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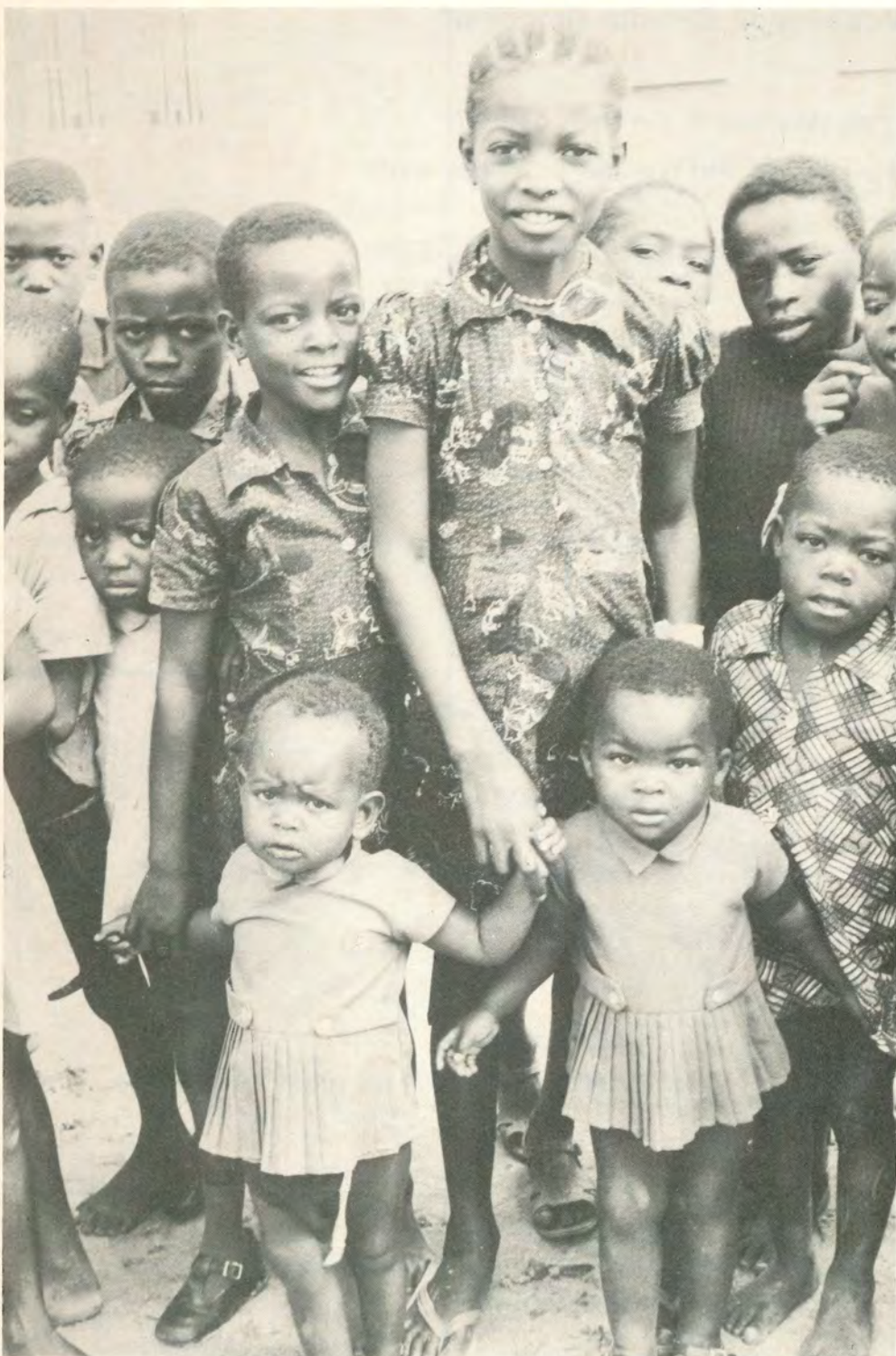
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COMMENT

The world has stood aghast at the overwhelming catastrophe which affected India in the widespread floods that rolled over her northern and north-eastern territories. No flood so disastrous had been known before and the total loss in lives and property has not yet been estimated and it may well be impossible ever to calculate its true cost.

Whenever a natural disaster occurs in any part of the world there are those who immediately question the love of God and ask how He could allow such things to happen which bring suffering and loss to so many.

Man, not God, to blame

Seldom do men look at themselves in such a situation and ask what portion of responsibility rests on their shoulders and whether or not their greed, their lack of action, or their presumption turned a manageable occurrence into a calamity. One Indian newspaper suggests that man is not without his blame in the havoc caused by the recent floods. It points out that because India had no expertise in hydro-engineering, expert engineers were invited to advise the country about a flood water control system, known as the Damodar Valley Scheme, which would permit of excess water being safely channelled away. The advice proposed a system of eight control dams behind which the waters could be stored and gradually released at such times, and in such quantities, as the waterways could safely receive it. But so vast and ambitious a project would cost many million rupees and those who had asked for the survey and proposals decided they would make do with half the number of control dams. When the abnormally heavy rains occurred the flood water built up behind this reduced number of barriers

so rapidly that the sluices had to be opened to release the pressure and water was sent cascading down channels already over full and so further flooding was created.

Our Indian brethren need our help so desperately in their endeavour to overcome the aftermath of the disaster, but it would seem that man is not guiltless in this matter.

Children are important

Nor is man guiltless in respect to the need in which so many children of the world find themselves today. Twenty years ago the United Nations Organization issued a Children's Charter by which it invited the nations of the world to engage in programmes which would meet the essential needs of children. So little has been done meanwhile that the UN has thought it right to reiterate the points it made in 1959 and to emphasize them by declaring 1979 to be the Year of the Child in which it hopes to persuade people of the tremendous worth of children and the need to care for them. Really the world has not just been 20 years in learning this vital truth but rather 2000 years. Our Lord made plain the view of God when the disciples would have ushered those mothers and their children away from Jesus. 'Let the children come to me and forbid them not' was the directive He gave. How tellingly this was underlined at the inauguration of Pope John Paul II as he walked among the crowds afterwards. The newsreel pictures showed a young child break from the crowd and come toward the Pope. A church official pushed the child away back toward the throng but John Paul brushed aside the officious arm and gathered the child to his side. 'Inasmuch as you do it to one of the least of these, you do it to Me.'

'JESUS CHRIST THE TRUTH'



in India



The 18th World Christian Endeavour Convention

by James Murdoch

India is a land of contrasts with its crowded, indeed over-crowded cities; with its thousands of villages; its Taj Mahal and its great Howrah railway station in Calcutta. It is magnificent in splendour but terrible in its poverty. Once seen it can never be forgotten. Even after an all too brief visit to this ancient and important eastern land one's mind is left reeling as the impressions keep crowding in. Within its borders the Christian Church takes its place along with the religions of the East, and one is glad to see that many years of missionary endeavour has left an indelible mark on its people for the good of the nation and the building up of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The main purpose of our visit was to attend the 18th World Christian Endeavour Convention with which was combined



His only place to sleep, Calcutta

the 16th India CE Convention. These Conventions were held in New Delhi in October 1978. We were also able to see some of the work being carried on by the Baptist Missionary Society in the state of Orissa, under the umbrella of the Church of North India. The two scenes together gave a much more complete picture than otherwise would have been possible. What a pity more delegates from the West were not able to attend, though it was good to see over 100 German young people there. The German CE Union has had India laid on its heart and has greatly helped Indian Endeavourers to promote projects designed to help the needy.

One of the best

The British delegation was very small and included Rev J Heron, now established as CE's National Organizer in Britain, Mr W J Sharpe of Coventry and myself. I and Mr Sharpe, who is one of the World Union Secretaries, have attended most of the post-war World Conventions and we have no hesitation in saying that this was 'one of the best'. The organization was first class. All were welcomed so graciously; the spiritual tone was high and the advancing state of the movement, especially in India, was most heartening. India now has over 3,600 CE Societies, many of which consist of 50 or more members, thus making the Indian CE Union one of the largest in the world. It was therefore fitting that this world gathering should be held in Delhi and that the new Indian President, Mr J S Delvis of Poona, should be appointed a Vice-President of the World CE Union.

The opening meeting of the Convention was notable in that it was 'graced' by the presence of Shri Morarji Desai, the Prime Minister of India, now 82 years of age. In his address to the delegates he made references to the teachings of Jesus, which he claimed to know well having spent one hour per day in the study of the Bible during his schooldays at a mission school. As the theme of the

Convention was 'Jesus Christ the Truth' he was left in no doubt as to the basis of belief amongst Endeavourers. When the great crowd sang in his presence the hymn 'There shall be showers of blessing' which contains the line 'Come and now honour Thy Word', Mr Desai turned to his neighbour on the platform and said, 'God will surely do that without us needing to ask Him to do so!' All the meetings were conducted in English but simultaneously translated into Hindi, Tamil, Oriya and German since the magnificent Vigyan Bhawan where we met was equipped with headphones at every seat. President Arno Pagel of Germany gave the keynote address and Mr Prakash Yesudian, described as 'India's Billy Graham', gave a stirring word. CE leaders from around the world also took part. It was quite a sight to see the large numbers of delegates converging on the conference hall while the ladies in their beautiful saris made a most colourful picture in the bright sunshine.

Heartily welcomed at Balangir

At the conclusion of the Convention Jim Heron and I set off via Calcutta for Orissa to visit BMS missionaries and the churches at Balangir and Diptipur. Sadly the time available to us was far too short and was further shortened by delays caused through the serious flooding experienced in West Bengal last year. A 20-hour journey by train from Calcutta brought us eventually to Balangir and then we were taken to Mission House by cycle rickshaw so completing the trip in grand style. Carole Whitmee of Bromley is our only missionary there. She succeeded Wilma Harkness and is busily involved in the work of the church, in the Girls' Hostel with 106 girls, and in diocesan affairs as well. She has been instrumental in starting the first Girls' Brigade Company in the whole of India. Bishop Tandy, a founder member of the CE Society in Balangir, has his home and office on the compound from where he supervises the many pastors and church members in this large diocese. He

Girls' hostel at Balangir

introduced us to India village life where we received a rapturous welcome being garlanded with flowers and having our feet washed over and over again. We also met with CE leaders from the local societies, and gathered with a congregation of at least 700 in which were many young people and to whom we preached through an interpreter. All in all a very exciting day.

From Balangir we travelled by jeep through some delightful country, with the rice fields a lush green after the rains, and also past many interesting villages. We were so glad to get the chance to see something of village life for without doing so we would not really have seen India. It is quite an experience to be driven on country roads. Even though one drives on the left, as in Britain, only the centre of the road is tarmacadamed and the skill with which the drivers coming towards each other keep to the middle, until the last possible moment, is quite exciting (though some would say nerve-racking). Our destination was Diptipur where Marilyn Mills has been doing a great work in the Master's name for some years, and now is very ably supported by Sheila Marr of Glenrothes. In fact Sheila has been in charge whilst Marilyn was at home on furlough.

Sharing in the ministry at Diptipur

In Diptipur a fine medical staff is centred on the Christian Hospital where the beds are always full. The mobile dispensary goes out daily to one or other of the surrounding villages. I accompanied them on one of these missions and had the opportunity to teach some of the children the chorus of 'Jesus loves me', while the hospital team demonstrated His love in caring for the needs of the little ones brought along by their parents or sisters or brothers. An undernourished baby and his feverish mother were brought back for admission to the hospital. Before we left next day they were already responding to treatment. That evening a special service was held in the church at very short notice, but a fine crowd gathered to welcome us with more garlands and to share in the ministry of the Word.

Another night train journey brought us back to Calcutta where we had our one and only experience of rain. It poured heavily for two hours and in that time many of the streets were flooded. No wonder the heavy

Marilyn Mills conducting Under Fives' Clinic in a village near Diptipur



monsoon rains at the end of September caused such damage and loss of life. Our experience was just a heavy shower, we were told, and it was not likely to cause more than minor inconvenience. A word of praise here for the staff at the BMS Office and Mission House for it proved to be a veritable haven of refuge for us as we passed through Calcutta. On our return visit we unexpectedly bumped into Jim and Jan Watson who were also passing through with their family on their way to Bangladesh. Surprise! surprise! For them and for us.

We must care, too

India is a needy country and requires our help, our gifts and our prayers. Our brothers in Christ and in Christian Endeavour deserve our full support as they proclaim 'Jesus Christ the Truth' and demonstrate His caring love by sharing what they have with those less fortunate. At the World Convention we did receive 'showers of blessing' but our hearts go out in compassion to those who suffered so grievously in last year's disastrous floods. 'He knows, He loves, He cares' — so must we.



Indian Floods Were Unequaled

Floods alternating with droughts, death, hunger and natural catastrophies have been part of life on the Indian Sub-continent for as long as history records. But the disastrous floods which have recently swept over vast areas of India have invited such adjectives as 'unprecedented', 'unequaled' and the like.

It is estimated that some fifteen million people have been affected in West Bengal alone and the death toll is around 700. Inevitably these floods have brought misery to the already poor people of the area and they have inundated the cities, towns and villages of north and north-east India making millions homeless and destroying a great deal of property, crops and animals. Those hardest hit are the people from the poorest areas of society such as the landless labourers and the marginal farmers.

Prevention and repair

The Indian government has launched a rehabilitation programme and stress is being placed by both the government and voluntary agencies on the prevention of epidemics in the flooded areas. Inoculations are being carried out at the rate of 1,000 a day and 500 patients are being attended a day by medical teams. Thousands of water purifying tablets have been distributed because most of the sources of drinking water have been polluted.

In a number of areas the now familiar food-for-work scheme has been set up in order to repair some of the damage and provide the workers with food, but it is felt in many quarters that some of the damage which has resulted will never be made good.

Thousands are receiving dry food packets, loaves of bread, bags of milk powder and other dry rations. In some places where areas were completely cut off by the flood water, food packets were being air-dropped to stranded victims. The BMS has already sent help from its Relief Fund to assist in areas with which we are connected.



A flooded colony in Delhi



Public service transport put out of action in West Bengal



A submerged car indicates the depth of flooding in Delhi. Helpless inhabitants cling to first floor ledges



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IN OBEDIENCE THEY WENT



Allan and Iris Davies



Alison Wilmot

TO NEPAL

Allan and Iris Davies were both brought up in Glamorganshire. In 1963 they were married and for a while Allan was a teacher in Shropshire, firstly in woodwork and then in special education. In 1971 they went out to Bermuda where three years later they came to know the Lord and were baptized, as a result of the outreach of Southern Baptist missionaries at First Baptist Church, Devonshire. They returned to England that same year and became members at Perry Rise Baptist Church, Forest Hill, London.

In 1977 Allan felt called to take his teaching skills to Nepal, although how to get there was not immediately clear. Constantly throughout the year, through their Bible reading and from the pulpit, Allan and Iris were commanded to wait upon the Lord. After much prayer, reading and counselling, the call was confirmed in December and they offered to the BMS in January 1978.

Having just finished a term of Bible study at Spurgeon's College, London, they are due to leave this month for language study in Kathmandu.

Allan and Iris are shown here with their children, Gareth (13) and Bethan (11), who

will remain in England to attend the schools for missionaries' children, Eltham College and Walthamstow Hall.

TO BANGLADESH

Alison Wilmot was born in Bristol and is the daughter of a minister of the United Reformed Church. Alison herself belongs to Horfield Baptist Church, Bristol, where she was baptized in 1973.

Having become an Associate of the London College of Music, Alison later trained as a children's nurse at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. She then did her general nursing and midwifery training in Bristol.

Alison is a friend of Sue Headlam, also from Horfield Baptist Church, who is a BMS nurse at Chandraghona Hospital, Bangladesh. Alison has always been interested in Sue's work and this month is herself starting on a short term of service at Chandraghona. While she was still in England she had lessons from a Bengali teacher who taught her something of the Bengali language and customs, so she spent only a short time in language study at Barisal before moving on to Chandraghona. Alison loves singing and plays the piano, organ and guitar.



Allan Stannard



Mary Philpott



with Gareth and Bethan

TO INDIA

Born in Solihull, **Pamela Sims** attended a grammar school in Weston-super-Mare and began her medical training at the Welsh National School of Medicine in Cardiff. She has travelled several times throughout Europe and has also visited North and South America and seen a little of Central America and the West Indies. She worked in fact as a surgeon for two years in Peru.

Now, in response to the call of God, Pamela finds herself in Asia. While back in England she heard of the need for a competent surgeon to work for a short time in the Moorshead Memorial Hospital at Udayagiri, India. Pamela left at the end of November to serve at the hospital for just six months, during which she will help the young Indian doctors to gain surgical experience so that they may take over when she leaves. Pamela is in membership at Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church.



Julia Townley

TO ZAIRE

Mary Philpott, in membership at Park Road Baptist Church, Bromley, became a Christian at the age of nine, but only in recent years has her faith become more meaningful. When her overseas missionary interest was reawakened, she felt again the Lord's challenge to fuller involvement. Mary has two years' teaching experience in London and is at the moment completing her term of language study at Wavre, Belgium, before proceeding to the British Association School in Kinshasa, Zaire. Whilst there she hopes to get as involved as possible with the local Christians, with the ultimate aim of full-time church work.

Mary has chosen one verse which summarizes her reasons for going to the people of Zaire: 'By love, serve one another' (Galatians 5:13).

Julia Townley, aged 22, was baptized at Ashurst Drive Baptist Church, Ilford in September 1970 having been converted during a Junior Christian Endeavour holiday about 18 months before.

It was while at a BMS Summer School that she first felt called to serve the Lord overseas, but at the time was just completing her first year at a college of education. At the end of this course she returned home and became involved in Sunday School teaching and assisting in the Girls' Brigade. While

at another Summer School in 1977, once again she felt the call to missionary service and this time responded.

Since then Julia has completed one term of study at St Andrews Missionary Training College, Selly Oak and is now just finishing her three months of language training in Belgium before going to teach in the British Association School at Kinshasa, Zaire.

At the invitation of a school friend, **Allan Stannard** began attending Central Baptist Church, Southampton, when he was about 15 years old. He then started work and lost interest in church. Sunday became a good day for doing homework, as he was at this time at technical college on day release. Towards the end of his apprenticeship he became interested in organ-playing and, needing somewhere to practise, he started going again to Southampton Central. A couple of years after his return, the Lord spoke clearly to him and he was subsequently baptized.

Two years ago Allan was invited to become a trainee in the church's Evangelism Explosion programme. He found this a very valuable experience in learning how to witness to people. At the same time he began to feel that the Lord was telling him to put his skills to better use. At first Allan found many excuses for not leaving the job he was in to serve the Lord overseas, but eventually he offered for service with the BMS.

On the completion of language study in Belgium, Allan will travel around the BMS stations in Zaire for one year servicing transceivers.

Rebecca Knox, aged 21 next month, read law at Aberdeen University. While in Aberdeen she went to Gilcomston Park Baptist Church, the first church she had attended since she was a child, and was later baptized and received into membership there.

Not long after Rebecca was converted, about 18 months ago, she felt the Lord was calling her to serve Him overseas. At the time, she was not sure where or for how long but made enquiries to the BMS. She learnt of the need for Christian teachers in Zaire and, having completed her language study in Belgium, Rebecca leaves this month to go to Mbanza-Ngungu in Lower Zaire for two years. There she will teach English and geography in the secondary school where Pamela Spratt already teaches.



Pamela Sims



Rebecca Knox

Window on New Delhi



The Christian Church with its Indian style architecture and surrounding porches. In the background is the Qutab Minar

by Geoffrey Grose

My home is next door to a church in New Delhi and has windows facing east and west, north and south. When I open the window facing west, I see a park and some old tombs which were built in the time of an early Muslim dynasty some 500 years ago. Beyond these there is a green belt and further on, say about a mile away, begins a vast housing area. There are some 20 residential sectors, each having its own shopping centre, school and clinic.

Building the church

When Christians found themselves living in this sort of situation, miles away from their own 'home' churches, they began to associate together. One group began to meet on a plot of land designated 'Religious' by the town planners, and found they had Hindu and Sikh neighbours meeting on adjacent plots. As time went by little buildings were put up on these plots, and I remember the time when the priest from the nearby Hindu temple helped the Christian group by allowing them use of his electric connection when they were in special need. When I visited the church this year I found people from the congregation at work helping masons enlarge

the premises, for numbers are so large these days that they regularly overflow outside the small building.

The last time I visited this church was in connection with a service for the reception of church members, and the new extension was in use. The CNI Bishop, the Rt Rev E S Nasir, conducted the service and 20 young people were received into full membership. The church is looked after by my Indian pastor colleague from Green Park, so he and his predecessor are to be complimented upon their faithful work.

City and village together

When I look out to the north I can see in the distance the great block of buildings housing the All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences: modern buildings, modern equipment, all part of the growing city of New Delhi. As the city has grown it has engulfed existing villages, changing their character but not obliterating them. It is now possible to walk 400 yards from the new hospital staff flats and to find yourself in a maze of small twisting alleyways that convey a completely rural setting, except perhaps for the electric street lights and the TV sets in one or two of the richer homes.

This particular village has within it a church. Once it used to be Anglican; now it is Church of North India. The church building reflects the Indian climate, for one side is made of open brick arches. There are no pews, the worshippers sitting on the floor which is covered by a cotton carpet at service times. The people here remind me of village folk in other parts of India except that the women go out to work in the morning hours, doing house cleaning and domestic chores for some of the well-to-do families that now live close at hand.

When the Green Park Free Church Men's Group were feeling the need to engage in social service they wanted to help in this village. The need for starting a home industry was investigated but a Government sponsored scheme was found nearby. Then came the possibility of starting a little dispensary, but already one was being run by the Jain community which has a temple in the village.

Meeting the need

Eventually we saw a need requiring attention — that of caring for the tiny tots belonging to families where both parents went out to work. The village pastor's wife went to see how other crèches were being run, and then,

with the aid of a helper, a church crèche was opened. Our Men's Fellowship look after the records and the accounts, two church members who are lady doctors go along to give a monthly medical check, and our Youth Fellowship members have done their bit by physical hard work, helping to prepare the place. Families in the village seem to appreciate the crèche, and both non-Christian and Christian people leave their children there. Judging by church attendance and responses, the Christians really feel their church is once again on the map.

From the window facing south I can see at a distance the great stone tower of the Qutab Minar, the minaret of the old mosque, but my story concerns a place some way beyond it. For years two homes for aged people have been open in Delhi, both being only for ladies. In recent years, however, the Delhi Christian Friend-in-Need Society decided to do something about a home for menfolk.

Men are cared for, too

Funds were limited, as always, and to get a site at a reasonable price land was purchased on the outskirts of New Delhi. The ground had to be enclosed and levelled, and then half a dozen rooms plus dining room, kitchen and bathroom, were built. The various churches of Delhi were invited to share in the cost. Several of them, including the Green Park Free Church, put up Rs 5,000 to pay for a room. In course of time there was a grand opening, and since then a number of elderly men have been housed there. Their personal circumstances are often not



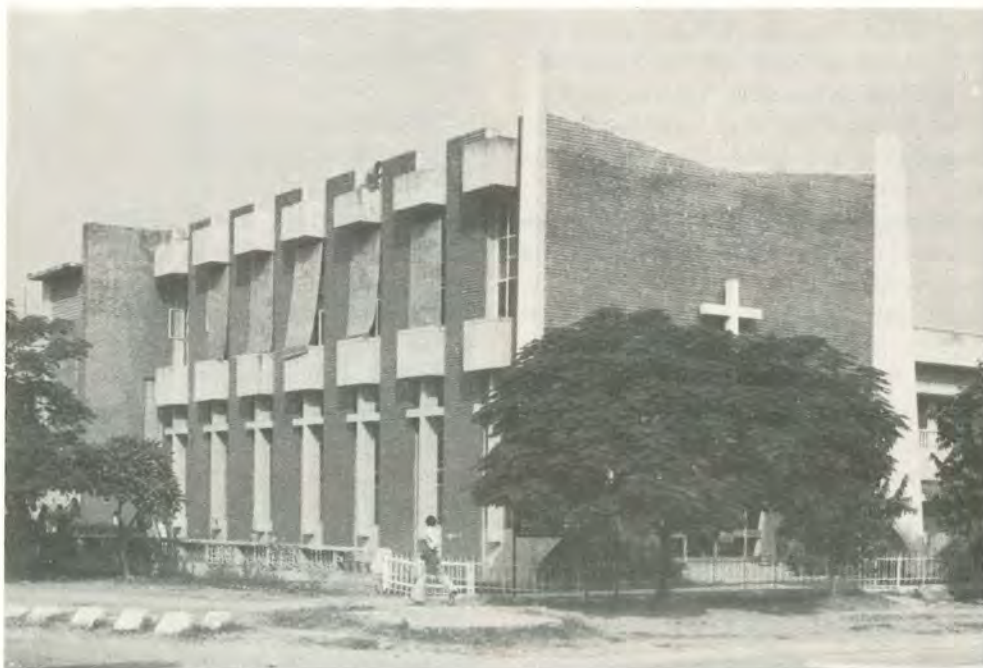
The home for old men in the village of Fatehpur Beri opened by the Delhi Christian Friend-in-Need Society

very happy, some of the men being quite destitute, but once in the home at least their basic needs are cared for.

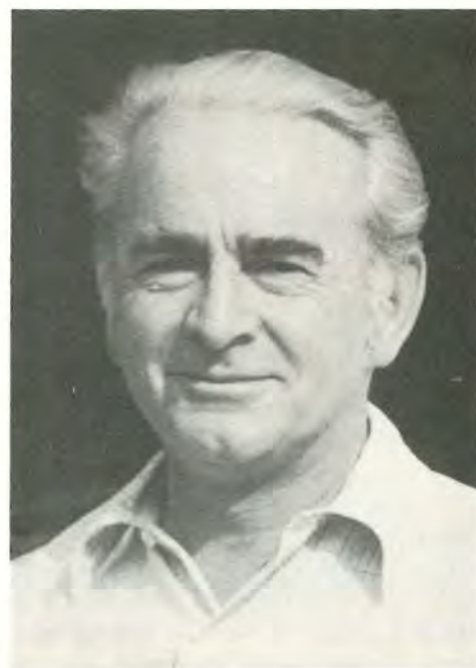
Fortunately in this village there is a church, and though not directly responsible for the homes, the minister maintains contact with the residents and is on hand should any emergency arise. Not long ago, when one poor old man died, the minister was the one who had to bathe and dress the body ready for burial. Not a very happy commentary on the readiness to help of Christians in general, but a 'well done', I think, for the young Indian minister who knew what the compassion of Christ demanded.

God is at work

'And what about the window to the east?' you may ask. Well, that one faces a church building, and there is often something happening there. But really it has not been my intention to write about the local church at Green Park, but rather to invite you to look out through my window. If, to some extent, you have been able to share this experience, I hope you also share the feeling that, from the point of view of God's work, there is always something going on all around us; and not merely *outside* my window either, but in my own home, too, I hope!



Green Park Free Church



Geoffrey Grose

From Incubators to Blunt Needles

by Helen Charley,

a medical student who visited Bangladesh



Leprosy patient, whose feet had to be amputated, with her first baby

I start to write this article surrounded by the extremely complicated, up-to-date technology of the Special Care Baby Unit at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, a very far cry from the facilities available at Chandraghona. Here, in an incubator, we have a baby of only 27 weeks gestation who is having its heart rate, respiration rate and blood biochemistry closely monitored. In Chandraghona I saw a baby of similar size, aged six months, literally dying from malnutrition.

Seven weeks in Bangladesh can teach you a tremendous amount not only about how two-thirds of the world live, but about where our responsibilities lie here in the west, where we have so much and where so often our priorities are upside down. But this needy country can teach us more than this. Despite the fact that so many of the Bengalis have so very little, their cheerful contentedness with life is a marvel to behold. Further, on the eye camps that I attended I was extremely impressed by how well the doctor, nurses and auxiliary helpers worked together as a team. Would that the same community spirit were present on all hospital wards in Britain.

Carbon speckled omelettes

While in Bangladesh I found myself wonderfully surprised at how, in so many little ways, God had prepared me for each experience encountered. He had given me a wonderful mother whose advice 'Accept what you're given and be grateful!' often rang in my ears when I was tempted to refuse carbon speckled omelettes, offered to me at great cost by my Bengali host. I never thought when I was mucking out the cow sheds as a child how thankful I would be that I did not object to bad smells. It certainly prepared me for the sanitation in Bangladesh. I was thankful, too, for my interest in biology when confronted by cockroaches two inches long and spiders three inches across. It is amazing how enjoyable things can become if you give thanks for them and this even applies to the lack of hot water and the interminable delays in travelling that are all part of life in Bangladesh. The question put to me before I went, 'You don't mind being stared at, do you?' was greatly appreciated as it prepared me for the inevitable crowd that gathers around any 'white' person in Bangladesh no matter where you go.

Theological pedestals

Seeing missionary life from the inside showed me how all too often we here at home have such a wrong idea of missionaries and their work. Indeed it is very difficult to maintain



Patient leaving Chandraghona with sight restored

a Christian witness in a Muslim country. The missionaries at Chandraghona can give their own blood to save a patient's life and if the patient then dies the relatives just shrug their shoulders and with a resigned voice say, 'Allah willed it'. But often we put our missionaries on theological pedestals and expect them to be so much more holy than we are. They are Christians like you and me who are called to work in Bangladesh in just the same way as some of us are called to the work of being a housewife and mother in Britain. We do not give much thought to the fact that we ask our missionaries to live, eat, sleep and work in close proximity with other missionaries who they may not perhaps have chosen to live with at home. So we should remember not only missionaries' relationships with the nationals but their relationships with one another.

In this respect let us keep in mind the recently opened new building at Chandraghona which houses the four nursing sisters, the physiotherapist, builder, lady doctor and the VSO worker in family planning and nutrition. Let us pray that a good fellowship might be built up between them as they live alongside one another.

I thank God too for the way in which He kept me perfectly fit and healthy throughout my stay in Bangladesh and would ask you to pray for the health of the staff at Chandraghona. Two of the missionaries had amoebic dysentery while I was there and one Bengali member of staff was very ill

with fulminating tuberculosis.

Dogs, sparrows and lizards

As my time in Bangladesh was part of my training and I was given a grant to go by the Medical Research Council, I spent quite a time on medical work. I was fortunate to be able to go on some eye camps where we saw 1,500 patients and did some 250 cataract operations. I was also fortunate enough to be allowed to extract three cataracts by myself, while singing to the patients to keep them quiet since we were operating under local anaesthetics. We were lacking the modern equipment of a British operating theatre but a science laboratory in a school does just as well. Catgut and sharp needles are very fine but ordinary sewing cotton and rusty, blunt needles do the same work. The Bengali curiosity extends even to the dogs, sparrows and lizards, and all came wandering in to the 'theatre' to see what we were up to. Despite such conditions the infection rate is the same if not less than our own.

So now I think back to the time when I sat in the church on the leprosy hill at Chandraghona. Surrounding me were some 50 patients worshipping God; beside me a woman breast-fed her baby. I watched these people opening their Bibles with their clawed and deformed hands, and that sight alone was worth the 6,000 mile journey. It really was good to share in medical missionary work first-hand. The warmth and love of my Bengali friends will stay with me for a long time yet, and so also will the sight of the blind beggars and of the families sleeping on the pavements as they had 'no place to lay their heads'.



Chobi Ma, with her Bible, at the leprosy home

RICH MAN



POOR MAN

by David Wheeler in Bangladesh

'O ricksha!'

Just a few seconds later a man on a cycle rickshaw comes riding up to me. 'Where do you want to go?' he asks. 'To the bazaar,' I reply and on I get.

Riding on a rickshaw is a new experience for me. The vehicle is made by modifying a bicycle. The back wheel is removed and the rear part of the frame is modified so that a seat for two people and a hood mounted over two cycle wheels may be attached. The result is a three-wheeled vehicle which is propelled by one man pedalling, while two (or more) passengers sit high up behind him.

So I find myself sitting about three feet six inches above the ground on my way to the bazaar a couple of miles distant. The rickshaw is brightly coloured, the seat is padded quite well and I can easily see over the people's heads. In fact it is not a bad way to travel if you forget about the car you used to drive back home. The roads in Bangladesh leave much to be desired and the bumps begin to jar my spine, but I even get used to that.

Pedalling for a living

Now, however, I turn my attention to the man in front who is pedalling. I see his back and, as always, it is pouring with sweat. I wonder what he has eaten today before he started work. Perhaps he was able to afford a good plate of rice at the start of the day, and now he will go on pedalling until he needs to eat again. Then I notice his bare, brown feet going round and round. I wonder how many times those feet have turned those pedals and how many miles he has cycled in his life so far.

It is such a seemingly interminable affair, pedalling, pedalling, pedalling . . . and for what? Well, he is taking me to the bazaar.

But I could ride a bicycle or walk. Why should he sweat and wear himself out just to take me to the shops? I have almost certainly eaten more than he has today and am just as capable of pedalling as he is. It is as if I am riding on his back almost, yet he is my equal.

But if I were to get off he would lose my fare and he needs my *taka* (30 *taka* to the £) to help feed him and his family. So, after all, I am happy to ride on his rickshaw and give him my money. However, I cannot disregard the difference between us: the carrier and the carried, the pedaller and the passenger, the employed and the employer, the poor man and the rich man. Moreover this physical difference seems sadly symbolic of a far deeper difference between us which occupies my mind for the rest of the journey.

Pedalling to heaven

I am rich in spiritual things, he is poor. He is so poor, not having the Good News, that he attempts to work his weary way to heaven, and in the end he will fail for a place in heaven is not won by good works. I do not need to work, I am riding, for Jesus has done the work, paid the price, for me. But I remember that Jesus, although He was rich, for my sake became poor so that through His poverty I might become rich. And He has said that, as He was sent into the world, in the same way He has sent me. Can I become poor so that the Muslim *rickshawallah* might become rich and no longer need to pedal his way to heaven?

We soon arrive at the bazaar and I get down from my high seat and pay the man my *taka*. He has worked hard and is wiping the sweat from his face. As I walk away I wonder what has been going through his mind. He watches me as I go but has no time to reflect for already someone else is calling.

'O ricksha!'

**BOOK
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HEALTH HAS MANY FACES edited by
Roy Billington
Published: Conference of British Missionary
Societies £1.00

The emphasis nowadays is on community health rather than on the relief of pain and the curing of diseases. In programmes of community health others than medical workers play an important part. The members of the Medical Committee of the Conference of British Missionary Societies have issued this little book in order to indicate the non-medical ways in which health can be improved. They hope that it will be read by medical workers in mission or church related hospitals, church leaders and other thoughtful Christian men and women in the churches of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, and all in the 'developed' world who support Christian medical work. Eleven people of considerable experience in service overseas contributed sections. Among them is our own Dr Stanley G Browne who writes on 'Health and Disease in the Villages' and refers to his own involvement in community health in Upper Zaire 20 years ago. The work of the agriculturist is discussed; practical advice is offered on water supply and sanitation and on simple

housing; experiments in craft training, literacy teaching, and saving-schemes and co-operatives are described. Concluding chapters stress the importance of carrying out schemes which are comprehensive.

The book is informative and should prove a useful introduction to the subject, valuable to those preparing for mission overseas and useful as a basis for a series of lessons or discussions for groups young and old in the home churches.

ASC



WINTER PAST by Nancy Anne Smith
Published: Inter Varsity Press 95p

As winter passes into spring so for Nancy Smith depressive illness passed into healing, but not without a long and bitter struggle, which she describes so frankly.

Terrible experiences of childhood which the author tried to deal with herself led to increasing illness and eventually paralysis – paralysis caused by the mind, not by physical disease.

The easy Christian answers did not help and often things were made worse by increasing feelings of guilt and inadequacy as a Christian. Eventually, led to seek help from a Christian psychotherapist, the author had to relive her unpleasant past and come to terms with it, as well as coming to terms with her present needs, over a period of many painful months. Once God had prepared the way He intervened in a more direct experience of love.

This is a book to be read by those who always have an easy Christian solution to any emotional or psychiatric problem, as well as by victims of psychiatric disease, as it shows God's healing power will come but probably after a long, hard winter.

ADH



SONGS FROM A STRANGE LAND,
Psalms 42-51 by **John Goldingay**
Published: Inter Varsity Press £2.15

While most of the Bible speaks to us, the Psalms speak for us. That conviction underlies this book. As the Psalms voiced Israel's worship, they are patterns of those praises, prayers and protests which are acceptable to the God of Israel, who is also the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Despite the obvious gulf of time and circumstance between us and those who first used these Psalms, the issues they grappled with are still familiar. Among the questions raised are: the feeling that God has forgotten us, death and the need for forgiveness.

Each chapter begins with the author's translation of the text, followed by a stimulating commentary in non-technical language. Modern Christian perspective is interwoven with ancient Israelite thought.

This addition to 'The Bible Speaks Today' series will be welcomed by preachers and Bible students, and the easy style will be appreciated by the general reader.

EDM



SUNSET AT YAMABA by **E W Doell**
Published: Arthur H Stockwell, Ilfracombe

This book is described as a fictionalized account of life on a mission station. The author presents in popular fashion not only the everyday work of a mission hospital in Africa, but briefly touches on practically every problem facing medical missionary work today. The result is an uneven book for while patients who come to hospital lend themselves to vivid description, yet the record of meetings concerning the financial future of the hospital is inevitably dull.

This type of documentary novel is interesting in concept but difficult to achieve satisfactorily, and the overall impression is that the author has attempted an almost impossible task in compressing such a many-sided subject into a moderate sized paperback.



SALT TO THE WORLD by A N Triton
Published: Inter Varsity Press 60p

In this little booklet of 64 pages the author makes an important statement on a controversial issue, the Christian and social involvement. He approaches the subject on the basis of the doctrines of creation and providence. The unsuitability of other theological approaches, namely the doctrines of the Trinity and the Kingdom of God, are dealt with in an appendix. The first part of the booklet puts forward a series of propositions, all biblically based, giving reasons why a Christian should be involved in society. Then, in the second part, is a further series of propositions exploring the application of such involvement, with particular reference to the student context. This second half of the booklet is very practical and ensures that Christians, who through the first part have been awakened to their social responsibility, do not enter into social and political action without prior warning of the problems involved.

JMB

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address.
(28 September-26 October 1978)

General Work: Anon: £55.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £100.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £60.00; Anon: £500.00; Anon: £100.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon: £1.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon: £25.00; Anon: £3.00; Anon: £15.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £5.00; Anon (Aberdeen): £10.00; Anon: £8.00; Anon: £360.00; Anon (Worthing): £40.00; Anon (Radstock): £5.00; Anon (Slough): £10.00; Anon: £1,000.00; Anon: £10.75; Anon: £10.00; Anon (Cymro): £5.00; Anon: £50.00; Anon (Coventry): £5.00; Anon: £150.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £20.00; Anon (Northampton): £100.00; Anon: £13.00; Anon: £100.00; Anon (Finian): £30.00.

ISA Agricultural Work: Anon: £10.00.

Harvest Appeal: Anon: £1.00.

Gift and Self Denial: Anon: £100.00; Anon: £5.00.

Medical Work: Anon: £3.00; Anon: £20.00.

Relief Fund: Anon: £5.00; Anon: £10.00.

Women's Project: Anon: £2.50.

Legacies

	£	p
Mr A S Andrews	500.00	
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Miss D Starke	1,000.00	
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S M Walker	303.37	
Miss E W Woolley	224.33	

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Departures

Mrs D W F Jelleyman on 5 September for Kingston, Jamaica.

Rev D W F Jelleyman on 28 September for Kingston, Jamaica.

Miss P Spratt on 9 October for Mbanza-Ngungu, Zaire.

Miss M Stockwell on 9 October for Mbanza-Ngungu, Zaire.

Miss P M Weatherby on 9 October for Bolobo, Zaire.

Mr and Mrs D J Stockley on 15 October for Chittagong, Bangladesh.

News in Brief...

ANGOLAN BOOKS

When Angolan refugees were exiled in Zaire, the Reverends Alvaro Rodrigues and Antonio Lopez, also in Zaire, found themselves without congregations. So they took to writing books. They wrote in Portuguese on Christian marriage and the Christian and money. These books have been so well received that there are already plans to translate them into French for those areas of Africa using that language. Also, future plans include a series of books tackling basic matters of belief and Christian living.



Laura Hinchin

PORTUGUESE BIBLE

Laura Hinchin, who is at present working at the Mission House while awaiting a visa for Brazil, was recently invited to the Bible Society Headquarters in London. A very interesting afternoon was spent in touring the libraries and discussing the work of the Society, which includes adult literacy programmes as well as Bible translations. Laura herself hopes to be involved in adult literacy work in Mato Grosso. During the afternoon a Portuguese Bible was presented to her by Rev Tom Houston, the Executive Director.

Miss G Walker on 18 October for Kathmandu, Nepal.

Rev and Mrs J Watson and family on 18 October for Barisal, Bangladesh.

Rev and Mrs G H Grose on 25 October for Delhi, India.



IYC

Children will be the centre of world attention this year. 1979 has been declared the International Year of the Child by the United Nations Organization because so many children are without sufficient food, adequate health services, basic education, or the elementary amenities of life. Especially is this true for some 350 million children in the developing countries. It was in 1959 that the United Nations issued its declaration of the rights of the child which claimed that each child had a right –

- to affection, love and understanding
- to adequate nutrition and medical care
- to free education
- to full opportunity for play and recreation
- to a name and nationality



Jonathan Clark, Stephen and Richard Coster, and Janet Mary Clark at Kinshasa

- to special care, if handicapped
- to be among the first to receive relief in time of disaster
- to learn to be a useful member of society and to develop individual abilities
- to be brought up in a spirit of peace and universal brotherhood
- to enjoy these rights, regardless of race, colour, sex, religion, national or social origin

Principles reaffirmed

Now, 20 years later the United Nations feels these principles should be reaffirmed and calls on the world community to renew its efforts in caring and providing for its one-and-a-half billion children. But it is hoped that lasting action, not just one year's effort, will result from this appeal.

Among the major aims of the International Year of the Child (IYC) are the following:

- to encourage all countries to review programmes for promoting the welfare of children and to mobilize support for both national and local action
- to heighten or increase awareness among decision makers and the public at large, of the special needs of children
- to draw attention to the vital link between programmes for children, on the one hand, and economic and social progress on the other
- to set achievable goals for the benefit of children in both the short and long-term on a national level. The year should also give an opportunity to stress the intellectual, psychological and social development of children and to lay emphasis on their physical welfare.



Girls at the Blind School, Dacca

It is hoped that special attention will be given to disadvantaged children such as refugees, the physically and mentally handicapped and the vast numbers suffering from malnutrition.

The United Nations Information Centre will be issuing informative leaflets, posters and regular news letters (IYC Reports).

Ministry to children

As the year progresses the Baptist Missionary Society will help to keep the wider picture in view by reporting on the ministry to children in the three continents where it co-operates with the national church. This ministry includes evangelism, education, hostels, medical care and the special care of refugees.

But our focus will not be solely on the children of other lands though these will form a large part of the picture. We shall also remember the children of missionaries, both those abroad and those here at home. We shall think as well of the many boys and girls in the churches of this land who take an interest in the world mission and are enthusiastic supporters of the BMS.

The needs of children are many and varied. We should not lose sight of the fact that children are people who need people. Above all, they need to know that life in all its fullness is found in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is always ready to welcome them and to give them his blessing.

For information on IYC write to:

United Kingdom Association for IYC,
85 Whitehall, London SW1

United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF
46 Osnaurgh Street, London NW1