

TIRLEY GARTH

Thank you to the many who have been thinking and praying for us. The Trustees and the new owners have agreed a final hand-over date of December 20. Mrs Alexis Redmond of Mersey Television has also agreed a price for purchase of the contents.

We have much for which to be grateful, particularly for the time here through October with the IC International Council, Global Consultation and Caux planning meetings, and for the people who helped us carry those events. Some are still with us helping with the final phase of clearing up and moving out.

Please continue to pray for a successful conclusion for all concerned.

Tom Jones
for the residents and Trustees

Advance Notice

INITIATIVES OF CHANGE IN INDIA – Observing six decades of Moral Re-Armament

This is the title of a record of the development of MRA/IC in India which will be available soon and of particular interest to anyone who has been part of these events.

To help decide how many copies to print of this limited pub-

lication, please let **David Young** know, if interested, at 15 Vale Avenue, Brighton BN1 8UB, UK. Phone & fax: 44 (0) 1273 558619 or email: <DavidSYoung@aol.com> Expected cost around £4 plus postage.

CAUX PROGRAMMES

Programmes for next summer's conferences at Caux are now available at 24 Greencoat Place from Bernice Ingham.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

24 Greencoat Place

Friends of Westminster Productions

Saturday, December 7, 3pm

A Celebration of Christmas with the Kingdom Choir, followed by tea.

The editorial, production and send-out teams of the UK Newsletter send greetings to all our readers with best wishes for the coming year.

This issue was edited by Mary Jones and Janet Paine, with lay-out by Blair Cummock. Please send material for the next issue by January 3 to Ann Carpenter, Bourne Cottage, Mill Lane, Mere, Warminster, Wilts BA12 6DA, email: russell.ann@tiscali.co.uk



Initiatives of Change

NEWSLETTERuk

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FROM THE PERSONAL TO THE GLOBAL

Archie Mackenzie made his first trip to the United States in 1939 to study at Harvard and the University of Chicago. That trip changed the course of his life and led to his career in professional diplomacy.

In October, he and his wife Ruth returned to North America. They visited Ottawa, Washington and New York City, meeting ambassadors, government officials, community leaders and old friends.

Ottawa

On October 24, United Nations Day, the Mackenzies addressed a large cross-section of Ottawa citizens at a lunch in the hall of Christ Church Cathedral and were thanked by a spokesman of Canada's UN Association. Among those attending were representatives of the diplomatic corps, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Canadian Association for the Club of Rome and various NGOs. Later in the afternoon

Archie was interviewed for a CBC radio programme.

Washington

They were welcomed to Washington at a reception in the McLean Center. A Bosnian-Serbian guest was intrigued by a story from Croatia, where in the 1960s Ruth had won the hearts of African students with home-cooked African meals. One of those students later served as Bosnia's Ambassador to Japan.

A retired African diplomat was fascinated by the response to a question about handling disagreements with his government. An American diplomat with responsibilities in Iraq listened intently as Archie described how listening for God's direction had enabled him to play a role in unblocking diplomatic log-jams. Several young people found hope through their stories of faith applied to the challenges of diplomatic life.

The couple spent an interesting day with Robert Webb at the National Press Club, meeting his media friends.

Archie concluded his time in DC at the Washington IC office's monthly *Talk of Change* 'brown-bag' event. He called for a renewal of the idealism that made possible the founding of the UN.

After World War II, he said, the US acted multilaterally and supported the UN's creation. Then came the Cold War, and for 40 years 'the UN was fighting with one arm tied behind its back. The idealism evaporated, so that today there is much more cynicism. We have to tackle this cynicism which is so corrosive and destructive.' This challenge had inspired him to write *Faith in Diplomacy* about applying his faith to his work.

To transform the current international situation, he proposed four 'shifts' for today's leaders and people of faith:

1. To find the experience of being led to the right people to build on;
2. To be more forthright in dealing with embarrassing problems – no double standards in public or private policies;
3. To replace a culture of cynicism with radical idealism;
4. A linkage of personal and social values.

Ruth recalled a time in Tunisia when she was about to send flowers to the mother of a poor

Bedouin child who had just died. An Arab friend challenged her to send food not flowers, addressing the bereft mother's true need – a challenge, Ruth said, to have the 'imagination to care' for others based on their real needs rather than on conventional gestures.

New York

In New York, Archie spoke to a distinguished group of diplomats, including seven ambassadors, from Africa, Asia and Europe. IC's UN Office Director Vasu Vaitla describes the occasion:

'As I watched the lunch unfold, I saw ambassadors in gripped attention as they listened to one of their own who had been at the UN at its beginning in San Francisco and, at the end of his formal diplomatic career, as the British Minister for Social and Economic Affairs in the 1970s. Some nodded in agreement, while others smiled at the basic and essential message he delivered. An animated discussion followed. The delegates were keen to know what this founding father would change in the current Charter. He reasserted that without a spirit of cooperation no amount of amending the Charter would lead to the idealism necessary for peace and development for all.'

For the diplomatic community, Archie emphasised three points:

1. The necessity of re-prioritising

in the bloody conflict.

Peace building

Canon White outlined five 'building blocks' which he sees as essential for anyone working for peace, which he calls the 'five Rs': thorough Research into the history and background of all those involved in conflicts, accepting Risks, an emphasis on the Relief of poverty and distress, and the building of honest Relationships – all of which he sees as leading to Reconciliation. He stressed that each 'warring faction' should remain faithful to their core religious beliefs, if we are to be effective as peacemakers, otherwise we are in danger of just being seen as 'holy, liberal do-gooders'!

David and Ruth Hume

SCHOOLS SERVICE

Since the beginning of October the *Initiatives of Change Schools Service* has facilitated sessions in 30 sixth forms around Cheshire, Berkshire and Worcestershire. Next week Hertfordshire will be the main focus.

I work closely with **Chris Lancaster**, a young Australian who is director of the programme this year. Our main team have been **Sarah Wood** from New Zealand, who has recently been

with *Action for Life* in Asia, and **Min-Hui Na** from Korea, who is learning English the easy way – by speaking to groups often exceeding one hundred!

Our theme is 'Initiatives of Change', not as an organisation but rather as an idea. We find that schools like the concept: 'Change in society. Change in people. Both are needed. The two are linked.' In most places we have visited so far there has been an extremely positive response to our interactive sessions. Stimulating discussions have been triggered by questions including:

- What is the poverty of our society, referred to by Mother Teresa when she said that 'there is more poverty in the West than in India'?
- 'Because I feel like it' or 'being true to myself': what is the difference between these two ideas as a basis for my decisions and actions?
- Where do I see the problems and needs of the world echoed within my own living and thinking? What initiatives might arise out of a change in me?

In the last fortnight we have written to over 500 schools in London, Nottingham, Liverpool and Wiltshire, offering visits for the spring term which will continue to explore these ideas.

Howard Grace

ST ETHELBURGA'S

Prince Charles recently opened a new Centre for Reconciliation and Peace at St Ethelburga's in the heart of the City of London. His host was Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London, who had initiated the campaign to restore this little medieval church, after it was almost completely destroyed by the blast from the Bishopsgate bomb in 1993. Five years later, the Bishop had stood in the ruins of the church with the late Cardinal Basil Hume and the Rev Janet Sowerbutts, Moderator in the United Reformed Church, and they had together pledged that it would be rebuilt as a token of restoration, after the destruction wrought by the bomb.

'Accept our share of the blame'

Ruth and David Hume, from Northern Ireland, along with about 200 representatives from the City and others, were invited to the Opening, as they had sent a donation towards the running of the Centre from The Oxford Group Belfast fund. In her letter enclosing the gift, Ruth wrote: 'We deeply regret the damage and destruction done to your beautiful church and the loss of life and the injury to so many people. We feel we must accept our share of the blame that such things should have happened. In the spirit of



St Ethelburga's

in microcosm, be the key to many other situations worldwide...as out of the pain we turn our hearts to God and His leading.'

Inaugural seminar

The following day, the Humes attended the Centre's inaugural seminar, together with Michael Henderson, who got a round of applause from the audience when he told them that he probably had the longest association with St Ethelburga's church, as he had been christened there almost 70 years ago. Among the panel of speakers was Canon Andrew White, of Coventry Cathedral's Reconciliation Centre, who gave a graphic account of last summer's terrible massacre in Northern Nigeria, and the courageous work in bringing about a successful rapprochement between the Christians and Muslims involved

restoration...we see this as our gift to England from Ireland, both North and South... We believe that the resolving of the relationships between our nations could, even

UN activities with concern for the 'rule of law', and its moral emphasis, preceding political and economic concerns;

2. The need to pay attention to the 'human factor' at the UN, where the 'problems around the table are often more complicated than the problems on the table';
3. The benefit for delegates to 'tap a higher wisdom' - perhaps through the practice of morning meditation, as he had done throughout his career.

Concluding the discussion, Ambassador Zackheos of Cyprus, as the most senior diplomat, thanked Archie for his talk. He also thanked Initiatives of Change for 'the values you stand for and espouse'. Ambassador Zackheos applauded Archie for 'a life committed to principles so that he has made a difference'.

As the delegates left, Ambassador Mbanefo of Nigeria asked Archie to return to give his message to the African missions and organisations.

Archie's whirlwind visit - like his life - demonstrates how, as he claims, 'one person's commitment and faith can impact the international situation' - from the personal to the global.

Will Jenkins

ARMISTICE DAY

On November 14 more than 60 people, representing a cross-section of the surrounding community, gathered at the old country house of Pythouse, at Tisbury in Wiltshire. They came to hear Michael Henderson speak on the subject of 'Forgiveness and Reconciliation'. This had been arranged to coincide with the Armistice Day services in the local church.

The audience, which included soldiers, judges and people bereaved by acts of violence, were stirred by the stories told and asked deep and relevant questions after the talk. Discussions, both at Pythouse and at the Bible Study in the church, continued well into the following week.

The event came about through an interesting series of circumstances. Michael's parents had been married at St Ethelburga's Church in the City of London. When he heard of the rebuilding and creation of a Centre of Reconciliation, he wrote to the Bishop of London and sent a sketch by his father of the minister who had married him. The Bishop forwarded this to the minister's grandson, Anthony Geikie-Cobb, who arranged the Tisbury occasion.

Jeanne Faber

Book Review

'WHERE I SENSED THE BREATH OF GOD'

A Footnote in Anglo-Irish History

By Dr Roddy Evans

This beautifully produced, modest little book reads at a sitting, and is a must for any Englishman, or anyone else for that matter, wanting to understand the troubled history of relations between England and Ireland. It challenges the long-held idea on the British side of the Irish Sea that if only 'they, over there, could leave the past behind and sort things out, all would be well' and stirs us to think of it not just as an Irish problem, but as an English problem, too.

Courage and a sense of Christian duty

In the words of Martin Mansergh's foreword, the book describes the work of 'a small evangelical group, inspired by the ideas of Moral Re-Armament...(it is) an addition to the small body of literature on the movement, which may come to a greater significance in the future...It takes a lot of courage and a sense of Christian duty to look at uncom-



fortable questions, which most people would rather ignore or pass over.'

Dr Mansergh, recently elected to the Senate, was the Dublin civil servant who was the special advisor to three Irish Prime Ministers on Northern Ireland affairs and played a key role in the run-up to the 1997 Good Friday Agreement.

'Dazzling vision'

The golden thread running through the book is the 'dazzling vision' the late Father Christopher McCarthy, a Redemptorist priest from Clonard Monastery in Belfast, had of what he believed England and Ireland, working together, could do for the rest of the world. 'What hope and fresh direction these two nations, united, could give to every hopeless situation in the world' was the response by Leslie Fox, then Treasurer of MRA (UK), in a speech at Caux in 1981, reported by *The Irish Times* and reprinted in full in this book.

Cast of unlikely characters

Roddy Evans introduces us to a fascinating cast of unlikely characters sharing nothing other than

a love of their country and a sense of God's calling to work for the recognition and healing of past wrongs through a change of heart. In a straightforward way, he tells of the many miracles that were at the heart of this story.

When I re-read it, it really gripped me again: it's very encouraging reading for anyone working for change and reconciliation in today's troubled world.

Andrew Stallybrass

Available from David Hume, 11 Rushfield, Helens Bay, Co.Down, BT19 1JZ. Tel: 02891 853 749, email: david.hume1@virgin.net
Price £3.50 incl.p&p Please make cheques payable to David Hume.

Study Guide

GOING TO THE SOURCE

Philip Boobbyer recently wrote a course of study (mentioned in UK Newsletter June 2002) to accompany **Henry Drummond's** addresses *The Greatest Thing in the World* (Eagle, 1997). The course is divided into eight sessions. Each session is built around a chapter or passages from Drummond's writings and some verses from the Bible and contains space for discussion, reflection and prayer. The sessions are:
1 Love, the greatest thing in the world

- 2 God's plan for the world; the kingdom of God
- 3 How to change - 'going to the source'
- 4 The calling to do God's will
- 5 Does doing God's will mean losing my identity?
- 6 How to know the will of God
- 7 How to deal with temptation
- 8 Getting started

The course was given its first trial in a shortened form over a weekend at Tirley Garth in October. **Stanley Kiaer** writes:

There were eight guys who met. Our ages ranged from 25 to 75, and this meant that we had a rich diversity of stories and perspectives to share with each other. We covered sessions 1, 6 and 7. Each one of us found something significant from the weekend, but session 7 on temptation - how it was universal, how to cope with it, how it differed from sin, and how to recover if you did succumb - meant a great deal to all. The group found the weekend profound, refreshing and stimulating, and we have fixed a date for the next instalment in February.

Copies of the book (currently £1 per copy) and the course (25p) are available from Philip Boobbyer, 39 St Michael's Place, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7HQ, tel: 01227 459 604.