

Missionary

Baptist Theological Seminary Library
8803 Rüschlikon, Switzerland

HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



JANUARY 1978
Price 10p

NEW BEGINNINGS IN BRAZIL



GALLERY

A FURTHER SERIES SHOWING THE RANGE
OF DISPLAY MATERIALS STOCKED BY THE BMS



THESE POSTERS
INCLUDE BLACK & WHITE
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SOCIETY'S
WORK, AGAINST A COLOURED BACKGROUND
THE ACTUAL SIZE IS 15" x 20"

Copies of the posters on this page can be obtained from the
Department of Information & Publicity. A contribution of 10p per
poster is invited towards packing and postage.

THE BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY
93/97 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA
Tel: 01-935 1482

Secretaries

Rev A S Clement
Rev H F Drake, OBE

Editor

Rev A E Easter

Enquiries about service to:
Rev (Mrs) A W Thomas

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

We share in the work of the Church in:

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

Printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Ltd
Rushden, Northamptonshire

COMMENT

New beginnings in Brazil? Is not all the work there new?

Many British Baptists have in their minds the image of a situation now outdated. Their view was informed by the reports of the pioneers in Paran, then a fast developing state presenting continually extending opportunities and possibilities of rapid church growth. Since then there have been significant changes. The rate of development has slowed down; and fewer people are migrating into the state. In consequence of the clearing of the forests there have been climatic changes: the frost line has moved northwards with disastrous effects on the coffee crops. A policy of diversifying the economy has led the government to encourage new industries. Much land once used for the cultivation of coffee is now devoted to the growing of cereals and soya beans, or utilized as pasture for cattle. Various manufacturing plants have been established. For these newer industries, fewer labourers are required. So people are on the move again. Some are moving out of Paran into newly-developing regions: in the Mato Grosso and Rondonia to the north, and in Santa Caterina in the south, you will meet people who have been members of Baptist churches in Paran. Many are moving within the state, from the rural areas to the large towns, some of which have now become great cities — Ponta Grossa, Londrina, and Curitiba, for example.

As a result of these changes, some towns are diminishing in size and importance, and some churches once strong and vigorous have declining membership. Generally speaking, the best opportunity for evangelism and church growth is at a time when people are settling down in new communities to a new way of life. So now the main challenges are in the cities with their ever sprawling suburbs.

There are regions within Paran where communities are now settled and static. In many of them the majority are Roman Catholic. Those whose origins are in Central and Eastern Europe are usually devout practising Catholics. It is not at all easy in these regions to establish strong evangelical fellowships. This is so in the Pioneer North

Association of which Keith Hodges writes and is particularly true of Santo Antnio da Platina where he lives. There is much the same situation in South-West Paran, in the regions which include the towns of Pato Branco, Renasena and Franisco Beltro.

In the large cities are many who have been in fellowship with Baptist churches in the rural areas. Some find it difficult to discover a pastor in a church near to where they have settled. Others are drawn away by the new attractions of city life and are in danger of becoming lost to the churches. The very rapidity of the growth of the Baptist community in Paran has brought its own problems. There is a shortage of able and well-equipped pastors. There has developed a tendency to think in terms of numerical growth with insufficient attention to the need for growth in understanding and practice of the way of Christ.

On the coastal strip, or Litoral, there are problems and opportunities of quite a different kind. This region has not shared either the development or prosperity of the interior. Most of its people live in small communities of small-holders and fishermen. In this region the first of the agricultural projects in Brazil is being established under the aegis of the Paran Baptist Convention. The BMS assisted in the purchase of the land, and provided a house for the missionary. The Society is, of course, responsible for the allowances of Frank Gouthwaite and his wife, Peggy. The Operation Agri Committee of the Baptist Men's Movement has given generous and valuable help, especially with equipment, tools and supplies.

So Paulo is now the largest city in South America. Here is the hostel for missionaries' children so that they can attend a British school. The hostel has recently been improved and extended, and now accommodates a greater number of children. David and Doris Doonan are in charge for a time. But they also make a valuable contribution to the life and witness of the Baptist churches on the side of the city in which the hostel is situated.

Brazil is rapidly developing and therefore rapidly changing. The changes bring their own new opportunities for new beginnings.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS IN BRAZIL

by Sheila Brown

'It's not like this at home.' I am sure that has been said by many missionaries during their first few months in a foreign country. But surprisingly enough a great deal in Brazil, at least in the large cities, is very much like 'at home'. Of course we have found some things very different but living in a large city like Curitiba we are becoming acclimatized slowly, and having colleagues in the same city, who have made us feel at home, has helped a great deal.

A hot beginning and a warm welcome

Our first glimpse of Brazil was flying over, and landing in, Recife just before 6 am on 9 February last year. We had left a very wet and wintry Gatwick Airport over three hours late, but we were able to land in Recife, in the north of Brazil, in the daylight. It was beautiful to see the sunrise from the aeroplane. Recife was very hot and humid even at 6 am and after flying all night we were relieved to get back on the aeroplane and eat our breakfast on the way to Rio de Janeiro. Rio, again, was very hot at 11 am but a helpful stewardess made the process of immigration and customs much easier, and we were very pleased when the Custom Official marked all our cases and said, 'Welcome to Brazil'. Our memory of Rio will be a taxi ride from the international airport to the new internal airport. We filled four taxis; the Connors, the Cousins, the Browns, and the luggage. When we were airborne again we flew down the coast for a while and were able to actually see the famous beaches we had only heard about before. We landed at São Paulo, though we did not get off the plane, and we were impressed by the size of the city and suburbs. At Curitiba we had a very warm welcome by many colleagues and their children. By that time it was 5 pm and we had all been travelling for over 36 hours. We were taken to separate homes, fed and washed, and this of course made us feel much better.



Street scene in Curitiba, capital of Paraná

No daily pinta on the doorstep

To a mother, shopping is of great importance and we have many good-class supermarkets where we can buy most of our groceries and meat. Our weekly shopping has altered, but it has not been too drastic a change. We are still able to buy 'English' goods. Breakfast cereals are available but expensive. The bread that we buy is different from the family size loaves at home, but very enjoyable. Bread rolls are most economic, but usually have to be eaten the same day. Thinking of bread, the thing we miss most is hot buttered toast because, with the bread we buy here, it's not like the toast we have at home. Milk is

bought in litre plastic bags from our local *Padaria*, which literally translated means 'Bakers Shop'. No daily pinta delivered in a bottle on the doorstep.

New foods to try

So our eating habits are changing gradually as we sample each week new fruits or vegetables or try the basic Brazilian diet of beans and rice. The beans vary in colour and flavour. The black bean is the stronger flavoured, then the brown, and lastly the white. These are boiled for about three or four hours (or, if you have a pressure cooker,

for about half an hour). They are eaten with boiled rice and meat or chicken. Very tasty! Our Portuguese teachers are introducing to us new things to eat and most of them we find enjoyable. In the supermarkets we often have samples to taste and always they serve coffee or coke free.

Meeting the people

The Brazilian people are very friendly and patient, especially with children. Although we do not speak their language they listen and help in any way possible. In the shops, in the schools, and on the buses they are always interested in who we are, and our struggles with the language are made less fearful because we know that they will not laugh at us. They are open and friendly and sometimes ask personal questions without any embarrassment. The people of Brazil are also very patriotic.

Language study takes up most of our time at the moment but we are enjoying fellowship in our Brazilian churches, both in worship together and in social times of picnics and parties. The believers are very zealous and the churches have many young people. The *cultos*, that is worship services, are times of rich blessing through joyful singing, times of prayer and the messages preached. After four months we are now able to follow the sermons and the scripture readings and, of course, join in the singing. Singing plays a great part in our worship and everyone joins in the choruses and hymns which are accompanied by organ and guitar. Sometimes, too, other instruments are used such as violins and drums. In some churches they even have orchestras. There is much joy in the Lord, which in many ways is not seen in our churches at home, but it has to be said that sometimes there is very little depth here. A little more of each is what is needed both in our English and Brazilian churches.

Children more proficient than parents

The children have settled down well, the two eldest, Jacqueline and Jayne, in the English School in São Paulo and Paul in the Brazilian school near our home. The only sad part is that the girls have to be away from us most of the time, but we are very happy that they are 'at home' in the hostel with their houseparents, David and Doris Doonan. Paul, like most children, is picking up the language more quickly than his parents and sometimes is able to help us out!

By the way, many Brazilians think that England is in North America and they have never heard of Wales! 'It's not like this at home, but it's good here.'

'Work, for I am with you.'

by Keith Hodges

Poor Haggai! Faced with the unenviable task of inspiring a people who had lost their vision and interest in God's plan for national renewal, he set about the task in that unique divine power given to those who obeyed the call to the prophetic ministry. That this powerful visionary succeeded, at least in part, is proved by the completion of the new temple and by the return of spiritual life to the disorientated nucleus of the new Israel. But they had to work for it, both prophet and people!

The message depends on work

At least Haggai saw the situation correctly. All the ingredients were to hand; the land waiting to be reclaimed, a new generation of God's people entrusted with a mission of supreme importance, sufficient material for construction, and the mighty God of Israel in their midst. All that was needed to complete the divine project was vision, interest and a good deal of hard work. Truly, the message of Haggai 2:3-9 is one of the

most inspiring of the Old Testament era, but it all depended upon that one little word 'work'. 'Work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts,' and they did.

The Pioneer North Association of Paraná needs a Haggai! In fact, it could use four such men, one in each of the four towns where Baptist life and witness have deteriorated during the latter years. In fairness, many people were forced to leave the area because of the economic difficulties caused by coffee failure. For instance, the church at Joaquim Távora once had a membership of over 80 but is now struggling with just a handful of people. The same can be said of Jacarezinho and Ibaíti. Yet, it has been noted that in the same region, whereas Baptist witness has deteriorated, that of the other evangelical churches has remained comparatively strong.

continued overleaf



The 'temporary' church building at Santo Antonio da Platina

Leadership is a full-time ministry

If there is to be renewal within the Baptist denomination in these parts, some effort has to be made to understand the probable causes of past failure. Without doubt, the main reason for the present decline, has been a lack of proper leadership in recent years.

In a situation so demanding as the Pioneer North any church that relies for its thrust and energy upon a part-time ministry is unlikely to make much headway. Even more so when that leadership is untrained and inadequate to uphold and discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it. This is not to detract from the goodwill and honest endeavour of the men upon whose shoulders this charge has fallen. However, in such a situation of apathy, spiritual poverty and at times open opposition, the task of leading a church to expansion and maturity is a full-time job, even for a man like Haggai.

At present, the Baptist work is in the hands of laymen; a hairdresser at Joaquim Távora, a farmer at Ibaít, and a transport official at Jacarezinho. They are all grand men, but their ministries are severely limited by lack of time and resources. This, coupled with the tendency here to centralize the church's ministry in that one man, produces a state in which little more is being accomplished than just holding on to a somewhat precarious past. Thus with the people lacking in vision,



Laymen's study group

vitality and ability, there is very little work output in these three churches.

Santo Antônio da Platina

The situation at St Antônio da Platina is even worse! Initiated some 12 years ago as a congregation of the Jacarezinho church, it has never developed beyond the temporary building stage. Lack of initiative and progressive leadership over the years has produced the inevitable results. For the townspeople the *Congregação Batista* is an

abandoned work. The expectant hope of the past has just not been realized, and as a result of years of indecision, the work on its former site was brought to an end last month. The local authorities decided to withdraw from our use that particular plot of ground. This in itself was the result of no-one bothering to legalize the original donation of the land to the church. Now, it is too late!

What is the answer to this pathetic and desperate situation? Is there hope? Yes, the answer lies in the words of the prophet Haggai, 'Work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts.' And there is plenty to be done for the work is not dead yet.

Positive signs

Already there are signs of re-awakening. Weekly visits to the church at Jacarezinho are producing a visible difference, as the members' experience of the Lord increases through a greater depth of worship. One young lady is preparing for baptism and another is seeking the Lord's salvation. A small group of young people have begun exercising their musical gifts in the services and are now planning to form a young people's society. This will be the first of such societies for many years in the Pioneer North region. Sr João, the church's moderator, not only has an obvious love for his people, but is a capable preacher and administrator. What a pity this talented man cannot give more time to the work for which he is so admirably suited.



The young people of Santo Antonio da Platina



One of the four preaching points. Guitarists are from the Jacarezinho church

Moreover, the spirit of re-awakening is moving outwards from St Antônio and Jacarezinho as church and congregation work together. Joint evangelistic outreach, by way of house meetings and farm visits, is the pattern of the work. Slow, difficult and expensive though this work is, the rewards are great as we see a people's need being met in Christ. We now have four established preaching points outside the towns, which means that we minister to a further 150 to 200 people at least once a month. The ladies of both church and congregation are holding monthly meetings together and are discovering new ways of serving the Lord.

Remarkable transformation

Three months ago, the fellowship at Joaquim Távora joined us in common ministry and already there is evidence that the experiment is working. Sr Jairo, the leader, is now one of the four laymen studying at St Antônio. Entrusted with the responsibility of leadership just a year ago, he soon recognized his lack of training. Although the demands of preaching and teaching were a burden to him, he held fast to his conviction that God had called him to this work. Now through the weekly study sessions we are witnessing a remarkable transformation in this man's ministry. The church that chose Jairo in faith are now seeing their faith rewarded.

Like most towns in Brazil, St Antônio and Jacarezinho have a large number of young

people in the community. Reaching these youngsters for Christ is an integral part of our work. Just before our arrival here, the young Christians of the evangelical churches of Jacarezinho began experimenting with monthly youth rallies, visiting each co-operating church in turn. This has now become a permanent ministry and is much blessed. As well as having their own rallies, the young people of St Antônio have gone one stage further. Intent upon discovering the will of God for their lives,

these youngsters, mainly Methodists and Presbyterians, have sandwiched between their day's work and their evening schooling a time of Bible Study and prayer on each weekday. Naturally, our contribution by way of Baptist personnel is minimal, but we are still an essential part of the fellowship.

The greatest challenge

The congregation at St Antônio is at present facing its greatest challenge; having forfeited our plot of land, what do we do now? With virtually no financial resources, and being a little short on manpower too, the question has no easy answer. The chapel building has very little intrinsic value, being constructed of third-rate timber. Furthermore having seen little paint in all of its 12 years, one can imagine its condition. Even so, the challenge of doing something positive will either make or break this people. Being used to waiting for someone else to take action for them, they now have the opportunity to prove their worth. I have no doubt that it will do them good to feel the weight of responsibility.

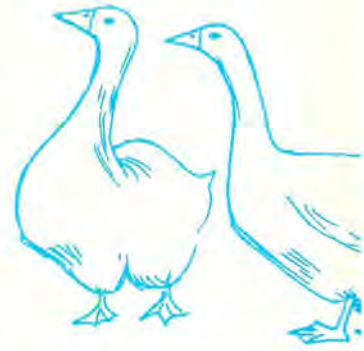
Literally, we are looking towards a new beginning; towards a new opportunity to prove that we Baptists take our mission seriously; towards a new era of blessing that will open the way for many to find the Lord.

Challenging? Yes. Frightening too! But above the fears and doubts the voice of Haggai is still to be heard, 'Work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts'. Yes, Lord, we know — and we'll work!



View of the town, Santo Antonio da Platina

NEW WORK IN POTINGA



by Frank Gouthwaite

New work in our case means trying to turn the idealism with which we arrived at Potinga, together with all the experience we have acquired both here and at home, into some sort of useful practice that reflects the love of Christ. This means that all our ideas for the agricultural project must be tested against the realities of the situation as we now see it. And we must always be seeking to understand the situation better, not content to just see what we expect to see or what others before us have seen. However, in any new work a start must be made somewhere and we began with the ideas and plans that we expressed in the September 1976 issue of the *Missionary Herald*. At that time we were in the Paraná state capital, Curitiba, trying to learn Portuguese. We now take a second look at the situation at Potinga, having been here a year, and bring you up to date on the beginnings of our work. When the small farmer plants a crop or feeds an animal he is trying to do one or both of two things; the first is to use the produce to feed himself, his family and his livestock, and the other is to produce something for sale to enable him to buy other things.

A cash economy

In recent years there seems to have been a shift in Potinga and its surroundings away from the first, or subsistence farming, towards a cash economy, ie, selling produce or leaving the family farm in order to take employment elsewhere. At the moment the main crops grown by the small farmer in this area are bananas, manioc, rice, sugar cane and maize. Of these it appears that maize is mainly grown to feed the family chickens. Bananas are produced in massive quantities which subsequently fetch very low prices. Furthermore small farmers, haphazardly organized, are not able to compete effectively with the well organized large plantations. Manioc is turned into flour but since this is becoming more difficult to sell it would appear that the commercial palate is turning

away from manioc flour. Rice will always have a market but this crop lends itself well to large scale mechanization which, even were it within the scope of the people's pockets, would not suit the hilly terrain of the region. The same applies also to sugar cane and maize.

One other cash crop, if we can call it that, which has been widely harvested here in recent years is the dwarf fan-palm. This grows wild in the forest (most of the land here is still forest) and people have been cutting it without planting new trees. Each tree, when it is about six years old and 30 feet high, is sold for around 25 pence. It is cut up and the useful part produces a half kilogram tinful of *palmito* which can then be eaten.

Looking at these commercial aspects of the agriculture we see that, although they have produced an immediate rise in material living standards, the future looks uncertain. Many people have traded the long-term security of self-sufficiency for a 'quick dollar' with little future.

It was into this context that we dropped in January 1977 and we are aiming to develop two aspects to our agriculture: (a) an effective self-sufficiency (b) commercial farming, suited to the area and the people's pockets, which will not be here today and gone tomorrow.

An effective self-sufficiency

To the first of these goals we devote our Saturday afternoons plus feeding times. We keep pigs, geese and ducks to provide meat and eggs (we hope also to have chickens soon) and are self-sufficient in all vegetables except potatoes. We think we will have to substitute yams for potatoes but at the moment we are still multiplying them up. For the time being we are buying food for the pigs but hope to be able to provide for

them soon, basing their food on comfrey, which we already have and are multiplying up, and on opaque two maize, a special high protein variety which is available here but which we did not have time to plant last year.

We are currently in the process of clearing a hectare of land for pasture on which we intend to keep a couple of cows. While preparing the land we have created interest amongst the people in the types of grass that could and should be used for pasture; the farmers are realizing that there is a grass which is more suitable for the cattle to chew on than the local creeping scrub grass. When we put up the fences we will explain how the grass can be grazed for a week but will then need three weeks to recover if we are to get the most milk from the smallest area. We will also explain how the cattle can be kept free from diseases caused by worms if the animals are kept on the move. We then produce a syringe and a bottle of worm killer and explain that a dose of this every six months will keep the cows even more healthy.

While waiting for the pasture to form we have been making our own cheese from some of the milk we buy locally. Cheese-making is not a widely practised art here. Pigs and cows are relatively large animals and the husbandry methods we demonstrate will be equally useful to those who just want to eat well as to those who wish to sell the produce.

Commercial farming

On a purely commercial side, a three month old cabbage is worth practically as much as a six year old dwarf fan-palm, so we have been growing cabbage together with summer squash (like a baby marrow), cucumber, green beans, cauliflower, chicory, Chinese cabbage and okra. The Potinga area is quite close to Curitiba, the state capital with its million people, and is therefore suited to

market gardening, as a number of Japanese have admirably demonstrated. There is a problem in that the local people think only the Japanese can grow vegetables effectively. So we are at a disadvantage, not being Japanese, and also, like the locals, we had absolutely no experience of vegetable growing when we arrived here. As a result we have made a few mistakes and have had crops producing at a time when it has not been worthwhile because of high production on the Curitiba plateau. Our best time is during the winter when, because we are at sea level and it is therefore warmer here, we are able to produce vegetables whereas the plateau cannot. So, despite the mistakes, we are also beginning to see some considerable success, particularly with cucumber for pickling and green beans.

Plans to keep chickens

But vegetables require heavy doses of fertilizers. At the moment we are using artificial fertilizers because we do not have anything else, except for our own garden which is manured by the pigs. However, we believe there is a good market for eggs nearby and chicken manure is excellent fertilizer, so we are hoping to be able to keep a thousand laying chickens soon. Besides demonstrating a balanced agriculture the keeping of chickens will also be suitable for the farmer who has very little land. For this scheme we are trying to use methods already available to the local people which include using simple, local materials as far as possible and being financed by the Bank of Brazil. As part of the government's programme for encouraging agriculture, loans are available at very low rates of interest.

However, not all land is suitable for vegetable-growing, at least not without terracing, so we also have some perennial crops. These consist of citrus, especially oranges and tangerines, and *maracuja*, a type of vine the juice of which is used to make a delicious drink.

Battling against fungi

Nearly all the new crops we have introduced need defending against attack by fungal

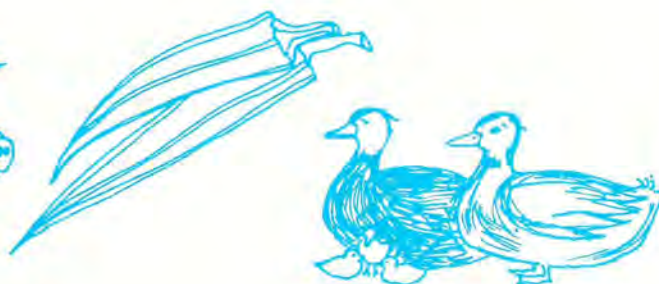
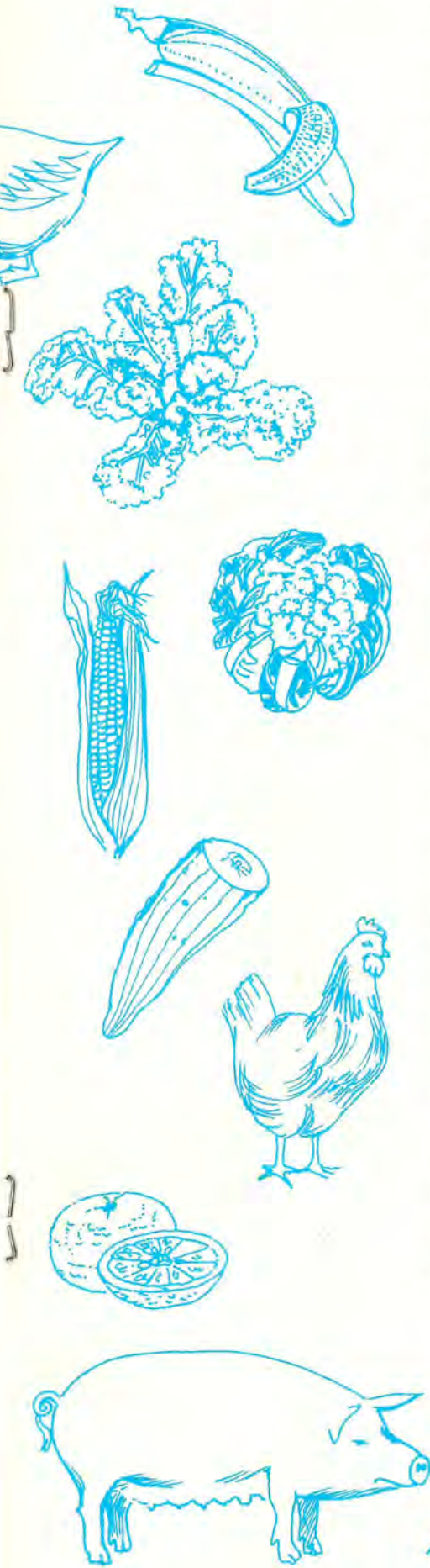
diseases. At present we are using the chemical methods recommended by the government extension service but we would like to move to natural methods of control if possible.

As yet we have not tried our hand at banana-growing but it would seem that this can be made profitable either by improved organization, having large plantations with vehicle access, or by concentrating on certain very expensive types such as the 'silver' banana. The problem at the moment is that this banana is particularly susceptible to a type of stem rot, whether caused by insect or disease we do not know, and therefore one of our next jobs is to try to discover from the extension service whether a cure or prevention exists.

Reaching the people

The work we have described here gives us a base and something to point to in our personal contacts, as well as giving us valuable experience and the knowledge that certain ideas which we have put into practice have actually worked, but we have only been able to reach a very small number of people. To extend our work we are trying to promote farmers' clubs at which I could speak and thus reach a greater section of the people. Extension workers could also be invited to speak and the clubs could act as foci for sharing the farmers' experiences, insights and perhaps equipment in a more effective manner. After this, the next step might be a co-operative. Sadly the meetings have attracted only a few people as yet, but these few are already thinking in terms of forming a co-operative.

The obvious meeting points for such clubs are the churches but we must be careful that we do not limit this work of Christ to those people who regularly meet for public worship. Jesus reaches out to bring a fuller life to those outside the church and He uses us as His instruments. Pray that we will be able to reach people successfully in the basic sense of their coming to meetings or our going to their homes, that we may help them to deal effectively with the problems of their particular situation. In this way we truly demonstrate the love of Christ.





Front view of hostel with Chevrolet standing outside

THE HOSTEL PROVIDES THE ANSWER

by David Doonan

For almost as long as the BMS has existed the question of the education of missionaries' children has caused much concern to missionaries and committees alike. 'In the olden days' as our children say, the problem was faced by parents very reluctantly sending their children, often at a tender young age, back to Britain to boarding school where the education was excellent, but the cost in terms of family life was high. In more recent years, rightly or wrongly, parents have not easily adopted this answer of dividing the family and as a result many missionary families have returned to Britain when the children reached the age for secondary education, thus leaving many fields without the more experienced and most useful missionaries.

On the Brazil field, when the work began in 1953, children returned to England to boarding schools. Very soon, however, the Society began to lose its more experienced missionaries as parents returned home with their children. Many couples offering for service in Brazil, on learning that there were no facilities for secondary education in a

British curriculum, were forced to think again and in some cases withdraw their offer.

Hostel opened at São Paulo

From August 1974 the situation changed and now after nearly four years, the new scheme deserves evaluation. In the city of São Paulo is a British school, founded in 1926, which offers courses up to GCE 'O' level. Most of our BMS missionaries in Brazil live and work in the State of Paraná in areas between 250 and 600 miles from São Paulo city. The British school has no boarding facilities, and therefore was out of the question for missionaries' children. In August 1974 the BMS opened a hostel in São Paulo where the missionaries' children could live during the school term, thus enabling them to attend St Paul's School as day pupils. Rev Clifford Parsons and his late wife, Lottie, offered to the BMS to serve as houseparents and pioneer this new scheme. In 1976 my wife, Doris, and I took over from them. The Hostel began with five children from four families. Today there are fifteen children representing nine families and one more is expected in the near future.

These numbers reflect the acceptability of the scheme by missionary parents as a solution to the problem of secondary education.

Little time for relaxation

Regarding the day to day life here in the hostel, there is always plenty to do. The day begins for the houseparents when the alarm sounds at 5.45 am. By 6.30 breakfast is on the table and the children are on the move. Half an hour later we hold prayers together in the lounge and by 7.15 everyone crams into the adapted Chevrolet Estate car and we set off to school. The journey takes about 20 to 25 minutes, depending on traffic as the rush hour builds up. We drive past the football stadium, along the freeway beside the river and into the 'Garden City', the suburb of São Paulo where the St Paul's School is situated in its own spacious grounds. I leave the Chevrolet at the school during the day as an economy measure and travel home by bus. Once back at the Hostel I start on the various tasks of maintaining the property, doing the office work, accounts, shopping, gardening etc, all of which are part of the job. From early morning two washing machines are rumbling most of the day, as Doris gets 15 pairs of socks, 15 white shirts and 15 what-have-yous ready for next day. There is ironing to be done, rooms to be cleaned, beds to be changed, clothes to be mended and packed lunches to be prepared for school the following day. There is little time for relaxation. Twice a week Doris goes to St Paul's at lunch time to give recorder lessons and I too participate in the school life by helping with the after school activities several afternoons a week.

Many opportunities at school

Meanwhile at St Paul's the children disperse to their classes which, by standards in



Fun and games outside



David Doonan shares in the children's activities

England, are small, there being about 20 pupils to each class. With 15 BMS children spread through the school, there is one of ours in almost every class or form. Nicola and Susan are nine years of age and are in Junior Four, while at the other end of the scale Gerald, at almost 15, is in Form Four and preparing for GCE's. The others are in the in between forms, most of which have at least two classes to each form. The school has an excellent record educationally with an average pass rate in GCE subjects of almost 90 per cent. David Myhill, our first BMS pupil at the school passed all seven GCE subjects last June, taking one A grade, two B's and four C's. Subjects offered cover all the basics, plus Art, Portuguese and Economics as well as the Science subjects. Many of the teachers are on contract from Britain although some, especially in the junior classes, are Brazilian born or expatriates. These have qualified from British and Brazilian Universities. Serving as it does the families of business, industry and consular people, St Paul's has a mixture of nationalities: Argentinians, Germans, Dutch and Brazilians are the principal ones, with a few Chinese, Americans and French included. This makes for a very wide educational horizon for our children as well as the opportunity to mix with those from different economic backgrounds.

With a lunch break of an hour from midday, the school day ends at 3 pm. Almost every day there are after school activities. Athletics, rugby, hockey, rounders, swimming, tennis,

basketball, volley ball and of course football are among the sports our children learn to play. This means that they do not leave school until about 5 pm most days. A long day, almost ten hours away from 'home'. On arrival at the hostel it takes them all their time and energy to climb the outside staircase to the front door where they receive a

continued overleaf



The boys' sleeping quarters



Ferreira church

welcome drink of orange juice. A quick change out of school uniform into less formal wear, and very soon the evening meal is on the table with the children eagerly tucking in. Homework devours the next hour or so until 7 pm when the shower rota begins. By 7.45 the 'little ones' are already in bed and during the next hour the rest follow by which time the houseparents are almost ready for theirs too! With only one girl to help with the household chores, the task of mothering 15 children is somewhat exhausting.

Worth much more now

The hostel property, or Vila Sonia, as it is affectionately called, was acquired by the Society in 1974 for the very reasonable sum of £23,000. It was not easy to find a suitable property where up to 16 children could be accommodated. Since purchase several alterations and additions have had to be made so that today the house can take the enlarged family very comfortably. Its present value is estimated at around £100,000. Such is property appreciation in Brazil's cities. The main living quarters are upstairs from street level because the land slopes up from the front, thus leaving the kitchen and dining room at the back opening onto a spacious flagstone yard. On one side of this yard are maids' quarters and on another are the visitors' room and study. Soon after buying the initial property a piece of land adjacent became available and this has now been made into a pleasant garden where at weekends the children can romp and play. The girls' rooms are upstairs near our room, while the boys' sleeping quarters are downstairs with

Outside a house where Sunday School is held

adequate bathrooms and a small lounge. There is an internal staircase joining both levels and as it now stands the house comfortably accommodates the number of children with which one couple can cope.

Weekends have their own timetable and a more relaxed routine (bedtimes on Friday are half an hour later than usual) and no noise is allowed before 7.30 am on a Saturday or Sunday! Very often someone's school friend is invited home for the weekend and so the family is even larger. There is time for games, indoors or out in the garden, the present craze being 'Colditz', which is an escape-through-the-tunnel game. On Sundays we attend the local Brazilian Baptist Church where our children swell the junior and adolescent All Age Sunday School classes and where we ourselves are Sunday School teachers. On Sunday afternoons some of the older girls help in home Sunday Schools connected with the church, where they learn to teach younger children.

Children can see their parents

The school year at St Paul's is divided into two semesters. Starting at the end of August the first term runs through to Christmas with a long weekend break at the end of October. Returning for the second term at the beginning of February the next long holiday is from the end of June to the end of August. This second term has a half term break about mid April. One of the great advantages of the scheme whereby missionaries' children are enabled to attend St Paul's is that these children remain in the same country as their parents and can

therefore go home for holidays and even mid term breaks. In this way they can get the feel of the missionary work in which their parents are engaged and in holiday time can even share in it. Telephone communication is now very easy in Brazil and Sunday letters get to parents by Wednesday or Thursday. Parents can come to São Paulo and visit the hostel at pre-arranged times and they can sometimes share in school events like Speech Day or Sports Day. Thus the children's sense of separation from parents is not so acute.

Balancing the costs

It is obvious that a scheme of this sort will be costly to the Society in many ways. The initial outlay was large and the ongoing property maintenance is expensive. To enable parents to have their children in a good school, the Society pays all the school fees and also a large part of the hostel 'boarding' fees. All this amounts to a considerable sum each year. But these costs must be compared with the cost to the Society of losing its experienced missionaries if such a scheme were not available. More than half the missionary force of the Society in Brazil today is already using the hostel or will be doing so in the near future, and that half represents the missionaries who have been longest on the field and are therefore at their most productive stage.

Perhaps it is too early to say that the problem of secondary education for missionaries' children in Brazil has been solved, but that is how the missionaries feel and they appreciate the effort that has been made to make this solution possible.





It has not been easy at all! I would not like anybody to think it was a straightforward decision; that is, when the BMS invited me to go back to Brazil to serve as the Regional Representative for Brazil and the Caribbean. If only the Lord would leave us alone to get on with our comfortable little lives, to make our own decisions, to work out our own plans! But this was not to be as far as we were concerned.

A disturbing letter

There were other things to do and in March 1977 a letter arrived that disturbed the routine to which we had become accustomed after ten years in the home ministry. In the letter were the words, 'Will you be the BMS Regional Representative?' I had often wished I could return to Brazil, but when the possibility presented itself the implications of such a decision began to dawn on me. After thought, prayer, discussion and much heart searching, the choice was made, but let nobody think it was easy. The home was broken up and furniture was dispersed among friends who are keeping it for us. The family was tearfully farewelled. An emotional and prayerful send-off was given by our home church. And so we are to live and work among people we love and admire, as well as sharing the privilege of service with a team of missionary colleagues. We will also have the joy of renewing fellowship with Brazilian church leaders, which will be an enriching experience.

Defining the job

The job of Regional Representative for Brazil and the Caribbean has been defined in the following terms: (1) Liaison with church



leaders. (2) Creating, as necessary, new patterns of administration. (3) Representing the Society at important committees and conferences. (4) Pastoral care of missionaries and their families. (5) Development of new forms of mission.

It will be my job to translate these definitions into meaningful reality in the region for which I will be responsible as far as BMS is concerned. You will see, of course, that this task is both wide-ranging and demanding. Time will be needed to become accustomed to the varied and often complex factors that are bound to be part of the work. I therefore ask for your prayers for Sheila and myself that we may be given divine grace as we return to live in Brazil with Callum, our 12½-years-old son, while the rest of the family remain in Scotland. Pray for us that we may fulfil the obligations we have assumed in accepting this job.

Need for Spirit-given wisdom

The commitment of BMS in Brazil is of a widespread and varied nature. There is

pastoral and evangelistic activity, an important teaching ministry, agricultural and medical concerns, and the caring for missionaries' children in the São Paulo hostel. Then there is the BMS involvement in the Caribbean, namely, Jamaica and Trinidad, where the Society has been working for a much longer period. This then is the 'parish' to which I have been called. There will be no easy answers to the perplexing difficulties that can arise in all human activity. We will need Spirit-given wisdom for every situation. One of the aims Sheila and I will have constantly before us will be to provide the kind of supportive ministry to missionaries and their families that will enable them to get on with their job with peace of heart and mind. It will be part of our concern to be aware of the crises and disappointments that can afflict children of missionaries as well as the missionaries themselves. It will also be our delight to share in the joys and the hopes of colleagues and their families.

Liaising with leaders

Some of our time will be taken up with meeting Brazilian church leaders at state and national level. I will officially represent to them BMS concerns and policy, and hope to be able to do this adequately. I will also have to report to BMS headquarters in London the views of Brazilian church leaders regarding BMS involvement in this or that particular project. It will be a great privilege for us to have fellowship with some of these fine leaders. Their service in and commitment to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is often quite outstanding and we will be happy to be their servants in the work of the Kingdom as well as being their friends and colleagues. Another aspect of the work will involve continuing to liaise with missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention of the USA who have made such a remarkable contribution to the development of Baptist work in Brazil and the Caribbean. To work alongside American Christians is usually an exciting and stimulating experience. They have given so much to the fields where God has called them to work and we do honour them.

If BMS is invited to work in some new area it will be part of my job to enter into discussion with the Baptist Junta (executive) of that state, any missionary or missionaries

continued overleaf

of the Southern Baptist Convention already working in the particular region, and with BMS personnel who might be made aware of the needs of the area in question. I will have to visit the region to see for myself what the needs and the prospects are for future work and, in all the discussions that go on, ensure that BMS headquarters in London are kept informed of developments and possibilities. At certain stages I will have to make specific recommendations to London, advising a certain course of action. Such advice will be the outcome of a detailed examination of the particular area, together with consultation and prayer with the colleagues involved that we might know the mind of Christ. All this is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not we think a BMS missionary family would be used to the best possible advantage in the area under discussion. This system, of course, already exists; I will be stepping into what others have developed with a great deal of prayer and wisdom. If any changes in the procedures are necessary, only time and experience will clarify them.

Central administration

One further aspect of the job is the need for an internal structure of administration that links the four areas in which, at this moment of writing, BMS has certain commitments viz, Paraná, Mato Grosso, São Paulo and the Caribbean. I will need to see these spheres of activity, and any others that open up in the future, as parts of the whole process of developing BMS commitment in accordance with the will and purpose of God. The central administration needing to be created will have to be both unobtrusive and efficient. It will need to be flexible enough to allow for all the variety that each individual missionary family contributes to the work as a whole. It will also have to be sufficiently cohesive to reassure our Brazilian and American colleagues, as well as our own missionaries and the home churches, that BMS policy in the South Western hemisphere is specific, adventurous and imaginative.

These few thoughts may help you appreciate, in some measure, the nature of my job. From just this brief outline, you can see that Sheila and I are being called to share in a task which is somewhat daunting. A lot of travelling will be involved; many decisions will have to be made. Pray for us, that the contribution we make over the years will be Christian, and therefore creative, opening up fresh horizons as the Lord calls all of us into new areas of commitment and fellowship.



First-Century Faith, by F F Bruce,
Published: Inter Varsity Press 95p.

In every generation Christians, witnessing to their faith, have to seek to make the Gospel message relevant to their own times. They have to meet the challenges of the philosophies of their own day. There are those who believe that an appeal to Scripture is sufficient answer to any challenge to the Christian faith. There are others who feel that the New Testament documents are so intricately bound up with the culture and thought forms of their time, that there is little use in appealing to them in answering criticisms of the Gospel today.

F F Bruce in this slim book maintains cogently and convincingly that the Gospel, the good news of God's liberating love offered in Jesus Christ, is an unchanging Gospel. 'The everlasting gospel is not tied to out of date world views; it is relevant to every age, to the twentieth century as much as to the first, because it meets the total needs of man through Jesus Christ who is the same yesterday, today and for ever.'

Nevertheless, the Gospel does need restating to answer the different challenges of different cultures and different obstacles to belief.

But far from suggesting that therefore the New Testament documents may be unhelpful, the author insists that a right understanding of the various books shows us that in fact they are themselves the result of the Gospel facing oppositions of many kinds, religious, cultural and political.

As one would expect of the pen of the Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester, this book is scholarly, yet warmly evangelical. We are shown, in the New Testament documents, the early Christians facing the Jewish faith, paganism, totalitarianism, and different perversions of the Gospel. The principles on which they based their defence of the Gospel are drawn out and after due allowances are made for the differences between their situation and ours, the reader is helped to discover lines along which our witness may face the oppositions of our time.

This edition is a revision of the author's 'The Apostolic Defence of the Gospel', first published in 1959, and is to be commended to those who may have missed it first time round.

VGL

100 YEARS AGO . . .

AFRICA FOR CHRIST

In September 1877 these words appeared for the first time in large letters across the front cover of the *Missionary Herald*. In January of the following year the pioneers of the Congo Mission made a preliminary visit to the area at the mouth of the Congo River. By August 1878 they had reached San Salvador where the first mission station was set up.

In April 1978 (the time of the annual assembly) the centenary celebrations of BMS work in Angola and Zaire will begin. Each month until April 1979 articles will appear in the *Missionary Herald* featuring the Congo Mission and bringing news of the present day situation.

There will be other special centenary celebrations; look out for further details.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BAPTIST SCOUT GUILD

Baptist Scout leaders from all over the country met for their Autumn Conference at Horfield Baptist Church, Bristol. The conference theme was 'Open the Eyes', taken from Psalm 146:8, and sessions focused on the relation of education to society, the church and the young. Speakers included Rev Norman Moon, senior lecturer at Bristol Baptist College, and Mr Ken Jones, Bristol Youth Training Officer. This year the Scout Guild is planning two conferences, the first to be held in the spring at Gilwell Park, Essex, and the second in the autumn at Portsmouth. There is a representative from the Scout Guild on the BMS/YP Committee.

BRAZILIAN BAPTISTS IN FRANCE

The Foreign Mission Board of the Brazilian Baptist Convention, which has had workers in Portugal and the Azores for several years, is now represented in France. The Rev J and Mrs Soria are currently pursuing French language studies at Massy. They expect to open a pioneer work later this year in co-operation with the Home Mission of the French Baptist Federation.

NEW CHURCH IN GALILEE

A new building was recently dedicated for the Baptist church in the Christian-Druze

village of Rama, high in the hills of Galilee, Israel. The church began as a preaching station of the Nazareth Baptist Church in 1962. Members met in homes or rented halls until they could build a permanent meeting place of their own. Much of the actual construction of the new church has been done by members themselves, including the building of a baptistry which uses water from a natural spring.

RECORD FIGURE FOR STAMPS

Rev Peter Ledger who organizes the BMS Stamp Bureau wishes to thank all those who have sent in stamps during the past year. He is delighted to report that at the end of the last financial year the record figure of £1,738.23 (provisional) had been raised for the Society. This was almost double the previous year's total. Mr Ledger is pleased to receive used postage stamps of all countries and reports that a stamp collection recently donated anonymously will probably realize several hundred pounds as it is sold over the next year or two. So this is certainly a worthwhile means of supporting the BMS. Send your used stamps to: Rev Peter Ledger, 33 Brickhill Drive, Bedford MK41 7QA.

TARGET EXCEEDED

We are very pleased to announce that £9,467.56 (provisional figure) was raised by children and young people in the churches for the Transport Target fund-raising project. The three vehicles bought with the £7,000, which was the original target figure, are all in use now. The additional money raised has been put towards providing a car for the use of missionaries in Zaire. Further details of the project have been sent to Sunday School or Junior Church secretaries and Youth

Leaders in the churches. Additional copies of the report are available from the Young People's Department.

'Fly a Missionary' is the title of the new fund-raising project for children and young people. This year we are asking for £10,000 to help pay the air fares of missionaries going overseas in 1978. Details have already been sent to all churches but further copies of the introductory leaflet are available from the Young People's Department.

55 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rev James Davidson, former BMS missionary, recently retired from the ministry after nine years at Grantown Baptist Church, Morayshire, Scotland. Before this he and his wife served at the Baptist churches of Arbroath and Helensburgh. Mr Davidson's missionary service began in 1922 when he set sail for what was then the Belgian Congo, now Zaire. His fiancée was accepted for service the following year and after their marriage at Boma the couple set up a mission station at Upoto, where their medical work soon prompted the building of a hospital. Both Mr and Mrs Davidson have made notable achievements in literature. Mr Davidson, a recognized authority on the cultural and social anthropology of the Ngombe tribe, translated the New Testament into the language of this people. His wife, who played a major role in teaching women to read, has also written a book, of 70 chapters, in the Lingombe language. Other areas of service in which Mr Davidson has been involved include printing, carpentry and building, and in his final term of service at Kinshasa he became responsible for the construction of the church there. Mr and Mrs Davidson have retired to Lossiemouth, Morayshire.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address.
(26 September-24 October, 1977)

General Work: Anon: (GMW) £30.00; Anon: (Cymro) £11.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £1.22; Anon: (Cymro) £11.00; Anon: £3.00; Anon: (FDM) £50.50; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £100.00.

Agricultural Work: Anon: £10.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £27.00; Anon: £25.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £50.00.

Relief Work: Anon: (PH) £5.00; Anon: £15.00.

Women's Project: Anon: £0.70; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £50.00.

Operation Agri Harvest Appeal: Anon: £15.00; Anon: £1.60; Anon: £1.00.

Gift and Self Denial: Anon: £1.00.

Transport Target: Anon: £5.00.

Legacies

	£	p
Mr B R Barney	116	54
Mr Frank Beazer	950	00
Mr W F Cox	128	71
Mary Tatham Glenister	200	00
Mrs G H Green	200	00
Mr John Harries	62	64
Ann Mabel Hunter	50	00
Florence Mary Jacobs	50	00
Daisy Maud Oateley	100	00
Rev E Sutton-Smith	2,967	20
Mr A J Virgo	100	00

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrivals

Rev F J Grenfell on 1 October from Kinshasa, Zaire.

Miss C Whitmee on 8 October from Balangir, India.

Departures

Rev D C and Mrs Norkett and family on 18 October for Yakusu, Zaire.

Rev A Ferreira on 19 October for Curitiba, Brazil.

Deaths

In Leicester, on 31 July, Rev Thomas William Allen (China Mission 1931-50); Sri Lanka Mission 1951-54 and 1967-69).

In Bristol, on 7 October, Mrs Dorothy G Evans, Elected Member, General Committee 1932-64; Honorary Member, since 1964.

Rev J B Middlebrook, for 20 years Home Secretary of the BMS, died on 11 November, aged 83. A tribute to him will appear in the next issue of the *Missionary Herald*.

START THE YEAR WELL

Be informed about what Baptists believe
The 'Baptist View' series includes books on

**AUTHORITY
BAPTISM
THE MINISTRY
THE CHURCH**

50p each, plus postage

from

BAPTIST PUBLICATIONS
4 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AB

COMMUNION SERVICE

INDIVIDUAL COMMUNION
CUP TRAYS
& ACCESSORIES

*Please write for
illustrated list and literature*

A. EDWARD JONES LTD.

CHURCH SILVERSMITHS
&

CRAFTSMEN IN METAL
(Incorporating Townshends Ltd.)

The originators of
the Individual Communion Cup
in Great Britain

Dept. M.H.

St. Dunstan Works

**Pemberton Street, Warstone Lane
Birmingham B18 6NY**

Established 1902
Telephone 021-236 3762

BAPTIST HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

FAMILY HOTELS

GLAN-Y-TRAETH, Tywyn, Wales
Full board from £42.75 + VAT
Part Board from £35.50 + VAT

SPRINGFIELD COURT, Seaview, IOW
Full board from £51.50 + VAT
Part board from £45.00 + VAT

WESTHOLME, Minehead, Somerset
Full board from £42.75 + VAT
Part Board from £36.00 + VAT

SELF-CONTAINED FLATS MINEHEAD

Sea front, and lovely views
Sleeping 6 people £30 – £55
Sleeping 2 people £15 – £35

according to season

All prices plus VAT

HOME TOURS (one centre)

NOTE: All prices include travel and
coach outings.

CORNWALL – June 10/24 £138*
Leader: Rev A E Oakeley

FOLKESTONE – June 17/July 1 £112.50*
Leader: Rev Russell Jones

DURHAM – Aug 12/19 £76.50*
Leader: Rev W Shewring
Travel not included

ISLE OF WIGHT – May 20/27 £67*
Leader: Rev C Askew

MINEHEAD – Sept 23/30 £68.50*
Leader: Rev H Shaddick

N. WALES – Sept 16/23 £71.50*
Leader: Mr P Boreham

*VAT to be added

BOOKING OFFICE:

Room 10, No. 1 The Esplanade,
Minehead, Somerset.

Tel: Minehead 3473

OVERSEAS TOURS

ITALY – June 19/30 £197
Rome /Cattolica
Leader: Rev W Stewart

MAJORCA – July 14/28 £132
Porto Christo
Leader: Rev C Couldridge
Sept 8/22 £126
Joint holiday with Highway Holidays

SWITZERLAND – Aug 7/18 £238
Hergiswill
Leader: Rev G McKelvie

HOLY LAND TOURS

May 10/20 Rev D H Weller
Aug 10/26 Rev A Duncan
Sept 20/30 Rev A Easter
Staying at Tiberius and Jerusalem £307