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Wednesday, August 7, 1985



## Hiroshima Visit

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Although it was nearly 27 years since the bombing, this woman was still suffering many disorders as a result of the atomic bomb; in fact, her hospital stay was due to one of the many injuries suffered. From my hospital roomate and her husband, I heard the first of many firsthand accounts of August 6, 1945. Until meeting this couple, I never realized that this attack which occurred in an instant, produced suffering an agony that is endless. Survivors of this horrible tragedy which had been distant to me, had shared their agony and pain with me, and suddenly I needed to know more of what really happened. I decided to visit Hiroshima

With Mariko and Harumi, I went to the "Peace Museum." As I walked through in stunned silence, I felt conspicuous and embarrassed because I was an American. During my stay in Japan, I felt I was a part of the Japanese people for I had learned their customs and their language as best I could. I was devastated that an American could give orders to drop such a bomb on so many innocent people — the friends, parents, cousins and siblings of my Japanese friends. These people were not even in the military. To see the actual remnants of the torn and burned clothing; to look at photos that were taken that day — I just wanted to scream "STOP. I've had enough!"

But there really was no way to stop. Later, we met Harumi's first cousin who was also a hibakusha. She told me about some of the "hibakusha-nisei" (children of survivors) that she knew or had known. They had been born with a variety of problems that had been linked to the effects of the bomb. Many of the hibakusha-nisei who had survived to their early teens developed a form of leukemia that diminished their hope to put their suffering behind them. As I walked around Hiroshima, I expected

As I warked around Hiroshima, I expected to see evidence of the bomb's devastation, just as I had witnessed in the lives of people I had met. But there were very few outward signs except for the Peace Dome, the one remaining ruin from the bomb that had been left to serve as a memorial. In front of this evidence of destruction, the cherry blossoms were in bloom and young children were playing.

I could not help but feel struck by the contrast between the present and the past. The horror and the suffering of long ago had

# Media Notes Paulist Productions' Offers 'Inside Ethiopia' for TV

#### By Michael Gallagher

New York (NC) — "Almost everybody knows the horror by now. What we wanted to do was to give some perspective and to convey the nobility of the people and show that there was hope, thanks to the generosity of the American people and to the wonderful work of groups like Catholic Relief Services."

The subject was the television program "Inside Ethiopia: Land of Famine, Land of Hope," and the speaker, in a phone convercontinued into the present day, and I had witnessed it and listened to the stories of those who had experienced it and continued to do so. I didn't want to die from such a bomb, and yet I didn't want to live with the ongoing effects either. And as all these thoughts flooded my mind while I walked through the city of Hiroshima, I came across a monument built for the dead of that most horrible and tragic day in 1945. The inscription — to which I made a commitment to see that it shall always be true — read:

"Repose ye in peace, for the error shall not be repeated." Amen.

The following is a schedule of area events commemorating the 40th anniversary of the

#### Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombings. Diocesan-wide events

#### Wednesday, August 7

• Fasting and prayer for peace through Friday, Aug. 9 — wear a purple ribbon to show solidarity.

Friday, August 9

• Diocesan Mass for Peace celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at St. Francis De Sales in Geneva, 7:30 p.m.

### Southern Tier

Wednesday, August 7 • Prayer service and "Civil Defense: Dangerous Illusion?" program at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Elmira - 7:30 p.m.

Finger Lakes

These events are sponsored by the Finger Lakes Peace Alliance, a group with which the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry is affiliated.

#### Saturday, August 10

• Interfaith service at Sampson State Park with local clergy and folk group — 10-11:15 a.m.

• Peace walk encircling the Seneca Army Depot; two groups will hike 10 miles each — 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

• Rally and picnic at Sampson State Park with two survivors of Hiroshima, former Brooklyn Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman, draft resister Andy Majer and others speaking, folk singer Tom Paxton performing - 4-6:30 p.m.

Participants are asked to park at Sampson State Park for these events. Shuttle service to the depot will be provided. For more information, call Arnie Matlin at (716)243-4002 or 243-4007.

with experts, segments meant to provide the perspective Father Kieser wanted.

The experts are Peter McPherson, an administrator for the Agency for International Development; Rep. Ted Weiss, D-N.Y.; Henry Jackson, director of African studies at Hunter College; and Ken Hackett, senior adviser for Africa for Catholic Relief Services.

It's worth noting that two of these men differ significantly in their assessments. McPherson has nothing but praise for the response of the Reagan administration to the crisis. Weiss, on the other hand, is sharply critical, urging a government commitment to spend \$500 million to \$600 million for the purchase of food for Ethiopia over the next six months. The film contains the kind of heartrending scenes that have seared the American conscience in recent months and provoked an unprecedented outpouring of relief funds. But "Inside Ethiopia" also shows that the aid sent so far is indeed having an effect. An Irish nurse, for example, tells how the children are divided up into groups with the most severely malnourished being fed five times a day. But the program makes clear that the crisis is far from surmounted and a vast influx of food is still needed. In some parts of the country, a grimmer type of selection than that described by the Irish nurse still goes on: harried relief workers mark the foreheads of people to indicate those who will be fed and those who are so far gone that, given the available resources, they must be left to die. "Inside Ethiopia" is a co-production of Paulist and Group W Buntryasting. It will be shown on many stations throughout the country at the end of July and the beginning of August. Be on the lookout for it. 'There will probably never again be an opportunity to do so much good with so little money," said Father Kieser, explaining that it costs but \$1 to feed an Ethiopian child for a week.

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sation, was Paulist Father Elwood Kieser, the energetic and dedicated head of Paulist Productions.

Father Kieser, a prime mover in the field of religious broadcasting, achieved a major breakthrough last spring when his production of "The Fourth Wise Man," starring Martin Sheen and Alan Arkin, was broadcast in prime time.

He teamed up last December with Cliff Robertson, an actor who time and time again has demonstrated his deep social commitment, and they went to Ethiopia.

"We visited four refugee camps at Makelle, Korem, Harbu and Bati," Father Kieser said, "and we were overwhelmed by what we saw. We fell in love with the people of Ethiopia. They were able to maintain their dignity and their joy in living despite the appalling catastrophe that had overtaken them.

"When we came back, we were determined to do our part to bring a message to the American people — a message that there is hope, that aid is getting through, that people are being fed, but that much more is needed."

Once back in the States, Father Kieser and Robertson made the talk-show circuit, including Phil Donahue and Merv Griffin, and also appeared on network news programs.

Then Father Kieser's Paulist Productions made "Inside Ethiopia." It's a 30-minute film narrated by Robertson that combines footage shot during the trip and interviews