

THE GLOBAL ODYSSEY: A TWENTIETH CENTURY PILGRIMAGE

a slide narrative written by

THE DEWEY AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GLOBAL ODYSSEY

JULY, 1974

Part I: The March of Mankind

Part II: The Impact

Part III The Church

I. THE MARCH OF MANKIND

- 1 Onward,
- 2 onward,
- 3 the March
- 4 of Creation,
- 5 the Journey of Mankind
- 6' relentlessly pressing onward,
- ? a spectrum of light surging between the darkness of the "no-longer" and the "not-yet".
- 8 Like the rhythmic tides which nourish the planet
- 9 the heart beat of civilization pulsates with the ever-increasing
- 10 fear and
- ll fascination of its existence,
- 12 pumping new life into every species
- 13 and every generation of humanity.
- 14 In the midst of the quietness of ageless peaks or
- 15 the roar of the now-teaming metropolis
- 16 life's mystery and terror permeate the sophisticated
- 17 and primitive alike,
- 18 leaving only a residue of silence and stillness...
 - 19 and an always stronger desire to merge with the pilgrimage of the universe, onward, yet onward...
 - 20 For millions of years the dawning star has witnessed and sustained this drama,
 - 21 scattering and infusing its energy to miniscule cells and emerging finally
 - 22 through the taming and
 - 23 terrorizing instincts of man.
 - 24 Remote villages and caves,

- 25 fertile valleys of great rivers welcomed
- 26 wandering strangers and migrating tribes,
- 27 giving birth to the consciousness that man alone of all creatures had been chosen to lead the onward march;
- 28 to participate in forging out creation s destiny; to thrust the power and creativity within him in caring for the future of an ever-evolving global community.
- 29 Man alone held within him the common journey of life.
- 30 As if caught by the compelling force of a giant magnet, mankind, with its secret awareness, has been drawn toward a common destiny, sometimes reluctantly and rebelliously,
- 31 sometimes joyously
- 32 and with great vigor.
- 33 From country
- 34 to country
- 35 and continent
- 36 to continent
- 37 a new spirit of humanity struggles to give form
- 38 economic
- 39 political
- 40 and cultural modes
- 41 of both ancient
- 42 and edge civilizations.
- 43 Differing ages, reaces,
- 44 nationalities, and
- 45 religions strive together to shorten the time of transitional upheaval, college, and confusion and hasten the coming of a new era of building the earth and continuing the march.
- 46 It was in the midst ofthis jour , w that the Glo., 7 Odyssey

- 47 a Twentieth Century Pilgrimage was embarked upon.
- 48 An Odyssey that enabled twenty-two people, ages thirteen to sixty-five,
- 49 to experience the whole village and the whole saga of mankind at once.
- 50 An Odyssey that travelled to London, England,
- 51 Rome, Italy and
- 52 Athens, Greece
- 53 in the Western Sphere of the globe, the birthplace of its religious and cultural heritage;
- 54 to Cairo, Egypt,
- 55 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and
- 56 Mexico City,
- 57 the Southern Sphere, where the march is given an unsurpassable dignity in the midst of incredible poverty and instability;
- 58 and to Bombay and Calcutta, India,
- 59 Bangkok, Thailand,
- 60 Hong kong, China
- 61 and Tokyo, Japan
- 62 the Eastern Bphere, where masks of modern technology did not conceal the mystery, depth, and greatness of a determined people.
- 63 It was in the midst of this journey that the Odyssey experienced Chardin's realization: "I am conscious of bearing deep within me all the strain and struggle of the universe"
- 64 and knew that to move onward and forward with creation meant to be forever uprooted, having no heritage but the globe's; no home but one's interior perspective of the universe; and no destiny but that of all of creation.
- 65 It was in the midst of saying YES to that journey and knowledge that the Odyssey was transformed
- 66 and experienced the grinding March of the Cosmos
- 67 as the beckoning Dance of Life.

II. THE IMPACT

- Always the March takes place in the midst of the everyday--"on the street where you live,"
- 2 Anywhere, Planet Earth.
- 3 Whether walking the dirt paths of Cairo
- 4 or riding the modern thorofares of Tokyo,
- 5 the impact of the transition to an urban,
- 6 secular,
- 7 and technological world could not be escaped
- 8 (nor could westernization, for the weary traveller knew a pepsi was never far away)
- 9 and the Odyssey was continuously bombarded by a montage of contradicting images--
- 10 ancient-
- ll modern,
- 12 passive-
- 13 agressive,
- 14 rich-
- 15 poor,
- 16 young-
- 17 old,
- 18 high ritual-
- 19 mundane routine,
- 20 ignorant opression-
- 21 ingenious creativity.
- 22 Original images, preconceptions and protective walls were mercilessly torn assunder.
- 23 Pungent odors, unfamiliar culinary habits,
- 24 strange sounds of foreign languages and mule-horned taxis in chaotic, loosely-called streets,

- 25 changing climates
- 26 and times,
- 27 and ineludable beggars succeeded daily in shifting the sands under our feet .
- 28 Daily worship, Bible study, corporate reflection
- 29 and celebrations helped regain the equilibrium, deepened the spiritual journey and enabled the group to move forward through the schidzophrenic threat of paralysis or spastic tourism;
- 30 while participation in such events as the London Theatre, Roman Opera, and Mexican Jai Lai allowed the group to break through cultural barriers and temporarily merge as colleagues with indigenous enthusiasm.
- 31 During the twenty-five days the Odyssey became at-one with its cultural heritage, awed by the still-lingering presence of the last day of Caesar in the Roman Forum,
- 32 the vision of Socrates at the foot of the Acropolis,
- 33 and the passionage drive of the Egyptians as they labored over the monumental tributes to their immortal pharoahs, leaving for eternity a symbol of what the Egyptians refer to as "a unique time in history When people knew exactly what had to be done and had the faith to do it.
- 34 The resoundings of intense national and cultural pride
- 35 and the legends of great men who gave themselves to transform history followed the Odyssey in its wanderings
- 36 through Egypt,
- 37 Ethionia,
- 38 Japan,
- 39 and Mexico,
- 40 leaving no doubt in a sometimes reluctant welcome that Westerners were strangers from a young up-start civilization.
- 41 Reluctance only turned to enthusiasm when, as if through a vision, the strangerstook on the appearance of dollar signs, looking for an opportune place to be spent.
- 42 To be known and cared for only as a white rich American was a constant affront and a global reality which pierced resentment
- 43 and illusions of being non-wealthy, middle-class Americans,

THE IMPACT (CONTINUED)

- 44 and struck deeply the sensitivities arroused by rubbing shoulders with the most intense poverty experience by mankind.
- 45 An infant and old man asleep in the middle of the uninterrupted flow of a busy Calcutta sidewalk;
- 46 pre-school children sent out to beg for families;
- 47 extended families sardined into single rooms of Hong Kong high rises;
- 48 row upon row of homeless destitutes and faceless lepers in Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying in Calcutta--
- 49 all challenge attempts to reconcile one's affluence with
- 50 the Cry of most of mankind for the basic spiritual and material necessities of existence.
- Occasionally in the midst of the ongoing stream of pain, undercurrents of hope and resurgence surfaced in such unexpected places as on billboards which encouraged the masses "not to look to past dawns but to noons of the future":
- 52 in traditional folk music and dance which released effervescent energy;
- 53 and in great murals and monuments urging mankind to join the legacy of its ancestors and move into the future.
- 54 Even in the solitariness of a hotel room "that-which-was-different-from-you" was always present.
- 55 From the bustling streets through windows were transmitted waves of voices chanting Muslim prayers,
- 56 filling the heart with an uneasy sense of forboding and reminding one again that he is an outsider, A Stranger in a foreign land.
- 57 And non-visible eyes and solicitous and curious servants traced one's comings and goings and silently called one's Being into question.
- 58 Continuing the journey, the Odyssey was at every moment thrown off guard by the juxtaposed internationalism and parochialism of the East and the ambiguous but effective style of non-western man.
- 59 A spirit and integrity of pliable bamboo,

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- 60 an inner discipline and determination of steel,
- 61 and an outward garb of silken graciousness and servitude presented an enigma not to be resolved by Western rationality.

THE IMPACT (CONTINUED)

- 62 The smootheness and politeness of the Bangkok tour guide; the Hong Kong churchmen who sought first to serve you at the dinner table and himself last; the kindness and helpfulness of the government official in Calcutta who went out of his way to arrange a cheaper tour of the city--
- 63 all forced a re-examination of one's own (as non-westerners see it) barbaric style of relating with others.
- 64 Taking the throws of political uprising, economic collapse and religious disintigration in stride, local man carried out his daily business with a veneer of seeming non-chalance.
- 65 Only careful probing revealed a longing and searching for new spiritual roots.
- 66 The traditional religions of the globe--Hinduism,
- 67 Buddhism
- 68 Shintoism
- 69 Judaism,
- 70 and Christianity no longer in their present form hold power with the people.

 Only the elderly worship at Shinto shrinos in Japan;
- 71 over half the population of Hong Kong practice no religion except the dollar sign; Englishmen enshrine the church's heritage in museums;
- 72 many Italians openly mock the once-revered Pope;
- 73 and awakening Africans refuse to be governed by the Orthodox Church.
- 74 Only a third ear heard the excitement of unarticulated plans for local man's participation in building local community, in instituting grass-roots government, in establishing equitable economic systems, and
- 75 in revitalizing religious forms that would transform and unify
- 76 a crumbling Western Sphere,
- 77 an emerging and strong Southern Sphere;
- 78 and a steadfastly-present Eastern Sphere.
- 79 The March continued.
- 80 The comprehensive and consistent impact plunged the Odyssey into a bottomless swirl of terror and joy. We would never again be the same.

III. THE CHURCH

- 1 And the March presses forward.
- 2 Kairotic moments raise up journey masters to facilitate
- 3 mankind's passing through and symbolizing junctures of history--
- 4 ordinary men and women, their greatness stemming not from extraordinary ability but from steadfast visioning beyond the daily worries of the March--a thousand years beyond;
- 5 visioning which shapes decisions to give all that all might continue the March.
- 6 New form is given to the universe as the energy of earth's exploding consciousness is carefully harnessed and channeled.
- 7 Sometimes called to unfamiliar territories, a relentless spirit and basic trust in Life spur the journey masters
- 8 to create something from nothing;
- 9 to order chaos where chaos is the only order; and
- 10 to catalyze new life and motion where only death and entropy prevail.
- Motivated by a passionate love for the world's present reality and future
 possibility,
- 12 they become earth's practical mystics, giving a variety of concrete forms to their dreams of new society come of age.
- 13 Sometimes they emerge as delegated leaders of society;
- 14 but more frequently, they labor as enablers of mankind, their names lost in history's obscurity.
- 15 But the spirit they release creates new foundations for life and throughout the ages,
- 16 the rise and fall of great civilizations depends directly on the journey masters' strength or weakness.
- 17 Nameless, they are given names—sometimes called prophets, caretakers, symbol builders, the league, pioneers, hunter-warriors, the universal religious;
- 18 and sometimes simply called the Church.
- 19 The witness of the Church Universal permeates the globe, breathing through the pores of every religious fitbre.
- 20 In nearly every desert,

- 21 mountain,
- 22 and city community,
- 23 the intensification of the witness assumes the dynamic of the local congregation.
- 24 Only hours into the journey, the Odyssey experience the collegiality and challenge of churchmen of the ages
- 25 and affirmed the words of Wesley echoing from the halls of Westminster Abbey: "The world is my parish".
- 26 Walking in the footsteps of Christian martyrs in Rome;
- 27 wandering the damp, crypt-lined, silent corredors of the catacombs, once a hideaway for persecuted Christians;
- 28 seeing the Colleseum where crowds cheered while the faithful kept their appointment with hungering lions;
- 29 standing before the tomb of Pope John XXIII who opened with window allowing the fresh air of a new ecumenical day to enter;
- 30 sitting on the hill where the Apostle Paul made known to the Athenians their unknown god:
- 31 we knew in some strange sense we had personally participated in the drama enacted there many years ago and
- 32 understood that we would not have ever been on that Global journey
- 33 had it not been for those journey masters who had initiated the task
- 34 of spreading the Word of God and
- 35 building a new humanity, and now cried out for us to finish their work.
- 36 Worshipping in St. Peter's Cathedral,
- 37 in an Ethiopian mission station,
- 38 and in a Chinese Church enabled the Odyssey to rehearse again that God so loved the world that He gave the Church the priviledge of pioneering the future.
- 39 In conversations with frate#nal workers and churchmen who said they experience deeply the urgency for pioneering the future as well as
- 40 maintaining mission schools, hospitals, and service centers, the Odyssey began to anticipate a consistant and common response to what pioneering the future means to them.

THE CHURCH (CONTINUED)

- 41 Pioneering the future means enabling local man to build world community by rebuilding collapsed family, neighborhood, and national community.
- to stand before the probund mystery and sacredness of cre
 42 Pioneering the future means enabling local man to experience his life as a gift to be given back to life.
- 43 Pioneering the future means revitalizing old symbols and creating new ones that carry the depth meaning of man's life.
- 44 Pioneering the future means initiating a new mode of living which concretely and daily encompasses the geographical scope and spiritual depth of the globe.
- 45 Pioneering the future means forging out the new role of Christianity
- in relation to other religions, working to help evolve a global spiritual base to support the emerging ocunomic and political structures of global community.
- Pioneering the future means cultivating the conditions that allow the metamorphosis of the New Man, :
- the New Church, 48
- and the New World
- The struggle is great. The task seems overwhelming; 50
- but the signs and demonstrations of resurgence are pointing the March in a new direction.
- The Church Universal is indeed responding and for the first time in many years is pioneering the new forms of society.
- And Churchmen throughout the globe are caught by a new excitement:
- the fraternal workers in Ethiopia who sense a new spirit in that nation with the advent of a new government;
- 55 the missionary in Thailand who sees that Christianity must be torn loose from its white western bonds and enable the people of each nation to build anew:
- the Hong Kong congregation which is laying out a plan to care for thousands of refugees in its high-rise parish.
- 57 The cry of the ancesters to finish their work calls churchmen of every nationality and color to be journey masters of this age;
- to give practical form to faith, hope, and love in their local congregations where life is given

- 59 on behalf of millions across the world.
- 60 To love the world as the global citizen we are is to passionately love the local church as the only sign of hope and possibility the world has.
- 61 As Chardin puts it so well--"Whatever the merits of other religions, it remains an undeniable fact--explain how one will--
- 62 that the most ardent and most massive blaze of collective love that has ever appeared in the world burns here and now in the heart of the Church of God."
- 63 And he continues -- "Man has every right to be anxious about his fate so long as he feels himself to be lost and lonely
- 64 in the midst of the mass of created things. But let him once discover that his fate is bound up with the fate of nature itself,
- 65 and immediately, joyously,
- 66 he will begin again his forward march."
- 67 The Odyssey, completing its pilgrimage to the new holy land, planet earth,
- 68 senses the time has come--lest mankind perish--
- 69 for Dewey Avenue Church, the Maplewood Neighborhood, the Presbyterian denomination and ecumenical brothers and sisters of the globe,
- 70 to accept with humility, gratitude, and compassion the task and priviledge of shaking off our ancient prejudices
- 71 and building the earth. Let us accept our calling as journey masters and together begin the March.
- 12 60 Symbol

THE GLOBAL ODYSSEY! A TWENTIETH CENTURY PILGRIMAGO SEPTEMBER 22, 1974

ALT/SCOVE I ! SEND-OUT

(At end of meal, cleaning and singing)

Ann: And now presenting, the Dewy Avenue Global Cabaret

[Lights: Stage and spots

Props: podium

Narrator: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the Cabaret: the Odyssey; A Twentieth Century Pilgrimage

Did you enjoy your dinner?

Fine! Sit back, relax and enjoy your journey with the march of mankind. OUr stazting point: Dewey Avenue Church

tge-tuneb the time: seceral weeks after the Odyssey

the place: a morning worship and breakfazst scripture and news conversation

[Blackout and Music

Props: table forward on stage, screen up

Lights: stage and spots

SCENE: MORVING CONVERSATION

Don: (reading from Bible) Faith, hope and love but the greatest of these is love. Well, what have been the news events of this week?

Doris: the famine in Africa

John: the queen dissolved the parliament

Martha: The Fall of Hailie Salasie—and the ban of International traffic on Ethiopian airlines. Why wer wouldn's have been able to go there is if that had happened a few weeks ago. It hardly seems possible were just there. Why I remember when we first had our send off meeting at Kennedy airport...

[Lights: BLACKOUT[

Props: remove globe and table, set up nine chairs around platform

Musis: small world [

Lights up

SCEBE : KENNEDY AIRPORT

Ann: (leading-songsopening the metting

Let the global odyssem stand accountable for its presence, Team West, Team South, Team East.

Don: Everyone is present but Marion (in walks marion)

Ann: Lets begin by siming the Odyssey song (acompainied by piano)

ALL-SING-SONG (interrupted, have to bhange rooms)

All SING SONG

Chuck: (start to do context--interrupted twice--have to change rooms second time--finally does context.)

At end of context:

Ann: we are ready to board--the Lord be with you [BLACKOUT[

Lights up

TEAM WEST SONG

BLACKOUT Scene II: THE MARCH

THE MARCH OF MANKING SLIDES AND NARRATIVE

BLACKOUT

MUSIC: SMALL WORLD AND THE MEXICAN HAT DANCE MUSIC

PROPS: TABLE, GLOBE WITH SOMBRERO ON TOP

LEGHTS: SPOTS

MEXICAN HAT DANCE

BLACKOUT

PROPS: remove globe, put table to side of stage, add one chair

music; small world

LIGHTS: spots

ALT/SCENG ETT THE IMPACT

TRANSITION SKIT: MONEY EXCHANGE

(Carolyn is sitting on the chair)

Marion: (entering) I have 3 American dollars, 2 English pounds , 5000 italina

lire and # Egyptian pound. How many Egyptian pounds is that all

together?

Carolyn: 9el-(calculating) about 4!pounds

Marion: Well how much - American money do I need to have 20 Egyptian

pounds?

Carolyn: about 15 dollars

Marion: Ah, thankyou,, I'll get this money figured out yet

(leaves)

Carolybn: Your welcome--Okjust one thing, Marion; We're in Ethiopia,

not Cairo!

BLACKOUT stage

Props: remove table, add one chair to the table and 7 more crowed

around the stage.
Music: small world

LIGHTS: SPOTS and stage

NARRATOR: Using every ounce of ingenuity to sustain the coroporate life,

the Odyssey learned to adapt to liesurey schedules and spacious living and meeting conditions. We find them now finishing morning

worship in a hote- Cairo hotel bedroom.

BLACKOUT

Music: Sm world Lights: Spots

SCFNE: CAIRO HOTEL ROOM

Martha: Grace and peace be unto you

All: from god....

M. Amen All: Amen

M: Don, You're up front now I believe

Don: (Loud) Let us being

All: Shhh

Don : let us sing Men of the spirit

All: sing 1st verse very low)

Don: well here we are in Cairo--what impacted you yesterday

John: the awful noise and chanting (holding ears)

Chuck: the good food the camel ride

Sue: the big bug in my room

Chuck: the good food (nudging David)

the pyramids

Carl: Samara City and the belly dancers

Chuck: the good food
David leaves

Churk continues: Ah these teens, all their stomachs can take is McDonalds Don: Take out you'r schedule sheets and make the following changes...

Any questions?

David: Has our one bathroom stop been changed?

Don: Are there any announcements?

Carolybn: (proceeds to make announcement re: money)

Don: Give your money to the team leaders.

Let us rise for the sendout (Karen whispers to him)

I've just been reminded that we have a new supply of little white pills. See Ann if you need any.

Chuck: The Lord by with your. Then Who needs them?

Don: the Lord be with you.....Amen....

All: (leave except for Chuck and Ann who slowin walk to stage. Chuck looks to see if anyone is watching and taps Ann on the shoulder. She looks and him and then hands him the bottle of pills.

BLACKOUT

THE IMPACT SLIDES AND NARRATIVE

LIGHTS: STAGE-AND-SPOTS BLACKOUT

PROPS: REMOVE ALL BUT SIX CHAIRS. LINE ¢ CHAIRS ON STAGE LIKE

20 BEDS

MUSIC: SMALL WORLD

LIGHTS: SPOTS AND STAGE

NARRATOR: In the midst of a hectic air schedule the Odyssey found itself landing in Bombay, India at midnight and destined to spend an exhausting evening night in the airport before moving on to Calcutta. However we were relieved to learn that Indian airlines was going to provide for us hotel lodging in a near-by hotel where they could get a good night's sleep and experience God's abundant care, Bombay style.

SSCENE: BOMBAY HOTEL ROOM

Don: tipping porter) Be sure to wake us up at five so we can get to the bus by 5:30.

Avarious interruptions break the eving--ordering sandwiches and cokes and getting them, not ordering tea and getting it, waking up too early, and finally resigned to getting up 15 minutes early.

Don: It sure was a restful night, wasn*t it.? (leaving room)

TEAM SOUTH SONG BLACKOUT

MUSIC: MSALL WORLD

PROPS: 3 chairs on stage for taxi ride

LIGHTS: SPOTS

TRANSITION SKIT: THE TAXI PIDE TO MICK'S # 1

Carl, Karen , Mildred-finally get taxi, get bargain, arrive, pay money--at Mick's #2

Carl: See we made it-we're the first ones

Karen: Yeh Carl, this is Mick's #2.

BLACKOUT

MUSIC : small world

PROPS: REMOVE CHAIRS FROM CENTER STAGE. BE PREPARED TO RAISE CURTAIN AND MOVE TABLE FORWARD ON BIG STAGE AFTER MARRATION.

LIGHTS: STAGE AND SPOTS

ACT/SCENE IN: THE CHINAY

MARRATOR: On the other side of the world, in the midst of the wild spin, the Odvssey frequently thought of the Church, wondering how things were going back home, and anxiously waiting to hear if the gap they had created by their absence had caused too many problems. Meanwhile, back at the local mosque...

PLACKOUT

PROPS: RAISE SCREEN, PULL TABLE OUT TO FRONT OF STAGE.

MUSIC: SMALL MORLE

LIGHTS: stage and spots

SCENE: THE LOCAL CHURCH

Rosemary: OK, lets sheck and see how things are going

Worship

Brenda: Al and Linda did great jobs preaching and new people are showing up

up at daily worship

R: Work units

John: All's going well--had a good meeting the other night

R: Decor

Barbara: We just finished a new decor design in the lower hallway.

R: Witness 74

Brenda: Monday night callingis going well--we made thrity calls

Linda: How's the Global Odyssdy doing--have we heard from them?

R: Oh year, how's the Global Odyssey doing, have we heard from them?

Al: Just got a tablegram--says they=were nearly stranded in Hong Kong by a typhoon, got bombarded by crowds in Tokyo and nearly missed their plane to Mexico--willbe home in a few days--wish you were here.

Linda: Gee, the time has gone so quickly, I've hardly missed them.

R: According to my calculations, who needs them?

BLACKOUT

LIGHTS enoughj to read song sheets

TEAM EAST SONG

BLACKOUT

THE CHURCH SLIDES AND MARRATIVE

BLACKOUT

LIGHTS: SPOTS AND STAGE

NARRATOR: in the final stretch at Mexico Airport, we find the Odyssey gracefully and with good cheer gliding through some typical pre-boarding transactions.

BALCKOUT

MUSIC: SMALL WORLD LIGHTS: SPOTS

SCENE: MEXICO AIRPORT

harry with group, collecting passports, tickets, etc. in exasperation at continuing changes, the groups throws his last request at him.

BLACKOUT

ACTISEENE I! ROCHESTEN

from off stage-- landing at Rochester airport--singing the Maplewood song)

Dapc people start to sing ON TOP OF THE WORLD, and-inviting the audience to participate. the Odyssey enters and are welcomed by the congregation. all join in singing and move to appropriate places by decor)

/AT end of song--

BLACKOUT

PROPS: RAISE SCREEN, MOVE TABLE OUT ON LARGE STAGE

MUSIC: The church

LIGHTS: stage

SCENE: BACK AT OPENING CHURCH SCENE Church song

(Music playing softly in back

Bond WOW

Martha; that sure brings back memories.. I wonder if we"ll ever go back to

Don: Ethiopia

Well, journey masters, are you ready to pioneer the future?

Let's close this morning's breakfast with the song THE CHURCH

Will everyone join us (motioning to the audience)

LIGHTS ON HALF SO PEOPLE CAN READ WORDS

Don: The Lord be with you... Amran

BLACKOUT

LIGHTS FULL

18275 - out 28612 -2550/

Ann: And so draws the curtain on our Global Cabaret