

# Ask

Your questions answered by  
**STEPHEN FRIEND**

# The Star

## Moral Rearmament

**"J. M. M.," Lower Houghton:**  
 "I have recently received pamphlets from the movement called 'Moral Rearmament' and have seen the film, 'The Crowning Experience,' which they presented in Johannesburg. In these, I was struck by the vagueness of the objects and methods of the movement. I therefore ask the following questions: Who are the leaders of 'Moral Rearmament' in South Africa?"

**ANSWER:** A spokesman for Moral Rearmament, who provided the answers to all these questions says that there are no leaders of Moral Rearmament in South Africa or anywhere else because it is not an organization. It is a force of men and women committed under God to put right what is wrong in the world.

As Robert Schuman, when he was Foreign Minister of France, said in his foreword to "Remaking the World," the speeches of Dr. Frank Buchman, "Moral Rearmament is a philosophy of life applied in action. It provides teams of trained men ready for the service of the state, apostles of reconciliation and builders of a new world. It is the beginning of a far-reaching transformation of society."

**"Is Dr. Frank Buchman, who is apparently the world-leader; the same man who, I believe was associated with the Oxford Group? Is M.R.A. a development of the Oxford Group? Is 'Moral Rearmament' a new name for it?"**

**ANSWER:** Dr. Frank N. D. Buchman, is the initiator of this world force known previously as the Oxford Group and since 1938 as Moral Rearmament.



A series of questions by a reader in Johannesburg about the Moral Rearmament movement is comprehensively answered by a spokesman for M.R.A. today. The photograph shows the movement's headquarters at Caux, Switzerland, in the background with some South African visitors to a world assembly in the foreground. They are: Dr. A. Smuts (standing), author and vocational adviser, of Johannesburg, with (seated, left to right) Mrs. Smuts, Mrs. E. Hoogenhout, wife of the South African Ambassador in Holland when the photograph was taken in 1953, Mrs. Lukaschek and Dr. Lukaschek, Federal German Minister for Refugees at that time.



**Dr. Buchman**

Mr. A. McKenzie, a British Diplomat, addressing a conference in Geneva in 1955, said: "Forty years ago there was one man. Today there is a world force because Dr. Buchman did not only diagnose the need of his age but decided to live the answer and build a force of men and women who would proclaim the answer around the world."

**"As the film, 'The Crowning Experience,' concerns itself with the trials of the Coloured people of the U.S.A., what is the attitude of the movement towards the 'Colour question' in South Africa?"**

**ANSWER:** Moral Rearmament is for all men everywhere and stands for a change of heart and selfish motives of White and Black alike. The issue is not colour but character, not who is right but what is right, not what the White man wants or the Black man wants, but what God wants for South Africa.

**"In the film attention was drawn to the important place the late Thomas Edison and the late**

**Henry Ford have in M.R.A. What is the association these two men have?"**

**ANSWER:** Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edison and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford were close personal friends of Dr. Frank Buchman. Henry Ford in a message to Dr. Buchman said: "Moral Rearmament gives me hope for the future of the world because of the results achieved."

Mrs. Edison, addressing a meeting in Los Angeles said: "Moral Rearmament, like my husband's light, must go to every home in the world."

**"What are the positive aims of the M.R.A.?"**

**ANSWER:** Dr. Frank Buchman said: "Only the very selfish or the very blind person is content to leave the world as it is today. Most of us would like to change the world. The trouble is too many of us want to do it our own way. We reckon without God and without a change in human nature, and the result is confusion, bitterness and war."

"A new type of man, a new type of statesmanship, a new type of national policy — this is our instant need and this is the purpose for which Moral Rearmament has come to birth."

**"How does the movement propose to fight Communism?"**

**ANSWER:** Moral Rearmament is not anti-Communist and believes that Communists, like anybody else, can change. In the German Ruhr, as a result of the work of Moral Rearmament, Communist control of the Works Councils dropped from 72 per cent. to 8 per cent. within four years. On November 5, 1959, Chancellor Adenauer said: "Moral Rearmament's success in answering Communism in the Ruhr was for me the test of its effectiveness."



**Dr. Adenauer**

Mr. Eudocio Ravines, founder of the Communist Party of Peru, addressing the World Assembly of Moral Rearmament on Mackinac Island, Michigan, in 1959, said: "There are millions, like me, who would leave the Communist Party if they knew there was something big enough to fill the vacuum. M.R.A. does fill this vacuum because it is a superior ideology."

**"What is the doctrine it offers in its place?"**

**ANSWER:** There are two ideologies bidding for the world today. One is Communism, which believes that man's mind should control the world through human nature that has been exploited. The other is Moral Rearmament, which believes that God's Mind should control the world through human nature that has been changed.

The alternative is made clear in William Penn's words: "Men must choose to be governed by God or they condemn themselves to be ruled by tyrants."