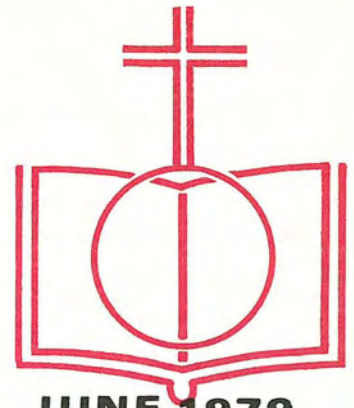


Missionary

HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



JUNE 1979
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Based at

CURITIBA

the capital of Paraná State, Brazil, Avelino Ferreira is actively engaged in the work of the Men's Association. He also serves as Director of the Social Service Department of the Paraná State Convention. He and his wife organized, in the Jardim Urano church, Curitiba, a highly successful Vacation Bible School during the last long school holiday. Avelino and his wife Ana were missionaries in Angola until 1963.





17 moves in 22 years

AND NOW TO NEPAL

Frankie and Glyn Phillips met in Bristol in 1957. Frankie was already baptized and a member of Fishponds Baptist Church, and within a year Glyn was also baptized and they were married.

It was in 1959 that Glyn rejoined the Royal Air Force and the moves began. After moving several times Glyn became Air Crew, as a Flight Engineer, and travelled to many of the poorer countries of the world, as well as the more exotic. It was as a family, with two daughters and a son, that they spent 2½ years living in Singapore.

In 1972 the family returned to Bristol and, after many years travelling, once again Frankie and Glyn became active members of Fishponds Baptist Church. In 1975 Group Captain Miller visited Fishponds on

deputation and challenged them both to consider missionary service. It was following that visit that they got in touch with the BMS, still having four years left to serve in the RAF.

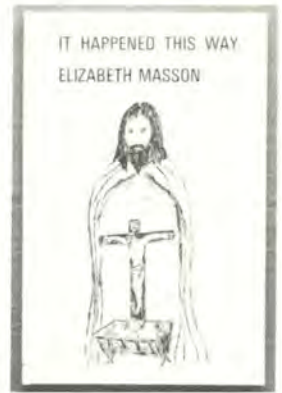
This month they will be leaving for Nepal and after language school Glyn will be teaching at the Butwal Technical Institute. Their 18-year-old daughter, Karen, will be staying in England to begin her training as a State Registered Nurse. Debbie, aged 16, will be going to Nepal and completing her 'A' levels. Simon, who is 10, will continue his education at a boarding school in India.

MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

Arrival
Miss R M Murley on 16 March from Pimu, Zaire.

Departure
Miss J E Knapman on 1 March for Calcutta, India.

BOOK REVIEW



IT HAPPENED THIS WAY

by Elizabeth Masson

Published: Regency Press, £2.50

After outlining man's fall from fellowship with his Creator, and the promised plan of redemption from Abraham onwards, the authoress tells the story of Jesus. Her narrative includes incidents and teaching from all the gospels and is a pleasant, readable account.

The gospel material is filled out with plausible background happening. However, the order of events seems sometimes to be arranged to suit the writer's pattern of continuity. This can be disconcerting, for example when the transfiguration takes place long before Peter's confession.

MCM

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Secretaries
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Rev H F Drake, OBE

Editor
Rev A E Easter

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COMMENT

Since 1953 when BMS personnel first explored the possibility of working in Brazil, and that there was indeed a valid call of Christ to work there, tremendous changes have taken place.

Paraná, one of the smaller states of that vast country, was the area in which it was felt right for the BMS to begin. At that time there was a great movement of people away from the overcrowded coastal areas of the country into Paraná where ground was being made available to the migrators. Virgin forests were felled, the ground was cleared and coffee shrubs planted.

A frontier situation was everywhere apparent in the state, although it was a frontier which inexorably was pushing westwards along dirt roads with towns springing up at intervals along these roads. In the dry season everyone and everything was coated with a red dust. In the season of rains vehicles got bogged down in the mud and transport was nigh impossible.

Today the movement of people is out of Paraná and into newer areas still, into Mato Grosso and Rondonia where the early Paraná scene is being repeated. Clearings are being carved into other forests and townships are being created in these areas where the government is offering free plots of land. But back in Paraná the situation has become stabilized and urbanized.

The scene has changed

Disastrous frosts a few years back drastically altered the pattern of life. Thousands of coffee bushes were destroyed, and ruined with them were the employment prospects of nearly as many workers. Vast areas of the state were turned over to grass and cattle ranching introduced, which required less labour to manage it. The roads were macadamized and the towns grew. People became more settled and the old wooden style houses were replaced by brick ones. Our missionaries increasingly found themselves working in urban situations rather than on a frontier of civilization.

Curitiba, the capital of Paraná, has leapt and overleapt its boundaries as it has grown along with the other towns and cities. In this city the centre of our work in Paraná is established with Eric Westwood as Secretary for Missionary Affairs. Here also we are much engaged in the training of pastors through the Curitiba Bible Institute and Seminary, fulfilling a vital work in the life of an ever growing Church which has 106 fellowships under the leadership of 89 Brazilian pastors and claiming 14,377 baptized church members. Pray for the work in Paraná where we have 15 missionary couples at present and pray especially for the work in the capital city, Curitiba, which is featured in this issue of the *Missionary Herald*.

THIS FAIR CITY

by John and Maria Dyer, who left for Curitiba last August

If you were to awake one morning to find yourself transported to the city of Curitiba, not knowing that it was located in Latin America, you would be forgiven for thinking that you were in a country in Western Europe.

The transition from life in England has been made easier for us by the fact that we have been living in Curitiba, the capital city of the state of Paraná. Curitiba is a good place to begin life in Brazil. The pace is not too fast and not too slow. People are friendly and always seem pleased to have us in their country.

Trend-setter with blemishes

Two things in particular made an impression on us when we first arrived here. Firstly, there is the zest and youthfulness of Curitiba which probably characterize many other Brazilian cities. Brazil is a country of young people – 70% of the population is 25 years of age or under. One gets the feeling of optimism, progress and above all, patriotism. Brazilians are proud of their country and of their nationality and have a certain belief in the future, which one has to admire. However, one is also confronted with an unfortunate blemish on the complexion of this fair city. The number of seemingly destitute people, begging quite openly in the streets of the capital, reminds us too well that there are still many social problems to be solved before Brazil can truly hold her head in pride before the world.

Curitiba, with a population of 950,000, is a civic, commercial, cultural and educational centre. The State Government Offices are situated at one end of a wide central avenue and there are banks everywhere! The most modern theatre in Brazil is to be found in Curitiba as well as the University of Paraná. Throughout the city there are pleasant, leafy squares where one may relax or pass the time of day. Curitiba also boasts the largest and most modern coach station in Brazil, with services operating to many other Brazilian cities direct, or by connecting services to every major city in the country. Like many cities of the world, Curitiba has one-way systems to facilitate the movement of traffic along its busy streets and in this respect has been a trend-setter among Brazilian state capitals.

Swings and roundabouts

The shops in Curitiba are little different from any others in Europe. Most things that



Federal University of Paraná

are available in England may be obtained here. Electrical and photographic equipment, however, is more expensive by as much as 100% for a camera. Clothing, although costing about the same as in England, is generally of a poorer quality. The supermarkets are well stocked with food of many varieties and it is quite possible to eat almost the same meals as one could provide at home. Nevertheless, we have found rice and beans, macaroni and other Brazilian dishes to be reasonably appetizing and nutritious. There are no milk or bread deliveries to the home in Curitiba, so we go to the shops each day to buy for our needs. Basic foods like butter and milk are cheaper here than at home, but overall, prices average about the same as in England. Brazilians usually buy only fresh food, but some frozen fish and vegetables are available, although these are very expensive even as luxuries.

The North American influence is seen in the way one shops in cities like Curitiba. For instance, when buying Maria's Christmas present, John took his purchase to one counter, paid for it at another and collected it, gift wrapped, at yet another. It can be quite confusing at first! The chief European influences in Curitiba are Italian and German, but the Japanese community is very much in evidence too. Truly, this is a cosmopolitan city.

The climate here is officially temperate. The seasons are more or less clearly defined and because of its altitude — Curitiba is 3,000 feet above sea level — winter can be decidedly cold. The summer season though is marked by very warm weather with a heavy downpour in the afternoons to remind us that we are still quite close to the tropics. From the city's eastern suburbs there are splendid views of the coastal mountains in the distance, beyond which are the beaches where many a Curitibaño may be found at the weekends during the summer months, December to February.

Learning the lingo

Our first year in Brazil, and Curitiba in particular, is devoted to language study. The people of Brazil speak Portuguese and so it is important that we acquire a working grasp of the language as quickly as possible.

Language study falls into two categories; formal study which is carried out in the classroom under the direction of our teachers, and experiential study which is an ongoing process as one converses with neighbours, church folk and Brazilians in general.

The opportunity we had to study Portuguese in London before coming to Brazil helped us enormously in the days immediately after our arrival here. But we soon realized that

we had hardly begun. Each day we go to the Baptist Seminary in Curitiba where our language classes are held. Our course is divided into three parts: grammar, pronunciation and conversation. We have a different teacher for each part of the course although Maria has in fact been with the same teacher for grammar and conversation. The grammar class we have together, but pronunciation and conversation we tackle individually.

Acquiring a command of any language other than one's own is for most of us a painstaking business. However, when progress seems slow, one learns to press on because of an overwhelming sense of the purpose of God in it all. Then again, there are days when previous difficulties with the language no longer exist and words come to mind more readily. At such times the facility to communicate is received with joy as a gift from the Lord.

The need to communicate presses insistently and at first it could be frustrating trying to find the words to hold a conversation with the people we had come to serve at Christ's command. Yet we soon discovered that to begin with it was more important what kind of people we were than how much we could say. And so we began to make friendships

continued overleaf



Rua 15 de Novembro, a busy shopping precinct in Curitiba

THIS FAIR CITY

continued from previous page

on the basis of a simple acceptance of one another. It was the marvellous way in which we were accepted from the moment we arrived in Brazil that has made what might have been a difficult challenge, a very rich and rewarding experience.

Knowing the Saviour

Looking back to the long days of our waiting in England, we now realize something of its importance. A thorough preparation of mind and attitude, and the testing and confirmation of one's call has proved to be for us the process by which we have grown in the faith and been led into a new and deeper confidence in the ways of the God whom we love and serve.

Paul wrote, 'I know whom I have believed' (2 Timothy 1:12). This knowledge comes by both reading about Jesus of Nazareth and by meeting with Him today in the totality of life's experiences. The business of communicating in a missionary situation involves more than an ability to grasp the language of the people, important though that is. It requires of us a willingness to accept others on their own ground with their different outlooks and customs, hard though that sometimes is. To communicate effectively also requires that we be accepted by them into their world to share their hopes and fears and joys. And most important of all is our personal knowledge of Jesus as Saviour and Lord, a knowledge that is based on Scripture and rooted in first-hand experience of His work in our lives.

And so we find ourselves in the city of Curitiba in response to the call of God in Christ Jesus. Around us everything is new and the challenge ahead is exciting if not wholly known. Life in the city is something we have known all our lives, having grown up in London and spent the larger part of our ministry in Birmingham. Studying a new language opens windows which look out to a different world from our own, but one which is both fascinating and needy. To this world we bring the gospel of Jesus Christ and seek to communicate it through our commitment to Him who sent us, and to those to whom we have been sent.

top: Palácio Iguçu, HQ of the Paraná State Government

middle: The coach station, Curitiba

bottom: One of the many banks in Curitiba



Operation Base

by A Brunton Scott

Curitiba is a very attractive city in which to live. It is clean and the climate is temperate. There is a lot of European influence here. Altogether, for a British missionary there is much that is similar to many of our cities at home, with the added advantage that it is much sunnier and brighter in Curitiba than in most British cities. At times I ask myself the question, 'What am I doing here in this most acceptable city?' This question arises from a somewhat uneasy conscience that a missionary's task is certainly not to look out the nicest places in which to work, but rather to identify with areas where the needs are greatest, where the privileges are minimal, where the people face great difficulties and where there are few to care!! Well, what am I doing here? The simple answer is that for 26 years the BMS has been working in Paraná and for at least 20 of these years, Curitiba has been the obvious centre for administration.

Finding out the system

Although BMS policy is changing in Brazil, and the Society is looking forward to involvement in other Brazilian states (though it should not be forgotten that we have had missionaries in Mato Grosso for five years), up until now the burden of our work has been in this state of Paraná. It was necessary

then that I spend some time in Curitiba to get to know the missionary families in the state, but principally to understand the internal administrative system of the Society in Brazil. That system had been carefully built up over the years from something very simple, to cater for two or three families, to a system that is quite complex. This has to meet the needs of families in Mato Grosso (for example, getting money from Curitiba to the McClenaghans in Alta Floresta, 800km north of Cuiabá, took quite a lot of working out), the hostel and children in São Paulo and the families in Paraná with their varied needs.

You cannot create a new policy with the necessary changes in administration that a new policy inevitably brings, without having a good appreciation of the whys and the wherefores of the present system. The present system, by the way, is very good and efficient. If there are to be changes in the administration, they will be introduced not because I think they will be superior to what is happening at the moment, but rather because the requirements of the future will be different from those of the present and the past.

So here in Curitiba, I am trying to get the overall picture of BMS involvement in Brazil and of the administration that supports it. Two years ago when I was first approached about the possibility of my doing the job of Regional Representative for Brazil and the Caribbean, Mr Drake, the General Overseas Secretary, made the point that I should start by living in Curitiba – for the reasons I have given above – but that probably in a year's time or even less, I would need to move.

That comment was an accurate assessment of the situation as it is. By the time you read this article I will most likely be resident in São Paulo where it is envisaged the BMS administrative centre for the future will be.

Tuning in to Brazilian life

At the time of writing I have been living in Curitiba with Sheila, my wife, for seven months. At holiday time we have had our son, Callum, come to stay with us from São Paulo. From here we have been re-introduced to Brazilian life. From here I have travelled north, south, east and west to quite distant parts of the country. Here we have been grappling with the language again after 11 years of not using it. Here we have sensed again the enormous challenge facing the Baptist churches, as they seek to communicate the gospel to a society that is developing at great speed and whose basis is very materialistic. In Curitiba we have met old friends and new ones and have enjoyed their refreshing and 'natural' commitment to Christ.

In this lovely, bright city we have sensed the darker side of the human situation with its superstition, its rampant spiritism, its exploitation of human frailties, its spiritual poverty. Here you get all the feelings of frustration, of anxiety, of uncertainty and confusion that one finds in any large city of Brazil – or for that matter, of the world. I feel myself to be in a learning situation, trying to keep eyes and ears, mind and spirit open to the influences that are playing on Brazilian city life.

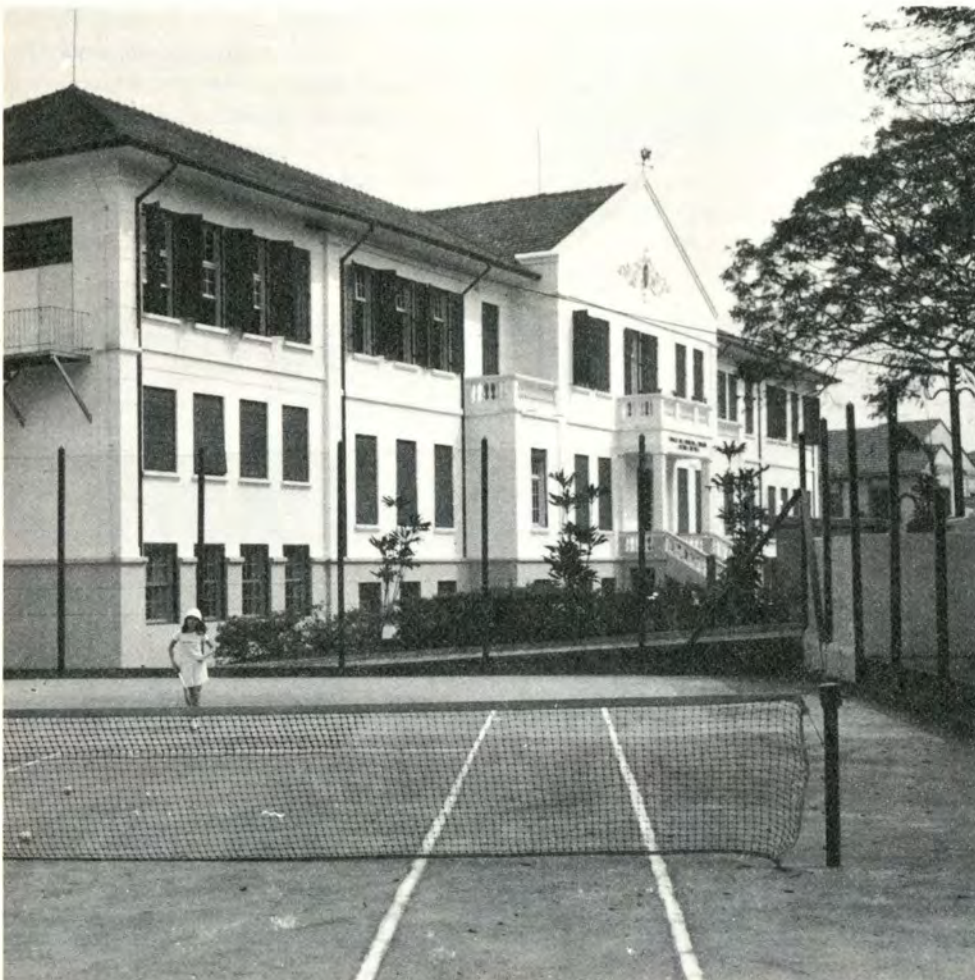
continued on page 89



General view of São Paulo



*top: Road thick with mud in Mato Grosso
left: St Paul's School, São Paulo
right: Loanda Church, Paraná*





continued from page 87

Looking to the Lord

I ask myself what I should be learning here in Curitiba that will help shape policies and decisions for the future. As in every situation, of course, where important decisions are to be made, one needs to wait on the Lord and the leading of His Spirit. One is so aware that human wisdom is limited and can be so frustratingly distorted. Heavenly grace is needed to build well on what has been done in Paraná during these 26 years. All honour to Arthur Elder, Roy Deller, Avelino Ferreira, David Doonan and Eric Westwood, who

from Curitiba have planned and administered the comparatively slender resources of the Society as it is involved in Brazil.

These men have had vision and have shown courage in their administration. Like the rest of us they have often been painfully aware of their humanity and therefore of their frailties, but under God, through them 'the centre has held' despite the pressures and the difficulties. This has allowed the other colleagues to get on with their job, knowing that the back-up system was adequate. There have been crises of course which have resulted in changes, but the very crises have

served to remind all concerned of the need for mutual trust in the fellowship of service, and of the overwhelming need to look to the Lord for guidance, as well as the humility to accept to walk together in His way.

Curitiba has seen a lot of BMS activity. I will be leaving here having benefited, I hope, from what I have learned from my colleagues. I am also grateful to God for what I see of the touch of the living Christ in the life and the service of all my colleagues here in this country. Please pray for us in these crucial and, we trust, creative years of decision for BMS in Brazil.



Eric Westwood S.M.A

Immediately after General Committee confirmed our appointment as Secretary for Missionaries' Affairs in Paran, Brazil, one good friend came up and offered his congratulations . . . if only he knew!

Being Secretary for Missionaries' Affairs is quite remote from the missionary's dream in which he heads for 'distant pagan shores' to preach the gospel. It is in a real sense a ropeholder's task, at the same time routine and varied, frustrating and stimulating, restricted but full of new experiences. The SMA is responsible for comings and goings, tyres and tiles and, last but not least, troubles and tangles.

Comings and goings

Can you guess how many documents it was necessary to include in applying for the first step for a family to leave on furlough? Thirteen! Then comes a month's wait to see

if the second step can be taken . . .

To the SMA falls the task of receiving the new missionary, finding him a home, providing furniture, taking photographs and filling in forms for documents, visiting the police to have fingerprints taken, taking the couple shopping, organizing language lessons and generally offering such words of comfort as 'Oh, yes, we all go through this stage' or 'Don't worry, in a few months you will be chatting away like the rest of us.' For all this, we would like to see some more of you coming!

Tyres and tiles

At the time of writing, our garage is storing 24 tyres, bought at a special price, one gas cooker, one bed and mattress, two large drums holding belongings of a missionary on furlough, one roof rack and a varied assortment of smaller items representing the material needs of missionary activity in Brazil. In fact, quite a lot of money is invested in Brazil by British Baptists and at the moment it all passes through the hands of the SMA.

In the widely scattered ministry in Brazil each missionary has to have a house and furniture, a car and an allowance to keep it on the road, and, in some cases, a telephone. The SMA is the legal representative of the Society before the Brazilian Government. He alone has authority to spend the money of the Society and to authorize the sale of its possessions. From the Society's point of view it is his task to ensure the maintenance of vehicles and properties, to keep the missionary on the road and reasonably comfortable at home, and to give a monthly account to those in London of what it has all cost. From the Government's side he must present accounts in Portuguese and ensure that all necessary documents are up to date, including tax returns etc. All of this keeps him reasonably occupied!

Troubles and tangles

Life is rarely smooth anywhere, but overseas the crises often seem more complicated. At 6 am one Sunday morning in January 1978 came a call from the United States saying that Peggy Gouthwaite's father had died suddenly, and asking that she should be informed as soon as possible. Now Peggy lives on the agricultural project far from telecommunications! Problem 1: arrange another preacher for the morning service. Problem 2: siphon petrol from a friend's car in order to make the return trip to Potinga, as no petrol stations are open on Sundays. Problem 3: ought Peggy to consider leaving

for the States? Problem 4: obtain permission from the BMS for such a journey to be made (fortunately, that Sunday Brunton Scott was making his first visit in the north of Brazil). Problem 5: how to leave the country in 24 hours when the process usually takes a minimum of 10 days? Photographs here, fingerprints there, arguing the necessity, the help of a member of parliament, quite a few tears, and 36 hours later, away!

Another phone call: 'My wife is in hospital and had to have an emergency operation. I need £700 to pay the bill before she is allowed to leave.'

A letter comes from Mato Grosso marked 'Urgent': 'I've had a crash in the car — what do I do next?' Praise the Lord for a good relationship with the Insurance Company who often authorize payment without ever seeing the car or an estimate of the cost!

Yes, life as Secretary for Missionaries' Affairs is rarely dull. One senses the privilege of being in position at the far end of the rope that links the faithful and prayerful support of those who give with the daily needs of those who go.

Furthermore

And — so we were assured in London — being SMA is only a part-time affair. No doubt we would find other important things to do.

Of the various other things found to do, including teaching in the seminary and helping in lay-training, the most exciting for us personally has been the discovery of a little Baptist church just three blocks away from our home. Started 42 years ago by fugitives from Russia and the Ukraine, the Slavic Baptist Church had seen more prosperous times. Many fellow countrymen, fleeing from their former homeland, came to discover the living Christ in this little church where the Lord's people worshipped in a familiar language.

However, in February 1978, Russian and Bulgarian were not the most widely used languages in Brazil, and the Slavic Church was facing imminent closure, the doors being opened each Sunday just for the faithful few.

Being, as it were, our 'parish' church, we attended an evening service and joined just five others in the congregation. Afterwards we asked permission to hold a weekly Sunday school on the premises. The counter proposal was immediate and unanimous, 'Please come as our pastor and we will have everything in Portuguese.'



The ex-Slavic Baptist Church, Curitiba

Small but strong

The day after the induction, one of the oldest members died! But the Lord soon added another couple to join us in the work, the husband being Japanese and the wife from German stock. Several other Christian families, who were to a certain extent drifting, have joined us during the year. We discovered

two Angolan families living nearby who had fled Angola three years ago and were having difficulty in putting down new roots. These also have regained a large measure of their Christian zeal and are beginning to show signs of belonging.

The confidence of the older members, that

God was planning new things, was seen when they decided to use all the money in the church account to redecorate the church inside and out, and to rebuild a delapidated wooden house in the back, in order to provide much needed Sunday school accommodation. Two of them worked every evening and every Saturday for more than two months to complete this work.



Pastor Valdimiro Tymchak (left) who grew up and came to Christ in the Slavic Church and later trained for the ministry at Spurgeon's College in this country

The Lord has not disappointed them. In September the baptistery was opened for the first time in many years and our first new member witnessed to faith in the Saviour. Though the group is small – we are still less than 30 members, representing eight different nationalities – a regular programme of evangelism has been maintained and the neighbourhood is being made aware of the lively existence of the believers. But there is much to be done. Traditions of the past, symbolized by the Russian texts hanging on the walls, still have to be handled delicately! Hopes for the future remain mostly in terms of dreams and aspirations which others must also see and desire. But the present is full of promise and opportunity, with a keen group of the Lord's people seeking to walk with Him and fulfil His command to 'GO'.



EM CRISTO TUDO NOVO

by Roy Davies

Who wants to go to church on Sundays? Five evenings, and sometimes Saturday afternoons, arriving home around midnight from university classes must be exhausting. Then, to add variety, 8 am the following day and back to an office, or a bank, or maybe teaching in a school – in short to work, in order to pay for the studies so eagerly undertaken. Being a young person in Brazil in the seventies means leading an

extremely active life, but in spite of the pressures, opportunities to improve one's livelihood are grasped.

Well, if you happen to be a Christian attached to one of Curitiba's busy Baptist churches, in spite of the heavy weekly schedule at work and university, Sunday school begins at 9.30 am to be followed by morning service. Around midday off to lunch, back for choir practice at 4 pm, open-air witness at 5 pm to invite people to evening worship. Then follows the Young People's Fellowship

(*Mocidade*) and the day's activities are completed by about 8.30 pm. There may be a quick trip to an ice-cream parlour before going home to prepare for another full and busy week.

The rule, not the exception

This all sounds like an exaggeration because we feel no one could keep up such a timetable, but that is exactly how Carlos Purim spends his weeks during term time. Just in case you should think him to be an exceptional young man, may I assure you that although his abilities are exceptional, his schedule is quite typical of his fellow Christians.

Carlos is 28 years old, a bachelor, and teaches electronics at the big State Technical College in Paraná's capital city, Curitiba. In addition to this Carlos has a degree in mechanical engineering and also in design. Sometimes you will find him conducting the church choir or leading the *Mocidade* (YPF). For four years Carlos has been a member of Brazil's National Council for *Mocidade*. Twice or three times a year he makes the 1,000 miles round trip to Rio de Janeiro to participate in council meetings – 14 hours each way in a long distance coach. Because of his many qualities as a leader, the talented Carlos, in addition to being a deacon in the church at Cajuru in Curitiba, is also President of the Paraná State *Mocidade*, and involved



(right to left) Roy Davies, President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the Paraná Young Baptists. The men are wearing the Congress T-shirt

in the activities of the young people in the Baptist Association of Curitiba and district known as the Capital.

One of the features of a modern Brazilian city is the constant spreading of its boundaries. As people seek new opportunities and migrate from the interior towns, so the process of outer city growth continues. This not only brings greater responsibilities to municipal authorities but presents the churches with great challenges. There are multitudes needing help, needing to hear of the love of Christ, and greater social problems arise with regard to health and employment.

Reaching out to the lost

The young people's organization of the Baptist churches of Curitiba seeks to promote activities of a varied nature, and tries to help the young Christians see their responsibilities in such a developing society. Not least is the important programme of evangelistic outreach. Naturally, any help given is always directly connected with one of the local churches and almost always takes place over a weekend. It may be a house to house census to help provide the church with valuable information, or open-air work mainly geared to attract people with modern Christian music. During the past three or four years there have been great strides forward with regard to new music. Young Christians are seeking to express their faith through this medium. Maybe in the midst of constant activity people produce more, but there is no doubt that the demands on young Brazilians are heavy.

Brazil is probably most well known because of its footballers, whose names have become household words in many countries. With most of the major competitions taking place on Sundays, Christians find little opportunity for much involvement. To help combat this amongst the young people in Curitiba's Baptist churches, an annual competition is held. Five-a-side football is the major activity, played with a small but extremely heavy ball. Usually about twelve churches are represented and a very high standard is maintained throughout the 2½ months of the competition, with trophies and medals to be gained by the finalists. Not to be outdone, the girls have demanded some competition in which they too can compete and so this has led to the organizing of a volleyball tournament.

The sporting activities are looked after by second year law student, David Schier, who studies at one of the numerous faculties in Curitiba. This former member of the youth

squad of one of the town's professional football clubs, is a dedicated Christian and devotes his energies to the Presidency of his church's *Mocidade*, as well as being a promising preacher. David's schedule for work and study is not unlike that of Carlos and, having recently been elected to membership of the Paran Council for *Mocidade*, he has quite a full programme.

Away from the madding crowd

Curitiba, with its population of almost a million, is considered one of the prettiest and best planned cities in the industrial south of the country. With so much to occupy them it is quite easy to appreciate why many people are almost unaware of the tremendous needs of some areas away from the large towns. A good example of this, within fairly easy reach of Paran's capital, are the rural communities of Potinga and Tagaaba in the interior of the Litoral, the coastal strip. Here, just 70 miles or so from the teeming crowds of students at all levels of education, school careers are finished after four years of primary education. There are just not the facilities for secondary education which, like the presence of a doctor, can only be found at least 30 miles away. However, due to the wife of one of the missionaries, a small medical dispensary functions at the weekend. Thankfully a missionary agriculturist and his wife live and work amongst the people.

Faced with such challenges the leadership of Curitiba's *Mocidade* continues to awaken the conscience of the capital's sophisticated Christians. Vocation is a major point for thought and discussion groups, as efforts are made to show that this is a subject for all members of the Christian community. Hopefully some of the students – would-be doctors, dentists, nurses and teachers – will be touched by the needs of others as they seek their place in society.

Young people must accept the challenge

With regard to the aspirations of many young Christians in Paran, the theme of their recently held state congress speaks for itself: *Em Cristo tudo novo*, literally, 'In Christ everything new'. Their enthusiasm for seeking others is contagious, for they believe and have proved that Christ transforms. What a marvellous opportunity to channel this young potential. The New World with its youthful zeal and freshness of approach reaches out to the future with great expectancy. The young churches continue to grow but the challenge is large. The *Mocidade* eagerly accepts the full schedules and perhaps these appear different from



Carlos Purim

those in other parts of the Old World. The difference is more than a different date for Mother's Day and St Valentine's Day. It is not because electric guitars and drums are played in some churches to accompany the new choruses. As Brazil surges forward with its industrial developments the Church must go forward too. It must look to its *Mocidade* to keep abreast with the great developments. It is the young people who have vision and know no limit to what can be attempted. They believe that Christ makes things new and they want to be involved in the progress, as tomorrow becomes a reality.



David Schier



Curitiba Baptist Theological College

'A HARD DAY'S NIGHT'

by Mike Wotton

This year another record has been broken: for the first time ever Curitiba Baptist Theological College has well over 100 students. The teaching staff now numbers

16, but nearly all are part-time. This year, also for the first year ever, the college has a Brazilian as Principal, a Christian brother very distinguished in his own right.

The college offers a four year degree course in theology and this year is also offering two new courses, one in religious education and the other in sacred music, both leading to a degree. Some students prefer a non-degree course of just three years, similar to those the Curitiba Bible Institute used to offer just a few years ago before the college course started.

The curriculum is similar to that of a British theological college. I am responsible for the teaching of Greek at all levels and for some New Testament. At first it was not easy using one foreign language (Portuguese) to teach another foreign language (Greek)! This year my wife, Gill, now well on the way through her studies leading to an external London BD, is also teaching, just two subjects, Isaiah and biblical geography.

Working at all hours

In Britain most university and college students have a grant and are thus enabled to devote themselves mainly to their studies. Our students have no grants at all. More than half of them are married and so they have to work full time at whatever may be their job or profession, in order to support their families and to pay the college fees, which are by no means inexpensive. Also, most of the staff are Brazilians and of course must be paid. So, as the majority of our students need to work all day, lectures are given only

in the evenings; and after a full day's work, they will have a quick snack, battle with Curitiba's rush-hour and endeavour to get to the college more or less on time. Classes start at 6.45 and continue without a break until 10.30 pm. Then the journey home may take anything up to an hour. Eventually they will sit down to their evening meal and go to bed. Next day they will be up soon after 6 am in order to be at work by 7.30 or 8.00.

So in the evenings they are already tired when they come to their classes and, because of the pressures under which most of them live, have very little time to study outside the classroom, but somehow, through sheer dedication and midnight oil, essays get written, Greek verbs get learnt, sermons get prepared and revision gets done for the monthly exam in each subject.

But clearly, the student simply does not have the time for reading as we would like. Thus the teacher has a special responsibility, not only of course to have a thorough knowledge of his subject, but to be able to put it across effectively and clearly.

Of the single students most live in, in the college itself. In addition to their college course, a few go to school in the mornings (to complete the Brazilian equivalent of 'A' levels) and several to university, thus studying simultaneously a quite different course. Then in the afternoons they work to support themselves and in the evenings have their college lectures.

No rest on Sunday

Apart from these pressures during the week, all the students are compulsorily involved in the life and work of the local church. At the very least, they will teach a Sunday school class and, at the most, will be student pastor of a small church, with all the responsibility of visiting, administration and preaching that this involves.

So when we talk about the dedication of the students to whom we seek to minister here, we do not do so lightly. Indeed one wonders how many British students would be able to stand up to the pressures and the tiredness that most of our students have to face as the normal way of studying.

Inevitably such pressures can lead to strain and stress, quite apart from the normal problems, temptations and depression that can be the lot of young people everywhere. Some come to college mature in the faith and with a clear sense of call; others are less mature and pass through phases of severe

doubts about the faith and of uncertainty as to what the Lord wants them to do. So I see my job here not just as a teacher but as a pastor and counsellor and I give many, many hours in this way. 'Pastor, could you please spare me a few minutes?' usually means a few hours by the time we have got the problem sorted out and the student back on an even keel! Gill and I also like to invite students to our home for a meal and a chat.

Equipping the saints

The pressure of work is constant and considerable, but the training of dedicated

young Brazilians to minister to their own people is in itself a most satisfying and rewarding experience.

At any time of disappointment or discouragement, we think of the students we have taught even in these last two or three years, who are already exercising fruitful ministries. Right here in Curitiba, Valdir Rodrigues de Souza and José Teixeira Belém are ministering effectively to growing churches, where conversions are taking place and human lives are being transformed through the gracious power of the Lord.

Olzenilda C Dos Santos and Lídia P de Albuquerque, who both graduated in 1977, are serving in Paraíba, in the distant north of Brazil, as missionaries dedicated to evangelism. Another recent graduate, Carlos Alberto da Silva, is serving abroad in Paraguay with his wife and family, as missionaries of the Brazilian Baptist Church. So the list could continue.

We thank the Lord for these dedicated young people who have been willing to sacrifice so much to equip themselves to obey the divine call.

Into the desert

by Mike Wotton

The burning concern of the BMS has always been evangelism, in the power of the Holy Spirit leading men and women out of darkness into His marvellous light.

My wife and family and I came to Curitiba in mid-1972 and during our first years here our sole task was evangelism: ministering in practical ways to people in all their variety of human need, yes, but above all else seeking to lead them into a saving experience of Jesus Christ. Our call was to a very large residential area close to the city centre, an area that was a spiritual desert in that it contained no Protestant or Free Church and consequently was an area without the gospel. So we moved in!

Full to overflowing

After months of patient visiting to establish contacts and build relationships, and then more months of holding a Sunday school and gospel services in our home, we got to the point where all the people who wanted to come to gospel services (the vast majority of them non-Christians) could not be fitted into our large living room!

So the First Baptist Church of Curitiba, the largest in the city, of which we are a 'congregation', or daughter church, rented for us a small wooden house for use solely as a church building. The work continued to go forward, with conversions, baptisms and an increasing attendance at the services. During a long furlough, the work suffered something of a setback, but recovered, even though I was then giving most of my time to the college and the students there.

The next big step forward was in 1977 when the First Church purchased for us nearby a much better church building: a large wooden house, ideally situated, which swiftly turned into a small but worshipful sanctuary, together with some classrooms for the Sunday school. We must record our profound gratitude to the Reverend Marcílio G Teixeira, the distinguished minister of the First Baptist Church here, who has proved a kindly friend and wise counsellor.

From the very beginning of our work, our aim was to forward the day when the church could call its own Brazilian minister. We had reached the stage of having an adequate church building, but no manse! Financially, while our church is able to pay for all the normal running expenses, there is rarely any more money left over and certainly not enough to build even a modest house.

Building in faith

But the building of a manse became a pressing necessity, initially for our student helper, Walter, to live in when he got married in July 1978. We began with no financial resources and it was in faith that early last year our church members unanimously took the decision to build a modest bungalow of just 50 square metres on the spare piece of land at the back of the church. And then the Lord began to open doors as only He knows how. By mid-September the manse was completed, painted and free from debt, through a series of miracles that we still find difficult to believe! And already our members have taken the decision to add two more rooms this year, a brave decision since the number of active members is still relatively small.

The latest news, to complete the story, is that a Brazilian minister has been invited and has accepted the call. They are a very talented and dedicated couple, the Reverend Arnold and Mrs Neusa Iunghans. At least to begin with, the First Baptist Church will be helping with a part of Arnold's stipend.

During the last two years, because of my involvement at the college, the work of the church has been fairly stationary, with encouragements and discouragements fairly evenly balanced. Now we anticipate that the work of the Kingdom here will go forward once again under the leadership of a full-time minister.

We simply thank the good Lord for all the activity of the Holy Spirit in our midst and for those back home whose sacrificial giving to the BMS and faithful prayer support are used of the Lord in the greatest purpose of all — evangelism.



Walter and Pascoalina Dantas de Melo, the Itupava evangelist

News in brief



UMN

This month Rev Carl Johannson, whose photograph you see here, takes over from Rev G Ruff as Executive Secretary of the United Mission to Nepal. The UMN has about 200 workers in various projects in Nepal and within that number are 14 BMS missionaries. This April the UMN celebrated 25 years of service. There were just 10 missionary boards and societies when the Mission began in 1954. In 1962 the BMS joined the partnership and is today one of the largest supporting bodies among the 29 missionary societies now working with the UMN.

CHRISTIAN LEADER

Masayoshi Ohira, the recently elected Prime Minister of Japan, is the first professing Christian of his generation to lead this increasingly influential nation. Before entering politics he preached the gospel on street corners after his conversion as a high school student. He is rare among Japanese politicians in that he shuns all alcoholic drinks.

MISSIONS 80

The European Missionary Association is organizing 'Mission 80' to take place from 27 December 1979 to 1 January 1980. This will be a sequel to 'Mission 76' which proved to be a significant event in the life of continental European evangelical missionary concerns for young people. Attendance at this second European Youth Congress is expected to be as many as 3,000 from all over Europe. Details available for TEMA 'Missions 80', CH 1032 Romanel, Switzerland.

1400 STUDENTS

In 1679 an elder of the Broadmead Baptist Church, Bristol, was exercised about the facilities for preparing men for the Baptist Ministry. In those days there was persecution of Protestants and the church at Broadmead was without a pastor at the time. Edward Terrill conceived the idea of a trust which would enable each minister of the Broadmead church to take into his home young men, who could be taught to read the Scriptures in their original languages and to prepare themselves for ministry.

This trust led eventually to the founding of our Bristol Baptist College which, over the years, has trained no less than 1400 students in preparation for the ministry of the Word both at home and overseas. Of that 1400, who owe their training and preparation to Bristol College, 180 have gone on to serve on the mission fields of the world. Among this number are some of the early pioneers of the Baptist Missionary Society. Joshua Marshman, close colleague of William Carey, and one of the Serampore Trio, as they have been called, was trained at Bristol. So, too, was George Grenfell, the pioneer missionary and explorer in Zaire.

This year, Bristol Baptist College is celebrating the tercentenary of Edward Terrill's action and the BMS acknowledge the happy cooperation it has had with the college over many many years.

COMPETITION

'We want to see a new dimension in church music' says Rev Tom Houston, Executive Director of the Bible Society. Publishers of the Good News Bible, they are challenging people to set the words of this modern version to music. Judges for the competition, which finishes at the end of this month, are Cliff Richard, Michael Baughen (instigator of the Youth Praise song books), Lionel Dakers (Director of the Royal School of Church Music) and Major Joy Webb of the Salvation Army. Prizes totalling £1,600 are being given; the money can be used, however, to enhance the music of a named church, group or school. Entries are to be on cassettes, so written music is not essential. Entry forms and further details can be obtained from the Bible Society, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BX.



SCRIPTURES

According to a report of the United Bible Societies, at the end of 1978 at least one book of the Bible had been published in 1,660 languages and dialects throughout the world. Of this total 268 languages had complete bibles. Of special interest in the report are the 28 languages which now, for the first time, have a complete book of the Bible. In the countries where the BMS works this is true of three languages in Brazil and one in India. Then there are another 36 languages which now have a New Testament for the first time. Four of these are languages spoken in India, one in Brazil and one in Tanzania. There are over 5,000 known languages and dialects throughout the world.