

NEW WORLD NEWS

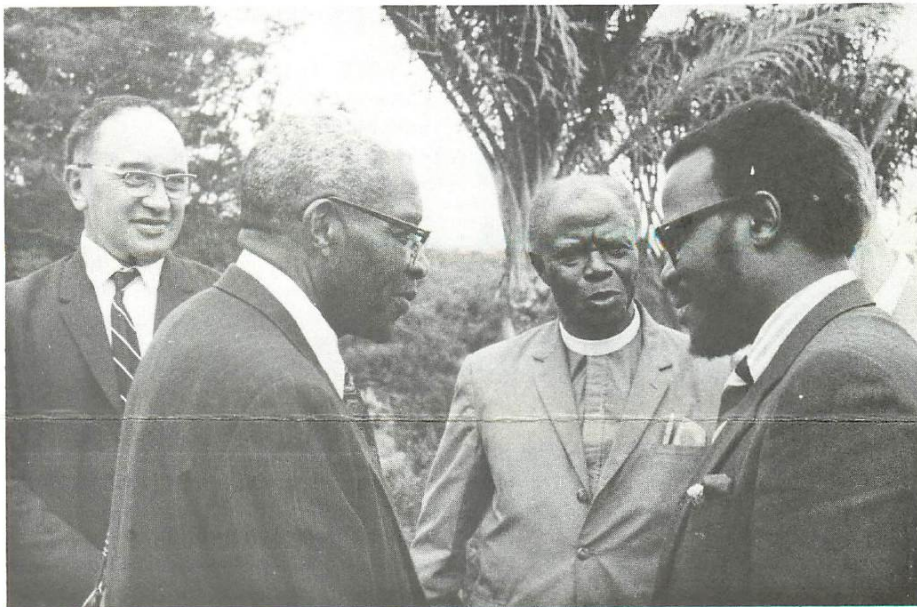
FOR MORAL RE-ARMAMENT



The Prime Minister of Swaziland, HRH Prince Makhosini Dlamini, welcomes an international delegation of Moral Re-Armament at an official reception in the House of Parliament on behalf of HM King Sobhuza II. From left: HRH Prince Masitsela Dlamini; the Chairman of the Swaziland National Council; Rev George Daneel; the Prime Minister; the Deputy Prime Minister.



Prof H W E Ntsanwisi, Chief Minister of Gazankulu, hosts a luncheon for the MRA delegation in the Parliament building.



Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, Chief Minister of Kwazulu, (right) meets Prof Richard Brown of West Virginia, USA. Behind: the Rt Rev S I Kale, Bishop of Lagos, Nigeria and (left) Tom Ormond, Member of the Maori Council of New Zealand. Forty international visitors were invited to Kwazulu and Gazankulu after attending the Assembly for All Races in Pretoria, South Africa.

at a glance

●THE PRIME MINISTER of Laos has awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to each member of the cast of *Song of Asia* 'in gratitude for dedicated service to the people of the Kingdom of Laos through *Song of Asia* and Moral Re-Armament'. The presentations were made by Tianethone Chantharasay, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at a reception in Vientiane.

Two open air showings of *Song of Asia* have been given for 8,000 people. *Xat Lao*, a Lao daily paper, wrote, 'What touched one most was the moral that instead of killing one another people can be reconciled.'

●BRITISH PLAYWRIGHT Alan Thornhill was interviewed for an hour on Capital Radio, London's new commercial station. It was on the phone-in programme 'A Question of Faith'. Extracts from his

writings were read including the whole of his new short Easter play (*New World News*, Vol 22 No 25).

●THE BBC AFRICA SERVICE broadcast an interview with Conrad Hunte, former vice-captain of the West Indies Cricket Team. This was on the programme 'Post-bag' and was in response to a listener who had written in from Liberia asking for information about MRA.

●THE INTER-RACIAL ASSEMBLY held in Pretoria, South Africa, last month has been reported with a photograph in the *British Weekly*, the *Church of England Newspaper* and the *Christian Record*. Rev Leslie Marsh, describing in the *Methodist Recorder* what he saw taking place at the assembly, wrote, 'Such changes could yet bring justice with peace to all races of this land.'

●AN ARTICLE in *New World News* (Vol 22 No 21) about violence has been re-

printed in *The Times of Malta*.

●HALF THE CAMERA WORK for the mobile version of *Cross Road*, the show based on the life of Frank Buchman, is now completed. Outside filming is finished and the last seven weeks of camera work in the studio is just beginning. This version of *Cross Road* will make it possible for the show to be given anywhere in the world using just a 16 mm projector. So far £3,800 has been given and a further £4,500 will be needed to complete the work. Meanwhile the live version of *Cross Road* is continuing its tour of Britain.

●EXPLORING A FRESH WAY is the theme of a conference to be held at Asia Plateau, Panchgani, 17/27 May. The conference invitation quotes Vinay Kumar Biala, General Secretary of 3500 students in Allahabad: 'I have found a more revolutionary way of changing society than by agitation. Radical change does come from men's hearts.'

'Exploring a Fresh Way' is the theme of a conference to be held from 17 to 27 May at Asia Plateau, the MRA centre at Panchgani in western India.

The conference invitation states, 'Today we live in an age of discontent. Many believe that violence is a means of achieving justice. But violence – and the toll in human lives and destruction of property that goes with it – need not be inevitable. There is a more fundamental revolution. It begins when we have the commonsense and courage to start our revolt with ourselves; to free ourselves of the evils that we detest in society and help others to do the same.'

Two of the organizers of the conference are Dale D'Mello (21) and Michael Pereira (24), final year medical students from Bombay. They first met the ideas of MRA when an African student in their college invited them to a conference at Panchgani last January. Here they answer questions put to them by our correspondent MICHAEL SMITH.



Michael Pereira



Dale D'Mello

Exploring a fresh way

Q: WHY HAVE YOU organized this conference and what do you hope will come out of it?

DALE D'MELLO: Activist students in the states of Gujarat and Bihar have spearheaded agitations to oust corrupt administrators. In Gujarat they have succeeded. But in both states they have paid a bloody price. In Gujarat alone more than eighty people have been killed. And not all the students are free of corruption themselves. Students in this country are searching for an ideology deeper than violence. We believe that MRA is the ideology they are looking for. At Panchgani we will be exploring the heart of a revolution which we have the faith will shape history.

MICHAEL PEREIRA: Arrogance, corruption, and deceit of all kinds have had their say – and so have silver and gold. Now it is only fair that wisdom and justice show us the way to save our civilization and alter the course of history. We meet at Panchgani in May to evaluate honestly our past lives and re-discover God's plan for us.

Q: What have you done yourselves to tackle corruption?

MICHAEL PEREIRA: The determination to change is the first step towards change. But this change must come within ourselves first. We have decided to fight corruption by ending our own cheating in examinations and by strengthening our minds through pure hearts for a more effective role in society.

In college some of us wrote a play called *Change*. It was based on our own experiences, highlighting our dark corners and how and why we need to put things straight. In it we tackled corruption in colleges, cheating in exams and time wasting. We staged the play on the prestigious college 'Talent Nite'. It was well received by some but rather uncomfortably by others.

DALE D'MELLO: When I met MRA in January I measured my life against the absolute standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love. I soon realized I was just as corrupt as the people I had learned to blame. I commute ten miles to and from college every day. The rush hour crush gives every thinking commuter ample opportunity to bewail his plight and spew vengeance upon the Railways. But did I have a right to

A novel experience

Dr Suresh Bhagnari, a resident Medical Officer in psychiatry in the hospital where Dale and Michael study, has sent us the following story.

ON 2ND FEBRUARY, 1973, a doctor in the hospital where I was studying gave me an MRA booklet called *Continents in Partnership*. I read an article written by him in the booklet. It was a unique article revealing a rare combination of honesty and humility. I read every other article in the booklet.

On page 12 there were the words, 'They returned stolen books to libraries...' That clicked a bell in my mind – and memories of 12 years back flashed before me. I had done something then which I have not thought of doing for the last 12 years.

When I was in the eighth standard at school I had been a member of a library. I loved to read comics and Perry Mason novels. One of my friends said that it was very easy to flick comics

and novels from that library. I asked him how. He said that I should wear a bush-shirt. The librarian had a corneal opacity in his left eye. When the librarian, who could see only with one eye, was looking elsewhere I had to pick a novel, lift the bush-shirt up, shove the novel in between my shorts and stomach and put the bush-shirt back in place.

I tried it and succeeded. I flicked three or four novels and one comic book. And I forgot all about it – till I read the MRA booklet.

A turmoil began in my mind. What was I to do? I had the novels in my attic. Should I return them? 'Oh, no,' said one voice within me. 'Ten years is a long time. Forget it. You should just resolve never to do it again.'

'But,' said the other voice (I now know that this was the real voice), 'resolution does not rectify a wrong. A wrong action which can be rectified must be done so.' I decided to return the novels.

I climbed to the attic and found the novels. As I was coming down my mother saw me. She asked, 'What are you doing?' 'Taking out some novels,' I said. 'See,' she said, 'old things are of use sometimes.' 'Yes,' I said, 'they are of immense value today.'

Her remarks and this dialogue sparked off another agitation in my mind. Should I tell my mother what I was going to do? Should I tell her that I had stolen books when I was in school? What would her reaction be?

I decided to tell her the truth. Hesitatingly, I told her what I had done ten years ago and what I intended to do today. Her reply filled me with joy. She said, 'You are doing the right thing. May God give you strength and protect you.' This reply also bound me to return the books as between lunch time and evening my decision to return the books might have changed.

In the evening, the novels in my hand, I left my home for the library. Another thought struck me. Suppose a friend of mine were to meet me on the road, he would be sure to ask me what I was doing with so many novels. What was I to tell him? Should I wrap them in a newspaper? And in the library also there would be other people. Should I take the librarian in a corner and then tell him that I had come to return the books which I had stolen 12 years ago? Above all, what would his reaction be? Would he think I was a freak?

Casting these thoughts aside, my inner

criticize when I sometimes travelled without a ticket? I decided to wage war on my weakness, which had held me captive for years, by restoring to the Railways the sum I owed them.

When I approached the Railways I was shunted from station to station till I finally arrived at the office of the Deputy Commercial Superintendent. When I announced my decision to him he was so surprised that he even suggested that I appear on television. Now I have a freedom I had never known.

Q: Have you appeared on television?

DALE D'MELLO: Not yet, but I was surprised to read a news agency report of my story in a newspaper. I know of three national newspapers that have carried it.

Q: What else did you decide as a result of your first visit to Panchgani?

MICHAEL PEREIRA: I realized that I needed to spend more time serving my countrymen rather than whiling it away at late night parties.

I was extremely moved by the story of one of the villagers; how he had first changed his life after measuring it against the yardstick of the absolute standards and then cleaned up his village. I decided to form a team of medical students and initiate the task of medical relief in this village. A group of us now go regularly to visit the villagers and to help out with their health, domestic and social problems. We feel in time to come this village could be a model village for others to follow across the country.

voice told me, 'If you want to acknowledge a wrong deed be bold and fearless.'

The library is 15 minutes' walk away from my home. I climbed the stairs of the library, and there I was—face to face with the librarian with one eye and the owner of the library to whom I was going to confess.

I put the books on the counter. The owner shook his head and said, 'We don't take old novels.' I told him, 'Sir, I have come to return your novels.' (My voice was a little hoarse, it was not my usual tone.)

'Yes, yes, these may be our novels but we don't take them back,' he said. He thought I had come to sell the novels. 'No, no,' I said, 'they are your novels and I have come to return them.' 'Please, I don't understand what you try to say,' he said. I said, 'You see, 12 years back I was a member of your library. And instead of taking one book I used to take two.' 'So what,' he replied, 'I still don't understand.' 'You see, sir, the second novel I used to take without this gentleman's knowledge,' I said, pointing to the librarian. (I know that I was scared to use the word 'stolen') Then the truth dawned upon him. He exclaimed, 'Oh, you mean you used to

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Calcutta wife

An interview
by Vanessa Clark

WITH THE AFTERNOON SUN streaming through the window on to a spotlessly white sari hanging to dry, and as the flies droned lazily by, Mrs Banerji spoke of her life in Calcutta.

She rises at 5 a.m. and goes to market and by 9 a.m. has prepared her husband's food for the day and already done much of the work of their flat.

Mrs Uma Banerji is of royal descent, from the ruling family of Krishnanagar. Her mother, widowed young, had to struggle alone to raise seven children with a resilience which is certainly inherited by her daughter who gives the impression of having a great inner strength. Mrs Banerji has a quiet power strengthened by a remarkable sense that she is completely satisfied with all she has. She tells stirring tales from the rich mysteries of India's past and of her experiences during the Freedom struggle.

Her husband, Satya Banerji, has worked for many years on the railways in Calcutta and is President of the Drivers' Union. At first he earned only seven shillings a week. Now he earns ten pounds a week. Asked how she had managed to keep her family of two daughters and her mother-in-law, she re-



Uma Banerji

plied: 'I have no yearning for luxury. I buy what is needed and nothing more. Our standard of living is the same now as when my husband started work.'

'In 1971, the widow living in the flat above ours lost her leg in an accident and consequently lost her job. She has no resources so since then I have cleaned her flat daily and given her all her meals. I want to look after her until she dies.'

Calcutta's vast problems seemed to melt as Mrs Banerji spoke in this way.

At one point, her husband lost his job. He was offered another while two

thousand others he had worked with remained redundant when their railway closed down. Mrs Banerji felt that many men with bigger families would need the job more than them, so encouraged her husband to refuse the offer. He did so. During the next ten months the Banerjis had to sell some of their furniture to live. Satya worked so that all those men found work on other railways. Only then did he accept a new job himself.

Mrs Banerji feels that miracles are the natural outcome of obedience to God. She gives many instances of God's intimate care for every last detail of her family's welfare.

One year, much in need of a break, the thought came that the family should go to Darjeeling, an expensive area in the North of India. They set off with a total of ten pounds to last them eleven days. 'On arrival in Darjeeling,' Mrs Banerji said, 'we stood on the platform feeling rather lost, knowing full well we could not afford a hotel, or any decent accommodation. As we stood uneasily, two Bengali boys approached quite unexpectedly. Asked if they knew of any cheap accommodation, they told us at once of several houses built on a charitable basis for families of different regions who had nowhere to stay—houses of which we had never heard in Darjeeling. We stayed there rent-free, only paying the cost of overheads. We had enough money for fresh food so that the children who were quite thin put on weight and we returned home with some money left.'

Her eighteen-year-old daughter, Tia, is travelling with the musical show *Song of Asia* supported financially by her father. A few months ago, deep in his heart, Mr Banerji felt God asking him to resign his job that he may be more completely available to work for the ending of the corruption and division in India. He was very anxious that Tia might not be provided for. Backed by his wife, in faith, he obeyed God. Almost at once, Tia received money from a distant friend in Canada, the same amount usually paid by her father. Mrs Banerji said of this, 'It is usual in India for the mother to keep her wings closely guarding her family. I encouraged Satya to resign and took those wings away so Tia could be free.'

Mr Banerji, who has been very active and powerful in trade union work, said: 'You may think I am revolutionary, but much of my strength has come from my wife. She's much stronger than I am.'

Mahatma Gandhi said, 'I am firmly of the opinion that India's salvation depends on the sacrifice and enlightenment of her women.' These words are vitalised by a woman like Mrs Banerji whose quiet strength derives from the unshakable power of that deepest voice in the heart.

●TEN CLERGYMEN from different denominations in Europe have invited clergymen and ministers from all continents to meet them at a special session (26/31 July) during the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament in Caux, Switzerland. 'With past experience of Caux,' they write, 'we are more than ever convinced of its supreme importance this year.'

●FOR A UNITED NATION was the theme of a conference held at Tirley Garth, Cheshire at the end of April for men and women in local government.

One result of the conference was the decision that *Cross Road* would be given in London for civic leaders and that a coach party would be organized to take council members, town hall employees and others to Caux at the end of August.

●ALDRESHOT WEEKLY NEWS reports the production by a local secondary school of Peter Howard's pantomime *Give a Dog a Bone*. The paper says that the young actors, mostly about 14 years old, 'tackled their parts enthusiastically, sang the songs with vigour and seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly... this feeling soon spread to the audience.'

The headmaster described *Give a Dog a Bone* as 'a musical play with a message about the evils of pollution and public conscience'. The head of humanities, who produced the play, said, 'When these pupils have taken their exams I would like to make a film record of the play.'

Each year since the school opened in 1969 a large party of pupils have gone from it to the 'Day of London Theatre', run by the Westminster Theatre.

●SAMUEL GANI, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Internal Affairs of Benue Plateau State, Nigeria, says of the MRA films purchased by his

Government, 'They have the desired effect. Whenever there is a dispute in some area of the state I find it useful to send the film *Freedom* to be shown. Recently we had trouble in one school, for instance, and a different spirit came in after the film was shown.'

A senior agricultural officer in the state said that his department had also bought copies of *Freedom* in English and Hausa to show through the villages because the farmers learned from it to work together, one of the greatest needs in the creation of effective agricultural development.

●FILMS FOR A NEW AGE is the theme of a Cwmbran May Film Festival. MRA feature films are being shown each Saturday in May and on 1 June.

●THE AMERICAN CHURCH in London last week performed Peter Howard's *The Ladder*. The play was also given last Monday by an ecumenical youth group in a Portsmouth church.

●VOZ COMMERCIÁRIA carried a five column report of the visit to the Commercial Workers' Union in Sao Paulo, Brazil, by British trade unionists. It has a headline, 'Moral Re-Armament - a new outlook on human problems'.

●THE CORNISHMAN, a Penzance weekly, is one of the local papers in Britain which has in the last few weeks printed the statement 'Wanted - a Mosquito Armada', which first appeared in *The Times* and *The Guardian* last month.

The Ethiopian Herald carried this statement on its editorial page.

●THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD also published an article headed 'A wave of honesty can be the cure'. It is written by Nigusie Assressie.

He describes the cure to corruption as a tidal wave of honesty sweeping through the land in which everyone from ministers to students has a part. He says that this is not only possible but is the key to development and illustrates where it has happened in countries around the world.

Mr Assressie, who works in the Electricity Corporation, concludes, 'We can all play a part in this battle for honesty. The government cannot do it without us. As we start, others will catch this spirit. Honesty can become fashionable, first in our family, then in our school or office, then in the city and nation.'

●NOTICIAS, a daily in Lourenco Marques, carried a 3 column picture and article about the Pretoria Assembly and the visit to Mozambique of some of the delegates after attending it.

Money

Sir Roy Pinsent, 90, has sent us this advice on investment

AS A COMMERCIAL LAWYER I have often been asked by my clients how they should invest their money. For the first 40 years of my professional life I used to tell them (1) avoid gambles or at least see you have ample money in the bank to meet the cost and (2) do not put all your eggs in one basket.

But in 1948 I met MRA and began to have doubts about the wisdom of my advice.

A few years later I was invited to go to Nigeria and help to make the all-African film *Freedom*. The experts in London calculated that it would cost £100,000 and we had, when we set off, only £5,000 'in the bank' and £5,000 promised. If ever there was a crazy gamble, surely this was one and I was in charge of the money side of the operation. We told God and our friends of our needs, and during the whole operation just enough money came in just in time to pay our bills. As everyone, the cast of 6,000, the technicians and everyone else, worked without pay, it only cost £18,000 in Nigeria. Wonderful value for money.

Since then I confidently advise people with money to invest to put as many eggs as possible in one basket - the world wide enterprise of MRA. What do you look for in a good investment?

Capital Appreciation

I can promise you this in full measure!

Security

I can't think of anything more reliable than God's promise that where He guides He will provide.

Good Dividends

I can promise you (a) increasing peace of mind and joy of living, both of which are 'sans prix' in our grim turbulent world and (b) the supreme satisfaction of playing a part in the greatest adventure of all times - creating a better world for our children and grandchildren to live in. I base my advice on my own experience, having invested till it almost hurts in this way myself.

To anyone prepared to accept my advice I offer a few more suggestions:

(a) Think out what you believe you can comfortably afford and then double it - you'll find you can afford it without noticeable sacrifice of comfort.

(b) Do it quickly - time is short and life is precarious.

(c) Do it gladly - God and man love a cheerful giver.

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flick the novels?' 'You may say that,' I said. He was dazed and stood looking at me. 'This is the first time something like this has happened to me,' he said. 'Please explain to me how it all happened and how this change has come about you.'

So I told him about the MRA booklet *Continents in Partnership*, which had made me take this step. He was very pleased. I asked for his forgiveness. He wanted to read the booklet and expressed his desire to meet again. I saw that I had made one more friend. I returned home a happier and lighter man.