

Missionary

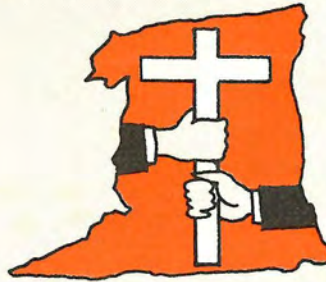
# HERALD

The magazine of the Baptist Missionary Society



**JULY 1979**  
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## BAPTIST UNION



LET

US

COME

TOGETHER



*Rev K Cadette (left) welcomes the new president of the Trinidad and Tobago Baptist Union, Rev Sheldon Dewsbury. Behind them is the BU slogan for 1979: 'Let us come together'*





# Serving The Lord

IN SRI LANKA

Margaret Goodall was baptized at 15 in the Methodist Church while attending Hunmanby Hall School, Filey. At Bristol University she gained a BSc in zoology and botany, and was married to Peter in 1958 at Heaton Baptist Church, Yorkshire.

Peter received his schooling at King Edward VI Grammar School, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Monkton Combe School near Bath. During his service in the Royal Army Service Corps he was stationed in the Canal Zone of Egypt, and was baptized in 1950 in the Bitter Lakes. He first became a member of the Baptist Church at Queen Street, Godalming, Surrey, under the pastorate of Rev Charles Norris. Peter was trained at Bristol Baptist College, gained his Diploma of Theology at the University of London and had his first pastorate in Stocksfield-upon-Tyne, Northumberland. They then moved to Marston Green Free Church, Birmingham, and prior to missionary training at St Andrew's Hall, Selly Oak, served in the Rickmansworth Baptist Church. While at Marston Green and Rickmansworth, Margaret worked as an infant teacher.

Peter and Margaret have three children, two of whom, Deborah aged 17 and Rachel aged 14, are still at school, at Edgehill College, Bideford, Devon. Their son works in the London branch of the First National Bank of Chicago. Peter and Margaret first felt called to work in Sri Lanka after hearing of the death in 1977 of the Rev Eric Sutton Smith, who had served in that country for 18 years. In May this year they left for Colombo.

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# COMMENT

'Mission in Six Continents' is a slogan that has been presented to our thinking in recent years and there is certainly an attraction about the vastness of such land areas because their very size suggests also large numbers of people brought within the hearing of the gospel.

The Baptist Missionary Society is privileged to share in such work. It is happy to have the opportunity to labour and witness alongside the national church in some of the continents of the world – Asia, Africa and South America.

### Small is not to be disparaged

It should, however, be clearly recognized and gladly accepted that a not insignificant section of BMS work has been carried out in islands of the world, though in size these places may appear small against the great land masses.

Perhaps our own position as an island people has made us at home with island folk wherever we have been and that has attracted us to them.

Early in the work of the BMS an expansion was made from India into Ceylon, the 'Garden of the East'. In 1813 we entered Jamaica and Java. Shortly after this a work was begun in other islands, Amboyna and Sumatra in the East Indies. Pioneering began in the island of Japan, in Bahamas and Turks Island.

### It led to great things

We have in the last year celebrated the centenary of our work and witness in Zaire. It was possible to make the early exploration and launch the mission to Zaire because we had personnel within reach of that country. Amongst the slaves liberated in Jamaica by the Abolition of Slavery Act passed by the British Parliament in 1834, there were some captured on the West African coast. They desired to share their knowledge of Christ with their kindred in Africa and set sail with that purpose as their spur. Unfortunately they were ill equipped and ill prepared for

such a venture though their intentions were admirable. In order that their effort should not just fade away the BMS undertook to carry forward the work and the two men the Society sent out finally settled on the small island of Fernando Po as the best location for the infant mission, but it was from this island beginning that the work in Angola and Zaire sprang.

### Dedicated leadership

Not least among our island witness has been Trinidad. Today the Baptist witness in Trinidad is being ably led by two young men who were nurtured in the Christian faith and trained by our missionaries. Rev Sheldon Dewsbury is the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Baptist Union and Rev Ken Cadette the Vice-President. These two are giving energetic leadership to the Baptist Community and encouraging the churches to engage in a ten year programme of advance under the title 'Into the 80's with the Word of God'. 'All member churches in the Union have accepted the challenge to rally round this theme,' writes the president and adds, 'this theme will be broken down into sub-themes for each succeeding year: (a) The Word of God as it relates to the Believing Community, (b) The Word of God as it relates to the Family, (c) Reaching the world via the Word, (d) Reaching the Wider World and, (e) Looking Ahead and Conservation.' 1979 is the year of preparation and this is being encouraged under the title, 'Let us come together'. 'So far,' says the Rev Sheldon Dewsbury, 'my heart has been truly blessed as I see Baptists responding positively to this call. As I look at this programme and other factors in our society, I am convinced that there is still need for missionary help, but the missionary now has a new role. He no longer has to take the gospel to the "natives". Today he joins forces with them as they minister and is guided by them as to where his help is most needed. I believe that this programme is the mind of God for us at this time. Never in our history have we been called to rally to such a tremendous programme and I pray that Baptists all round the world will support us in prayer as we respond to the Spirit of God.'





by David Hoskins

Think of Trinidad and what comes to mind . . . sunshine, palm-fringed beaches, coconuts, long lazy days in the sun. These are the pictures of Trinidad which the advertising brochures bring to mind. It is certainly a very sunny island with temperatures always between 75° and 90°F, and a humidity level of about 80%. For a holiday these conditions are ideal, but when the holiday is past, and the time for work comes, then it is a very different matter. It can be very tiring to try and live at the same pace as in England, especially during the period of acclimatization, and although there are as many hours in the day, less seems to get done. It is certainly necessary to be adaptable, in order to cope with the tropics. We are grateful to God that we seem to have settled

in so well to our new home and life-style and have encountered few problems with such things as diet.

#### Warmly welcomed from the start

Let me try to give you a picture of church and island life, mentioning the things that have struck me during these first few months. The first thing we noticed was the friendly welcome of the church people. On the day of our arrival, after travelling 18 hours we reached the BMS house in Cocoyea Village. Waiting to meet us were the deacons of Fifth Company Baptist Church, the church where I was to be pastor. They wanted to greet us as soon as we arrived, and although we were very tired, it was a joy for us to know that we did have the family of the church around us. From that very first day we have been made to feel at home.

The name of the church at Fifth Company needs a little explanation. After the American War of Independence, the Negro soldiers who fought on the British side needed somewhere to go (as America won the war) and many of them were settled in Trinidad. They came company by company and were given areas of land to cultivate. They each called their village after the name of their company. The church at Fifth Company is the oldest Baptist church in the island with a history of more than 160 years. It is also a church which for many years has had a BMS pastor. The congregation numbers about 150 and on some Sunday mornings there is not enough room for everyone to get inside, so some lean in at the windows. There is a thriving Boys' Brigade Company of about 50 members, with a captain, Herman Pedro, who has had some BB training in England. He is a schoolteacher and does an excellent job with the BB boys in what is a very rural area with no facilities as we know them in England. The boys are encouraged in a Christian way of life, as well as sharing the fun that all boys everywhere enjoy.

As the months have passed we have seen how generous our church people are. One week we received two bags of eggs, a pumpkin, some bananas and two dozen oranges. Also in this country there is a very high regard for the minister, especially in a country church such as ours. I have never had my hand kissed so many times before . . . mostly by older lady members!

#### The custom of sending the baby

The first funeral service I took was a revelation in that a full sermon was expected. The church was crowded as everyone turns out for a funeral (or a party, and it can be

difficult to tell the difference) after which we all walked to the graveyard. When the burial is over it is customary for the family to fill in the grave and sing hymns, which may take a further two hours, but thankfully the minister is not required to stay. Dedications are also different; there are usually several godfathers and godmothers, and even now I have to insist that the mother attends the service, as it has been the custom to send the baby with a godmother. Fathers are not always present, and with a national illegitimacy rate of nearly 50%, one can see why. There is no charge for dedications unless godfathers are present. In this event they are charged five dollars each (£1), a charge which is peculiar to Fifth Company. At the last dedication we had three godfathers, so the church did quite well.

I was surprised to see how industrial some areas of Trinidad are. The island is now one of the richest in the Caribbean, with oil providing most of the wealth. In San Fernando we have a large Texaco refinery, and oil wells can be seen all over the island, as well as offshore.

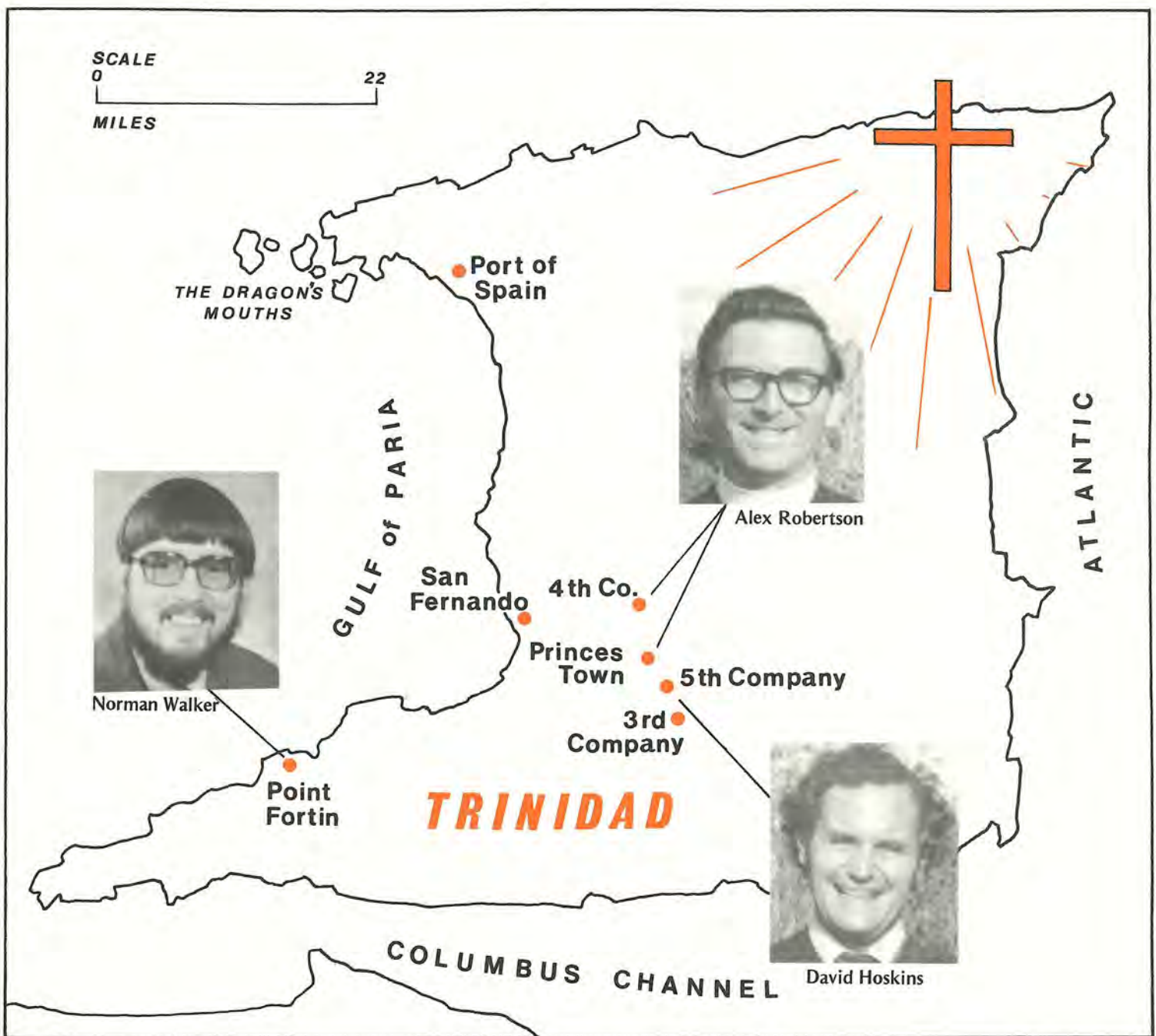
The flora and fauna of Trinidad are very lovely, with brilliantly coloured humming birds, and many colourful plants and shrubs. In our garden we have half a dozen banana trees, two mango trees, an avocado pear, plus several trees not yet identified. Snakes occasionally show up and one evening I saw a black and white snake coming out of our bamboo hedge. I asked one of the neighbours what it was and was told to kill it immediately as it was a coral snake. Since our girls are always playing outside I did kill it, but did not enjoy doing so.

#### Cats' chorus? — no, dogs and cockerels

Trinidad is a very noisy island. As soon as it gets cool in the evening, the dogs, which have lain dormant all day, suddenly find their voices again and begin a chorus which continues all night with greater or lesser intensity. Also, everyone here keeps chickens and cockerels, the latter providing support for their canine cousins. In England such noises would bring in the Noise Abatement people, but here we have got used to it very quickly.

Several times I have been amused by the saying of the Trinidadians. When for example, a cantata was announced at church, the secretary said there would be a 'soft offering' ie, notes only, and when I first asked what time the services began I was told 10 am but if I came for 10.15 that would be fine. In Trinidad there is a saying, 'Trinidad time is





anytime' and many meetings and services are at least half an hour late in starting. It is said that one of our missionaries was so prompt with services that he used to meet people coming when he was going home, and I can quite believe it. Then again my wife is referred to as 'Mistress Hoskins', using the old English word, and this custom of giving me a mistress as well as a wife certainly adds a new dimension to things!

Our girls, Fiona and Rebecca, have settled in well at school which begins at 8 am and ends at 2.30. This may sound like an early start but is quite usual here, with banks, offices and shops all opening at 8 am or earlier. Being near the equator we have 12 hours dark and light each day, and getting up at 6 is not difficult when it is always warm and the sun comes up at 6.30.

#### Helping the plants along

One thing I have grown in the garden here is tomatoes. They are always expensive to buy, but grow readily. I bought plants from the Government Farm for five cents each (one penny) and planted them in January. By the end of March I had tomatoes as big as tangerines. I had to buy some spray because the bugs were so active, and the plants were also helped by some visits I paid to the local horse racing stables. Being a good Baptist I know little of the sport but have been glad of one of its by-products.

Tricia and I have been asked to teach music at the Baptist Secondary School, and this we are doing. We are not experts but have formed a choir, a guitar group and a recorder group. It seems we have to turn our hand to whatever is necessary, but we enjoy it very

much and I think the youngsters do also. This teaching is in addition to counselling and assembly work within the school, which is demanding but worthwhile.

We thank God for this opportunity of service in the wider Church, and feel that we are receiving so much, as well as giving of the skills we have brought. There is much to be done in a small Baptist Union of 20 churches, with only two full-time Trinidadian pastors, but together we are making progress. The Union and churches are being encouraged, and considerable advances have been made in training and organization which speaks well for the future. The sunshine and the smiles of the people are making our days here memorable and happy, and with the strengthening of the Church we have much for which to thank God.







# ONE LIGHT SERVES ALL THE ROOMS!

by Tricia Hoskins

One of the many sounds of Trinidad is the postman with his bell. He arrives fairly promptly around 9.30 am and brings us all to our doors. It is such a joy to receive letters and magazines when you are far from home and I thank all who send them.

## Watch out for Jack Spaniard!

David, my husband, and our two girls, Fiona aged eight and Rebecca aged five, arrived in Trinidad in November 1978 and found our new home and life style quite different. Our house is a white painted concrete one, with a green corrugated iron roof. The windows are of the louvre type and are wide open all of the time except during rain storms. Screening on the outside keeps out most of the flying insect life, but some always manage to get in no matter what you do. One of the disadvantages is that the trade winds blow continually so that the dust inside collects by the hour, but the breeze also keeps the house cool. One of the worst of the insect pests is the locally called 'Jack Spaniard' which is like a hornet, only two or three times larger. They build their nests under the eaves and so they are always buzzing around. David, who is a beekeeper, does not mind them, but I avoid them as best I can.

Inside the traditional Trinidadian house there is one large room with a wood panelled roof and no ceiling. Rooms are made by building walls to about seven feet and so dividing up the area. This means there is no real privacy as you can hear everything said, anywhere in the house. This seemed very strange at first but we have grown to love our new home. One of the advantages is that you can put on a light and it shines in all of the rooms at once! The floors are wooden and now that

*Top — Fiona and Rebecca Hoskins (note the flower at the end of the stem below the bananas)*

*Bottom — Girls from Fifth Company Church showing off their hair styles*

I have polished them up they look lovely. We have no bath, nor hot water, but we do have a shower. In the dry season the water can be off several days a week but we do have a 400-gallon tank which usually sees us through. My friends were pulling my leg before we left England suggesting I would be doing the washing in a stream and cooking over an open fire, but I have a gas cooker which runs on cylinder gas and a washing machine. A gas cylinder costs 30 dollars (£6) and lasts about three months, which makes it one of the few things in Trinidad that is cheaper than in England. Most of our regular supermarket food is two or three times the price in England, though meat is cheaper. We have no TV although it is well established here, so instead we listen in to the radio. Most of the programmes are musical, usually calypso and reggae, and I do miss the plays and serials which BBC radio does so well.

## First come, first served

At the moment we are able to eat English style with some modifications, but for months on end it can be impossible to get potatoes, butter, cheese or white sugar. We have tried most of the local vegetables with varying success in the family, and buy potatoes when we can. Even the locals buy potatoes first when they are obtainable. It is fun sometimes, for a friend will telephone to say that such and such a place has cheese and I go dashing off to see if there is any left. Once in a supermarket I saw to my delight some cheddar cheese and put a dozen pieces in my trolley, intending to freeze some. When I got to the checkout the manager came hurrying over to say it was limited to one piece per customer, but he did allow me to keep a few. I think he felt sorry for me.

We have settled in very well, and the children are happy at school and doing well. They enjoy being able to play outside every day and thrive in this climate. Our day starts

early, around 6 am, as the children need to be at school by 7.45, but all shops, banks and offices open at 8, so everyone is up earlier than at home. I am usually back from the supermarket by 9 and ready for a drink of tea. There is also a local bakery in our street which opens at 6 am so we always have fresh bread at breakfast time.

We have eaten, and enjoyed, shark and many lovely tropical fruits, but although goat meat is available we have not yet had the courage to try it. I have also discovered many ways of cooking bananas; you can make chips and crisps with them, as well as all the traditional things, but we do have more varieties here, including a very large cooking banana.

After dinner in the early evening we often sit out and enjoy the cool of the day. This is when the neighbourhood comes alive, the music is turned up, and youngsters dance in the street . . . no inhibitions here! Fathers come out with their babies and carry them around, amidst all the noise and activity.

## Happy families

Fiona and Rebecca quickly made friends, especially with the family opposite and next door. One family are Negro and the other East Indian, for Trinidad has a very mixed population. They each send us various kinds of food to try, and Fiona is becoming an expert in Indian cooking. After sending some of my cake over the road the neighbours sent back some eggs and flour for me to make some more for them, only larger as they have a big family.

One little girl started coming to our house, and after a while she came in and saw our girls' toys. She could not believe her eyes. She is one of 14 children and they have only one or two toys between them. Now she comes and goes as one of our own, and we do not know if she is in the house or not.

Many of the girls here have their hair beautifully plaited and braided in many different styles. Mothers plait the hair of their babies as they lie asleep on their knee. Some of the styles are very intricate and take a long time to complete, but together with the ribbons such styles look most beautiful.

Although there are some disadvantages to living in the tropics, such as giant cockroaches and marauding ants, my great and abiding memory is of friendly people, with ready smiles, and a simple yet deep faith in the Lord. It is a joy to be here with them sharing in the work of Jesus.



The Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago has now arrived at what is perhaps the most appropriate set of divisions for its working. The Administration and Finance Division deals with just what its name suggests, ie, all matters of the administration of the Union and the preparation and promotion of its budget. This year the budget amounted to no less than \$100,000 – approximately £20,000.

Representatives of the ministerial, training, women's, men's, young people's, musical and other departments of the Baptist Union make up the Division of Mission and Church Development. They meet to co-ordinate the activities of these departments within the total aims of the Baptist Union, and to plan for its growth and forward march. A third division is that of Secular Education, made up of the school boards attached to the Union, including primary and secondary schools and the Girls' Training Centre.

Tremendous interest has been shown in the ten-year programme, proposed by the Mission and Church Development Division, under the title, 'Through the Eighties with the Word of God'. This programme is designed to give purpose to the existence of the Union, and 1979 has been set aside as a year of coming together in preparation for this tremendous thrust into the 1980's. Rev Sheldon Dewsbury and Rev Ken Cadette (President and Vice-President respectively) have been deeply involved in this project, and have shown themselves to be leaders with great insight, enthusiasm and maturity.

#### **The emphasis is on lay leaders**

In September 1977 a new training scheme came into operation under the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago. It was a two-tiered system geared specifically for the lay leadership of the Church. The previous scheme had been designed to meet the need of providing ministerial candidates for the Baptist Union both at recognized preacher and pastor level. There had been no effective attempt at trying to get the lay people of the churches to come together and to be trained in some way.

When the scheme came into operation it was an experimental one in that the Training Committee was to keep an eye on things and to adapt where necessary, even during the course of the year, if the situation demanded it. The Training Committee felt sure that the only way of trying to meet the needs of the students was not to plan something so rigid that the students could not gain knowledge yet the programme continue, but to ensure

*Rev Sheldon Dewsbury, right, signing the Presidential Bible, with Rev Ken Cadette, outgoing President, looking on*

that the level of study was such that all, irrespective of background or educational achievements, could benefit. A large task it may be argued, but not unattainable given the willingness of staff and students to share ideas and express ways and means to achieve the goal. There is a great emphasis laid on group discussion and this has proved to be of tremendous help to those students who would not normally ask questions.

#### **Everyone has something to contribute**

There are two main courses offered. The Church Workers' Course is designed to assist all those involved in the life of the church to appreciate more and more what are the basic approaches to various subjects and to develop their thinking and thus their contribution to the work of the church. A two-year cycle of subjects is offered, and when the student has achieved successful passes in eight subjects, along with an 80% attendance at class, then that student receives the Church Workers' Certificate. The courses that are being offered to the students are Bible Studies on Old and New Testament Books (Isaiah 40-55 and Acts); Basic Introduction to Biblical Doctrine; Worship and Leadership; Christian Ethics; Comparative Religion; Salvation History; and a special subject related to the ten-year programme of the Baptist Union. In the present two-year cycle the subject is The Interpretation of the Bible. The students have text books, as opposed to the study guides of the past, and the tutor lectures for part of the time before guiding the class in group discussion.

The students meet in their classes one evening per week and the tutor is allowed 50 minutes for his subject. Two subjects are dealt with each evening at present, but in the next cycle of studies some subjects will have both periods devoted to them for the term. This is certainly needed where subjects such as Biblical Doctrine or Biblical Studies are concerned, because of the nature of the class which includes class participation by way of discussion.

Examinations usually last for two hours per subject per term, and include the answering of not more than four questions. But the passing of examinations alone does not mean the student will obtain his or her certificate at the end of eight subjects. There are set assignments, either two or three during the



# TWENTY A SOLID FOUR







# PREPARE A FOUNDATION

by Alex Robertson



term, which count towards the final mark, along with the 80% attendance record. In this way the student is not awarded a certificate just because he or she attends, but because they have really earned it. At the moment we have 20 students on the roll, 18 in Princes Town Centre and two at Point Fortin.

### Some are called to preach

The Recognized Preachers' Course is designed to prepare the student, who is interested in and feels called to the preaching ministry within the church, to preach more effectively. It is certainly insisted upon that a person called to the preaching ministry must be of such a calibre that he will be able to function effectively within his own church, his association and within the life of the Baptist Union.

This course can only be entered upon following the successful completion of the Church Workers' Course, the passing of an entrance examination on Old and New Testament set books and the submission of a sermon based on a set text. The candidate for the Recognized Preachers' Course has also to get the recommendation of his church, association and Ministerial Committee (which is a different committee from the Training Committee). The work in this course includes homiletics, submission of written sermons and the preaching in at least three churches of the Union, when an assessment of his preaching and general leadership in worship will be submitted by the pastor. He will also be expected to submit book reviews.

There is certainly a need for a good group of preachers who are well qualified and it is felt at this time that a three-year training is essential. The person who gains this certificate is eligible to be recognized by the Baptist Union as one suitably qualified to minister in any church of the Union (provided, of course, that he is invited so to do). There are three such students for this course who have just completed their entrance examinations.

### 'Tent-making' days are gone

The term 'full-time' ministry is used, not to distinguish it from something which might be called 'part-time' ministry, but simply to indicate that there are those who feel called to the ministry of the church and who are entering it as a profession as it were. It is

*Rev Alex Robertson (fifth from left) with the Baptist Union Training Programme Class at Princes Town*

increasingly apparent that the 'tent-making' pastors have done a great job but if the Church is to grow then more full-time men will have to be trained. There is no real way whereby a man who works during the week and leads worship on the Sunday can really give what he would like to give to the task. The Baptist Union has two young men at the moment who are seeking to enter the ministry full-time. One of them, Mr Frederick Weston of Third Company Baptist Church, is in training at The Church of the Nazarene College in Trinidad. He has almost completed his first year, and so far has done very well. Mr Michael Friday of the San Fernando Baptist Church is to start his studies in September in The United Theological College of the West Indies (UTCWI), in Jamaica, going there with the aid of a scholarship from the BMS. There is at least one other young man who is thinking seriously about ministerial training. In a recent seminar, in which the challenge of the Christian Ministry was presented, many areas of Christian service were discussed and it was felt that this will yield positive results in the near future.

It has been my privilege to be associated with the Training Programme since coming to Trinidad in 1975 and to have assisted in the formation and carrying out of the present Training Scheme. The work is demanding but also rewarding. In addition I act as chairman of the Ministerial Committee and represent the Ministerial and Training Committees on the Mission and Church Development Division. Other activities in which I am involved include being a member of the Administration and Finance Division, a member of the Baptist Union Executive, chaplain at Cowen Hamilton School, where I also teach 'O' level and Religious Knowledge, and chaplain at the Princes Town Junior Secondary School. Each Friday I teach New Testament subjects at St Andrew's Theological College in San Fernando. This is an ecumenical college, training men for the ministry of various denominations and acting as a stepping stone to the UTCWI in Jamaica as well as to other institutions. It was originally a Presbyterian college.

The pastoring of the two churches at Princes Town and Fourth Company, both with approximately 150 members each, together with all these other activities, certainly means that there is no shortage of work. On 5 May, this year, the St John's Baptist Church, Princes Town, was dedicated and for the occasion we had with us two of its former leaders, Sister Eva Waggott and Rev S Vernon.



# THE FACTS BEHIND A NAME

by Kathleen Robertson



Under the invitation of the Baptist Union of Trinidad and Tobago I am serving here in Trinidad as the Office Supervisor. As the title suggests, this involves supervision of the Baptist Union office including the Office Clerk.

The work load in our Union office becomes heavier as the assemblies draw near and it is often necessary to lend a helping hand with the compilation of the assembly papers as well as checking the work that is done. Other responsibilities include the collecting of the Sunday school literature and the distribution of the same as the Sunday school superintendents collect their quota. Hymn-books are imported from Britain and when they arrive in Trinidad it is necessary to obtain the services of a broker to clear these from customs. They are then costed ready for sale to members and friends in the churches. Another part of the job is the purchasing of all stationery and the costing of this in order to set the charges for work undertaken for departments of the Union, churches or private work.

#### **A break from the office chores**

The Office Supervisor is a member of the Administration and Finance Committee, and is in fact the minute secretary of it. On the lighter side, when visitors come for a conference, or if a reception is to be held to welcome someone into our midst, it is usually the Office Supervisor who does this with the help of some of the ladies of her church.

I have found this position of Office Supervisor very demanding in time and energy, but nevertheless I have been very happy to have been able to assist the Union in this way over the past two and a half years.

Another area in which I am involved is in the Baptist Training Centre for Girls. This is not a Union assignment as is that of Office Supervisor, but one to which I nevertheless enjoy contributing. When first started, it was intended for Baptist girls who had not passed their 11-plus examination and so could not go to a secondary school. Sister Eva Waggott started the Training Centre on a 'living-in' basis. The name of the school has been changed to the Baptist Training Centre for Girls, this change being necessary in order to accommodate the admission of non-Baptist girls.

*Some of the 5th Company Baptist Women's League. Each BWL group has its own distinctive uniform*



The School now admits girls who have not passed the 11-plus; girls who have completed the post-primary classes in the primary schools but still have not obtained the school leaving certificate; some girls who have passed 11-plus for junior secondary school but find the work too much to cope with; some who have completed junior secondary but failed to obtain any 'O' levels. There are also at present two mature students.

The courses open to the girls include English, arithmetic, health science, dress design and also dressmaking, home economics and typing. Examinations taken are the school leaving certificate, Pitman's English, arithmetic and typing. The latter is taken in stages, culminating hopefully in the advanced paper.

#### Every little helps

The girls pay school fees of \$60 (£12) per term. In 1977 the government gave a grant to the school and it is hoped that this year the grant will be given again and indeed backdated to last year. It has been necessary to apply for this grant because the Baptist Union can no longer meet the high cost of education. The fees which the girls pay are intended to help pay the salaries of the two full-time teachers. Then there are two volunteer teachers, myself teaching health science and Mrs Walker doing remedial work with some of the girls.

The girls, as would be expected, are a mixed group. Some are interested and pay close attention to what is being taught, while others are just 'liming' or as would be said in Britain, 'passing their time away'. Not being a trained teacher I have to keep my thinking cap on, trying to find new and interesting ways to present my subject. The girls enjoy doing short plays and so I try to write one that is relevant to the subject being taught each term.

The school provides a two-year course with the option of repeating a year should the girl be under the age of 16. The girls enjoy the range of subjects given and I am sure that this is because they are presented at a level which is comprehensible.

A third area of work in which I am involved is that of serving on the Women's Work Committee. On the retirement of Sister Eva Waggott, the natural leader of the women's

groups in Trinidad and Tobago came to the fore in the person of Miss Beryl Saunders of the Fifth Company Church, ably assisted by the secretary, Mrs Norma Cadette of the Princes Town Church. These two ladies have given leadership which is second to none. I feel sure that those churches which have groups reap the benefits that only women's groups can give.

The main activities of the groups are very much like those you would see on a Women's League programme in Britain. They range from devotional meetings with speakers and Bible studies to handicraft sessions, choir practices and five cents concerts. One thing that would strike you as being different here in Trinidad is the fact that nearly all of the women's groups have a uniform. They are usually very attractive and it has been my joy to sit on the platform at Women's League rallies and admire all the groups sitting together in their uniforms.

#### Women extend their boundaries

The Women's League groups join together in various activities throughout the year such as indoor and outdoor rallies; weekend prayer retreats; tea parties; camp reunions and weekend camps. Another activity that the ladies look forward to is the Overseas

Camp. This started mainly for fellowship together and as a means of visiting the other Caribbean countries and islands. The first two camps being successful, a third one was held in Guyana. Then the following year the Trinidad and Guyanese ladies went to Barbados. This again was a great success. The news of these overseas retreats, as they are now called, has travelled around the Caribbean to such an extent that recently when Miss Saunders attended the formation of the Caribbean Baptist Women's Union she was asked why, for example, the Jamaican ladies had not been invited.

It seems then that this overseas camp retreat is turning into a Caribbean camp and not just a Trinidad overseas camp. During these retreats the ladies endeavour to invite to the meetings ladies who live near the campsite, and so the spread of the gospel goes on. If a particular need is found, then the ladies try to meet that need, if not immediately then certainly in the few months following the camp. Truly the work among women is going forward through God's guidance, and it is a great privilege to have a share in that work.

*Kathleen Robertson, with Tricia Hoskins (right), presenting prizes at the Women's League Camp Reunion*





**'LET  
ALL  
THINGS  
BE  
DONE  
FOR  
BUILDING  
UP'**

(1 Corinthians 14:26)

by Norman Walker



*Norman Walker teaching at the Cowen Hamilton Secondary School*

Ministry in Trinidad, like the ministry anywhere, is very varied. For instance, I am a tutor in the Baptist Union Training Programme, and a teacher at a Baptist secondary school that is attended by Hindus, Muslims and Christians. But in this article I want to tell you about my ministry at Point Fortin Baptist church. Point (as the locals call it) is a small but growing town of about 5,000 people, with the local oil company the biggest employer. The town lies on the coast in SW Trinidad, 23 miles from the nearest Baptist church, which means that by Trinidad standards the church there is isolated from the rest of the Baptist Union churches, which are clustered in the centre of the island.

Point Baptist church is in a semi-pioneer stage. Sister Eva Waggott pioneered the cause a few years ago, so I am not in the situation of being without members, a building, or resources, but it is still a young church with a small membership, an unfinished building, and few resources. Of course the BMS pays for the pastor and the manse, but I am full of admiration for the way in which the members have decided to commit all the money they have and more to the task of finishing the church as soon as possible — ceiling, baptistery, vestries, etc. To do this involves commitment; not to do it would be fatal, because every year inflation,

that familiar enemy in Britain, makes it dearer to do anything. Even getting a builder is difficult, because this growing town has more than enough work for its builders. I know that in Britain Baptists are being urged to give sacrificially for Baptist work at home and overseas. Remember that your brother Christians in the churches overseas are also responding to the same challenges. Indeed I am only here at all because the Point church had the vision to ask the Trinidad Baptist Union to issue a 'Macedonian call' to the BMS for a pastor to 'come over and help us'.

Now that you know something of the Point situation, you will not be surprised to learn that I see my ministry here as being based on Ephesians 4:11-12, 'And his gifts were that some should be . . . pastors and teachers . . . for building up the body of Christ'. The Bible verses that are most readily echoed in the prayers of the members at Point are 'building verses', like Nehemiah 2:17, 'Come, let us build the wall of Jerusalem' (the preacher at my induction preached from Nehemiah), and 1 Peter 2:5, 'Be yourselves built into a spiritual house'.

**The spiritual bricks are the most important**  
That last quotation reminds us that the most important task we have is to build up, not the bricks and mortar, but the spiritual bricks. We have to fill the house of God with His worshippers, and we have to ensure that all of us continue to be built up in the faith (Jude 20). At Point I have a ministry of the three 'E's — Exhortation (helping the people to build the future with commitment); Encouragement (helping them to face the future with faith and hope); and Edification (equipping them for the future by sharing with them the great truths of God's Word).

One way in which the congregation is built up is in worship and via the pulpit. It is such



*Young people from Point Fortin church*





*Oil well near Point Fortin*

a privilege to lead a congregation that has 'enjoyful Christianity', ie, it enjoys participating in worship via song and prayer and enjoys listening to the Word read and expounded. There is no clock-watching in the Baptist churches of Trinidad. People are in no hurry to get to the services 'on the dot' – this is the famous 'Trinidad Time' – but neither are they in any hurry to leave at the end. The preacher is not committing a sin if he exceeds 20 minutes! Also, there is an atmosphere of family worship. This does not mean we lay on special things such as children's talks and choruses, but rather that everything that takes place is for all the family. All ages join in with any choruses we sing and the children not only sit through the whole service including the sermon, but along with everyone else they enjoy looking up Bible verses quoted by the preacher.

#### **Sunday school is not just for kids**

A further opportunity for teaching the Word comes before the service when we have an all-age Sunday school, ie, it includes an adult Bible class. My wife, Margaret, takes one of the children's classes and I teach the adults. One of our hopes for the future is that church members will take on these tasks because our task is not only to help the church to become strong enough to support a local pastor, but also to help the members to become more self-sufficient in lay leadership.

Another means of teaching comes via the BU's Church Workers' Course. I have mentioned that I am a tutor for this, for although the main centre is in Princes Town, I take a class in Point. In the past year we have looked at Isaiah, Acts, ethics and leadership. Those who have attended the

classes in Point have done so regularly and keenly, and I am sure that these classes are playing a part in the building up of the church.

The building process has also been aided by the restarting of meetings for women and young people, and already we are beginning to see the results in regular Sunday attendance by those who go to these mid-week meetings. This is especially true of the young people; in fact, the average age of the church is quite low. We get up to 40 coming to church, and about half of these are under 30. (38% of the island's population are under 15; only 4% are over 65.)

#### **A new phase has begun**

Most of the Baptist churches in Trinidad are virtually the parish churches of the villages, and so their pastors have many contacts with the villagers via funerals, infant dedications, etc, but such links for me are rare, because my ministry is in a town and because there are as yet so few Baptists in the town. I feel that one of my tasks is to be a sort of ambassador for the church in the town; we want to become known in the town. This will be much easier from now on because we have just moved to a house in Point, so people will be able to see us on the streets, in the shops and market, and soon I hope in the schools, hospital, etc. For over a year we tried to get a house in Point, but found it almost impossible because the town is growing and because the oil company is growing too and seeks houses for its workers. Even the estate agent had no houses to offer us! However, notice that I said 'almost impossible' – not absolutely impossible – because we have a great God and He did open up a way for us to come and live close to the church, instead of an hour's drive away.

Now that we have just moved into the town we feel a new phase has begun; in a way our ministry can now really get going. We ask your prayers for us and for the members of Point Fortin Baptist church as together we seek to play our part in the great worldwide task of the Church of Jesus Christ, to 'be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the world' (Acts 1:8).



*The unfinished church at Point Fortin*



# WHERE EAST AND LIVE

A Trinidadian lady, recently returned from a visit to England, was both surprised and amused at the questions she had been asked about Trinidad. How did she speak such good English? Coming as she did from an English-speaking Caribbean island, that was not difficult to answer. Now what about the weather? Yes, it was a lovely climate which varied little between 75° and 85°F, with an official dry season, January to May, and a wet season, June to December. To the query regarding the sort of houses people lived in, she gave the reply that there were basically two types, wooden and concrete, but that the houses were of many styles, most being more interesting than the English 'semis' she had seen. Many houses have galleries (balconies) and are higher than ground level, on pillars. She explained that there was a piped water supply which was rationed during the dry season, and knowingly she added that there were flushed toilets.

What about supermarkets? 'Oh yes, there are Allum's and Hi-Lo, and Woolworth's too. No, we do not live mainly on bananas and often they are scarce and expensive. We have a varied diet, dishes having Indian, African, Spanish, Chinese, British and French origins. Our food is not dull. We have our oil too, but ours makes us the richest nation in the Caribbean and we lend to other Caribbean countries. We have our poor like you do. We look after our parents as they grow older, we care for the children of our cousins, sisters and friends, we have few unloved children, but there are some. There are food shortages on the island, but haven't you had yours too?' Did the lady enjoy her visit to England? 'Yes, but it was cold!'

**The fascination of a cosmopolitan country**  
As a child I spent many hours looking into a kaleidoscope, watching the beautiful patterns change before me. It is with this somewhat rose-tinted fascination that I describe Trinidad. One is stunned by the colours of fashion, dazzled by the brilliance of sunsets, held by the beauty of the flame-coloured Immortelle tree. The aroma of refining sugar cane, exotic cooking and citrus plantations, linger with one. The sight of cricketers in their 'whites', the noise of Pan and steel bands, the friendliness of the people — all of these impressions have been imprinted on my mind since coming to Trinidad in January 1978.

The nation contains in its make up large Hindu and Muslim communities as well as a dichotomy of Christian denominations and sub-Christian groups. A government survey states that out of a population of just over



*Margaret Walker teaching a remedial class at the Baptist Training Centre for Girls*

one million people, 58% are Christian, 25% Hindu, 6% Muslim and 11% other. The 58% Christian can be divided into 35% Catholic; 18% Anglican; 4% Presbyterian; about 1% Baptist. The growing churches in Trinidad are the Open Bible and Pentecostal churches. There was no reference in the survey to the sub-Christian sects.

Trinidad's ethnic groups represent, as the guidebook states, 'a microcosm of Europe, Africa, and the Orient'. Statistics state: Negro 42%, East Indian 40%, Mixed 14%, Chinese 1%, White 1%.

'Here every creed and race  
Finds its equal place  
And may God bless our nation.'

The national anthem aptly sums up the most cosmopolitan country in the Caribbean.

### 'This God-fearing island'

This island, whose name means 'Trinity', is described as being God-fearing. There is some truth in this. The God-fearing aura stretch's into daily life so that conversations are peppered with 'God willing' or 'please God'. There is a sense in which the Spirit of God permeates the lives of people, consciously or sub-consciously. Religious

awareness is more acute here than in Britain. Also, Sabbath observance is more noticeable and on Sunday very few shops or parlours (small wayside stores) are open. As we used to travel from San Fernando to Point Fortin (before the Lord provided our house in Point Fortin) we were well aware that it was Sunday. It was very quiet, with very little traffic. People could be seen on their way to church carrying their Bibles, or waiting outside their homes for a communal taxi to take them to church. These are cars which ply a set route and which stop



*Carnival steel band*



# MEETS WEST TOGETHER

by Margaret Walker



*Margaret Walker teaching her Sunday school class at Point Fortin*

anywhere along that route, the passengers being charged separately as the car fills up. Everyone would be immaculate in their 'Sunday best', a sight reminiscent of England 20 years ago?

When we first made the journey to church, as we passed the famous natural wonder of Trinidad, the world's only natural seepage of asphalt, we would be taken for tourists and greeted by the cries of 'Pitch-lake, Pitch-lake'. Then the day came when we were known and just greeted by a wave. Visiting church folk



*Pitch Lake, La Brea*

for the first time we were given some picturesque, typical Trinidadian directions, such as, 'by the second standpipe . . . turn in at the bus wreck . . . by the second parlour. . .'. Also, when we were trying to find folks we were asked what car they drove. There is such a lot of time spent at the side of the road waiting for taxis that cars and their drivers are well known.

### **The pastor's visit is quite an occasion**

Home visiting is naturally part of our ministry here, especially so during the beginning of our work and also when we moved down to live in Point. These visits are most fruitful as the whole of the family, and any friends who happen to be present, share in the 'prayers'. A visit from the pastor is an occasion for which to be prepared, as it is regarded as something very special, so friends are invited in to meet the pastor. Trinidadians are known for their hospitality . . . especially their cakes! A cool drink and a piece of cake is a necessary sustenance in a hot climate, as well as being a welcome change from a cup of tea.

Home visits to help children with reading and other skills are an opportunity to meet parents and children in the more relaxed

atmosphere of the home. It is here that one learns that you take tea, not breakfast; you wash the wears not the dishes; you eat figs not bananas; and you take a bathe not get washed. Now that I am living at Point I am investigating the possibility of doing a remedial programme based at the church, both as an educational exercise and a means of outreach. I find that my experience as a remedial teacher is most useful here. I go regularly to the Baptist Training Centre for Girls to give remedial lessons and as I pass the Baptist Primary School I am greeted by the phrase, 'Hello, white lady'. At first I was surprised at the way that Trinidadians would describe their friends first by complexion, eg, brown, black or fair, secondly by where they lived, and then by the car they drove (with petrol at 18p per gallon this is not so surprising).

### **No 'Sunday school mentality' here**

The girls at the training centre receive their education in an atmosphere conducive to their spiritual development. It is encouraging to watch the growth and commitment of the young people in the Baptist churches. Two of my Sunday school class were overheard discussing the difference between Anglican and Believer's Baptism and the same two had a discussion on whether you became a Christian by conversion or immersion. Wordsworth states, 'the child is father of the man', and as such needs to experience all life has to offer and not be spoonfed on 'milk'. Children here expect to listen to the sermon and to follow the Bible reading and references. The church here is not ruled by the 'Sunday school mentality' which abounds in Britain, and which says that the child is taught in Sunday school and not expected to gain from, or even hear a sermon, or to join in the corporate worship of the whole family of the church. Perhaps this is the biggest lesson I have learnt so far here in Trinidad. The women's and young people's groups in our church have Bible study and outreach as the integral part of their weekly programme. The theme of the Baptists next year and for the next decade is 'Through the Eighties with the Word of God', a solid basis for any church growth.

It has been most edifying to share in the work here in Trinidad, being involved in the Lord's service as a Christian, wife, missionary and teacher. I find that much of my time is spent in doing the things for which the Lord had equipped me while I was in England, but He is equipping me further and it has been my privilege to share in His work here.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Business and Professional Women's Conference of the BMS will be held on Saturday, 6 October, at the Mission House from 10 am to 4 pm. The theme will be 'Children in Our Midst'. The fee, including coffee, lunch and tea, will be £2. Further particulars available from Miss P. Trounson, BMS, 93 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4AA.

## BRIGHTON CONGRESS

There were 3,000 Baptists from 23 countries at the seventh congress of the European Baptist Federation held at Brighton 27 June-1 July. The congress was the largest international Baptist gathering in Britain since the 50th anniversary Baptist World Congress in London in 1955. 'So weak . . . and yet strong' was the congress theme and the programme was designed to encourage delegates to share the problems and joys of their own local situations. Topics studied in

groups included African partnership, age concern, Bible study, evangelism, family life, human rights and lay responsibility.

## BRAZILIAN FLOODS

After 47 days of persistent rain, what may be the worst flood in Brazilian history has devastated at least six Brazilian states. About 100 Baptist churches have been damaged and in the hardest-hit state of Minas Gerais one church building at Aimores was completely destroyed. Teams of Texas (USA) Baptist men are involved in reconstruction work.

In northern Goias, the area most recently hit, a Baptist orphanage collapsed after its 65 children were evacuated. In Cristalia 44 church families were left homeless, cut off from outside help. Altogether the flood has claimed as many as 700 lives and left nearly 400,000 homeless. The states in which BMS missionaries work have not been affected.

## CARIBBEAN WOMEN

Baptist women leaders representing 10 Caribbean countries met for two days at Fortescue, Barbados, and organized the first Caribbean-wide Baptist women's group. Attending the meeting at Barbados Baptist College were representatives from Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico and Trinidad. The new group will focus on programmes of spiritual growth, leadership training, involvement in community outreach activities and stewardship. During this year, the International Year of the Child, special emphasis will be placed on child evangelism.

### Birth

At Yakusu, Zaire, on 2 April, to Dr J D L and Mrs Bulkeley, a second son, Mark Andrew.

### Engagement

Mr Luke Alexander to Miss Kathleen Ince, both at Pimu, Zaire.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Secretaries acknowledge with grateful thanks the following legacies and gifts sent anonymously or without address.  
(10 March-20 April 1979)

**General Work:** Anon: £1.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £20.00; Anon: £40.00; Anon: £10.00; Anon: £30.00; Anon: £2.00; Anon (CYMRO): £12.00; Anon: £4.00; Anon (CYMRO): £20.00; Anon: £40.00; Anon (FAE - Aberdeen): £15.00; Anon: £15.00; Anon: £2.00.

**Gift and Self Denial:** Anon: £3.00.

**Medical Work:** Anon: £25.00.

**Relief Fund:** Anon: £15.00

### Legacies

	£	p
B R Barney	100.00	
Miss V M Birch	25.00	
Miss L Callick	200.00	
Mrs B J Drew	30.00	
Mrs E M Hardy	100.00	
Miss E G Harmer	2,994.73	
Miss E M Hunt	100.00	
Mrs M M Powell	150.66	
R H Pulipaka Trust	479.03	
Miss A W Randall	6,250.00	
Mrs M G Reynolds	100.00	
Miss E K Richards	500.00	
Maggie Roberts	2,500.00	
Mrs A Webb	16.34	
Miss E M Wigner	750.00	
Miss E Wilkinson	150.00	

## MISSIONARY MOVEMENTS

### Arrivals

Miss B M Bond on 24 March from Jessore, Bangladesh.

Mr and Mrs J H West and family on 28 March from Darjeeling, India.

Rev E J and Mrs Westwood and family on 2 April from Curitiba, Brazil.

Miss D M Smith on 2 April from Hong Kong.

Rev D W and Mrs King and family on 4 April from Barisal, Bangladesh.

Rev K and Mrs Hodges and family on 9 April from Santo Antonio de Platina, Brazil.

### Departures

Mr and Mrs P D Chandler on 26 March for Bolobo, Zaire.

Mr J Mellor on 27 March for Tondo, Zaire.

Miss D Osborne on 27 March for Bolobo, Zaire.

Miss G Hunter on 10 April for IME, Kimpese, Zaire.

Mr J Mellor and two younger children on 24 April for Tondo, Zaire.

Miss M Hitchings on 24 April for Tondo, Zaire.



Barbara Askew, Chief Organizer and Programme Chairman at the Brighton Congress