

SKY PILOT NEWS Sept., 1972

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"Give us this day our daily bread"

THE ABORIGINES TODAY: By Norma K. Warwick, Secretary

The history of the Aborigines is a sad one. For many years the general supposition was that the race would die out, as it did in Tasmania, and the problem would no longer be there to be solved. Now, however, the Aborigines are increasing at twice the rate of the white Aus-

tralian and in spite of the high infant mortality rate, the Aboriginal population is growing so much more rapidly than the European.

With the increasing awareness of the Aboriginal, aroused in part by better education and in part by the pressure of the times, we see the

appearance of demonstrations, "embassies", etc. However, because of the tendency to more militant action, we find many people who were previously "bending over backwards" to help the Aborigines, now beginning to question whether their support is worthwhile. This has been reflected in the income in recent months of voluntary agencies working in this sphere.

We hear sweeping statements made, such as, "The Churches have done nothing for the Aborigines," "the laws of New South Wales discriminate against Aborigines," and so on. If these are repeated often enough they will eventually be believed. In actual fact, the Christian Church has done more than any other body to help the Aborigines to survive the cruelty and indifference of past generations.

Yes, history tells us there have been both cruelty and indifference, but for how long must we bear our collective guilt? Must we be blackmailed into assistance by a feeling of guilt for past failures for which we are not actually responsible? True, the Churches and Missions have made mistakes — because these bodies are made up of human beings with human failings, and in most cases errors were made solely out of ignorance of the Aboriginal culture.

As far as discrimination is concerned, I doubt if there is one law in New South Wales which discriminates against Aborigines. These people can claim the authority and protection of the law in the same way as other Australians. In fact, there are many provisions made solely to encourage Aborigines to become educated and responsible citizens. The Commonwealth Department of Education and Science gives a grant to every Aboriginal child over 14 for as long as he remains at school: this includes a generous uniform and text book allowance, as well as a living allowance, and even pocket money of \$1.50 per week up to 4th Form and \$2.00 for 5th and 6th Form. Ironically this has aroused resentment amongst tax-paying rural communities who are facing difficulties in financing the secondary education of their children without such assistance.

The New South Wales Government has special provisions for assistance in Housing, Furniture Loans and Employment Assistance, as well as a small Grant-in-Aid for secondary pupils under 14, special provision for Aboriginal Bursaries, and other assistance. No mention is made of these provisions when Governments are accused of doing nothing.

Much remains to be done and thinking people in Government and Voluntary Agencies are honestly trying to formulate policies which are best

for all concerned. One of the biggest problems is to know what the Aborigines want. There is much discussion about Land Rights, but what is meant by the term? Aborigines still living a tribal or semi-tribal life have every right for special consideration and a policy must be formulated to settle this question; but the intricacies of the problem are not always recognised. For instance, before the white man came, to what use did the Aborigines put the land? They had no agriculture, no animal husbandry and no food preservation policies. Do they want to revert to this, or do they want to make use of the white man's knowledge of agriculture, cattle raising and mining? These and other questions should be fully considered and discussed.

As far as New South Wales is concerned, there are very few full-blooded Aborigines living here and I venture to say that none of these is living a tribal life. What do the mixed bloods mean by Land Rights? What "Land Rights", for that matter, has any New South Wales citizen? For most citizens it takes years of scraping and saving even to own a block of land on which to build a home. If the people of Aboriginal descent want more than this, what is it they want? What is their formed policy?

To people who have spent a life time in trying as best they know how to help the Aborigines, it is disheartening and discouraging to be told "nothing is being done." It is rather like the minister who, on a wet day, reproaches the people who **have** come to Church for the absence of others!

As far as Marella Mission Farm is concerned, those who work for it, both staff and voluntary helpers, do so out of a love for God and a concern for His children. We believe that the gospel of Christ has power to transform the lives of Aborigines, as it has done for millions of white and other coloured people, and herein lies the answer to all human problems, be they red or yellow, black or white. We may be accused of being "do-gooders" but if it were only social work we were interested in, there is plenty of scope in other, less exacting, spheres. We are here because we believe God has called us, not only to feed, clothe and educate children who would not otherwise have a chance, but to tell them of the love of God in sending His son to die for all people and to present to them the victory over sin and defeat that only Christ can offer.

Our director and his wife have given not only their home but their very lives to help the Aboriginal children. Most people of retiring age like to enjoy a little relaxation and freedom from

responsibility but these dear people have accepted even more responsibility and are devoting their lives to these children. One member of our staff left a promising career to join us and only after ten years (often without salary at all) did the salary reach the figure being earned at the previous position. Our Farm Manager and his wife have sold their home and have come to live in a much less luxurious cottage, because they believe God has called them to do so. Other workers give devotedly of their talents, working long hours with less remuneration than they could earn elsewhere and with often little reward, save that of knowing they are in God's service.

It has often been remarked that, just as a piano has black and white keys and needs both to create harmony, so people of different colours should be able to live in harmony. Surely, by the grace of God, this is possible. The white people are not perfect and neither are the Aborigines; but cannot we all work together with mutual love and respect, for the benefit of each other and the future of our country?

"For there is no difference . . . for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him." Romans 10:12.

STAFF: A CHALLENGE! Though a lot of people express interest and goodwill to Aboriginal children it is increasingly difficult to find women who are willing to take a hand in caring for them. Of course this also applies to the care of other children and on the radio recently we learned that one large Anglican Home for girls was unable to admit any more girls because of the difficulty of obtaining staff. This is the position at Marella. We urgently need a woman to take charge of the Boys' Wing but several advertisements in the Sydney Morning Herald have brought no applications whatever.

We realise that some other secular positions can offer more remuneration and more leisure; but surely, somewhere, there is a woman who would be willing to come forward, even for a year, to help cope with this work for God's Aboriginal children. If you are a woman over 21 and under 55 what about offering your services for this important missionary work?

No special qualifications are needed to begin with apart for a love of children and a natural capacity to maintain reasonable authority. But this is a spiritual work and Christian conduct and example are essential. It is a live-in position and the staff worker would have her own separate toilet, shower and sitting room adjoining her bedroom. It is a five-day week with four weeks holiday in the year.

We ask our friends to make this a matter of prayer and to mention it to any friends who might be free to help on a permanent or temporary basis.

BALANCE SHEET: On the back page of this issue will be found the Balance Sheet for our last Financial Year. We have much cause to thank God for His wonderful provision of our needs in spite of rising costs. In a letter to the Directors of the Sky Pilot Fellowship Limited the Auditor says:

"The organisation completed the year with a surplus of Income over Expenditure of \$4,741.00, this is a decrease of \$11,984.00 from the previous year but it must be remembered that the previous year included legacies of \$11,088.00 which was unusual income.

"As with most organisations today costs show a fairly general increase from the previous year, costs having risen from \$31,400.00 to \$36,993.00 an increase of \$5,593.00, or expressed in percentage 17%. If legacies are excluded the income shows a 10% increase from the previous year. On these results it would be advisable to keep a very tight budget on the organisation in the future year."

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Last year we sold a lot of Christmas cards in full colour depicting two Aborigines by a waterhole. We still have a number of these and they will be available at the Sale of Work on 28th October, 1972, or they may be ordered direct from Marella Mission Farm, Box 29, Post Office, Castle Hill 2154; price, including envelope, 10 cents each, plus postage. (e.g., Postage on 1 doz. cards and envelopes is 18c).

Later in the year we hope to have a new card printed in black and white from our own photograph which will be different from last year's card. Prices and particulars will be given in the next issue of the Sky Pilot News.

SALE OF WORK: The 24th Anniversary and Sale of Work is set down for the last Saturday in October — 28th, — as advertised in the August issue of this paper.

We will be very grateful for gifts for the various stalls. Good used clothing is always needed. Needlework and knitting is also most acceptable, especially well made aprons, of which we never seem able to supply the demand; also baby wear. We could do with a lot of plants for the Plant Stall and our gardening friends may be able to help us with these.

As we are very short staffed it is a great help if gifts can be delivered to the Mission Farm, Acres Road, Kellyville; or railed to us in the care of Parramatta Railway Station.

THE SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP LIMITED
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1972

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	\$		\$
Advertising	78	Bank Interest	187
Children's Expenses	1025	Donations to Home	10974
Car Allowances	666	Donations Cottage	4215
Children's Board	6385	Donations Adoptions Societies	263
Depreciation	971	Donations Castle Hill High School	623
Donations Earmarked	20	Deputation	150
Electricity and Water	901	Government Allowances	9899
Expenses, Rates, etc., Cullen Estate	178	Home Offering Boxes	362
Freight	5	Parents' Contributions	232
Insurance	395	Cullen Estate	411
Maintenance and Repairs	862	Sales of Work, Stalls, etc.	9600
Printing and Stationery	1166	Subs to News	84
Postages	349	Sale of Salvage	545
Rent	1040	Sundries	14
Salaries and Wages	18757	Store Income	1652
Rates	638	Souvenirs, etc.	226
Stalls and Sale of Work Expenses	1291	Specific Donations	1627
Store Purchases	1568	Legacies	5380
Sundry Expenses	164		
Telephone	133		
Travelling Expenses	17		
Vehicle Expenses	226		
Souvenirs, etc. Purchase	158		
Donations and Legacies received for Building Fund for year ended 31st March, 1972, transferred	4710		
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1972 transferred to Accumulated Funds	4741		
	<u>\$46444</u>		<u>\$46444</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1972

CURRENT LIABILITIES		CURRENT ASSETS	
Hire Purchase Creditors	—	Cash on Hand	20
RESERVES		Stock on Hand (at cost)	1052
Asset Revaluation	4989	Cash at Bank	6983
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Balance 1-4-71	42012	FIXED ASSETS	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1972	4741	Buildings (at cost and valuation)	56086
	<u>46753</u>	Land and Buildings 63 Park Road (at V.G.)	8200
BUILDING FUND		Children's Equipment (at cost less depreciation)	472
Balance 1st April, 1971	26894	Furniture and Equipment (at cost less depreciation)	6766
Add Donations for the year ended 31st March, 1972	4710	Office Equipment (at cost less depreciation)	2035
	<u>31604</u>	Van (at cost less depreciation)	1514
		Machinery (at cost less depreciation)	32
			<u>75105</u>
		INTANGIBLE ASSETS	
		Formation Expenses	186
	<u>\$83346</u>		<u>\$83346</u>

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP LIMITED

I report that I have examined the above Balance Sheet and attached Income and Expenditure Account of the Sky Pilot Fellowship Limited. In my opinion the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account are properly drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 1961, and so as to give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs. The accounting records (including Registers) examined by me have, in my opinion, been properly kept in accordance with the said Act.

BLACKTOWN
 30th June, 1972.

K. H. PEARCE
 Chartered Accountant
 Registered under the Public Accountants Registration Act, 1945, as amended.