

Young Girl's Religious Books Are Best Sellers

By RUNE P. THURINGER
(NC News Service)

Stockholm — A 12-year-old Gothenburg girl who became a literary sensation early in 1967 with the publication of a book of poems has published her second book.

"In the Beginning God Created," by Barbro Karlén, is in prose. It succeeds her volume, "Man on Earth," which has gone into six editions and became a best seller among books of poetry in Sweden. It was translated into English, Danish and Finnish.

"Man on Earth" became the subject of literary comment and magazine articles and was reviewed on radio and television. In "Man on Earth" Barbro wrote of God, time and eternity. In "In the Beginning God Created" she continues to write on God and all He means to her and to mankind.

Even the "common people" like Barbro's work. In a radio program recently on young people's poetry, a letter from a truck driver was read. He told the listeners that he always had his "Man on Earth" beside him in his truck. He asked the program leader to read some

poems by Barbro on belief in God. This was done.

Barbro is a practicing Lutheran. Her parents have never been religious. She never reads lyric poetry, not even her own. Her verse is written in haste, on inspiration, in the forest, at school, or at home in the middle of the night.

Following are some excerpts from her new book:

"I cannot say: 'Believe in God, believe as I do.' So Jesus said. He could say so. He was a part of God, wasn't He? I am only a human being, still I can say: 'Believe in God! I know how much it means to a little being to have somebody who is always at home when you are knocking at the door. God is the only one who is always at home. He doesn't retreat if it's late in the night. I have seen Him often alone at home. My parents are working. They also have been very ill, often in hospital. I cannot feel gratitude enough to God who has helped me to come through so many difficulties. I have seen Him look at me without any hope in his eyes. Poor Dad, he fell abandoned by God and man as well. — How can you believe

in a good God," he asked me. I never have felt so small and helpless like then. How should I be able to prove that God all ways is good? I prayed silently that God should come to Dad and give him consolation."

"One day a newspaper uncle published some of my poems in his newspaper. Some days later I met an aunt (not a relative, Barbro's term for a lady), who stopped and said: 'I have seen poems by you in a newspaper. Don't your parents think you are overwrought (eccentric) to write about such things like you? No, that's what I never have thought. However, I happened to think of the aunt's daughter, who had her jacket on which was written the names of pop idols. I would like to have asked the aunt then, if she thought her daughter was overwrought. She wrote about what she liked, didn't she? Why should I be overwrought because I write about what interests me?'"

"One day when Mom had read some pages from my pad she said that she didn't understand what I wanted to say with my writing. However, Dad said: 'Let her go on, it's harmless, isn't it?' I will tell all who wonder what I want to say with my writing:

"I want peace on earth.
"I want people to learn to know God.
"I want Moms and Dads to let their children have their faith in God in peace.
"I want children to listen to their parents' faith.
"I want all who are able to help the poor and the sick.
"I don't want unfriendliness among nations.

"I want people to tell the truth.
"I want all people to have the right to think what they want upon other persons.
"I want to believe in a bright future.
"I want no one to look down upon other persons.
"I want all people to come to God.
"I want to believe that someday there will be a new paradise to all.
"I want to believe that all people are able to be good.
"I want much more. I also want to be inoffensive. I don't want to provoke anybody."

Official Predicts Change In Ceylon's School Stand

By FR. G. M. MUTTUKUMARU
(NC News Service)

Negombo, Ceylon—The crippling disabilities imposed on private schools by current national education legislation are an indelible blot on a democratic government, according to Dr. W. Dahanayake, Ceylon Minister of Home Affairs.

The government minister made the charge in a speech at the annual award ceremonies at Maris Stella College here.

He said that Maris Stella and other religious schools—which became private free schools in 1960 to avoid government take-over—have since been totally dependent on donations and have continued operation only under very trying conditions.

Dr. Dahanayake, a Buddhist, labeled the 1960 Schools Act a discriminatory act against minorities taken under the guise of a national education system. "This iniquitous bill must be removed from the statute book if Ceylon has any qualms of democratic conscience," he said.

He went on to assure the in justice done private schools by the bill will be corrected.

Dahanayake's views are evidently at variance with those of Ceylon's Minister of Education I.M.R.A. Iriyagalle who has

introduced a General and Technical Education Bill into parliament which would provide no relief for private schools.

Many religious educators in Ceylon believe that passage of the bill would mean the end to many private schools.

According to Msgr. W.L.A. Don Peter, rector of St. Joseph's College, Colombo, when religious schools determined to become private in 1960 "we knew we were taking upon ourselves an intolerable financial burden and that we would not be able to carry on for long as non-freelevying private schools. Why then did we decide to go private? Our decision was built on hope. We were hoping that before long there would come on the scene men with a sense of justice and fair play who would bring to an end the unhappy situation in which we found ourselves."

"Today a visit again, to a monastery called Randa," she recalls. "Some of the monks spoke about what is needed to become a monk. Only a real faith. It was enough, he said. Then they invited us to take a glass of wine or liqueur, but I didn't taste it."

Finally, Barbro writes about "a kind uncle" who lived many hundred years ago.

"His name was St. Francis," she says. "I wish we could live like him. He wrote a prayer. I want to try to write it again. 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. I almost feel as if I spoke to him when I hear his poem (prayer)—I like it very much. The whole, prayer helps us to live.'"

Friar Novices Take Jobs For 'Secular Contact'

Chicago — (RNS) — Franciscan novices preparing for their final religious vows at St. Pascal's Friary here performed menial jobs during the Christmas season to gain first-hand contact with the secular world.

Father Ansgar Hankey, director of novices, said that 41 temporary jobs for the holidays, working as busboys in restaurants, stockboys in stores, etc.

"The novices felt they could learn the problems, needs, sensitiveness and work life of people in the world whom they would some day serve," he said. Father Hankey said he received a number of phone calls from employers who reported that they were "amazed to find there still are men in the world who think there is something else in life besides money, booze, and standing around ogling at girls." They said it's

inspirational to find men who are not working for themselves who don't even keep their pay checks."

The novices were paid between \$1.60 and \$2.25 an hour and their salaries were deposited in the friary's common fund.

Summing up the experience, Father Hankey observed that the employment of the future Franciscans showed that "we are involved, we are not stand offish, not sitting in judgment of the secular world—that we are all in this world together."

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Friday, Jan. 19
Ratings are those given originally shown. A-1: morning; A-2: morally unobjectionable for adults, with reservations; C: censored. No Rating: National Catholic Office of Decency. N.B. Before indicated morally unobjectionable.

Movie listings subject to change.

Time	Channel	Program
9:00 p.m.	10	Lone Star
11:30 p.m.	10	East Side
11:30 p.m.	13	Season
Saturday		
2:00 p.m.	13	Curtain
5:30 p.m.	10	Yellow
8:30 p.m.	8	Captain
11:00 p.m.	10	The
11:15 p.m.	8	Stag
11:15 p.m.	13	Tune
Sunday		
1:30 p.m.	10	Fath
9:00 p.m.	13	Hush
11:15 p.m.	10	The
11:45 p.m.	13	Mo
Monday		
9:00 p.m.	13	The
12:00 p.m.	13	The
Tuesday		
9:00 p.m.	8	The
11:30 p.m.	13	The
Wednesday		
11:30 p.m.	13	Cro
Thursday		
9:00 p.m.	10	Whe
11:30 p.m.	13	Me

CHANNEL 8 WROO TV CHANNEL

Mexican C Removal

Cuernavaca, Mexico—Opposition to changes in architecture and decoration spreading throughout the navaca diocese, with parish in several parts of the seeking to prevent the nationalization proposed by the authorities.

The government has come into the picture. Mexican law, houses of government proper cannot be sold, transferred, destroyed without special permit.

As a result, Father Luis Rodriguez Martin del Camino, Our Lady of Two Mountains church here was ordered to answer charges of destroying national properties. Father Rodriguez dismantled two of three in the church as part of renovation plan. The altar reputedly built in 17th century though Father Rodriguez claimed they were 19th century old.

According to the authorities, the priest did not get the necessary permit from the national properties. The priest in the town expressed indignation over the destruction of the altars and filed complaints with the authorities. Father Rodriguez said he thinks it necessary to a mission.

Bishop Sergio Mendez of Cuernavaca has initiated a series of architectural and geological changes in churches throughout his diocese among other things, cooperation for development.

Brussels — (RNS) — at the working session of the Pontifical Study Commission "Justice and Peace" he discussed the possibilities of cooperation among churches between Church and international organizations to developing nations.

Among the discussion were Lady Jackson (Ward), well-known British economist, author and expert on the problems of development, and Prof. Vittorio Corbo, former director of UNESCO.

Besides representatives of 20 nations of North and Europe, the meeting was attended by delegates of the World Council of Churches, Catholic international organizations, the European Economic Community and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Agenda items include establishment of priorities by the national and Peace commissions, and their structural changes and modes of cooperation with other organizations.