

SKY PILOT NEWS April, 1965

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JUNGLE BEAUTY: SKY PILOT'S LOG 2CH BROADCAST

Some of you may have read some of the books written many years ago by Dr. Gordon, better known as Ralph Connor. One was called the SKY PILOT OF NO MAN'S LAND. It was this book that first suggested the name Sky Pilot for my aeroplane. Amongst my prized possessions are letters from Ralph Connor who was very interested in my aeroplane work and with whom I corresponded up till the time of his death. One of his books was about GWEN, and today's story is a slight echo of the moral of that story.

George and I had left the open eucalyptus forests for the jungle country, and everything was new and strange to us. Of course we recognised many of the trees and plants of Arnhem Land, but here in the high-rainfall belt they grew to perfection. We came out of mangrove swamps to the jungle proper. Never have I seen a sight to compare with it. Here were pandanus palms with their massive orange coloured fruits: graceful umbrella trees, decorated with deep red: hibiscus bushes with flowers like beautiful yellow funnels. A little to the right domed bushes of glossy green showed that the native cabbage flourished. On the other side were bloodwoods, red stringy-bark and the shapely melaleuca. George was speechless for a few minutes then he spoke — almost in a whisper.

"Smithy, is this real? I ain't dreamin' am I? I never thought that a place like this existed outside of heaven."

"It's real George. A little bit of unspoiled creation at which the angels sang for joy. Look at those beech oaks. They seem to be singing at the very joy of it all. Listen! You can hear them murmuring and sighing".

"Yes I guess it's so beautiful it — it hurts! Look at that white cedar down there. It's all covered with purple flowers just like, well like lilac!"

"It is beautiful, George, but what about that flame tree — not a single green leaf on it — just a red robe like Father Christmas!"

"I say Smithy I know a lot of these here trees. At first I thought they was somethin' different,

but it's just that they grow better here. There are nut-megs and quandongs and milk woods and over there is a bean tree and right alongside is a native ginger."

"George, what's that tree behind you? It's got a funny grey bark and sage green leaves. And the flowers or florets or whatever you call them are massed in clumps like sunflowers."

"Well I don't know its proper name but we call 'em gin-gees. Maybe that's the blacks' name for 'em. There's a pretty good muster of wattles too, and there's a cockatoo apple — oh yes, and a swamp mahogany. Look at them lawyer vines, thicker than my leg some of 'em and climbing all over the place. Some of 'em has pods about a yard long."

"It's a pity they have such cruel barbs; they're like great incurving hooks. They call them "Come-back-quicks" and it's a good name too."

"I'll say it is. Many a deep cut I've had from them too. But they look pretty enough if you keep clear of 'em. Say, are those fig trees with roots growin' down from the branches? Some of the roots is bigger than the trunk almost."

"They're some sort of fig but I don't rightly know what variety. But look at the crimson mistletoe hanging down in great festoons. Did you ever see anything more colourful?"

"Well Smithy, it's hard to say what is the prettiest of the lot, but if you ask me I think that vine — or is it a fern? — that grows right up into the trees at the edge of the jungle is the most wonderful thing as ever I seen."

"It certainly is something I have never seen before. I think that must be the climbing fern they call LYGODIUM — or the Fern of God. George we ought to take off our hats in a place like this."

"I feel like goin' down on me knees, Smithy, that's how I feel."

And then I noticed the birds — tiny sun birds of yellow and purple flitting round the hibiscus; sulphur crested cockatoos staining their breasts

red as with blood as they feasted on the flame trees. Drongos, Torres Straits pigeons, honey-eaters, wood swallows — the place was alive with birds of all colours, shapes and sizes up to the scrub fowl that was scratching in the decaying leaves regardless of our presence. We could have stayed in that spot with pleasure, but we could not afford to spend the night there and were forced to move on.

It was a long time before George and I saw that place again. When we did so we paused in horror. Gone were the trees and the birds. Tractors, explosives and fire had reduced our fairyland to a clearing already torn by the plough. A white man came to meet us. "Say, fellows", he greeted, "I'm real glad you happened along. What do you think of my clearin'? Ain't done too bad have I? Soon be ready for plantin'?" It was a lot of work, but I won through. I haven't been 'ere long but I've made a lot of improvements, I 'ave."

"Improvements!" George spluttered. "They ought to shoot you, they ought, for makin' a mess like this of the jungle! You're worse than a blinkin' murderer."

"Say, are you balmy?" exclaimed the astonished farmer. "This ain't a mess; this is a clearin' and though I says it myself as oughtn't there's not another man could have done more in the time than I 'ave. You've got to cut away the jungle if you're ever going to do any good with the land. Oh yes I dare say it was beautiful to look at before, but you can't eat beauty. No, I guess **pretty trees never fed hungry people.**"

I didn't see that spot again. Had I done so I might have seen paw-paws and bananas, snow white cotton bursting from the pods, golden maize; pineapples, custard apples and mangoes. Maybe that spot is beautiful again with a beauty that can feed hungry people. I don't know. But I do know that in most lives there comes a time when God looks for fruit and finds nothing but leaves. It may mean that the things we loved, even the good things and the beautiful things in our lives, have to be uprooted and cleared away.

To us, maybe, our lives are like that clearing; bare and burnt and torn by furrows of pain and we cry out to God to know why this must be. In our blindness we cannot see that the plough must come if we are to bear fruit. Oh it hurts I know, but love is behind it; and one day if we submit willingly and trustingly there will be a new beauty in our lives. Not the wild jungle beauty that never fed a hungry soul, but the beauty of ripening fruits for the feeding of our fellow men. We read in the eleventh chapter of Mark that Jesus was hungry. "And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon; and when he came

to it he found nothing but leaves." Nothing but leaves. Does that describe your life, or mine?

MAILING ADDRESS: May we point out once again that we have no mailing address at Kellyville? By arrangement with the postal authorities all mail addressed to Marella Mission Farm, Kellyville is re-directed to Box 29, Post Office, Castle Hill. We have been advertising the postal address at Castle Hill for the past eight years, but still a great many letters are sent to Kellyville. This means delay and a good deal of unnecessary work for the Kellyville Post Office. We will therefore be much obliged if ALL mail matter be sent to Box 29, Post Office, Castle Hill. Postal notes or money orders should always be made payable at CASTLE HILL.

T.V. AGAIN: The influence of Television on the children is most remarkable. Recently, during prayers, we discussed "the saints of God" and asked the children: "What is a saint?" Immediately the answer came: "Simon Templar!"

NO REST IN HEAVEN. On learning that there was no night in heaven one of the children exclaimed: "Then when will we rest?" It seems a paradox to say that there will be no rest in heaven nevertheless it is true. The word "rest" (repose) is used about 150 times in the Bible but seldom in reference to heaven. The idea that we will, in heaven, sit about in long white garments doing nothing has no support in scripture. And yet there is a rest to the children of God . . . Hebrews chapter 4 speaks of rest and we discover that the rest of God has been in existence since the completion of creation, and though we may not enjoy this to the full in this life, we may enter into it now through Christ.

But what do we mean by rest? The dead "rest from their labours" i.e. from their own works. Paul said: "I laboured . . . yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." So the Christian ceases from his own works; he is "dead with Christ". (Rom. 6:8). On the physical plane we speak of rest in sleep but while we sleep we still breathe, our heart works and digestion goes on: if not we would be dead. Rest and refreshment are not quite the same thing. On the spiritual plane the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal. 5:22). We do not call these things **work** nor do we want to **rest** from them. Does a mother need to "rest" from loving her child? Do we want a rest from joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith and such like things?

In heaven we cease absolutely from our own works and in this sense we "rest"; nevertheless we shall serve God day and night without rest but not without refreshment. (Day and night in

a place where there is no night simply means all the time, or, in a place without time, constantly.) From Genesis to Revelation God's will is progressively disclosed. Even though we are not under the Mosaic law we are under the law of Christ and we cannot keep the law of Christ without keeping the ten commandments, for Christ's law is fuller, deeper, more complete. The old law said, for instance, that we must not commit murder or adultery; "But I say unto you," said Christ and explained that we must not hate our brother man or look on anyone with lustful eyes or we will break the commandment. In every case Christ gave us a **harder** law to keep; one that without faith and the Holy Spirit we could not hope to keep. The Jewish Sabbath was GOD'S DAY, yet the Mosaic law was a negative one saying what NOT to do on the Sabbath; Christ gave us the example of a better day and He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day "as His custom was". We rest from our own works on the Sabbath but we do not remain inactive.

Dr. Strong says: "The Sabbath law binds us to set apart a seventh portion of our time for rest . . . Christ's example and Apostolic sanction have transferred the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first, for the reason that this last is the day of Christ's resurrection, and so the day when God's spiritual creation became in Christ complete . . . The Jewish Sabbath commemorated only the beginning of the world; the Christian Sabbath commemorates also the new creation of the world in Christ, in which God's work in humanity first becomes complete."

In heaven, the place of complete refreshment and spiritual activity, there will be no need for rest; but who wants to rest from perfect peace and happiness?

MARELLA MISSION FARM: The 30 acre property known as Marella Mission Farm is the personal property of the Director of this work, Mr. Keith Langford-Smith, who bought it over 26 years ago. For many years now it has been used entirely for the benefit of the Mission and Mr. Langford-Smith has not derived any financial profit from it. There has always been the problem, however, as to what would become of the property after Mr. Langford-Smith's death. For this reason three Trustees have been appointed by Mr. Langford-Smith to take care of the property after his death and they have power to continue to use the property for the benefit of the Aborigines cared for by Marella Mission. These Trustees are all Evangelical missionary-minded Christians of considerable experience; one is a Solicitor, the second is an Accountant and the third a Company Secretary. We can safely leave the future of Marella Mission Farm to their care. In the mean-

time Mr. Langford-Smith has granted the Mission a five year lease of the whole property at a nominal rental to ensure that there is no question about any possible interruption to the continuity of tenure by the Mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Langford-Smith commenced this work entirely on their own and by God's help they maintained it at first at their own expense. Fifteen years ago they were joined by Mrs. Norma Warwick and together they have devoted these years to the establishment of this home for needy Aboriginal children. We are deeply grateful to them for their devoted efforts in the past and for their continuing services as we enter a new financial year this month. We also praise God for the wonderful support we have received from many friends who have made this work the avenue of their sacrificial service for their Lord and Master.

ARCHDEACON MANASSES KURIA: We were very pleased to receive a visit from Archdeacon Manasses Kuria during the past month. He is one of the African clergymen working with Bishop Neville Langford-Smith (a brother of the "Sky Pilot") in Nakuru, East Africa; and he spent some time in Australia before returning home to Nakuru. The Archdeacon is a man of sterling Christian character and his visit was an inspiration to us. He had visited New Guinea and seen something of missionary work in the Pacific area. Perhaps his most outstanding statement was that in Africa when a man becomes a Christian he changes completely; he acts as a Christian, speaks as a Christian and even thinks as a Christian. In kindly criticism the Archdeacon mentioned that the weakness of much of our missionary work is that the converts so often become nominal Christians without a complete change of life or break from the world. This is why there are often most discouraging results on some of our Aboriginal mission stations.

We ourselves have noticed that there are some organisations working for the social welfare of the Aborigines with most disappointing results. The problems are great, as we all recognise, but our view is that if we try to uplift the Aborigines without the power of God through Christ the ultimate results will be far short of what we could wish. Naturally there is a lot that can be done for the Aborigines on the physical plane and we fully support the work of doctors, dentists, hospitals and such institutions; but on the moral and spiritual side what the Aboriginal needs above all else (as we do ourselves) is salvation through faith in the finished work of Christ and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit by which God can make a new creation of even the most unpromising material from the most unsatisfactory environment.

THE SKY PILOT FELLOWSHIP LIMITED

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 1965

EXPENDITURE			INCOME		
Bank Charges	1	10 0	Adoption Society	130	0 0
Children's Expenses	405	3 0	Bank Interest	4	1 5
Car Allowance	156	0 0	Donations to Home	3787	14 10
Children's Board	3351	0 0	Home Offering Boxes	246	11 4
Depreciation	291	17 10	Deputations	145	3 3
Donations Earmarked	21	1 9	Sales of Work, Street Stalls, etc.	2493	13 9
Electricity	138	14 10	Subs. to News	52	14 0
Freight	2	12 9	Government Allowances	2210	13 1
Insurance	61	10 9	Parent's Contributions	220	10 0
Maintenance and Repairs	85	10 9	Sales of Salvage	119	16 4
Printing and Stationery	514	0 7	Specific Donations:		
Postage	85	10 6	Building Fund	3476	17 4
Rates	52	0 0	Furnishings, etc.	39	14 0
Salaries and Wages	3916	8 2	Office and Shop Improvements	85	0 0
Stall and Sale of Work Expenses	406	8 10	Children's Expenses	21	19 3
Store	805	8 6	Sundries	23	1 9
Sundry Expenses	76	19 1	School Expenses	101	0 0
Telephone	43	19 1	Store	873	6 9
Travelling Expenses	17	6 8	Sundries	2	0 0
Vehicle Expenses	110	11 11			
Excess of income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1965 transferred to Accumulated Funds	13	4 9			
Building Fund	3476	17 4			
	<u>£14033</u>	<u>17 1</u>		<u>£14033</u>	<u>17 1</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 1965

CURRENT LIABILITIES			CURRENT ASSETS		
Sundry Creditors	1126	4 8	Cash on Hand	10	0 0
Hire Purchase Creditors	245	10 0	Stock (at cost)	308	13 2
Commonwealth					
Trading Bank	700	10 6			
		2072			318 13 2
		5 2			
RESERVES			FIXED ASSETS		
Asset Revaluation Reserve		2494	Children's Equipment (at value less depn.)	237	6 6
		7 10	Furniture & Fittings (at value less depn.)	2232	5 7
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			Office Equipment (at cost less depn.)	752	12 4
Balance 1/4/64	1394	3 4	Van (at cost less depn.)	913	12 6
Add excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 1965	13	4 9	Machinery (at cost less depn.)	50	0 0
		1407	Buildings (at cost)	8422	4 3
		8 1			12608 1 2
BUILDING FUND			INTANGIBLE ASSETS		
Balance 1/4/64	3568	19 8	Formation Expenses	93	3 9
Add Donations and Legacies for the year ended 31st March, 1965	3476	17 4			
		7045			
		17 0			
	<u>£13019</u>	<u>18 1</u>		<u>£13019</u>	<u>18 1</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 provision 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.

K. H. PEARCE

Chartered Accountant

"Registered under the Public Accountants Registration Act, 1945, as amended."

BLACKTOWN
18th June, 1965