1078J, GPO Melbourne, Vic 3001 \$12.00. New Zealand MRA Information Service, PO Box 4198, Christchurch \$12.50. South Africa Moral Re-Armament, PO Box 10144, Johannesburg R11.80. Canada 387 Chemin de la Cote Ste Catherine, Montreal, Quebec H2V 2B5 \$14.00. USA Moral Re-Armament Inc, Suite 702, 124 East Fortieth Street, New York, NY 10016 \$14.00. Editorial address: 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF.