



## In a Migrant Camp

A lone preschooler walks through a migrant work camp. It was to make sure that children such as this one would not be left alone in the camps or locked in a car next to a field while their mothers worked that the Rev. Rafael de Armas set up his day care center. (Religious News Service)



After arrival at the Perrine Baptist Center, the migrant children are given a shower and dressed in clean clothes. The clothes they are wearing upon arrival are washed and ironed for use the following day. In this photo, the girls help each other button up their clean dresses. During the day the children play in the center's playground, hear Bible stories

and are taught in classes especially fitted to the migrant child, get a good lunch and take a nap. If the children are sick, they are taken to one of the four doctors in the area. There is also a health clinic on the premises which is operated by the state health department one night a week. (RNS)



When northern weather gets cold, between October and April, migrant workers drift to the fields of Florida. One of the towns they head for is Perrine, in the strawberry-growing area south of Miami. Since both parents usually have to work in the fields, the children are left to fend for themselves, in the camps or in cars along the fields. A Spanish-speaking Baptist minister, the Rev. Rafael de Armas, became concerned and set up day care facilities in the Perrine Baptist Center. Daily, after two hours of bouncing from one migrant camp to another in a bus or van, the children are delivered to the center. Mr. de Armas, right, loads preschoolers, including infants, into the van for their trip to the center. (Religious News Service)

## War, Peace Marchers Assailed by Speakers

New York —(RNS)—The president of a Negro denomination criticized the wave of Fall anti-Vietnam war demonstrations and a United Methodist bishop scored the war during sessions of the Advisory Council of the American Bible Society here.

Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, head of the National Baptist Convention, said the anti-war mobilization is not the way to build a united America.

Bishop Gerald Kennedy of Los Angeles called the war a "blunder" which could involve "no victory." "I think it is wrong," he said.

The black Baptist leader did not discuss the morality or politics of the war. Bishop Kennedy did not speak of the anti-war movement. The context of the remarks of both was relevance of the Bible to contemporary issues.

Dr. Jackson said the current discontent, strife and division in the U.S. is similar to the mood of insecurity found in ancient Israel in the time of the prophet Hosea. Contentment, unity and peace could be found only in God in Hosea's time and only in God now, he declared.

While recognizing the con-

stitutional right of protest and dissent to petition for redress of grievance, Dr. Jackson said the anti-war demonstrations were "terribly wrong" if they were meant to intimidate President Nixon and label everyone who does not march a "warmonger."

He defended the administration against the "unknown, unselected" leaders of the Moratorium and the New Mobilization Committee to end the war.

Bishop Kennedy insisted that the U.S. became involved in the war in a "foolish way" and ought to "get out."

He noted that the Hebrew prophet Isaiah of Jerusalem warned against putting too much trust in military treaties or in armaments.

Dr. Jackson made the plea, "God save America." He spoke of the ways his denomination was working for national unity and asked all Americans to join the effort.

"U.S. citizens must now become more dedicated to the nation's ideals of justice, freedom and equality to all and the respect for the dignity of man," he stated, adding:

## Nun's Continuous Rummage Sale Helps Buy Homes

Techny, Ill.—(NC)—Some 50 Spanish-speaking families have placed down payments on homes in the past five years by way of Sister Therese Mary's "little corner" in Holy Spirit

Sister collects furniture, appliances and used clothing. Through resale, she is able to bank a "pool" to help the families with nest eggs perhaps not quite large enough for that big move.

The Mexican Sister is practically a legend, friends say, among the Spanish-speaking "anywhere west of Des Plaines."

"Sister does much more than operate a resale shop," says Father John Ward Morrison, pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Church.

"She helps the Spanish-speaking get their drivers' licenses, secure low-cost loans for their homes, get medical assistance, even iron out difficulties in getting marriages blessed," Father Morrison said.

Sister Therese Mary is the modest sort. She'd rather not

tell you about the plaque of appreciation she received recently at a school luncheon in Wheeling, Ill. The convent Sisters keep telling her to hang it up, she says, but "it hasn't made it yet."

"It's not my effort," she says. "Everyone tries to pitch in."

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## Australian Out-Back Tribesmen Claim Indian Nuns as 'Our Own'

By KEN SCULLY  
(NC News Service)

Bourke, Australia — The Bourke aborigines have claimed as "our own" the five young, married Indian nuns who drove into this often drought-stricken town six weeks ago.

In Australia, the phrase "Back O'Bourke" connotes the ultimate in isolation.

Sister Letitia, in charge of the Missionaries of Charity group, was quite concerned when she first set foot in Australia as to whether she and her Sisters would be accepted by the aborigines.

"I do hope they will like us," she had said with a soft uncertainty when interviewed at the Sydney airport.

Her anxiety was quite un-

necessary. The aboriginal population has accepted Sister Letitia and her four Sisters as almost members of the tribe.

The five are similar to the aborigines in features and skin color. The Indian nuns have taken a step to identify more fully with the aborigines. They are now living in their own shanty on the reservation. They keep it spotlessly clean, and this is encouraging the women on the reservation to keep their shanties clean, too. By example, the nuns are teaching the aboriginal women the simple principles of housework and cleanliness.

The nuns visit the families both on the reservation and in Bourke township, administer first aid to adults and children suffering from burns and bruises, teach needlework, give religious instruction to some Catholic women and run their

own clinic with the aid of a local doctor.

For the first time, the aboriginal children living on the Reservation are doing homework. At night, the St. Vincent de Paul Center, which was living quarters for the nuns when they first arrived in Bourke, is transformed into a homework center.

It is difficult for these children to study at night because of poor lighting, little encouragement from parents and lack of even elementary facilities, such as tables and chairs. Now, between 70% and 80% of the children come to the center each evening to do their studies under the supervision of the nuns.

The nuns are also encouraging the aboriginal people to become regular churchgoers.

"Since I have been here, never have I seen more than two aboriginal adults go to Mass," said Reg Brownette, Bourke attorney and St. Vincent de Paul man.

"Now, up to 90 children and adults attend Sunday Mass," he said. "Previously, we had to encourage the kiddies to come to Mass by taking the St. Vincent de Paul bus down to the reservation to collect them. Now, the nuns walk up with them to Mass every Sunday. They have even started a guitar Mass with some of the aboriginal boys playing guitars."

## Paraguay Bishops Issue 'Warning' to Stroessner

Asuncion, Paraguay — (NC) — The bishops of Paraguay in an unprecedented warning to the regime of President Alfredo Stroessner have charged that in violating human rights, including those of churchmen, it is also renouncing true peace.

"Where there is no respect, defense and guarantee for human rights, where fundamental freedoms are constantly trampled upon, where the human person is being degraded, where discrimination, intolerance and slavery prevail, there true peace cannot exist," the bishops said.

The bishops' statement followed police beatings of priests, religious and students, and the expulsion of Father Francisco de Paula Olliva, S.J., a university professor and youth moderator.

Earlier, Archbishop Anibal Mena Porta of Asuncion declared that those responsible for the attack against the priests and nuns had incurred excommunication.

The protest of the full bishops' conference, addressed to Minister of Education and Worship Raul Pena, flatly accused

the Stroessner regime of "a systematic violation of the fundamental rights of citizens; a persistent ignoring of ecclesiastical authorities and of sacred religious places and persons; and of depriving the Church of its legitimate means of expression."

The beatings took place at Christ the King church and the adjacent campus of the school of philosophy of the Catholic University.

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