



Globalisation vision

92 year-old, Greenock born Tom Gillespie of Sydney suggests this agenda for globalisation:

A uniting purpose for humanity as we give priority to the welfare of all, especially the down-trodden and under-privileged. The aim of globalisation must be to construct a fear-free, greed-free, hate-free world,

- where wealth and work are available for all and the exploitation of none;
- where everyone cares enough and shares enough so that everyone has enough;
- of many languages, cultures and customs where each speaks the language of unselfishness;
- where everyone, without exception, can play a responsible part in the creation of a fair and free society.

NEW BOOKLET

God Guides – Stories from India

A new edition of a booklet by educator Mary Geegh, who worked in India for over 40 years. Edited and produced by John Faber, with stories of students, farmers, teachers, housewives, communists, who beat a pathway to Mary's door to learn the secret of listening to the voice of God.

Foreword by Niketu Iralu and cartoon illustrations by Einar Engebretsen.

Copies at £2.50 each, incl. p&p, from John Faber, Pythouse, Tisbury, Salisbury, SP3 6PB and from 24 Greencoat Place.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Oxford

Thursday, November 20, 8 pm
Wesley Memorial Methodist Church
New Inn Hall Street.

Public lecture by author and broadcaster Michael Henderson
Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate

Greencoat Forums

Tuesday evenings, 6.30 pm
24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD

Tuesday, November 18

In search of leadership

Personal presentations by graduates of *Learn to Lead*, the Sheffield based national leadership programme focusing on the development of young people.

Tuesday, December 9

Hilary Belden will speak on *Excellence and enjoyment for all? Goals for 21st Century education.*

Hilary Belden is Project Director, Ealing Excellence in Cities Education Action Zone and a former secondary headteacher.

Saturday, December 6

Friends of Westminster Productions
A Cornucopia for Christmas
3 pm, The Barn, 24 Greencoat Place
followed by tea

4 pm: **Action for Life Christmas Fair**
Ground Floor, 24 Greencoat Place
(in support of *Action for Life*)

WHERE PEOPLE COME OUT DIFFERENT

Around 50 people representing different areas and generations spent the weekend of October 10-12 at the Initiatives of Change National Forum in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Our numbers almost doubled on Saturday, when people came from Nottingham, Sheffield, Leeds and Huddersfield. We were given a panorama of IC at work and examples of people who saw a situation was wrong and then did something about it:



John Leggat

Members of the Learn to Lead group at Swanwick

- The Nottingham policeman who was asked to take part in an Honest Dialogue with people from a notorious area of the city. 'I was very sceptical,' he said. 'I looked at the situation with my policeman's hat on. Now I am excited about the process as I saw a thriving community, but they did not have a voice.'
- The founder of Eagle-Eye Enterprise in Huddersfield, who has formed a consortium of 30 black builders who were not fully using their skills. He is giving them support in administration, and finding them the training they need to put in bids for council and other contracts.
- University students from the

Learn to Lead programme in Sheffield, which involves learning and teaching through mentoring. One said that through this course he had gained confidence and self-awareness, which had made him more aware of others; he had addressed issues in his own life and could pass on his experience.

- The Somali refugee who realised there was a shortage of 80,000 lorry and bus drivers in this country. Having these skills, he has in the last two years set up National Ethnic Transport Training (NETT) to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees who had no jobs and to address the shortage of drivers.
- The council official from Newcastle who works with refugees and asylum seekers. He told of initiatives to integrate into the NHS

This issue was edited by Mary Jones, with layout by Blair Cummock. Please send material for the December issue by November 25 to Ann Carpenter, Bourne Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wilts BA12 6DA, email: russell.ann@tiscali.co.uk



Hakim Wais, founder of NETT, a company training truck drivers from the ethnic minorities.

those who have health worker skills. He also goes into schools to raise awareness of the needs of these people and to dispel the myths many have.

- The mother who decided to do something for the young people of her village instead of grumbling about them. The petty vandalism was the result of 'nothing to do'. She has helped them, through dialogue with the local council, to get a place to meet and to establish a youth club. A skateboard park is taking a little longer to come to birth.

People were able to go into more detail about these initiatives in afternoon workshops. We also heard about IC programmes in Britain and beyond.

It was interesting to see the networking between groups as they encouraged, sustained and inspired each other and saw ways to help. As someone said, 'It is encouraging to see programmes where people come out different.'

It was suggested that another gathering be held in six months' time, perhaps in Birmingham or Liverpool. A suggested theme: *Healing History – Transforming Relationships – Building Community.*

Ann Rignall

NEW PARIS CENTRE

On Saturday, October 18, we attended the first opening of the new IC Centre in Paris – 'Maison des Acacias' – named after the trees that line the street where the house is located. The centre is in the Paris suburb of Issy-les-Moulineaux, with excellent public transport links.

More than 70 people came from around France, with others from Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and ourselves from UK. Meeting in the large welcoming reception area, well lit through windows in the roof, it was inspiring and encouraging to learn about the various initiatives being taken in and from France. In addition to the wide range of people who spoke of their particular commitments, display boards and computer screens gave detailed information on all the IC activities in France – these include regular discussion groups on social issues, a Round Table working for reconciliation among different groups in Burundi, projects developing understanding and vision for the future of Europe and relations with the Muslim world, as well as the production of *Changer*, the quarterly magazine which goes to more than 50 countries.

Parts of the centre are still under construction, and an official opening with the Mayor of Issy-les-Moulineaux is planned for early next year.

Geoffrey and Veronica Craig

- **Chatsworth**, home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire in rural, middle England, was the venue for a memorable afternoon on October 4, when 70 came to hear **Michael Henderson's** talk on his book. It was well received by an audience of all ages, local people, students and some from further afield.

Discussion groups organised by Peter Field, OBE, who works in industrial relations, brought up some interesting points.

Brendan Ingle, Sheffield's veteran trainer to boxing champions, spoke of his visits to prisons where the lives of young men are being changed. A Sheffield policeman spoke of new life he found through forgiveness.

'The essence of forgiveness left one feeling a sense of hope for the future,' said another person.

Barbara Priestley

DEDICATION OF TIRLEY TABLE

Last month Utkinton School, less than a mile as the crow flies from the Tirley Garth estate, celebrated Harvest Festival in traditional fashion, with gifts of food for elderly residents of Utkinton, and a local Family charity, and flowers for Tarporley Hospital. The occasion was packed, with many standing. There are over 60 children at the school; most had members of their families present and some long-standing Tirley Friends had been invited.

As part of the evening, the oak 'Mouseman' table, given to the school by the Trustees and Friends

of Tirley Garth, was dedicated by the Rector of Tarporley, Graham Cookson. The cross and candles stood on it for the service. The children told how they had visited the Thompson workshop in North Yorkshire to collect the table.

The Headteacher, Ann Barnett, read out the names of 'Tirley' families whose children had attended the school in the past 30 years: Wise, Pearce, Faunce, Porter, Paine, Thwaites, Weeks, Pugh, Craig, Lancaster, Leggat, Lester, Liu, Evans, Cummock, Wigan, Cosens. She spoke with appreciation of the Tirley parents who have been governors of the school, of shared values between Tirley and the school, and of the friendship and support represented in our common outlook.

There are two plaques in the school which are testament to an even older association with Tirley. The first, in the Infants' classroom, says 'This classroom is the gift of the Misses Prestwich of Tirley Garth, and was opened on St Paul's Day 1934'. The other, in the big classroom – the old church – reads: 'The electric light in this church and school was the gift of Mrs Prestwich of Tirley Garth, who died October 10, 1938. It was used to the glory of God for the first time at the Harvest Festival on October 9, 1938.'

Now there is a third plaque, on the 'Tirley table', which reads: 'In recognition of a long and happy association between Tirley Garth and Utkinton School, December 2002'.
Ginny Wigan

outages in New York, London and Italy, as well as North Carolina and Virginia, gave millions a brief taste of what life is like for many in less affluent countries. As a Ugandan friend commented, coping with power cuts is one (of many) life skills on which Africa could offer consultancy to the First World.

One of the beliefs which underpins Western civilisation at the start of the 21st century is that we are in control. Our ancestors suffered no such illusions: they knew their limits. They lived in a world where the elements had the upper hand, where everyday existence was hard work, where life could not be taken for granted. In that humbler age, people knew they could not go it alone without respect for the environment, the support of their neighbours or the protection of the Almighty.

Neither, of course, can we.

Mary Lean

BOOK TOUR

• Edinburgh

At a meeting organised by the Edinburgh branch of the Christian Socialist Movement on October 1, author **Michael Henderson** addressed a 70-strong audience representing education, church and media, on the theme *Forgiveness – a factor in national and international affairs*.

In his vote of thanks, the Rev Professor Frank Whaling, recently retired from the Chair of Study of

Religion at Edinburgh's Faculty of Divinity and New College, concluded, 'Michael Henderson has said things that are important in a way that is clear and effective, interesting, fascinating, challenging, personal and global. You have provoked us to think and challenged us to action.... You have shown us that forgiveness means strength and can be balanced with justice.'

A lively 35-minute question and answer session followed and the meeting ended with a short service of worship led by hospital chaplain Rev Stewart McGregor. Copies of *Forgiveness – Breaking the Chain of Hate* were sold after the meeting. Michael was also interviewed for a programme on *Radio Forth*.

A former Director of a well known Scottish company wrote, 'Just a note to let you know I enjoyed Michael Henderson's spiel at the Central Hall last evening. He was a master of his subject, his illustrations were superb and he stuck to the macro level of his subject. Can I suggest that a follow up might be: Forgiveness at a domestic level? Many of us feel we can make little impact in international affairs, but we might be able to influence issues on our own doorstep.... We might for example manage to decommission our mindset on bullying at school or sectarianism at football matches or racism in our communities or relationships between management and trade unions.'

Finlay Moir

AIDS CHALLENGE

A leading African AIDS doctor stressed the link between poverty and HIV/AIDS, as well as the link between personal lifestyle and the spread of the pandemic, when he gave a Greencoat Forum lecture on 'Tackling the AIDS crisis in Africa' at the IC centre in London, 14 October.

Dr Yaw Adu-Sarkodie from Ghana, a consultant for the World Health Organisation who is doing research into AIDS at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said that 'structural adjustment' programmes imposed by the IMF and World Bank had led to rural poverty and the collapse of local markets in several African countries.

Mothers, desperate to earn an income, had been forced into prostitution in the cities and this guaranteed the spread of the disease. One African mother had said, 'It will take me 10 years to die of the disease. My children will die next week if I don't feed them.' 'We owe it to the whole world to create a level [economic] playing field,' said Dr Adu-Sarkodie

The cost of drugs had fallen dramatically since 1990 but was still too expensive for Africa. Only 50,000 Africans out of the millions of sufferers have access to the drugs. Cheap drugs were still not allowed, yet only one percent of big pharmaceutical company profits came from AIDS drugs sold to Africa. He deplored the fact that

the world could find \$200 billion for a war against terrorism but could not find \$20 billion to tackle HIV/AIDS.

Dr Adu-Sarkodie also stressed the need for sexual abstinence and fidelity as part of the 'ABC of AIDS control'. While 'protected' sex was universally advocated, 'people do not seem to see abstinence as effective. I believe abstinence has a crucial role—the tradition of remaining a virgin till married life.'

Among reasons why Africa was particularly hit by HIV/AIDS (29.4 million sufferers in Sub-Saharan Africa alone), Dr Adu-Sarkodie outlined polygamy, a lack of mass education, impoverished health systems, 'poor political leadership'. In Uganda, President Museveni had admitted the crisis 'without worrying about the impact on tourism' and all ministers speak openly about AIDS. The resultant AIDS awareness meant Uganda's graph of infections was beginning to decline. Senegal, a Muslim country, had comparatively low infection rates.

Orphan generation

Among the social and economic consequences of the disease were a decline in average life expectancy to 35 years in Sierra Leone, less than 50 years in Botswana; a serious loss of manpower and productivity, leading to food shortages; some schools in Kenya with no teachers and in some countries up to 40 percent of the military were

HIV positive, leading to 'huge national and global security issues'. A quarter of all working days lost in Africa were due to HIV/AIDS. There was now an 'orphan generation' with children as young as 12 having to take family decisions.

There was an urgent need for a massive programme of education, particularly among the pre-teens, who are largely unaffected. 'The bottom line is that prevention is better than treatment.'

Mike Smith

IN THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA

Six of us from different parts of the United Kingdom flew from Heathrow to Johannesburg at the end of September for a time of discovery and rediscovery. Two had been to South Africa before, the other four had historical links with Africa, but it was the first time that their feet had touched African soil.

The first two weeks were spent beginning to understand more about the country and discovering at first hand the magic of the spirit of Africa. Our group, **Lawrence** and **Marlene Fearon** from London, **Phoebe**, **Josephine** and **Tom Gill** from Bristol and **Bhavesh Patel** from Manchester, travelled around the country. We experienced the awesome nature of the land and the depth of spirit of the African people. We watched whales breach the water and marvelled as we heard the lion roar - as though the lion's roar was a wake up call to all of us to

re-find the deepest areas of our souls.

Some of us went with Sam Pono to visit the township of Crossroads. We were humbled by the challenges people faced on a day-to-day basis, living in shacks made out of cardboard and scrap iron.

After the others left, Lawrence, Phoebe and Bhavesh stayed on to talk more about the work of *Hope in the Cities* and to listen to the issues facing people in their communities. We travelled from Johannesburg and Pretoria to Mpumalanga, Witbank and Middelburg, inspired to see the new orphanage being purchased by Middelburg Rotary for children in the community whose parents have died from Aids. In Soweto we learned about the 1976 uprising, a turning point in South African history.

The fourth and final week was in Cape Town with Sam and Virginia Pono and Vilma Maritz as our hosts. (Sam Pono is a saxophonist with *Jazz Profiles*, a newly formed jazz band.) We visited Parliament as guests of Calvin Neluvhola, who is responsible for the smooth running of the parliamentary committees revered around the world. We exchanged views on how to build trust and encourage honest conversation between all parties.

Out of sacrifice

Many we met during this week were making significant contributions to the new South Africa. As we talked to them, we realised what sacrifices had been made in

the struggle to transform this beautiful land. One ANC councillor told us he had had no contact with his family for seven years while he took part in the struggle and was trained for his new role; now he is taking a strategic role in Crossroads, re-building houses and creating jobs and opportunities.

As we flew out of Cape Town with the sounds of the *Jazz Profiles* ringing in our ears, we all knew we would never be the same again. South Africa had enriched our spirits and deepened our commitment to build bridges of trust and inspire each other to fulfil our deepest calling.

Phoebe Gill

HURRICANE ISABEL

'Bring a raincoat,' emailed my host, as I packed for a trip to **Richmond**, Virginia, last month. 'A hurricane is due to hit us on Friday.'

In the event, Hurricane Isabel arrived on the Thursday night. By the next morning, 1.8 million people were without power, hundreds of thousands without water and trees had fallen on 1,200 homes.

I had been invited to Richmond to contribute to the first module of the Connecting Communities Fellowship Programme, run by *Hope in the Cities*. Forty community activists from Richmond and beyond had signed up to take part in the course, which seeks to share the experience and skills of Initiatives of Change and *Hope in the Cities* in linking personal

change and community transformation. But the weekend had to be cancelled: people had other things to worry about - clearing up the mess; talking to insurance companies and tree surgeons; scouring the shops for batteries, candles, ice, drinking water; working out, as the days passed, what food could be eaten and what should be destroyed. And for the families of the twenty-five people killed there was irrevocable loss.

Forced to reflect

For most in the comfortable suburb where I stayed the hurricane brought not tragedy but inconvenience. We could cook on camp stoves and barbecues; ice eventually became available. Few were driven from their homes. We experienced nothing of the devastation visited on villagers and shanty dwellers in Africa, Asia or Latin America in similar circumstances.

Without power, life went on, but work became impossible. Documents and projects were locked away on the hard discs of powerless computers. Mobile phones began to lose their charge, plunging the city's teenagers into crisis. The storm blew away both our plans and our ability to fulfil them. We were forced to relax, sleep, talk, reflect.

Hurricane Isabel was just one of a series of acts of God, man or machine to hit the 'developed' world in recent months. Power