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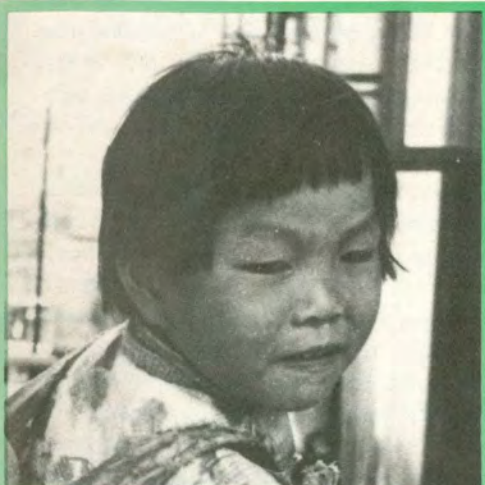
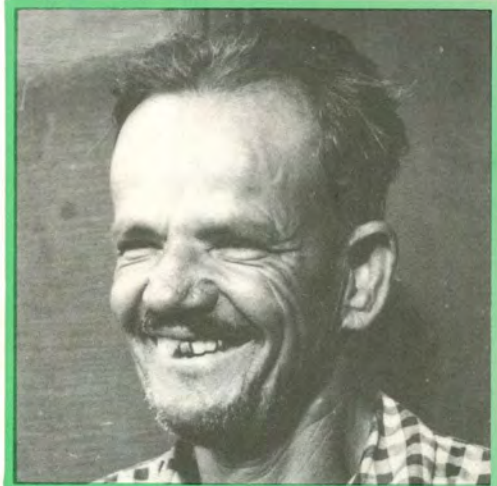
# HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



MAY 1977

Price 10p



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Rev E G T Madge



At the Annual General Members Meeting last month the Rev E G T Madge succeeded Dr H C Bowker as Chairman of the Society. This, however, is only the most recent post in a distinguished career encompassing 40 years of missionary service. He first served in China going to that field in 1935 where he served in Shansi and Shensi provinces. In 1951 he and his wife were forced to leave due to the communist regime and they came home to England. But not for long. Almost immediately they returned to active service this time in India. For part of this period Mr Madge was pastor of the influential New Delhi Free Church and then he became India Field Secretary at the time when the churches were adjusting to existence within a new independent India. In 1959 the General Committee invited him to become the General Overseas Secretary and he served the Society in this position until he retired in 1976. During his period of service many changes have occurred in our overseas work. There was the forced withdrawal from Angola, the upheavals in Zaire and Bangladesh during the periods when these nations were seeking their own identity, the expansion in Brazil and Nepal and the restrictions in India and Sri Lanka. At all times Mr Madge's wide experience and wise counsel have been of tremendous help to the Society.

In our home we have a plant commonly called 'mother of thousands'. It is so called because it throws out runners in all directions which develop into miniature plants complete with roots which feel around for suitable soil in which to establish themselves and become separate plants.

In the providence of God there are many groups of Christians around the world which were originally 'runners' from the churches of Great Britain through the work of the BMS. Our churches have become the 'mother of thousands' living in many countries of the world and serving Christ in many situations. In these days when the churches are attacked on all sides and when life in many a local congregation is at low ebb, it is well to recall all that has been accomplished.

So, let us give thanks that through the BMS we are part of a fellowship of Christians in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and South America, people whose names are familiar to us, some of whom have visited us in our homes and in whose homes some of us have been privileged to stay.

The last twenty years has seen a remarkable growth in strength and leadership in most of the churches with which we are linked. We think of pastors, teachers, doctors and nurses now administering the organizations BMS missionaries founded and of thousands of others in so called secular jobs quietly serving their communities in the name of Christ.

But this does not mean that we British Baptists have fulfilled our task in the world mission and that we can sit back content. There are still situations which cry out for our help. In Bangladesh, for example, there are literally hundreds of small village churches who would have no pastoral oversight were it not for financial help from the BMS to train and support paid and voluntary leaders

for these churches, to say nothing of missionaries who through their links with the outside world are able to give these little churches the strength of fellowship with God's people all round the world.

The challenge of human need does not decrease with the years. In India it is said that 25% of all hospital beds are in Christian hospitals. In Zaire sick people may be hundreds of miles from skilled help. Poor people, just because they are poor, are cut off from facilities and techniques we take for granted.

Jesus said to His disciples when they reminded Him of the crowds who had been with them all day without food, 'You give them something to eat.' We have a responsibility to share God's gifts and the testimony of our missionaries is that when our small resources are placed in God's hands their effectiveness is multiplied many times.

The BMS General Committee is always reminding itself that we are called to go forward, to enter new areas in its name, to use new forms of service as a witness to God's love and to enter upon new partnerships with overseas churches. Brazil is one such area. Though the spectacular days of rapid church growth appear to be over for the time being, the hard slog of building new churches in development areas such as Mato Grosso still calls for all the available help from God's people within and without Brazil.

Finally, we must not forget all those other places in the world to which the Society is sending neither missionaries nor money, where the Church is working and witnessing. Our prayers and sympathy go to countries in Africa, to China, to Russia, indeed to all the world. Within that totality we British Baptists have our special responsibilities under God. May He give us wisdom, strength, courage and devotion to finish the task.

THE  
MAGAZINE  
OF

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Films, slide sets, posters, maps, literature  
are available depicting our work

Departments concerned with  
Young People's, Women's, and Medical  
support work are always available  
to offer help and advice

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We share in the work of the Church in:

Angola  
Bangladesh  
Brazil  
Hong Kong  
India  
Jamaica  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka  
Tanzania  
Trinidad  
Zaire

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# COMMENT

## New opportunities

Francis Bacon suggested that 'a wise man will make more opportunities than he finds' but perhaps it is more a question of discerning than of making because life's chances seem so often to be disguised or partially veiled and they come in an incognito fashion. It is therefore the keenly alert person always penetrating the circumstances who sees in a situation something which will open up a new avenue of witness, or present a fresh opening at a time when another door is closing.

The Old Testament story of Hagar and her son Ishmael reveals some interesting points. Seemingly they were condemned to die of thirst in the inhospitable wilderness of Beersheba. The eyes of Hagar were blinded by tears of self pity so that she failed to notice the well nearby until God opened her eyes to the opportunity of a fresh supply of water.

In scripture it is asserted again and again that Christ goes with His message and with His messengers and it is this which makes the greatness of all real opportunity, for working with Him we are not restricted to seeing the circumstances through human eyes but are able to look at a situation through the eyes of Christ and see the way in which He would have us exploit it for His glory and the advance of His kingdom. Again and again when one way has become difficult or impossible to our mission

enterprise we have seen another way forward. When China closed to us the Lord opened our eyes to see Brazil. When through lack of transport or drugs the District trips have become impossible in Zaire our nurses have seen opportunities for increased church work and taken them. When there is a new movement of people in Brazil a new opportunity to present the claims of Christ becomes apparent. In this issue we look at some of the new opportunities which have come to us.

John Furmage saw a need for a supply of Christian Literature in the area of Brazil where he worked and when he made the opportunity to open a bookshop he learnt that other Christians in the area had been praying that such a project could be started.

The United Mission to Nepal has a policy whereby the work in which it is engaged is gradually handed over to the Nepalese as they become trained in the skills necessary for that work. But all the time it has its eyes open to what may be done next and it has released details of many opportunities that are open to those collaborating in this field.

John Pullin points us to many openings in Mato Grosso through which we are invited to go and share with the church there in the exciting prospects for the future. It is a question first of 'seeing' the openings and then by God's grace of using them to the full.

# FROM BLUEPRINT TO REALITY

by John Pullin



'Blueprint for Brazil.' That was the exciting leaflet the Society issued nearly a decade ago. It outlined plans for developing BMS co-operation in Brazil, which at that time was limited to pastoral work in the State of Paraná. The plans proposed that we should add nurses to our workers in Paraná and that we should accept invitations from the Mato Grosso and Amazonas Conventions to participate in pastoral work in those States. The leaflet was both challenging and adventurous as the Society looked at ways in which its work in Brazil might be extended.

## Need for Personnel

But however exciting and challenging plans may be they cannot be followed unless there are personnel to carry them out, and lack of personnel is the main reason why these proposals have not, as yet, been carried out to the full.

But, thanks to God, progress is being made and slowly the blueprint is becoming a reality. We visited Mato Grosso and Amazonas in 1973 and when we returned to Brazil in September 1974 we were asked to initiate the Society's participation in Mato Grosso.

## Exciting times ahead

These are exciting times in that State which is about eight times the size of the United Kingdom. It has been developing since the pioneers settled in Vila Bella, Cuiabá (pronounced Ku-ee-a-ba) and Caçeres (pronounced Kass-er-ress), more than 250 years ago. But for the first 240 years growth was slow because the life was too hard, travel was too difficult and communication almost impossible. Then about ten years ago the Brazilian government began its road building programme and since that time six main roads have been built across the State linking it with the major centres of Brazil.

The immediate result has been an infusion of people migrating along these highways and seeking a new life away from the over populated coastal strip.

Land is cheap to buy or even in some cases free for the asking. So, what kind of life can the newly arrived people expect? They will never be rich, but by hard work they can be better off than before and as news spreads people keep coming from all over Brazil.

**Military city**

In consultation with the Baptist State Convention the BMS agreed to work in the Northern Association of Mato Grosso. We arrived in Cáceres, which is a military city of about 35,000 people, 250 kilometres to the south west of Cuiabá. In the past Cáceres has depended on the large military presence for its prosperity, but things are changing. In the municipality of Cáceres there are over 40 villages, some with populations of 8,000. Many more people live out in the jungle so that it is estimated there is a population for the entire region in excess of 140,000.

**The church develops**

Church life developed in Cáceres in much the same way as in other places in Brazil. It was in 1960 that the First Baptist Church in Cuiabá organized a congregation in Cáceres and Pastor Antonio Lima Barros settled in the city. In 1962 this congregation was formed into a church and the State Convention helped them to have a pastor by paying his salary, much as our Home Mission Fund helps with stipends in this country. In that year also land was purchased, a wooden building was erected and during this first pastorate new work was set up in most of the villages around. So, by 1970 when Pastor Antonio left, the church had 16 congregations spread over a vast area with the furthest 250 kilometres from the home church. To make this situation more workable one of the congregations, Salto do Céu, was organized into a church in 1970 and it took over about half of the congregations. The work continued to grow, so that in 1976 yet another congregation, Jauru, became a church. Today, in an area larger than Wales, we have three Baptist churches, 17 congregations and 12 official preaching stations which add up to a Baptist family of about 650. Responsibility for the work in this region falls upon two national pastors, one BMS missionary and one full time evangelist.

The church in Cáceres experienced two short ministries in a span of seven years which was unsettling. But in July 1976



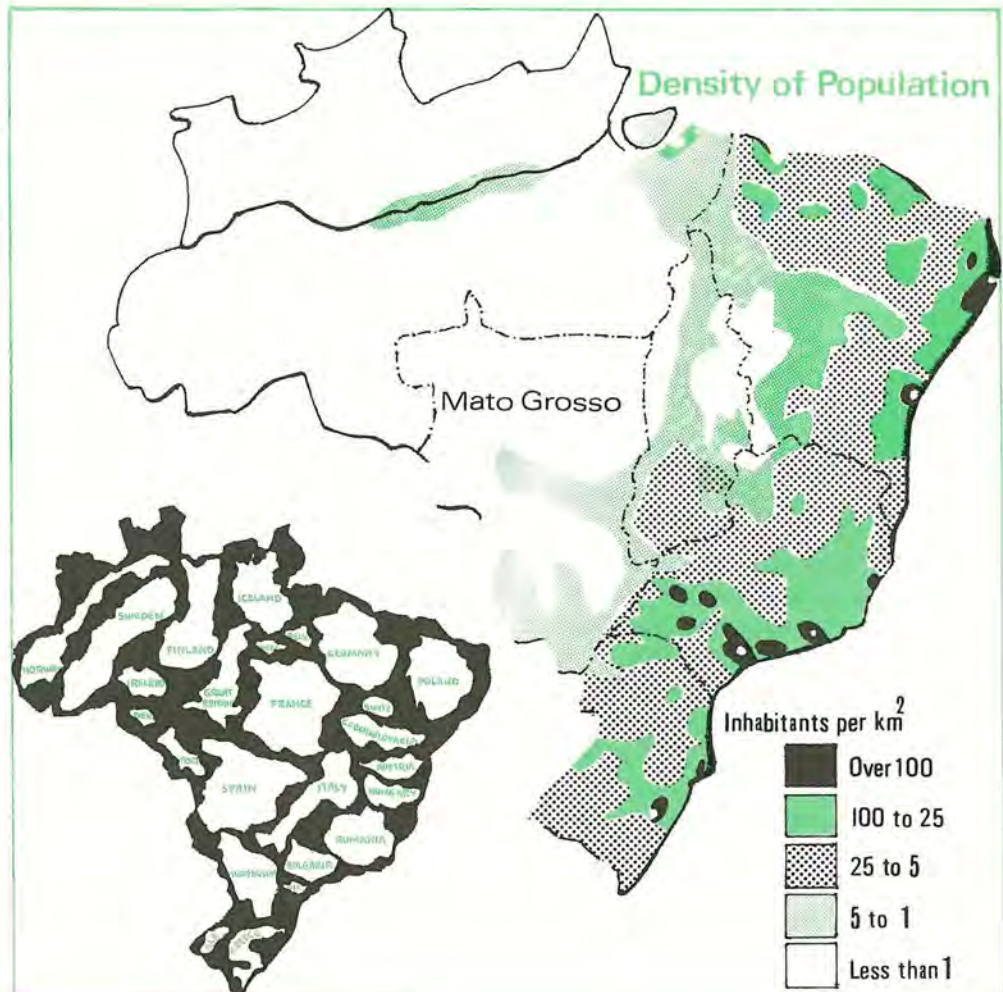
**Tree clearance**

Pastor Ari Anibal Silva was inducted to the pastorate and under his leadership the future again looks bright. The day of his induction was a double celebration for the church also moved into a new building which seats about 450 people.

**New areas open up**

The Northern Association, to which Cáceres belongs, has 14 member churches and is spread over an area about two thirds of the entire State. The Association meets together for three days each November and this year the meetings will be held in Barra Dos Garças which is about 1,000 kilometres from Cáceres. There is Baptist work in all major

cities in the region and plans are afoot to enter some of the newer cities in the next year or so. Much of the region is jungle but this is being opened up by the government and there is no guide as to the number of new settlers in these regions. Last year the State Convention drew up a ten year plan to meet the need of growing Mato Grosso. A worker has already been stationed in Colider, 700 kilometres north of Cuiabá, who is maintained by the home mission board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention. Plans are being made to support a worker in Nortelandia and Jauni as well and the First Church Campo Grande is paying the salary of a pastor for São Felix in the north east of the State.



*continued over*

These will enable some of the newer regions to be reached and served by Brazilian pastors. There is, however, a real need for the BMS to send workers in a support role to our brethren in these outlying regions as they seek to win the new areas for Christ.

**Adult Education**

Illiteracy is a serious handicap to the people of the Mato Grosso and many of our church workers have little or no education. In one church only five people could be found who were able to read and write. There are government sponsored groups to deal with this situation, but most of our people would

the course may take up to eight subjects a year. Although the Holiday Bible Institute already functions, little as yet has been done with the programme of learning.

**Social needs**

Our churches are organized to evangelize, but have become increasingly aware of the material needs of people. There is extreme poverty in the Mato Grosso and few can pay for essentials such as medical help. But many of the medical problems of our people are due to ignorance rather than illness, so what is needed is an organized Public Health programme. We are encouraged to see a new



Moving day

like Varzea Grande estimate their population will double in the next five to ten years. Whole regions like the Valley do Guapore, said to have soil that is among the best in the world for agricultural purposes, have been divided and will soon be distributed. As a result thousands of people are expected to move into the area and in ten years time this valley will probably be densely populated farm land.

**Assistance please!**

The Mato Grosso Baptist Convention has repeated its plea to the BMS to send more workers and not to limit our co-operation to just the Northern Association but to share in the work of the whole of the Mato Grosso State. On our return to Cáceres this time we expect to be giving our energy to a lay training programme, David and Irene McClenaghan are working in Coxipó, 255 kilometres from Cáceres and they and we are the only workers the BMS have in this vast State. Many more are needed to assist the Mato Grosso church as it strives to help those seeking a new life to find it in Jesus Christ. The natural resources of this vast country make it certain that the Brazil of the future will be a world leader. How vital it is, therefore, to win Brazil for Jesus Christ today.



prefer the church to sponsor classes because they find it easier to study in familiar surroundings such as the church hall or the home of a fellow member. So plans have been made for a two prong attack on this problem. Holiday Bible Institutes are being established so that our leaders will spend two weeks in January and two weeks in July in a chosen centre. This system has already been used to great effect in Paraná. Alongside this a programme has been prepared by the Seminary of São Paulo to enable students to study a book in the course of a month and to sit the monthly examination on it for assessment purposes. Those following

awareness of this problem among the leaders of both State and National Convention, but such a scheme would need nurses and where are they to be found?

These are just two of the problems that the Baptist church in Mato Grosso is facing but which they cannot begin to solve without our assistance.

**Thousands move in**

The situation offers a tremendous challenge in terms of missionary service and in Mato Grosso we are privileged to be involved. The government expects the population growth to continue and probably accelerate. Cities



Cuiabá

# BOOK R E V I E W

**Crucial Issues in Bangladesh** by Peter McNee.  
Published: William Carey Library, South  
Pasadena, California \$6.96.



The thesis of this challenging book by a young missionary of the New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society is that conversion of individuals apart from families is the wrong way to build churches in Bangladesh. When converts are 'gathered' into a 'multi ethnic' church, they are immediately isolated from their natural kin and often become dependent on missions.

But where there is a 'mono ethnic' church, that is a church comprised of people drawn mainly from one cultural group, the Christians have non Christian relations and can say of them 'these are my people' and the non Christian looking at the Christians in such a church can say 'they are our flesh and blood'. Such churches have the greatest potential for growth in Bangladesh. (The Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15 recognized a distinction between Jewish and Gentile Christians.)

It is necessary to realise the great variety of tribes, castes and sub castes (amongst Muslims as well as Hindus), and accept these cultural differences rather than hastily work for a non caste community. Where they are recognized the church grows. For instance in the Ruhea Thana the Baptist churches are mainly Paliya and the Lutheran mainly Hari, therefore 'the Baptists have the potential to win the whole Paliya and the Lutherans the Haris'. Earlier some 23 Hari Baptist Churches had become Catholic because they had been neglected, but a Catholic worked with them till all the 58 Hari villages in the area had become Christian.

Mr McNee therefore pleads, 'be specific, concentrate on the winnable persons in one caste or tribe' then evangelize them to 'the very edges' in a people movement. 'A butterfly mentality' he adds, 'flitting from caste to caste will not plant new churches in Bangladesh'.

He claims that the 'existence of three million who know that some of our people have become Christian and it has been good for them' constitutes a tremendous open door for mission.

Hospital work, relief work, Bible correspondence courses are seen by him as of value in probing for new openings, but of little value unless such openings are followed through. His argument is supported by thorough research, set out in statistical tables and diagrams so thorough that they frighten the general reader. But such a reader may skip all these yet rest assured that the author's claim is based not on vague conjectures but on reliable facts.

Some may infer that Mr McNee has forgotten that Bangladesh is mainly a Muslim country for as yet no 'mono ethnic' church can be pointed to among Muslims, and the need for a church which answers to the cultural context of the various groups of Muslims.

This book raises questions, but the challenge it presents must be taken very seriously.  
Leslie Wenger

**The Universe Next Door** by James W Sire.  
Published: Inter Varsity Press £1.95.

Dr James W Sire is associate professor of English at Trinity College, Deerfield, Illinois and he believes if people are to be fully conscious intellectually then it is essential for them to be able to detect the world view of others and also to be aware of their own. For example, he maintains that to understand

any literary work the reader must consciously grasp the world view it reflects and recognise, say, the naturalism of Thomas Hardy or the theism of John Milton.

A well rounded world view must consider such questions as, What is the really real? God, gods or the material cosmos? Who is man? What happens to man at death? What is the basis of morality? What is the meaning of human history? Who is in charge of the world? Is man determined or is he free? Is God personal or impersonal?

We cannot avoid assuming some answers to such questions so we will live either the examined or unexamined life. In the view of the author the former is the better way. He therefore examines a major world view in each chapter, Christian Theism, Deism, Naturalism, Nihilism, Existentialism, Eastern Pantheism, and the New Consciousness. These seven basic world views are described and criticised.



The author concludes that Christian Theism is the only consistent world view. Its ground is the infinite-personal God in whom all reason, all goodness, all hope, all love, all reality, all distinctions find their origin. It provides the frame of reference in which man can find meaning and significance.

But to accept Christian Theism only as an intellectual construct is not to accept it fully. There is a deeply personal dimension involved with grasping and living within this world view. It involves acknowledging our own individual dependence on God as His creatures, our own individual rebellion against God and our own individual reliance on God for restoration to fellowship with Him. And it means accepting Christ as both our liberator from bondage and Lord of our future. It leads to an examined life which is well worth living.

The country once known as East Pakistan has begun to emerge from the troubles of the recent war and has started on the road that will lead it to become a prosperous nation. New agricultural techniques and industrialization are beginning to transform the country enabling the Government to tackle the tremendous social problems that remain. In the 7th century AD a Chinese poet-traveller described the city of Chittagong as 'a sleeping beauty emerging from the mist and water'. This description is true today for the whole of Bangladesh for it is a land of sublime grace and great scenic splendour.

### DINAJPUR

Situated in the far north the Dinajpur district is a popular tourist region with facilities for fishing and rowing in a serene, quiet countryside atmosphere. The district is known for production of high grade sugar cane and tobacco. The Dinajpur Baptist Union now consists of 50 churches in the Dinajpur and Rangpur districts. The Rev A G and Mrs Lewis aid the Union in its pastoral work.

Mr and Mrs R Young are engaged in agricultural work producing the seeds.

Miss V M Hamilton has charge of the Immanuel Primary School and is also involved in the work of the local churches. Miss J J Wells teaches physical education and English at the school.



### KHULNA

Khulna is a large industrial city with a population of about half a million. Situated on the delta of the many rivers that flow into the Bay of Bengal, Khulna is a thriving inland port and has a well equipped shipyard.

Miss E I Wyatt works in Khulna and the surrounding district helping Miss Amita Baroi, who is the pastor of the 20 churches in the Khulna and Jessore districts. Agricultural work in the region is carried out by Mr and Mrs C E Foulkes.

### BARISAL

On the eastern perimeter of the delta lies Barisal. To the south-east is the dense evergreen rainforest criss-crossed by a network of rivers and creeks known as the Sunderbans. This swamp land covers 2,316 square miles and contains the wildlife National Park — the home of the Royal Bengal Tiger.

# BANGLAD



Area  
55,126 square miles

Population  
Total estimated population  
1974 census is 76.2 million  
population per square mile  
Muslims 84.07%  
Hindus 14.90%  
Buddhists 0.75%  
Christians 0.28%

DACCA

FARIDPUR

JESSORE

KHULNA

BARISAL

SUNDERBANS

The Rev J K Skirrow has overall care of 37 churches in the area. He is also Dean of Studies at the local Christian College which is an inter-denominational institution.

Mr F B Mardell is a teacher at the Barisal High School while his wife has been acting as receptionist at the Oxford Mission working closely with Doctor Leonore. Barisal falls within the district of Faridpur and Miss B M Bond has been working alongside the Faridpur Baptist Association in pastoral work.





# BANGLADESH THE SLEEPING BEAUTY



STATISTICS  
 ion according to  
 ion. Density of  
 le is 1,283.

## DACCA

Founded in 1608 as the seat of the Imperial Mughal Viceroys of Bengal and known the world over for centuries for its fine silk and muslin, Dacca has now grown into a bustling active city of over 1½ million people and serves as the capital of Bangladesh.

The Pastoral Superintendent of the Dacca Baptist Union is **Miss V A Campbell** who also works among the blind girls of the city.

**Miss S M Le Quesne** is busily engaged in numerous activities connected with the church.

**Miss J Whitelock** is the teacher at a school for missionaries' children.



## CHANDRAGHONA

A huge expanse of emerald-blue water ringed with green tropical forests is the beautiful setting for the town of Chandraghona. This town boasts one of Asia's largest paper and rayon complexes.



Another large complex is that of the Chandraghona Christian Hospital and Leprosy Home, where **Mr J G Davies** is the Treasurer. **Dr R J Hart** is concerned principally with the surgical reconstruction of hands and feet affected by leprosy, but he is becoming more involved in the medical treatment of the disease.

In addition to anaesthetic and theatre duties at the hospital **Miss C Preston** is the Organizational Secretary of the Christian Medical Association. **Miss J M Westlake** is the Nursing Superintendent at the Hospital and **Miss M Lacey** the physiotherapist to the complex. Supervising the work of the student nurses is **Miss S Headlam** who also teaches these nurses paediatrics.

## CHITTAGONG

With its picturesque hinterland of large hill-forests and lakes, Chittagong is the second largest city of Bangladesh and a busy seaport. The city is the most developed area in Bangladesh with many of the heavy, medium and light industries located there. The Personnel Secretary for Bangladesh, **Mr G D Sorrill**, is based in Chittagong. **Mrs Sorrill** is active in the work of the Chandraghona Leprosy Home, having recently assumed responsibility for the Outpatient Clinic.

## RANGUNIA

The lush green countryside between Chittagong and Chandraghona gives great possibilities for the furtherance of the country's agriculture.

**Mr and Mrs D J Stockley** work with the Rangunia Thana Central Co-operative Association and **Mr Stockley** travels throughout Bangladesh on agricultural projects.

# NEWS IN BRIEF



## PERSECUTION IN TRIPURA

The Tripura Baptist Christian Union of India report that while large numbers of baptisms continue persecution has begun to take place in the south east of the state. When twenty people were baptized recently at Jamatia the leaders of the village decided to try and suppress them completely. Some of these new converts were forced to recant, some were beaten and seven were driven from the village. The church sent some older members to talk with these villagers but they too were beaten and thrown out of the village.

## LANKAN BURNS BIBLES

The Bible Society reports in its magazine *World in Action* that a teacher of a school in the south of Sri Lanka recently started a bonfire of Bibles and scripture portions. He had found many of his pupils reading the scriptures and enrolling in correspondence courses. Unable to bear it any longer the teacher had heaped the scriptures together and set them alight. He then enlisted the help of a villager to keep a watch on the fire and told him that the pupils had been reading bad books. But the villager seeing the fire growing was curious to know what the bad books were and snatched one from the flames. He read the words of Jesus calling people to love, to forgive and to live serving one another. Very confused he said to the teacher, 'Surely these are not bad books for they tell of a good man asking us to lead a good life'. This villager was sufficiently interested to continue his study and later accepted the way of Christ. After this he went to Bible House in Colombo and became an evangelist to his own people.

## MISSIONARY COMPETITION

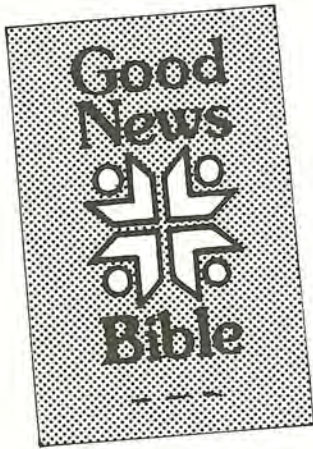
It is sometimes difficult to arouse the interest of young people in the Missionary Society. The Merseyside Auxiliary of the BMS has found a way to do this by holding annual competitions for the youth of the district. To enable a wide age range to enter, the competition is divided into four groups. In the first two groups up to six children may work together but the top two groups are for single entrants. Group 1 for five to seven year olds was asked to create a Scrapbook illustrating the work of missionaries. Group 2 for seven to eleven year olds was asked to make a plan of a village in Brazil, Zaire or Bangladesh where there is a mission centre. The two senior groups for 11 to 14 and 14 to 18 could choose either to plan an exhibition, plan a missionary evening, compare the life of a nineteenth century missionary with his or her modern counterpart, or write a song, hymn or carol on a missionary theme. A cup is awarded to the winner in each group and the awards for the 1976-77 competition were presented at the recent Missionary Deputation Welcome Meeting. The Society congratulates the winners and wishes every success to those entering for the 1977-78 competition.

## BAPTISTS MAINTAIN GROWTH

According to membership statistics compiled for the 27th Romanian Baptist Union Congress held in Bucharest earlier this year, the Union continues to be the fastest growing Baptist group. Approximately 20,000 new Christian converts have been baptized every year since 1972 when the last congress was held. The Union now consists of 622 churches with 353 missions and has an official membership of 160,000. Membership rolls have, however, remained static for many years because the law does not permit anyone to change their confession. But after talks between church leaders and the state authorities an agreement has been reached which will recognize that baptism and church membership of new converts is not to be compared with proselytism and the mere change of confession.

Government officials attended the congress as observers and speakers took the opportunity to express present complaints and future hopes. All of the speeches made it clear that Christ's Church is independent from the existing structures of society and emphasized the fact that religious freedom is guaranteed by the Romanian Socialist State.





### THE GOOD NEWS BONANZA

The Good News for Modern Man New Testament first appeared in 1966 and since that date has sold more than 50 million copies. During the ten years since that publication the translation team has worked to include the Old Testament.

The head of the translation team has been Robert Bratcher who is the son of Baptist missionaries to Brazil and he was, for a time, a lecturer at the Baptist Theological College in Rio de Janeiro. Of the eight man translation team no less than five were Baptists. Since its publication at the end of 1976 the Good News Bible has been in constant demand all over the world. In less than four months one million copies were sold and the largest single overseas shipment of 30,000 was sent to Tema in Ghana.

### CONGRESS ON EVANGELISM

At the end of last year the Pan African Christian Leadership Assembly was held in Nairobi, Kenya. More than 700 delegates attended from 47 of Africa's 49 countries. The Assembly addresses and seminars were directed at the problem of the relationship between evangelism and social involvement. Gottfried Osei Mensah, the chairman of the Assembly planning committee, suggested that four concepts were vying for acceptance in the Christian world — 'social concern or evangelism', 'social concern is evangelism,' 'social concern for evangelism' and 'social concern and evangelism'. Osei Mensah adopts the fourth action and evangelism should march hand in hand. He said 'evangelism is not the same as social action, but both evangelism and social action are the responsibilities of Christians'. Osei Mensah is also the Executive Secretary of the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelism.

### SALTBURN CONFERENCE

The ladies of the Women's Missionary Association, Northern Baptist Association, Southern Division, met for their weekend conference at Brockley Hall, Saltburn, in February. There were 90 present. The speakers were Miss P M Trounson, Miss Margaret Robinson from Chandraghona and Mrs Noreen Cato from Zaire. During the conference a thank-offering was taken for the Women's Work of the BMS which amounted to £115.

### REQUEST FOR COMPOSITION

An appeal has been made by Mr P H Riches for a supply of printers' roller composition. Mr Riches a member of the BMS staff in Zaire is responsible for the work of the printing press in Yakusu. This press serves the whole Baptist community of the River Zaire in the production of Christian literature and church and school supplies and the press also houses a training school for printers. However, a severe shortage of printers' roller composition may mean that the press will have to close. Extensive enquiries have been made in this country but it would appear that this kind of composition is not now made. At present only three of the five presses are operational and even these are without their full complement of rollers. If any reader knows of a supply of this type of composition hidden away somewhere the Baptist Missionary Society would like to know.



Comp room, Yakusu

### MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

#### Arrivals

Miss L M Fuller on 15 February from Mbanza Ngungu, Zaire.

Miss D M West on 20 February from Yakusu, Zaire.

#### Departures

Rev D and Mrs Brown and family, Rev R E and Mrs Connor and family, and Rev P and Mrs Cousins on 8 February for Curitiba, Brazil, for language study.

Miss B Fox on 16 February for Bolobo, Zaire.

Mr and Mrs J H West and family on 1 March for Mount Hermon School, Darjeeling, India.

Miss S M Le Quesne on 3 March for Dacca, Bangladesh.

Miss R Murley on 5 March for Bolobo/Pimu, Zaire.

Miss J Maple on 9 March for Bolobo, Zaire.

Dr M J and Mrs Stagles on 11 March for Kinshasa, Zaire.



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address. (11-22 February, 1977)

General Work: Anon: £2.00; Anon: (WM) £5.00; Anon: £6.60.

Agricultural Work: Anon: £10.00; Anon: £5.00.

Relief Work: Anon: £2.00.

#### Legacies

	£	p
Miss Ada Davies	3,000	00
W T Gentry	18	30
Miss J Jackson	50	00
Miss A A Manning	100	00
Mrs R Preston	1,413	72

# CHALLENGE AMONG THE HIMALAYAS

by Jonathan Lindell



The United Mission to Nepal is large, with nearly 150 missionaries in a score of widely scattered projects. It is, therefore, difficult to keep track of all that is going on, even though our family has lived and worked in Nepal for several years. Recently, however, I was privileged to be able to attend the autumn meeting of the Executive Committee and was thus able to gain a unique insight into the workings of the Mission.

## Country of change

Nepal is a relatively small country being just half the size of the British Isles and is only now beginning to emerge as a modern state. Over the past 25 years the country has been in constant change, with tremendous development being made in education and training as well as in agriculture and industry. Ecological factors are working against this determination to bring Nepal into the 20th century. The rapid deforestation, erosion

and drying of ground water, combined with a change of climate, means that Nepal has started on the catastrophic road of turning into a desert.



Welding at Butwal

It is clear that the government of Nepal have severe problems to try and solve. In this seemingly endless struggle help is sought from the Overseas Missions which have combined their efforts under the auspices of the UMN. At the present time the government not only wishes the work of the United Mission to continue but to expand into new projects.

## Economic Development

The work of the Mission at the Butwal Technical Institute is drawing to a close with the continued transference to Nepali hands. However, the success of this project has inspired plans for a similar one in the Eastern Development Region, possibly situated in Dhankuta. At this new Institute the well established principle of combining training with actual production will be continued as at Butwal. Many other projects of economic development will continue.



Bridge built by United Mission to Nepal

#### Sources of fuel

One very successful scheme has been the development of bio-gas plants which produce gas from the plentiful supplies of cow manure. In the near future the making of such plants will evolve into a national company and go into regular production. The plants are of great assistance to farmers because they provide a cheap alternative source of fuel. By using such a plant the manure from four buffaloes will supply sufficient gas to cook the meals for a family of seven to eight persons.

Small water powered turbines have also been developed at Butwal to supply mechanical power. These can be used to provide direct mechanical power for such tasks as running mills, grinding flour, sawing wood or running looms. With a generator coupled they make electric power and there are plans to install 20 of these in mountain villages for experimental purposes.

Over a period of years the Butwal project has built a hydro-electric plant, now administered by the Butwal Power Company, which provides electricity to the town. The Mission plans to extend this operation by the formation of a Hydro-Construction Company to undertake the building of small hydro power plants in the remote areas of the country.



Power house, Butwal

#### Design and Construction

The Plywood Mill is now in full production and is evolving into a national business. Other projects in the pipeline include the improvement of agricultural equipment, development of a heavy structural industry and a galvanizing company.

Several other of the Mission personnel are involved in design and construction of buildings and bridges in various parts of the country and from time to time personnel are seconded to consultant and managing posts outside the projects administered by the United Mission.

efforts into raising the basic living standards of the area. Specific areas where improvement is sought are agriculture, the health services, education, cottage industries, irrigation, electric power and reforestation.

The governing principle of the Mission in the sphere of economic development is profitability. The projects begun by the Mission must be run on a business basis for, unless it can quickly become financially self supporting, it is of no help to the economy of the people. In helping the country to use its natural resources wisely the Mission hopes to assist the nation to overcome its ecological problems.



Area : 54,000 sq. miles ( half of British Isles )  
About 500 miles long and 120 wide

Population : 14,000,000.

Kathmandu : 200,000

Occupations : 90% are based in agriculture. Small industry is just beginning.  
Training in professions is limited. Literacy rate is 15%.

#### Area development

A new and exciting area of work is a government plan for 'Small Area Development'. The idea is to concentrate development in small areas of 10-15 villages with a total of about 20,000 people. The UMN has been invited to participate in one of these development areas. The project will call for co-operation with a half dozen or more departments of government to channel

#### Training youth

In the sphere of education the Government has been pressing the UMN to fill 28 posts with Christian workers in eight schools. At present the Mission has only been able to take up 14 of these posts. A boarding school is soon to be established in the Far West Development Region and the Government have asked for the Mission's assistance in this project. A request has also been made

*continued over*



**Nutrition class**

These are principally educational in nature, attempting to improve nourishment, prevent the spread of disease and encourage the use of family planning. There is much work to be done to help these people improve their health. Prevention is always better than cure.

One of the main centres for medical work has been the Shanta Bhawan Hospital in the Kathmandu valley. This is now being handed over to the state and the Mission will gradually discontinue its association with it. However, plans are now in hand to build a new Government district hospital in Patan town, about a mile from Shanta Bhawan. The hospital will be built and managed by the UMN.

**An open door**

The work in Nepal is a great challenge, with many opportunities for Mission work. The main concern is not one of finance, though costs are continually rising, but for missionary workers. The Government has now approved 217 posts in the Mission and only 124 of these have been filled. Nepal has many problems to solve before its people can achieve the sort of standard of living we in this country take for granted. It is a privilege that the Christian church has been given this opportunity to assist in the task.

for an Assistant Administrator, and a teacher specialist, to work in a leading school on the edge of the capital valley. A Rural Youth Training Programme has been instigated by the Government to give some education to young people in the villages who are unable to go to a formal school. The United Mission is very pleased to have been invited to assist in this valuable work. In addition the Mission has a continuing programme to give financial aid to poor and worthy students, and scholarship training for higher level nationals in posts of the Mission-related projects. The Mission also maintains an educational material production office. The UMN is proud to have such influence in the training of young people. This is a privileged and responsible position which has been entrusted to it by the Government.

**Prevention the best way**

Health services play a major role in the UMN's work in Nepal. The Mission is working in four hospitals and in schools for training registered nurses, auxiliary nurse midwives, assistant nurses and auxiliary health workers. This year a new school was opened for training medical assistants. Assistance is also given at maternal and child clinics while an important aspect of the Mission's medical work has been the Public Health Programmes.



**Eager student**

# LIVRARIA CRISTA

by John Furmage

With no Christian bookshop in an area the size of Wales the south west of Paraná was a deprived area. Some reasons for this lack are obvious. There is the small size of the protestant community and the even smaller number accustomed to reading, although literacy is fairly high. Two years in Pato Branco brought home to us the great need for we sold 100 Bibles and New Testaments.

## Shop established

When we came home on furlough we were determined, on our return, to do more. So with the Society's encouragement we obtained a grant of £600 jointly from the United Society for Christian Literature Overseas and Joint Action for Christian Literature Overseas to establish a book agency. But here we struck a snag. Brazilian legal and financial regulations on the sale of goods prohibit a mere agency. It had to be a Book Shop or nothing. Now we see the Lord's hand in this. So in faith we took the plunge and on 4 December 1976 the Livraria Crista of Pato Branco opened its doors. The shop is in an unused room at the front of the Baptist church which is reasonably well sited in the town.



Pato Branco church

## Expenses met

The first three months brought us customers from all the Christian denominations including some nuns from a local hospital. Turnover has averaged in the region of £100 per month which just about pays the expenses.

We are enthusiastic about the future for it is obvious that a need is being met and at the same time it has advanced our own church work. The publicity has led to many new contacts and it has brought visitors into our services. One of our first customers was the wife of a Methodist pastor who enthused over the opening and told us that it was an answer to her prayers that such a venture would open in Pato Branco.



Valerie Furmage in bookshop

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# THE PINK BOARD

by Rev Mrs A W Thomas



The Rev Mrs A W Thomas is the Personnel Secretary of the Society. She was accepted as a candidate for missionary service as a single woman in 1948 but before her posting to the Congo (as it was then known) she married the Rev B H Thomas another accepted candidate. They served together at Yakusu until 1961 when, at an early age, Mr Thomas died while on active service.

After a brief furlough Mrs Thomas returned to Yakusu where she served until 1964. At that time she felt called to pastoral work in this country and resigned from the work of the Society. After theological training she accepted a call to be minister of Trinity Baptist Church, Bacup, Lancashire where she served until 1975 when she was invited to join the Society once again, this time as Personnel Secretary and in this position she continues to serve.

In my office is a 'shocking pink' notice board. It is not there as a blob of colour for a grey day but is background for maps of all the countries in which the BMS works. Round the maps are photographs of people who have come to the Candidate Board in the not so distant past. They are people of different ages. Some are young but others

are middle aged or even elderly for God calls not only the young to obedience. Some of the pictures are of individuals while others are of family groups.

If you probe behind the photographs you discover an amazing variety of skills. Doctors, nurses, social workers, radiographers, physiotherapists, teachers, electricians, builders, accountants, administrators, agriculturists and engineers, as well as ministers whom you would expect to see.

How do all these people fit into the BMS scene? That is the question most people ask when they first contact the Personnel Secretary. Some are necessary members of a hospital staff but very often electricians, builders, accountants and administrators fit round a hospital's activities too. Clearly ministers and teachers are the servants of the ongoing work of Christian education, but now and again someone like a quantity surveyor feels called of God. How does he fit in? At times a technical team is required to help churches overseas with building projects, then such a skill is invaluable. Part of my job is to see where a person can be used in the church overseas.

When someone says, 'I believe God is calling me to work for Him abroad'. I ask the question 'Why do you think that?' There is no one answer for some feel because we have so much materially and technically we ought to share what we have. Some, like Jeremiah, feel a burning desire to proclaim God's word. Others are filled with compassion for a suffering world and feel God can use them in healing.

There is no one avenue of call either. Through dreams, student meetings, summer schools, deputation speakers, prayer tapes, television, films and records God still makes Himself heard and understood.

Then, there is no one specific length of service. For some it is a life time, but others offer for a short term yet all can be very useful.

Somehow it all seems a mysterious business but in fact there is no mystery. It is all very practical once a person has offered for service overseas. If I am satisfied that they can fit into a situation with the BMS I send them a questionnaire to complete and return. References are called for and the church consulted. There is a medical examination to see that all is well physically and all information is collated for the Candidate Board when it meets the candidate.

If the Board, after prayer together, is persuaded that the person has a true vocation and there is a job abroad for them, then training begins. This may be Bible study and orientation toward a particular country. There could be language study as well though this is often done on the field. If a family of children is involved then we must be sure they can be properly cared for and educated. Visas and passports need to be got, flight passages booked, arrangements made for insurance and banking and the necessary inoculations against tropical disease given.

The home church usually arranges a valedictory service and it is our hope that they will be sincere when they assure the new missionary of vital prayer support and financial aid through the Society.

There is a sense in which every missionary feels desperately alone at times. It is, after all, a lonely business to leave family, friends and home church in order to be obedient to God's command. But it is also true that there is a warm fellowship in the BMS, a sense of belonging to one another. The BMS will support its missionaries in sickness and need, but for this to continue our churches must play their part.

What is the contribution of your church in prayer and financial support? How reliable are you? Please make sure that every missionary can be certain in the future, as they have always been in the past, that the fellowship of the churches through the BMS is honest, reliable and unbreakable.